

Refining 1411

Chapter 1411 – Powerful Soft Peach

The Ruler's avatar was strong. This could be seen from the battle against the six True Saints earlier. After merging with Soft Peach, her powers naturally grew stronger. Otherwise the Ruler's avatar would not have agreed to do this.

Right now, Soft Peach was an individual made out of the Ruler's will...a change of topic. The combined body of the vengeful spirit, Li Four Seasons and Close Saint was grotesque and disgusting.

On the other hand, Soft Peach and the Ruler's avatar merged with complementary bodies. The final outcome was mysterious and intriguing and there was an invisible aura around them...as expected, there were differences between men and women.

We are straying from the point.

Qin Yu raised his head and looked at Soft Peach with a serious expression. His body reacted even before his mind did.

A heavy punch from him caused a deafening explosion. It was as loud as a big stone exploding and the howls from a stormy sea.

However, as soon as the waves washed ashore, they were crushed by a big mountain. The waves were stopped immediately like they were slashed by a blade. Qin Yu retreated backward sharply. His clothes were torn in the middle of his chest, revealing a clear handprint.

She was so strong!

At that moment, an overwhelming sense of devastation filled Qin Yu. They were not on the same level and he would lose. Soft Peach did not hesitate before she struck again.

She did not waste her movements and she made the same attack as before. Yet, as her palm swung forward, a more ominous feeling went through Qin Yu.

His chest expanded as he breathed in deeply, "Shield Guard!"

Kaboom!

A sweeping force tore out of his body and the space around him vibrated strongly. Soon, a mirage of a shield appeared. Its transformation proceeded quickly and the mirage took form in the blink of an eye.

The shield illusion had a silvery white body and its surface had a rough texture with countless marks lined across it. As the shield formed, the spatial vibrations continued, growing stronger with each passing second.

Space energy!

Each of the markings on the shield illusion gave off a powerful space aura.

This was the root energy of the shield.

The surrounding space looked chaotic but it was actually formed from many layers of space force. Every layer of space protected him from offensive force from the outside.

However, Qin Yu had merely learned the basics of the skill and he was a far cry from mastering it. He could not unleash its full potential. Furthermore, Soft Peach was insanely strong now.

As such, the first time that Qin Yu used the divine way after learning it could only be described as pathetic.

The layers of space were as vulnerable as bubbles and they were penetrated without much effort. Qin Yu was flung backwards from the impact and his injuries were much more severe than after the first strike.

His chest was torn through and many of his bones were broken. Moreover, the powerful forces from the blow had entered his body and they were forcefully spreading through him. In seconds, the area they covered would explode.

His crushed bones lost their vitality and his internal organs were smashed. If not for the incredible recovery strength of the Rule System Body, he would have lost his life with this blow!

Despite surviving this hit, the Rule System Body needed some time to recover and Soft Peach was obviously not going to give him that time.

In the end, any trickery used fell back to her own strength. As long as she was powerful enough, she could do anything she wanted.

This was Soft Peach's mentality. She executed her third blow with a forward press of her hand.

Mm, it looked completely casual and simple. There wasn't any intense murderous aura or violence. However, as she glared at him coldly, her eyes did not waver and it made her seem more scary.

Qin Yu gritted his teeth and activated a good half of his Great Dao. He had no other choice and he had to pull out this hidden card.

If he had to pay a price, he would do it. It would be better than being killed by Soft Peach. He knew that even if he used that sword, he would only be able to take one more blow.

If Soft Peach continued to attack him, he would have no other choice...his previous intuition had been right. This woman was an unlucky star. In the end, he would suffer by her hands.

Why hadn't the Ruler's Great Dao been used?

This was the true reason why Qin Yu could remain calm no matter how tired or injured he was.

The Scholartree Saint and Spring Master had been summoned and they supplied strength to the Ruler's Great Dao after being swallowed by it. If things went smoothly, it could be awakened soon.

Otherwise, why did the Saints do what they did back then? Was it just to allow Qin Yu to merge with the Ruler's Great Dao and then let him be killed by Soft Peach? No way!

The greatest possibility was that some time was required before the Ruler's Great Dao could be activated.

As such, Qin Yu was determined to survive till then. He would give his all just to survive.

Mm...

Qin Yu jumped suddenly. Why did the Ruler's Great Dao enter his body? Was Qin Yu being used as a sacrifice to buy itself some time?

He did not have time to think about this!

Buzz...

The sword started to buzz and Qin Yu grunted as his face turned pale. Every inch of his body shook violently and this process made him feel as though he was being taken away by an invisible hand. The feeling of his body being ripped apart caused him excruciating pain and it felt like every piece of him was being sucked away cleanly.

Despite the pain, Qin Yu's body moved uncontrollably. He reached his arm forward and squeezed his hand. The shadow of a sword quickly materialized.

Buzz –

The sword started to hum again. Qin Yu felt like he was whacked by a tough stick and his vision blurred. A sharp pain pierced through his soul as though something blunt but rusty had viciously pierced him.

Pain shot through him like fire and the agony inhibited all his other senses as his body shook violently. Although he did not reveal any change in his emotion, his aura was dark and cold.

Qin Yu gripped the sword tighter and he slashed down with it sharply!

Boom!

A deafening sound boomed through the air like thunder. As the sword slashed down, his consciousness also blacked out. When Qin Yu regained his senses, he found that Soft Peach had been forced backward.

Her hands were placed in front of her to block the blow and a clear wound stretched across the smooth skin on the back of her hands.

The wound appeared shallow but her face was pale. At the same time, there was a large stain on her skirt, and this showed that the wound was not as simple as it seemed.

Despite her injury, Qin Yu could not continue attacking her. But he could not take the opportunity to run away either!

Whimper whimper!

His heavy breathing felt extremely labored. Every time he breathed, pain ripped through his lungs.

The pain he felt was obliterating and his body grew limp. All his energy was put into his breathing.

He was at his limit!

Even if Qin Yu still had a hidden card, he did not have the energy to use it anymore.

He slumped to the ground with a 'slam'. Clutching his mouth, he coughed violently. Instinctively, he knew there was blood without looking down. Blood spurted out of his mouth and formed large splats on the ground. His hand was drenched with blood.

Not everything proceeded according to plan. He began by tricking others and he tried to take advantage of them. However, he was the one who fell into the trap made by another and there was nothing he could do to get out of it.

After a long while, his coughing finally eased and he struggled to breathe. Qin Yu suppressed the surging hatred in his heart and said, "You should awaken soon. I am already at my limit. The next time she attacks me, I will definitely die."

There was no reply!

There wasn't a trace of the Ruler's Great Dao that had merged into him.

At that point, Soft Peach started to make her next move. She stepped forward and closed the distance between them. In the blink of an eye, she was right in front of him.

She stared down at him nonchalantly. Then, she reached her arm forward and her five slender fingers wrapped around Qin Yu's neck.

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There were no words exchanged and her eyes were emotionless as her grip tightened. Qin Yu could hear the snapping sounds from his throat as it was crushed under the pressure.

Once again, if not for the Rule System Body, his throat would have been crushed to pieces already!

There was still no reaction from the Ruler's Great Dao and Qin Yu could only laugh bitterly to himself. His only regret was not killing Soft Peach when he could. Things would not have ended up this way...never did he imagine that he would die by this woman's hands!

Suddenly, a trace of emotion crossed Soft Peach's cold eyes. Her fingers froze and she muttered to herself, "You promised me that you would only attack three times."

"I did say that but he has the woman's aura in him. I have to kill him."

"He cannot die."

"Are you defying me?"

It was Soft Peach who was speaking. Her voice and tone sounded the same with every sentence she spoke but her words were strange.

It seemed like there was another entity in Soft Peach.

The Ruler's avatar!

Qin Yu came to a sudden realization. This explained how Soft Peach suddenly became so strong. Could it be that in this world it's recently become popular to 'play the same tricks that others do'?

Soft Peach grunted and blood seeped out from the corner of her mouth. Numerous scratches started to form on her skin.

They were very tiny and easy to miss. However, these scratches were deep and they penetrated through her body, slicing her into many pieces.

“You promised to only strike three times. Since he survived, it means that he has a reason to continue living.

“So you cannot attack him now...believe me, you will not want to see the consequences if you kill him!”

Chapter 1412 – Even Stronger Woman

Soft Peach breathed in deeply. She spoke in a cold tone, “Now, give me control of the body.”

There was silence.

Crack, crackle –

Suddenly, the tiny cracks on Soft Peach’s body tore open, forming wounds. Dark red blood seeped out from the cracks and her body was dyed red almost instantly.

The blood red skirt she wore was very striking!

“I hope you don’t regret this!” Soft Peach closed her eyes. When she opened them again, her eyes were clear but they looked tired.

She looked at Qin Yu and stepped back a few times. Then, she said, “I don’t know how many more times I can threaten her. You should leave now.”

Qin Yu panted heavily. His previous heavy injuries from that sword had almost caused him to lose his life. Despite that, the Rule System Body was healing him well and by this point, he had regained the ability to move.

His movements were still very restricted and he struggled to stand up. He stared at Soft Peach pitifully but could not run away. He still needed some time before he would have recovered enough to run.

“Cough cough!” Qin Yu tried to move but ended up coughing violently again.

This was heartbreakingly painful.

Once again, he started coughing out blood. However, this time, his chest felt much better after coughing.

Soft Peach’s expression was nervous and she asked, “Are you alright?”

Qin Yu waved his hand dismissively and replied, “I won’t die.”

It was an awkward but nervous atmosphere.

Soft Peach was the one who attacked him and inflicted so many injuries on him. Yet, she was suddenly concerned about this.

This thought crossed her mind and her expression turned guilty, “Sorry...I didn’t want to hurt you...but...”

Qin Yu spat, “I know!” He looked at her and a look of hesitation crossed him as he said, “You should leave now!”

Although the Ruler’s Great Dao had entered his body and there had not been any movements from it, Qin Yu knew it would not remain in that silent state.

Regardless, Soft Peach had saved his life and this was something he could not ignore. Despite knowing that letting her go was going to be a stupid decision, he could not take revenge on her.

After today, all their grievances and gratitude to each other would be cleared up and they would meet on equal grounds. Qin Yu always knew that he and Soft Peach would be enemies. The contest between the original body, Peachy, and the avatar was something he would not allow to happen.

Soft Peach’s eyes wavered as a thought crossed her head. She stepped backwards and the space shifted to allow her to retreat. Very soon, her figure was only a blur.

Right at that moment, a cold voice snapped at him, “She almost killed you but you let her off just like that? Qin Yu, are you brainless?”

Shoosh!

A foggy figure came out of his body. Its features were so blurred and Qin Yu could only make out the outline of her figure. Her body shape was slender and she had the same domineering aura. Although her face was misty, she was identical to the Ruler’s avatar that he had met in the palace previously. They looked like they were carved out of the same block.

She stretched an arm forward and clutched it. Soft Peach grunted as she tried to escape. Her slowly fading figure was pulled back.

She staggered and the space around her shook violently as it crumbled apart piece by piece.

There was panic and anger in her eyes momentarily. In the next instant, her eyes turned cold and the aura around her drastically changed to be dark with a sheer cold iciness.

“You are here!” She sneered coldly.

The woman from Qin Yu pointed her finger and Soft Peach’s body froze like an ice cube.

And that was it! The Ruler’s avatar had easily killed six ancient Saints and she merged into Soft Peach. Three blows from her reduced Qin Yu to a dismal state. Yet, she was suppressed so easily by just a finger from the woman.

Qin Yu’s heart jumped and his body tensed up. Were women these days so terrifying?

Soft Peach was overpowering and he felt like he could not match up to her even with his full strength and the sword from the East Sea. He barely managed to hold onto his life.

However, Soft Peach had appeared to be so easily crushed. She did not even have the chance to fight back. Right after the woman spoke a sentence, everything ended.

How strong was this woman exactly?

Her powers went beyond the scope of Qin Yu's imagination. In his eyes, Soft Peach was as strong as a Ruler already.

In other words, the other woman could crush a Ruler with a single finger...if he had not seen it personally, Qin Yu would never have believed it.

"What are you waiting for? Kill her and everything will end!" The woman snapped at him impatiently as she frowned.

Mm, he could sense anger wafting off of her...it felt like she had been rudely awakened from her sweet dreams and she was in a bad mood.

"Why do I have to attack her?" Qin Yu raised his head and stared at the woman.

This only made the woman's frown grow deeper and she had no choice but to explain patiently, "Because of some circumstances, I cannot kill her. You are the only one left."

Qin Yu laughed bitterly, "Senior, look at my state. I barely managed to survive. I don't have the energy left to kill anyone."

"You...humph!" The woman gritted her teeth, "Why did I choose you back then? I was truly blind. You were beaten so pathetically by her!"

This was hard to accept and Qin Yu could only smile reluctantly. Although the woman was unlikely to harm him, he ought to be cautious. He would pretend that he did not hear what she said.

The woman paced back and forth a few steps as she rubbed her forehead in agony, "I can't stay here for long but I cannot kill her either. What should I do?"

Qin Yu raised his hand, "Senior, why don't you heal me..."

She rolled her eyes at him, "Did you believe I didn't think of such a simple solution?" She breathed in deeply, "You are so weak now that you won't even be able to take a tiny bit of my strength! If a tiny bit of my strength enters your body while you are in this state, you will burst like a balloon!"

Qin Yu's expression froze and he lowered his hand coyly. Alright, let's pretend that he did not say anything.

Tip-tap stomp.

The sound of the woman's footsteps grew heavier and when she raised her forehead, Qin Yu saw her bloodshot eyes, "No, I must kill her today. At the most, I will just fall back into another long slumber."

She raised her hand and was just about to unleash her next attack when Qin Yu exclaimed, "Senior, hold on!"

He was truly terrified by this woman and drops of sweat dotted his forehead. How could she make decisions so impulsively? She had just been saying that she could not kill others yet she was going to attack her right away!

The Soul Seed Avatar was so strong and it was closely related to the original body. Peachy was in a bad state right now and the Spring Master had been devoured by the Ruler's Great Dao...if anything happened to Peachy while Qin Yu was not around, there was no one in the peach garden who would be able to help her.

If Peachy died...he knew about the Path of Ten Thousand Souls. If the original body died, every avatar would die along with her.

This was also why Soft Peachy did not want to wait anymore and she chose to consume Peachy...she did not want to take on this risk.

The woman frowned and she glared at Qin Yu impatiently, "What do you want to say?"

Qin Yu coughed lightly, "I feel that if you kill Soft Peach like this...mm, it wouldn't be wise to kill a Ruler's avatar."

The woman sneered, "What is your point?"

"Why don't you seal the Ruler's avatar here. When we have a solution in the future, we can kill her then. And in this way, you don't have to pay a price. There are only benefits to this!"

Qin Yu was sweating buckets as he explained and he did not believe his own words either. She could scoff at him at any moment and kill him directly. However, her next reaction caused his eyes to widen as he blinked continuously in surprise.

"That's a good idea!" She walked towards him and patted him on his shoulder happily. "I can't believe you are so smart! I shall take back my words from before. I have good foresight."

Qin Yu was at a loss for words. Are you sure that you aren't going to dig out your eyeballs and play with them like footballs? Or are you going to find another place and pour your brain juices out in the water? She must have been quite sharp in the past. After so many years, did she grow dumber as her cultivation improved?

Or was it possible that cultivators would lose their minds once their cultivation went past a certain limit?

There were many thoughts in Qin Yu's mind and he felt like he was in a mess. On second thought however, some of them were nothing.

It was obvious that the woman who came out of his body and suppressed Soft Peach with a single finger was the Ruler in Bounded Zero Place. She was also the master of the Spring Master and Scholartree Saint who arranged everything and played everyone like pieces on her chess board. This included the West Desolate, Mysterious Clan, the Ruler's avatar, the Spring Master, Scholartree Saint and the six ancient Saints.

In her eyes, True Saints who were considered incredibly powerful beings in the Vast Brightness World were nothing much.

This was what a Ruler was capable of!

As Qin Yu had all these wild thoughts, the woman made her move. Her sleeve waved through the air and a broken piece of the palace flew over.

Energy seemed to be reinjected into the piece while it flew over and bright light reflected off the once dim surface. The aura from the piece resonated with something in the environment, giving a mysterious but suppressive feeling.

Yet, before this, it was simply a piece of wall that had broken off the palace.

Rags to riches!

This was another reason why Qin Yu felt like the woman in front of him was so strong...perhaps, this was also in her plans and she had crafted this when she constructed the palace many years ago.

If the woman could truly make miracles and give so much power to objects, it was merely a moment of awe for Qin Yu...however, if she had planned this since many years ago, Qin Yu felt terrified.

Pieces of the palace floated around Soft Peach and surrounded her. The woman stepped forward and looked down on her, "I know that you can hear me so I will give you a chance. Kill the woman who is controlling your body and I will spare you. Otherwise..."

She snickered coldly as she curled her finger. The pieces of the palace gathered together and made cracking sounds in the air.

As the pieces collided with each other, they merged to form a spherical sealed space.

The space created by the fragmented pieces of the palace was not fully sealed because the seal was not completed. There was a gaping hole left in the sphere.

She could seal the sphere with a single thought. The pieces would merge together completely and create a dark space that was completely enclosed!

With a smirk, the woman said, "Trust me, the sealed prison can keep you sealed in there for eternity...your entire life from here on would be wrapped in darkness. I once experienced that feeling myself and it isn't something anyone would be comfortable with.

"If you can do it, reply to me immediately...even if you can't, you ought to give it a try."

Qin Yu's expression turned serious. It was obvious that the Ruler was no longer speaking to the Ruler's avatar but to Soft Peach!

She wanted to force Soft Peach to kill the Ruler's avatar!

This was all because of him...as expected, the Ruler was not dumb. She only revealed the surface of her thoughts and he would never know what she was hiding beneath it all.

Chapter 1413 – Three Impressions

Amidst the half sealed sphere, Soft Peach remained still. Her powers were still being suppressed.

Surprisingly, there was a hint of ridicule in the depths of her cold eyes. It was obvious that she did not think that the Ruler was a threat to her. Kill her? It did not matter whether Soft Peach was bold enough. Even if she was courageous, her only option was to commit suicide!

“Hey! I have had enough of your staring. If not for the vow that I, this old lady, made in the past, I would have killed you in a single blow!” Murderous intent wafted off of the Ruler and the terrifying aura that came out of his own body made Qin Yu’s heart clench.

The only flaw in her words was her use of ‘old lady’. It spoiled the image of an all-powerful Ruler.

The ridicule in the eyes of the lady sealed in the sphere grew even worse. It was easy to guess what she was thinking. Empty words...why didn’t the Ruler just kill her now?

She knew exactly how powerful the Ruler was but she dared to act so outrageously. Either she was really bold or she was not afraid of death...yet, Qin Yu knew that Soft Peach was not afraid of death after she tricked Qin Yu with the Ruler’s avatar. She must have other plans!

The Ruler’s avatar was obviously provoking her.

“You are purposely trying to make me angry? You really know me well. I can’t stand this.” The Ruler gritted her teeth. Just when Qin Yu was about to step in and hold her back, she suddenly snickered, “This time, I am not going to fall for your tricks!

“Soft Peach, don’t ask me how I know your name. It is no secret as long as I know of it. As such, listen very carefully. Because I am angry, I am going to raise the stakes. If you kill her, I will forgive you of your crimes and I will even make it up to you. I might even give you the power left in the Ruler’s avatar after you kill her!”

Within the sealed space, Soft Peach made her choice, but she needed to show it. Her cold eyes suddenly darkened and burned with fury.

She was going to attack!

Qin Yu frowned and a look of helplessness crossed his face. This was the Ruler’s decision; he had no right to interfere.

Soft Peach was strong and she had strange techniques. However, her opponent was the powerful avatar of a Ruler.

This avatar had killed six True Saints easily. Among them was Close Saint, another really powerful Saint.

Her chances of winning were slim.

It was almost like trying to break a rock with an egg.

The Ruler clapped her hands joyfully and laughed, “Very good, you made a wise decision.”

However, things did not proceed as she wanted. As Soft Peach tried to get rid of the Ruler’s avatar, she naturally resisted fiercely. Soft Peach’s body was the battleground and the two fought for control.

The most obvious display of the battle was the multitude of cracks that started to form on the surface of her body.

She shook violently and her blood was in turmoil. The coldness and killing intent in Soft Peach’s eyes showed that the Ruler’s avatar was still in control of her body.

Obviously, she had the upper hand in this battle.

As her flesh tore apart, droplets of blood seeped out from her wounds. In an instant, her entire body was soaked in blood.

This was only the beginning and more blood continued to pour from her. At the same time, because the Ruler was constraining her, her blood could not flow out and it was trapped within her body.

As time went by, more blood continued to amass. Slowly, a bloody cocoon was formed with Soft Peach in the middle.

It was very hard to imagine how much blood she had in her small frame. However, as more time passed, the outpouring of blood slowed down.

Her face was incredibly pale and her slender fingers even started to look translucent. Upon a closer look, the inner linings of her blood vessels could be made out.

With dry lips and a lifeless look in her eyes, Soft Peach's complexion turned ghastly. She was a wilted flower that was being dried out and left in the cold.

Despite that, the Ruler's avatar was still in control of her body. This could be seen from the look in her eyes.

Soft Peach lost almost all the blood in her body. Suddenly, the numerous wounds that lined her started to disappear.

This started from some small surface scratches.

Qin Yu's heart jumped. This was only his guess, but something told him that Soft Peach had been defeated.

In the end she chose to give it a go, but she was unable to change the outcome.

Although this was expected, Qin Yu could not help frowning as he witnessed this scene. His expression was as dark as the night sky.

The reason for his reaction had been explained many times before. He did not wish for Soft Peach to die, at least not for now. Qin Yu turned to look at the Ruler. Evidently, this mysterious and powerful woman was the only one who could change things.

You can't abandon what you started right? Otherwise, how can you be worthy of being called a Ruler!

"Don't look at me like that. Qin Yu, I realized that you don't learn the good things but you learn some detestable things very quickly. I can't believe you know how to manipulate with your eyes! This is very lowly off you. This old lady has seen many things. If I could be manipulated so easily, I would have died many times before. How could I still have survived to this day?" She chuckled heartily to herself. The Ruler saw through his intentions and she was subtly telling him that she would not fall for his tricks.

In the next second, she suddenly snapped, "I thought you were a smart girl. How can you be this stupid? It is your body, your body, your body...I repeated this key thing thrice. Don't ask me why, I don't know myself!"

“Your body...this is the fourth time. Do you understand? You are its owner, the real master of your body. You control it and manipulate it!”

Qin Yu’s lips twitched. The Ruler changed so fast. Just a second ago, she was proudly boasting about her knowledge and how she would not fall for his tricks.

However, he quickly realized how much he underestimated her fickle-mindedness. She could eat her words without a second thought and she could even stoop lower than that.

“Let me remind you again! The Ruler’s avatar is very strong and your unique body is also powerful. However, she is not a real Ruler and she does not have a real body she can rely on. So her powers are only an illusion and she has no real roots. If you concentrate hard enough, you can find a loophole!”

Taking in another deep breath, the Ruler gritted her teeth, “I even revealed this to you. If you really can’t kill her, I will get angry! I am warning you, I am really scary when I get angry. I will do anything!”

She made a threat after she gave her warnings. After being knowingly provoked twice, the Ruler was truly angry.

This was especially so since she obviously knew that she was going to fall into a trap. Yet, she voluntarily jumped in.

Hehe, this feeling was not easy for anyone to take!

Remember this. The Ruler could not stand being provoked. This might be a useful point in the future.

Qin Yu’s eyes quivered nervously as he watched on. After a long while of Soft Peach’s wounds healing, everything suddenly stopped.

The wounds stopped disappearing but they did not heal. It was obvious that the battle had reached a stalemate.

Qin Yu’s eyes brightened as he thought about what the Ruler said previously. She did not have roots!

The weakness of the avatar was clear cut. Since she did not have an origin source of energy, she would continuously deplete herself.

This was also why she tried to construct a body after she killed the six True Saints. Dragging the battle on did not seem to make any sense. However, for every second Soft Peach hung on, the greater her chances of victory.

Finally, surprise and anger crossed the cold eyes of the Ruler’s avatar. She was filled with disbelief.

Honestly, her disbelief was granted. The Ruler was right. However, her words and hints alone were not enough to force the Ruler’s avatar into such a tight spot.

Soft Peach was hiding something!

Qin Yu had some guesses about this. When he peered into Soft Peach’s memories, he saw how she chased the Half-King from the Mysterious Clan away with a single finger.

What he witnessed now was just a confirmation of his previous thoughts.

“Hahaha, good job. I knew it, as a...how can you be weak?” The Ruler smiled smugly and a look of pure satisfaction crossed her face, “Brace yourself and defeat her completely. Then you will obtain the promised rewards from me!”

Qin Yu raised his hand and rubbed his forehead as a look of helplessness crossed his eyes. He was conflicted.

When the Ruler’s avatar wanted to kill Soft Peach, he had been worried. But now when Soft Peach had the upper hand, he felt nervous too.

There was a simple reason for this. Soft Peach had a lot to gain from defeating the Ruler’s avatar. She was already strong and she would become even stronger after this. Of course, this was not good news for Qin Yu as it threatened Peachy’s life.

As such, he wondered whether he ought to hope for Soft Peach to die or survive. He rubbed his forehead more aggressively and marks started to form.

The Ruler suddenly glanced at him with her bright eyes. It made Qin Yu feel as though she had read his thoughts.

His heart jumped and he quickly regained his composure as he returned her glance.

Her lips curled and she smiled. Yet, her smile made Qin Yu uneasy. She reiterated, “I told you. Nothing in this world can be hidden from me as long as I try.”

As she said this, she pointed to her head. She seemed to be telling him that she knew what he was thinking.

She really knew!

He instinctively grew anxious. How strong was she?

How can she know everything in this world?

It was easy for her to say that but he felt an overwhelming sense of horror as he carefully thought about it. Since she revealed her ways so easily, she probably did not have ill intentions towards him.

Suppressing the uneasiness in his heart, he bowed, “Please guide me, Senior!”

“Why should I?”

Was she trying to bargain with him?

Qin Yu knew that there was no free meal in this world. She had helped him numerous times before and Qin Yu had long since been prepared to repay her.

As such, he continued to bow respectfully, “If there is anything Senior would like me to do, I will do my best!”

Her lips curled up and that familiar smile that signified her desire for vengeance appeared.

Qin Yu’s lips twitched and he made another mental note of her. She held grudges! Furthermore, she had no patience and she liked to resolve grudges as they came.

“You are smart!” She snapped her fingers and grinned, “I can help you with this small issue, but you have to go somewhere and get something for me. I have to make some preparations before I can tell you the details.”

Whatever she intended for him to do must be dangerous and Qin Yu had a feeling that it would be a difficult task to accomplish.

As he glanced at her bright face, Qin Yu had a moment of hesitation and he gave up on bargaining with her. This was a typical seller’s market and Qin Yu had no choice but to accept her terms.

He just hoped that the Ruler would not send him on a suicide mission.

“Don’t worry, I have made a huge investment in you and I won’t let you die so easily. Even if you die, that will not be until...cough. Anyway, it should not be too difficult; you will be able to handle it!”

Qin Yu’s expression darkened and he swallowed his words. Dear Ruler, even if that is what you really think, can you please hold back a little?

He sighed and bowed, “I will follow your instructions!” He looked at her. The terms had been laid out and it was time for her to take action.

The Ruler lifted her finger and a crackling sound formed as the half-sealed sphere closed up. Very soon, the sphere was made whole and the space inside it was isolated from the outside world.

With that, the seal was completed.

Qin Yu’s mouth curled, he did not expect this.

Yet, the Ruler clapped her hands and smiled, “I promised to spare her life but I also gave her what she deserved. I did not break my promise.”

A scam!

This was the third impression Qin Yu had of her. As he expected, women could not be trusted. This was especially so for pretty women.

However, he had to admit that she fulfilled his wishes. Soft Peach was alive. Although she grew stronger, it would not be easy for her to leave the Ruler’s seal.

Even if she could escape, she would need some time. There should be enough time for Qin Yu to make preparations before she broke through.

The only thing that made him hesitant was this: How did the Ruler know that Soft Peach would emerge victorious? After all, nothing had been settled yet.

The Ruler glanced at him and casually said, “I did that because I am confident. You don’t have to understand it.”

There was a hidden meaning in her words. He was too weak now. Even if she explained, he would not understand.

Chapter 1414 – Guesses and Obsessions

Qin Yu laughed bitterly. It had been a while since he was looked down upon by someone. However this woman was very strong, so he could only hold himself back. After all, it was not a shameful thing to be looked down upon by her.

Another thought sprung into his mind. He stared at the completed seal and said, "Senior, the West Desolate and the Mysterious Clan suffered huge losses in Bounded Zero Place. They will not let this go. If they come here..."

The Ruler glanced at him. It seemed like she was thinking of other instructions to give him. Waving her hand dismissively, she explained, "Don't worry. The pathway to the fragmented area has been destroyed and strong foes will not be able to come anytime soon. Those who manage to come through will not be too scary and they will not be able to break the seal I constructed."

She looked at the sphere and smirked, "Furthermore, we can use this to confuse them and buy ourselves more time."

Qin Yu quickly came to a realization. If the two clans chanced upon this sealed sphere when they arrived, they would immediately think about the Ruler's legacy after they sensed its aura...he looked at the Ruler. From her cocky smile, Qin Yu could tell that she had prepared a few more tricks for the two clans.

While her tricks might not fool powerful folks from the two clans, like she mentioned, the pathway to the fragmented area was broken and strong individuals would not be able to come in. The possibilities of things going south were small.

Her simple explanation gave him a lot of information. For instance, the fragmented area. Why was the Vast Brightness World a fragmented area? Was it because of its relationship with the abyss? Furthermore, the words fragmented area being used to describe the Vast Brightness World allowed him to make a few guesses. The West Desolate was probably a complete world.

There was also the destroyed path between the worlds. If cultivators could use it to cross long distances between worlds, it must be very stable and powerful. The destruction of this path brought about awe, respect and also fear. How strong was the culprit? Was the culprit even stronger than a Half-King?

The Ruler obviously knew the truth. She seemed to be in a predicament or she might be making some preparations first. Qin Yu made these inferences from her desire to buy time. Otherwise, with how strong she was, there was no need for her to require Qin Yu's help.

Opportunities were hard to come by. Since he saw her face to face, Qin Yu did not miss out on this chance. He breathed in deeply and said, "Senior, I have a few questions that I was hoping you would be able to help me answer."

The Ruler frowned, "I am running out of time and I will leave soon. If you have any questions, hurry up and ask them...also, I can't guarantee that I will answer them."

Qin Yu bowed, "Thank you Senior. The first question. Where does the West Desolate and that clan come from?"

"The Desolate Area."

“Why do they call the Vast Brightness World a fragmented area?” “Because it is broken.”

Qin Yu’s lips twitched and he continued to ask, “What rank is a Half-King?”

“Above a Ruler.” With that, she waved her hand and snapped, “That’s all. You don’t need to know so much at your cultivation rank, it won’t be good for you. Alright, I am leaving.”

Qin Yu cried, “Hold on, Senior. I have a final question!” He breathed in deeply before he stared directly at her eyes, “I have a friend whose name is Feature. Do you know her?”

The Ruler turned around, “No.” As she took her next step, she vanished into thin air.

At the same time, all the remaining aura in the surroundings that belonged to her was sucked away. Everything related to her disappeared and there wasn’t a single trace left.

Qin Yu bowed, “Goodbye, Senior!” He stood up and rubbed his forehead. He had so many questions but he had a feeling that he would not get them answered. As such, he had to prioritize the more important ones.

In fact, the full name of the fragmented area was the southwest fragmented area. He got a reply from the Ruler regarding Feature and he now had a rough understanding of the West Desolate. With that, he could reach a startling conclusion.

The West Desolate and the southwest fragmented area were both a part of the Desolate Area. For some unknown reason, many years ago a large calamity caused the southwest fragmented area to break into two. These two worlds were the Vast Brightness World and the Abyss...this could also explain the relationship between the two worlds and why Qin Yu felt a familiar feeling from the both of them. They had the same source!

If that was the case, he had a lot more to understand about this vast world. The West Desolate and the southwest fragmented area...he could make some guesses from their names.

North, south, east and west. Southwest, northwest, northeast, and southeast. Were the areas that Feature spoke about split by this?

The Vast Brightness World was one of the Desolate Areas and it was formed after the original world was broken apart.

Tsk!

This thought was bone-chilling!

As he expected, a Half-King was stronger than a Ruler. However, was a Half-King the next rank above a Ruler or were there other ranks? He did not have the answer to this for now.

There must have been another reason for the West Desolate and the Mysterious Clan to take action back then. Also, the female Ruler was unimaginably powerful. Was she from the Desolate Area as well? What if she was related to the calamity that broke the southwest desolate area apart in the past? Bounded Zero Place was a result of the calamity back then.

Qin Yu continued to rub his forehead in puzzlement. Things seemed to be getting more complicated and dangerous. One reason was because the Ruler mentioned that she had placed a huge investment into him already...evidently, this investment was not done out of kindness and he would need to repay her in the future.

However much Qin Yu got from her was how much he would need to repay her. He was already dragged into this matter.

In the past, he thought that a Saint was the most powerful being aside from a Ruler...but, a Ruler of the Vast Brightness World was not on the same level as that female Ruler. He had to test this hypothesis in the future.

Qin Yu felt like he was getting further and further away from reaching the top. He felt small and insignificant.

Of course, this feeling came about because of comparison. A Saint was likely also considered powerful in the Desolate Area. Qin Yu knew this because he had witnessed Li Zhouyi's attitude towards Border Cliff Saint. Yet, it was evident that self protection and independence was not enough for a Saint. His cultivation was not enough, it was lacking!

Thankfully, he obtained the five divine ways. Qin Yu's overall power would increase again once he cultivated them. However, from what the Ruler's avatar said, there might be an issue with the five divine ways.

Qin Yu had not made a mistake in missing this out when he was questioning the Ruler. He could find another opportunity to ask her in the future. Compared to this, getting a better understanding of the full picture was more important for him.

Additionally, once the furnace completed its transformation, it would help Qin Yu with his Great Dao. He used most of his Great Dao to forcefully trigger the sword from the East Sea.

The only consolation that Qin Yu got from all this bad news was that the Great Dao, for him, was like icing on top of a cake.

While he was affected after his Great Dao diminished, he was not too badly injured and he only puked out blood.

This might also be because his Great Dao was not complete. Perhaps with a complete Great Dao, the consequences of using it would be much more severe.

These were things that he needed to test in the future.

The last point was Feature.

The Ruler had been stern when she denied it. However, it was precisely because she had been so quick to respond that Qin Yu had some suspicions. Something told him that she knew about Feature!

There were two possibilities for this. The first was that Feature was her and she was something like the Shadow of the Abyss. The next possibility was that Feature was a shadow that did not get along with her.

It was a pity that he did not see the Ruler's appearance or he would have been able to make a better judgment...for a Ruler, changing her appearance would be very easy. Even if he saw her real appearance, he would not be able to make a conclusion.

He rubbed his forehead and fell silent. He circled through these thoughts in his mind one last time. With a sigh, he put these thoughts aside. After this first encounter with her, he would have many chances to see her again in the near future. The more he interacted with her, the more information he would get. This would answer his questions.

He glanced at the seal that the Ruler constructed. Soft Peach was inside it battling it out with the Ruler's avatar. Regardless of who won eventually, how long would the seal be able to last?

Qin Yu decided to quickly resolve the issue Peachy faced. However, his most important task now was to rush back to the peach garden. With the Spring Master dead, Peachy had lost her greatest protection and she was in danger.

Sighing, Qin Yu turned and left. He raised his hand and swung it down swiftly, and the space tore apart. Qin Yu stepped in and instantly disappeared.

.....

Dark Hole City was as busy as usual. Many cultivators passed through the city each day, trading numerous items with each other. Numerous paths stretched through it and merchant shops lined the streets. Even if strange things happened in a shop, it would stay under wraps for a while.

There was a regular guest inn along one of the streets.

The manager and all other staff held apologetic looks as they ushered all the guests away. A distinguished guest had booked the entire inn with a lot of money.

This was a very extravagant, but effective method.

Dark Hole City was bustling and there was a strict curfew system in place. Hence, guest inns were always busy and they charged high prices.

Even though the inn was not large, booking the entire inn was not something ordinary people would be able to afford. There was no need to offend an important person for trivial matters. More importantly, the man reimbursed the inn for their losses.

The last guest left after the manager ushered him out. With that, the manager waved his hand and instructed the staff to close the door. Then, they hung a sign out to indicate that the inn was fully booked.

The manager turned towards all his staff and smiled, "Our job here is done. Let's take our leave." He raised his hand, indicating that no questions were to be asked, "Alright, let's go. We must leave within half an hour."

"Yes."

The staff bowed towards him and returned to their individual rooms. A few moments later, they left through the dark hallways of the inn.

Once he confirmed that he was the only one left, the manager sighed and headed to room number three. After a long while, he heard footsteps in the room and the door opened from within.

The manager placed neatly folded clothes down and bowed, "Honorable guest, I have been waiting for you."

Qin Yu had informed him of his return through the key. He used his senses to inspect the inn and found that the only person here with him was the manager.

Frowning slightly, he asked, "Why were you waiting for me?"

The manager raised his head. He had a slightly flushed look and he asked, "If this is not offensive, may I know if she is really still alive?"

Qin Yu fell silent.

The manager dropped to his knees and said, "I have guarded this place for many years just to know if she is still alive. I can die today with no regrets."

Qin Yu carefully surveyed the manager. Then he confirmed, "Yes, she is still alive."

Immediately, the manager lit up. He smiled brightly and his eyes sparkled like overwhelming happiness filled him.

This lasted for a second before he hid it. His eyes returned to normal and his smile stiffened.

The manager fell to the ground and his aura was sucked away like a vacuum. Soon, his body turned to ashes as time and age caught up to him.

He had been living on his will alone...this was the first time Qin Yu had encountered something like this. Although he did not understand, he was respectful.

This was the reason why he told the truth. He had sensed something different from the manager a while ago.

After a moment of silence, Qin Yu bowed. He left the guest inn and blended into the crowd outside.

Chapter 1415 – Peach Garden in Danger

While all sorts of incidents were happening in Bounded Zero Place, the Vast Brightness World was not peaceful either. Strange occurrences kept happening and even low ranking cultivators could feel the scary and suppressing aura.

Although the low ranking cultivators were not sure what was causing the strange occurrences, those in the Saint circle as well as those powerful enough to be associated with them were feeling fearful.

This was the exchange between the heavens and earth that occurred when strong cultivators fell. The will of the Vast Brightness would descend and interfere with reality. The range and intensity of the strange occurrences that kept happening was sufficient to show their rank.

True Saints!

They had crossed the Sea of Bitterness and reached the shore. They were people who had really become one with the heavens and earth and lived forever. They were rumored to be the strongest of all, just below Rulers. A single strike of theirs contained enough destructive power to ruin the world.

Every True Saint was a deserving elder in the cultivation world. They all contained a portion of power that could influence the Vast Brightness World.

But the strange phenomenon that had just occurred showed those cultivators, who were worthy of knowing what happened.

Once, twice, three times...it occurred immediately one after the other. There were a total of six times in a short period. There was a short pause before another two strange occurrences happened.

This meant that a total of eight Vast Brightness True Saints had fallen one after the other. No one knew why.

Of course, although they did not know the exact reason, those that had a key to Bounded Zero Place and knew of its existence had an idea of what happened. The eight True Saints had most likely died there.

It was a huge situation and everyone was feeling anxious. The news spread rapidly.

Bounded Zero Place had always been a guarded secret but now, it spread like the wind to everyone.

A place where a Ruler fell. A place everyone was fighting over. The World of Darkness and the Mysterious Clan...real and false information spread at an astounding speed.

At the same time, an uncontrollable fear spread through everyone like a virus. It spread from the top down. However, the root of it was from normal cultivators who never got a chance to associate with the Saint circle.

The world was changing and a new one was dawning. Only by surviving the filtering would they be able to continue to live. In a single day, eight True Saints fell. This was a cruel and bloody opening and everyone was dragged into it. No one could escape. The stronger one was, the less likely they would be able to avoid the change.

The proof of it all was that after the True Saints fell, the Saint circle, which had been like old stagnant water, suddenly experienced a gush. From the Transcendent Sword Sect, Ancient Thunder Domain, as well as some other holy lands, six young cultivators of the next generation successfully crossed the Sea of Bitterness and became True Saints. It was rumored that there were some old Half-Saints who had also successfully reached the shore, but in order to avoid any jealousy or coveting thoughts, they suppressed the phenomenon that was supposed to appear when they broke through.

The selection had begun. If they wanted to live, they had better think of ways to obtain more resources to increase their power. It was not just one or two that thought this way. Now, almost everyone had the same thoughts.

Chaos was inevitable. It started to spread from the Saint circle and downwards. The entire Vast Brightness World was facing a catastrophe!

.....

Qi Shu's face was pale as he looked at the person in front of him who was covered in darkness. He gritted his teeth, "The Qi Family has always been protected by the Peach Garden. By doing this, you will face the Peach Garden's wrath!"

A low laughter could be heard from the darkness, "It seems like this is your answer. It was the wrong choice and you will now bear the consequence."

Pak –

With a snap, the pale-faced Qi Shu's whole body stiffened as he fell to the ground. His eyes were wide with disbelief. He never thought that the other person would really attack him.

Pfft –

He disintegrated to ashes. As red and white color spread, the man in the darkness turned and walked away.

A cold and sinister voice could be heard. It vibrated through the air like a sound wave spreading outwards.

"The Qi Family refuses to collaborate. Kill them all!"

Miserable cries and curses could be heard being shouted as people were killed. The heavy smell of blood filled the air, engulfing the Qi Family's yard that had existed for thousands of years.

There were over ten thousand people related to the Qi Family and they made up several big clans. In a single night, they were all wiped out. This caused several medicine businesses to disappear.

But the next day, a new face appeared, controlling everything the Qi Family used to have. As he stood on their bones and blood, he took everything the family had been accumulating for years.

Everyone kept quiet out of fear as they knew this was meant to test the Peach Garden – because according to the rumors, one of the eight Saints who had fallen was the mighty Spring Master!

One day, two days, three days...the Peach Garden remained silent. This silence was the answer.

Numerous gazes fell on the Peach Garden. Some were filled with shock, some pity, but most were of greed. The Peach Garden without the Spring Master was like a sumptuous banquet. Anyone who was qualified to take a bite was getting restless.

The Spring Master was extremely mighty and was recognized as one of the peak True Saints in all of the Vast Brightness World...if he was so powerful, what he left behind must be extremely attractive!

.....

The Peach Garden.

Other than Peachy, all the disciples looked solemn. Even though they had heard the news a few days back, their eyes were still filled with sorrow.

The Spring Master had fallen!

As his disciples, their auras were linked to his and when his Great Dao disappeared, they could sense it.

Elder apprentice brother took a deep breath and said slowly, "Master is gone but we cannot let anything happen to the Peach Garden." He looked at White Phoenix. On the surface, he was the Peach Garden's only Saint.

White Phoenix nodded, "Elder apprentice brother, I have already sent a message out and received a reply. Zhou Saint said that he is rushing back to the Peach Garden."

He did not mention the other True Saints and everyone knew what this meant. They were trying to protect themselves in this catastrophe and no one could express their displeasure with that. Of course, this meant that their relationships would be severely affected from now on.

But as long as there was one True Saint holding down the fort, along with White Phoenix, who was a Half-Saint, as well as elder apprentice brother, second apprentice brother etc, the Peach Garden might survive this.

When they confirmed this, everything was slightly more at ease. Thousand Faces suddenly spoke, "How is senior-apprentice sister Peachy?"

Second apprentice brother replied, "Not very good. The news about Master hit her very hard. I also want to know, where did junior-apprentice brother go?"

As he said this, he looked at Lei Xiaoyu.

Lei Xiaoyu chuckled bitterly, "Second apprentice brother, I don't know where junior...apprentice brother went. But I believe that as soon as he learns what kind of situation the Peach Garden is in, he will rush back as soon as possible."

Second apprentice brother took a deep breath, "I hope he returns quickly." He stood up and his eyes shone, "There are outsiders. I will go and give them a warning. I will make sure they know that we are still the Peach Garden and that they had better not act rashly!"

Elder apprentice brother frowned but did not say anything to stop him. He looked on as Thousand Battles left before looking at everyone else, "Master has set up an array over the Peach Garden. After it is activated, even True Saints will not be able to break through in a short time."

He stood up and spoke calmly, "So in the meantime, I will prepare to isolate myself. Junior sister Peachy is not feeling well so everything shall be arranged by junior brother White Phoenix."

Thousand Faces looked worried and her lips moved as if she was about to say something, but elder apprentice brother threw her a look and she kept quiet.

White Phoenix bowed, "Elder apprentice brother, don't worry. I will do my best to ensure the Peach Garden does not suffer."

Elder apprentice brother patted his shoulder before turning to leave. Thousand Faces gritted her teeth before following him.

"This is not the best time for you to break through!"

Elder apprentice brother was silent before he spoke slowly, "Many years ago, I could already break through. But I kept waiting. After each time that I waited, I felt like I could obtain a more stable

foundation. With better preparation, I would be able to obtain a stronger power. But truthfully, there is no end to waiting. I will never be able to wait for the best time.”

He looked at Thousand Faces, “When Master died, I suddenly had a realization. Perhaps, the time when I decide to break through, is the opportunity that I have been waiting for. So do not worry, I will be able to break through very soon. Even if Master and junior apprentice brother are not here, the Peach Garden will be fine.”

Thousand Faces took a deep breath and stepped forward to hold him. She whispered in his ear, “I trust you...this is my reply to you. As long as you can return to me safely, I promise you.”

Elder apprentice brother smiled, “Okay.”

He hugged her before letting go and turning to leave. He seemed to move slowly but very soon disappeared.

Thousand Faces wiped her eyes as she muttered, “You have to succeed...you must succeed...”

Elder apprentice brother did not face the same situation as other cultivators. It was because of this that he used his status as the elder apprentice of the Peach Garden to isolate over and over again and never stepped into the Sea of Bitterness.

It was not that his foundation was insufficient. It was that the time had not arrived...as for what the time was, Master had never mentioned it. Whenever he asked, he would just receive a smile and a shake of a head.

But Thousand Faces knew that it was very dangerous. It was so dangerous that when elder apprentice chose to attempt to break through, he would die if he did not prepare sufficiently.

What he said to her might make some sense, but Thousand Faces knew that it was more his attempt to comfort her.

At this moment, second apprentice brother, Thousand Battles, stepped out of the protection of the Peach Garden. His eyes were cold as he looked across, “Get lost or die!”

Not everyone would have been able to make such a clear decision. He was a disciple of the Peach Garden who had yet to become a Saint, yet he was able to act so brazenly in the current situation.

Boom boom boom –

An incredible power fell from the heavens and a huge face resembling a divine being appeared. It had a low and thunderous voice, “Disciple of the Peach Garden. You are so rude. Are you sure you want to be so brazen in front of Saints?”

The corner of second apprentice brother’s mouth curled as he stepped forward with a heavy step. A loud sound could be heard as he flew up and punched out. He gave his answer through his actions. Disciples of the Peach Garden were not just talk, they could be extremely brazen!

“Ridiculous!”

A thunderous roar could be heard as the divine face looked furious. A Saint aura engulfed the entire place as if a mountain had fallen.

Very soon, miserable cries could be heard as the huge face's wide eyes were filled with fear and disbelief.

Soon, it was like a tornado tore through it as it got torn apart.

Woosh woosh –

Blood flew all over the place. It was a blood rain that was caused by a Saint being killed.

Thousand Battles did not avoid it and the blood rained over him, dyeing his body red. His eyes were icy cold, "Unless invited, no one is allowed to enter the Peach Garden!"

Chapter 1416 – Recovering Divinity

Amidst the endless darkness, time and space completely lost meaning. 'Pak'. All of a sudden, a flame appeared.

It was extremely strange how it could only make itself visible but did not emit any light through the endless darkness.

A voice could be heard from the flame; it seemed to be an illusion or something far off and unreal, "I need absolute secrecy. Absolutely nothing can be leaked from the entire process."

Another voice could be heard from the darkness. It was as if it came from the darkness and resounded in all directions, "Of course. We can guarantee this. Dead people cannot talk."

The flame was silent for a while, "Let me confirm once more, he will not return?" The doubt was heavy in its tone.

"We can confirm." The voice from the darkness was calm and warm, giving a strong sense of reliability. "Please rest assured, nothing will go wrong. Even if he returns after, there will be no way to turn things around. Those that benefit will never allow anything that threatens them to continue living. We can just influence them to get rid of him and put an end to things."

"We give you our promise to lengthen the life of the fragment...this is a good deal for both of us. Moreover, you don't have to take a huge risk. If not for your status being very suitable, we would easily find other people who are willing to work with us."

The distant and unreal voice resounded from the flame, "Hopefully, everything is as you say."

The darkness replied, "Don't worry."

Psst –

The flame extinguished and the darkness was peaceful again. Like an eternal night, it covered the area. It did so now and would do so for endless years.

.....

Half-Saints were powerful, however Thousand Battles was still much stronger and could inflict greater damage. But in the end, he was still not a True Saint.

Under the current circumstance, unless he was a True Saint, it was impossible to stabilize the Peach Garden.

So after a short moment of silence, the other greedy cultivators started to take action. Moreover, if they still dared to act after witnessing what had happened, it meant that they were quite powerful.

“You insult the Saints, you will be punished!” A low threatening voice could be heard from above. Like an oracle, it brought along a strong will that was not easy to resist. It said it as if it was already established, like a prophecy being told.

“The insulter will lose his vision and no longer be able to see the world!”

Both of Thousand Battles’ eyes became bleak and turned white. It was as if ice had formed over clear water.

“The insulter will lose both arms and no longer be able to touch!”

The whiteness appeared again as if it were a type of marble. It started from his fingers and spread upwards, eventually covering both arms.

“The insulter will lose both legs and no longer stand on this world!”

The similar whiteness spread quickly up both legs...but this time, Thousand Battles did not stay silent and let it spread.

The corners of his mouth turned up in a sinister smile, “I found you!”

He suddenly turned and the whiteness covering his eyes disappeared as his black pupils sparkled brightly. He could make out a vague figure.

Crack –

Crack –

As the cracking sound could be heard, the whiteness on his hands and legs cracked and disappeared. Thousand Battles threw a punch. An immense power burst forth and a figure appeared in the previously vacant air in front of him.

It was obvious that his opponent had been caught off guard and did not have time to dodge. He suffered a huge hit. The moment that blood flew out of his mouth, it instantly turned to blood mist. But it did not fall; instead, a piercing cry could be heard.

In the next moment, the blood mist flew away and formed a huge figure. He had blood wings and a shapeless blood flame covered it as if it was a being from hell.

And this was the name of the skill - Hell User!

A vengeful spirit from hell with the ability to attack one's soul directly. It was able to tear their enemy's soul apart in the most cruel and brutal way. Every soul fragment that it managed to obtain would then be pulled into hell and suffer in endless misery.

It was obvious that Thousand Battles did not intend to give this Hell User a chance to show his powers. With a sneer, he stomped and a low vibrating sound could be heard. It was as if he had stepped onto a huge drum.

The Hell User that was rapidly nearing him stiffened as cracks appeared on its body. Like a bubble, it disappeared with a 'pop'.

Whereas the vibration from the 'drum' did not disappear. Instead, it continued to surge like a huge wave towards the illusion figure that had appeared.

As the figure was dragged into the wave, little by little, his illusion became more real.

The Half-Saint that appeared was a young man in white holding a book in his hands. But appearance was something that could change on a Saint's whim, so his appearance did not matter. Only the look in his eyes – one that had seen many changes – could accurately portray that he was a very, very old Half-Saint.

He looked angry. Clearly, he never thought that he would be exposed by a member of the younger generation and be put in a disadvantaged position, given that his powers were strange and hard to guard against.

This was the Peach Garden!

He had to admit that a bit of respect emerged from within him. Of course, it was not for Thousand Battles. Thousand Battles was still beneath Saints and no matter how strong he was, he would eventually rot over the years.

What he admired was that plain and secretive Spring Master. No wonder he was known as the peak True Saint and said to be one of the most powerful beings beneath Rulers. Even his disciple, who had yet to enter the Sea of Bitterness, was so powerful.

Fighting above their ranks was not difficult for geniuses, especially if they were given gifts from their elders. However, this applied only to ordinary folks.

The lifespan of Half-Saints who had entered the Sea of Bitterness would already start to increase, even if they had not reached the shore or even seen the shore. Their spirits became Saint spirits. However, these two spirits were on two very different levels and the difference was stark. To be able to cross this distance was unimaginably difficult and was something that was almost impossible to complete.

"Die!"

Growling, Thousand Battles pounced forward. Murderous aura surrounded him as if it was something concrete.

The white-robed, book-carrying young Saint felt his heart shrink. It was as if he finally saw and felt Thousand Battles clearly – he felt horror and despair!

Of course, horror was his current aura whereas despair came from the intense will as strong as a Half-Saint's. He knew that if he fought Thousand Battles in his current state, he would die.

"Help me!" The white gown, book-carrying Saint shouted as the book in his hands suddenly flipped open. He tore a page and following this, his body stiffened and pain flashed through his eyes.

Without any hesitation, he threw the paper he tore. As the paper left his hands, it shattered with a 'piak', leaving only words floating behind.

It was a string of words made up of symbols that had never been seen before. The long string would occasionally be broken apart. Yet, it moved with a form of grace as if it was a flowing river. And the river was glowing generously.

Buzz –

Buzz –

Amidst the vibration, the strange words quickly faded as if being wiped away by an invisible energy. At the same time, it lost the restraint of the river and the river water spilled out, covering the entire area.

The blinding light covered the area and it was as if another sun had appeared in the sky. Soon, a clean and white figure appeared from the light. It looked like a man yet also appeared like a woman. Its body seemed bare yet it exposed a clean pair of wings extending from its back. As it flapped, it released an empty spirit with a faint aura that made people instantly revere it.

Without any prompting, it opened its eyes and the pure light from it was so warm, it seemed to be able to wash away all evil from the world. Its eyes shifted and landed on Thousand Battles. It raised its hand and grabbed.

A strong invisible restrictive force descended on Thousand Battles. Rings of restrictive power seemed to wrap around him, temporarily locking him to the spot.

At this moment, another figure appeared above Thousand Battles. He was dressed completely in black and a black mist surrounded his body. Vengeance, fear, despair, destruction and all sorts of negative emotions emitted from him.

A pale hand extended from the black robe; it was completely devoid of color. Its palm resembled a cold corpse as a huge illusion of a sickle appeared. It rapidly became real and took on a bloody color as if it had absorbed the blood of thousands of people.

Demonic mutterings, painful groans, cries of despair, crazy shouts...all of this floated into Thousand Battles' ears, messing with him and suppressing his will. It ate away at his emotions, covering them in despair and fear.

Woosh –

The bone-white hand suddenly lifted the blood-colored sickle and aimed it down at his head. It moved like a flash and the sounds emitted from it grew even more intense.

Bom –

A low sound suddenly could be heard from within Thousand Battles. As if something that had been sleeping had been awakened by the danger and was jumping around.

Bom –

Another sound, stronger and faster than before.

A third, fourth and fifth sound could be heard...his chest shook faster and faster. The loud 'bom bom' sound became louder.

It was as if there was a second heart hidden in Thousand Battles!

The small blood vessels in his eyes could be seen and they plumped up. But instead of a blood color, they emitted a gold color like a burning flame. It looked like an imprint formed from numerous veins interacting.

At this moment, his entire being seemed extremely powerful, as if he could destroy everything.

"You dare to use a destructive power passed down from Annihilation Nation against me. This was a foolish choice..." A low voice could be heard from Thousand Battles. It was almost devoid of emotions, but everyone could feel the anger from it.

It was filled with destruction!

Bom –

A low explosion could be heard as the being with the white wings was suddenly thrown back. The hand that reached forwards shattered as if it had been hit by an incredible force. As it was thrown back, its handsome face was twisted in pain. Over its clean and perfect face, lines appeared emitting decomposing energy. Two horns appeared on its temples and its wings seemed to be experiencing a serious contamination as they turned black, and a black flame appeared, slowly encompassing the entire being. The being was turned to dust.

The blood sickle that was aimed at Thousand Battles suddenly seemed to experience a decomposition from the light river as the blood color on the surface quickly turned dull and dry, like a flower shriveling up. Soon it started to rot, starting from the tip of the sword. Huge patches of corrosion appeared, emitting a strong sense of death and destruction. A bitter groan could be heard from beneath the black robe. The white hand immediately let go of the sickle. But of course, this would not be able to stop the deathly energy from spreading. Its flesh quickly started to decompose and turn into fluid as it dripped, exposing the bones which were rapidly turning black.

Blood flowed out from the mouth and nose of the white-robed book-carrying Saint and he looked extremely shocked and fearful as he quickly ran, not daring to stay a second longer.

"A divinity from Annihilation Nation...the Peach Garden has many surprises..." A low and calm voice resounded from the sky. An invisible yet immense energy descended, covering Thousand Battles, who had gold lines appearing all over the surface of his body. It was as if Thousand Battles was a prize he won.

Chapter 1417 – Breaking Through Two Realms

Finally, a True Saint could not wait any longer and decided to take action.

Golden lines covered Thousand Battles' exposed flesh and was shining brightly. Low, intense crashing sounds kept filling the air. It was him trying to resist the force that was suppressing him.

"If you were in peak condition, you might have been able to resist me. But since you have yet to recover, you are no match."

A figure appeared in his vision. The air surrounding him was vibrating slightly, forming a thick blanket that caused the people around him to only be able to see a vague figure.

But all of the gazes on him were filled with respect and fear.

Rulers stayed out of sight and True Saints were the strongest in the Vast Brightness World after them. True Saints did not often appear and when they did act, they could cause the world to shake. Today, the Peach Garden had lured the peak cultivators to appear!

Woosh –

Within the Peach Garden's defense, another figure appeared. It was the third disciple, White Phoenix. He was the only Saint in the Peach Garden now. He said, "Greetings, True Saint."

Amidst the vibrating air, the True Saint's voice was calm, "Do you want to save him?"

White Phoenix shook his head, "No, I am here to receive someone." As he finished speaking, he bowed, "Welcome, Zhou Saint!"

A figure appeared beside Thousand Battles, similarly, the air was vibrating around the figure and causing them to appear vague. He reached out and tapped the air, and with a 'pak' the suppressing force disappeared in an instant.

Zhou Saint was calm, "I owe the Spring Master a favor. Lin Saint, please take me into account."

The Saint circle was small and the number of True Saints was even lesser. They all hardly came out and even if they did not have a close relationship, they had bumped into one another a few times and knew each other.

Lin Saint frowned slightly, "Zhou Saint, are you going to protect the Peach Garden entirely?"

Zhou Saint said slowly, "At least for today, I will not just sit by and watch." This also meant that the future was debatable.

The entire place was silent for a while.

Lin Saint turned to leave, "In three days, I will come again. Zhou Saint, I hope you will not stop me then."

Woosh –

He took a step and the Saint disappeared. The horrifying aura surrounding the Peach Garden dissipated by half, allowing them to breathe.

White Phoenix bowed, "Thank you for your help."

The golden lines on Thousand Battles had disappeared and his face was pale. He was breathing heavily as he said, "Thank you Saint!"

Zhou Saint nodded, "Let's go into the Peach Garden and talk."

A slight hesitation flashed through White Phoenix's eyes but quickly disappeared. He reached forwards and tapped the air, "Zhou Saint, please follow me."

Woosh –

The three of them flew through the Peach Garden's shield.

Numerous peach trees were filled with flowers as far as the eye could see. They did not change much just because Spring Master had died. Above their heads, the wind seemed to be blowing, causing thousands of petals to fly up in the air and form a ceiling of petals.

This was also the shield that the three of them had gone through. It had been prepared by the Spring Master many years ago and its power was horrifying.

Zhou Saint stared before he sighed in admiration, "Alas, he is the Spring Master; his cultivation and power were immense. He could actually create such a powerful protective barrier. Even if True Saints are here, they will not be able to tear it down in a short time."

White Phoenix smiled slightly, "If Master could hear this, he would really appreciate it. He put a lot of effort into this shield in order to protect the Peach Garden from internal and external threats."

Thousand Battles' pupils shrunk as he found this sentence a bit strange.

Zhou Saint fell silent for a while before saying slowly, "Under these circumstances, it is better for you all to be cautious. On account of my relationship with the Spring Master, I will pretend not to hear you testing me. It better not happen again." He then turned to leave, "I will stay outside of the Peach Garden for the time being. For the next five days, no one will do anything."

Woosh –

Zhou Saint's figure disappeared into the shield.

White Phoenix's face was slightly stiff as he chuckled bitterly, "Second apprentice brother, I may have been too petty. Zhou Saint will only protect the Peach Garden for five days..."

Thousand Battles shook his head, "You did not do anything wrong. As Zhou Saint said, he understood why you did what you did."

White Phoenix took a deep breath, "Elder apprentice brother is currently isolating to try and break through. I will go to Zhou Saint now and beg him to stay for a few more days."

He turned and chased. But soon he returned unhappily, "Zhou Saint is not willing to see me. He does not want to do anything."

Thousand Battles took a deep breath, "Five days then. Perhaps this is Zhou Saint's limit...in the end we can only count on ourselves."

“But five days...”

“Elder apprentice brother has been at the entrance for many years and can take that step anytime. Five days is enough.” There was another part that he did not say. If five days was not enough, no matter how much time they had, it would be meaningless.

White Phoenix seemed to have a realization as he breathed in deeply, “I have always been the one maintaining the Peach Garden’s shield for all these years. I am the most familiar with it. Now, I am the only Saint in the Peach Garden who can fully activate its power...so as long as I am alive, I will not allow anyone to enter and disrupt elder apprentice brother while he is breaking through.”

He bowed and turned to leave. The peach blossoms flew up in the air and he disappeared.

Thousand Battles coughed repeatedly. He covered his mouth. After a few moments, his palm was red. His strength had not fully returned and he had pushed his powers to the limit. This caused a severe backlash.

But this was something that he had to do. He needed to show all those that were looking greedily at the Peach Garden that the Peach Garden’s disciples were unyielding and were still able to fight back. They would resist any evil schemes.

Zhou Saint had promised five days. With his status, he should be able to do it. Hopefully, elder apprentice brother would be successful...and hopefully junior-apprentice brother would be able to return quickly...only by having their own True Saint would they be able to stabilize the Peach Garden’s position. If not, everything was just lengthening the time but had no use to the overall picture.

He wanted to help with this, but there was nothing he could do. He had always been a proud person and loved to fight. This fact was difficult for him to accept as he chuckled bitterly.

But soon, he adjusted his emotions as he walked deeper into the Peach Garden. When he was helping the Spring Master to tidy up his wine cellar earlier, he had unintentionally found something. He had told Master about it and Master had told him to do whatever he deemed fit...could he have guessed that this day would come?

As he thought of this, a determination set in Thousand Battles’ eyes – if something unexpected happened, he would do his best to protect his juniors and help them escape even if it cost him his life. He would give the Peach Garden a chance to return in the future!

As he harbored such thoughts, his steps grew heavier and more serious. Coughing again, the second disciple of the Peach Garden disappeared deeper into the garden.

This was the direction to go to the Peach Garden’s wine cellar. It was a place that had always turned the peach blossom flowers into beautiful wine. But it was a restricted place and those that were not from the Peach Garden were forbidden to enter.

The only ones who had entered were the Spring Master, elder apprentice brother, and second apprentice brother.

.....

The Peach Garden was in trouble!

Soon after leaving Dark Hole City, Qin Yu found out about this. This was a secret within the Saint circle that was being spread all over through various hidden channels.

Eight Saints had died and a catastrophe was happening. There was going to be a huge change...all cultivators were like fishes in a raging river. If they managed to survive the torrent of the catastrophe, they would be qualified to live on. If not, they would perish.

Qin Yu had heard the Spring Master talk of similar things. He himself had personally experienced the third Saint calamity. It was like a wave that washed over the Vast Brightness World.

The Qin Yu and Spring Master of back then would never have expected that they would be involved in the fourth calamity. One fell while one rose. Moreover, the Peach Garden was now a dangerous vortex that had formed in the river.

Boom –

Punching forward, the air in front of him broke. Qin Yu stepped out from the endless darkness into the empty space outside. He frowned as a sinister look appeared on his face. He had no intentions of backing off or feeling fear. He was rushing back to the Peach Garden as fast as possible.

Wait for me!

.....

In the familiar darkness, the flame appeared once again. But this time, without waiting for it to speak, the darkness responded.

“You went against our agreement. Please give me a good reason or we will take it as you having betrayed us.”

The darkness was silent but it seemed to be hiding endless horror that could open and swallow everything at any time.

The flame’s voice sounded. It was still as fleeting as before, “There was an incident in your plans, I could only respond accordingly.”

The darkness was silent for a while, “Give me the details.”

The flame replied, “The Peach Garden’s shield is stronger than you reported...no, it is a lot stronger. Not only does it block, it has an automatic attacking system. I personally experienced this myself and can confirm it.

“If I had gone with the original plan, I would not have been able to guarantee my own safety when the Peach Garden’s shield attacked back. Moreover, I was not certain that things would go according to our plan after that.”

The darkness was silent for a long time as if verifying the authenticity of what he had said, “We will investigate this. If it is true, then it is our mistake. But the great being in the darkness tells me that you are hiding other things.”

The flame coughed lightly as his voice turned serious, “Yes, there is another reason that made me change the plan – in the Peach Garden, there is someone trying to break through.”

The voice from the darkness was filled with surprise, “True Saint?”

“Yes. Although the aura is still cryptic and they tried to conceal it intricately, I happen to be very sensitive to auras. You can go and confirm this too...if nothing happens, you will find out that the one trying to break through is the Peach Garden’s chief disciple.”

“Thank you for your honesty. This will get rid of unnecessary misunderstandings. Please wait patiently; we will get an answer very soon.”

The darkness fell silent once more. Only that ball of flame continued to burn in the silence, illuminating just itself.

“Thank you for your patience. We apologize for our careless mistake. We are willing to make up for it and give you something to thank you.”

It was obvious that they had managed to confirm the truth in a short time. This was enough to show what a powerful force there was behind this voice in the darkness.

The flame replied, “Okay! Then now, let’s renegotiate the plan...additionally, I need to confirm once more, has he returned to the Peach Garden?”

The voice in the darkness replied, “Don’t worry, the great being in the darkness has always been watching the Peach Garden closely. Once he appears, he will know even before he nears the Peach Garden.”

The flame replied, “Hopefully you all won’t make a mistake this time.”

“Of course. We promise.”

.....

Thousand Faces was guarding elder apprentice brother.

She had changed her face once more. She looked beautiful and delicate, like a peony. At this moment, she was frowning and her gaze fell on the garden in front of her, worry etched across her features.

Because of her cultivation, she was able to get past the blockade and could feel the change in the garden’s energy.

Elder apprentice brother had successfully taken the first step and entered the Sea of Bitterness. If this was his goal, he would have broken through a long time ago.

It was obvious that the reason why he hesitated for so long in front of the starting point was because his goal was not just becoming a Half-Saint.

His goal was to break through two realms at once to reach the shore and become a True Saint!

Thousand Faces was not able to confirm if such a thing had been attempted before. But she knew no one had succeeded before. Elder apprentice brother remained sluggish for a long time, not able to take the next step. As time passed, this was clearly not good news.

Chapter 1418 – Appearance of the Ghost Path

In the gray and gloomy palace, the air was filled with mystery as if some kind of invisible fluid was emitting a cold aura.

A circular platform stood in the middle of the hall. There were no marks around its side as if this platform was a part of the huge hall that had grown out from it.

There were two figures dressed completely in black, standing across each other on the circular platform. Both their hands faced forwards and similar crescent moons floated between their fingertips.

One of the figures said, “Dusk.”

After a few moments, the other person continued, “Order.”

Buzz –

On the surface of the crescent moons, blood lines appeared and spread outwards, eventually covering the entire thing.

.....

Thousand Faces’ expression changed as she sensed elder apprentice brother’s aura. It suddenly became chaotic and messy, seeming to lose control.

She rushed forwards but before she could near elder apprentice brother’s small courtyard, she was pushed away by an invisible force. She was unable to get closer.

It was not impossible for her to force her way through but this would definitely increase the danger elder apprentice brother was in.

Taking a deep breath, she suppressed the anxiety she was feeling as she turned and shrieked, “Elder apprentice brother is in danger!”

Very soon, White Phoenix, who was managing the shield, as well as the other disciples gathered outside the courtyard. Everyone who tried to get near the courtyard was pushed back.

Second apprentice brother’s face was serious as he knew a bit about elder apprentice brother’s secret. It was because he knew that he understood what kind of danger elder apprentice brother was facing now. To break through two realms...if he failed, there was no turning back!

Taking a deep breath, he spoke lowly, “Guard this place, I will ask Zhou Saint. Now, only he might be able to help elder apprentice brother over this.”

Woosh –

Second apprentice brother turned and left, rushing out of the Peach Garden as fast as he could and going to look for Zhou Saint.

With a single thought, the air shifted and the area the two of them were in was sealed. He lifted his head to look at Zhou Saint, who was frowning slightly. He bowed, "There is an urgent matter, please forgive my intrusion."

Zhou Saint replied, "What happened?"

Second apprentice brother took a deep breath, "Elder apprentice brother was trying to break through but his aura suddenly went out of control. Zhou Saint, please help!"

Zhou Saint was frowning. As he thought of something he frowned even harder, "Breaking through two realms?" Seeing second apprentice brother nod, he growled, "Nonsense!"

He immediately stood, "Bring me there immediately!"

Second apprentice brother relaxed slightly, "Thank you Zhou Saint. Please follow me." Perhaps they had worried too much. Thankfully, Zhou Saint was not one to bear grudges.

"Wait!" Zhou Saint lifted his hand to touch the space between his eyebrows and he instantly emitted a glow. An almost see-through illusion appeared and quickly became solid as it was exposed to the air. It looked exactly like Zhou Saint.

Second apprentice brother seemed to come to a realization. Zhou Saint was worried that once he left, someone would do something to the Peach Garden and intentionally left an avatar.

"Let's go!"

Woosh –

The two of them flew through the shield and entered the Peach Garden. With Thousand Battles leading the way, they did not hesitate as they moved to elder apprentice brother's residence.

Thousand Faces and Lei Xiaoyu, who were on guard outside, quickly bowed, "Greetings, Zhou Saint!"

Zhou Saint nodded seriously and as he looked at the residence, he became solemn, "I have no guarantee when it comes to breaking through; I can only try my best." He looked at everyone, "I will enter and try to help him with his situation but I can't promise anything. Later on, no matter what you sense, do not come in. When powers of True Saints clash, you are not qualified to interfere."

Thousand Faces opened her mouth to say something but ended up keeping quiet.

Thousand Battles said seriously, "We understand. Zhou Saint, please help immediately!"

Zhou Saint turned and entered the courtyard. A violent wind blew and rustled his long robe, making it stick to his body. It was obvious that he was also facing the pushback from the invisible force. Frowning, Zhou Saint lifted his hand and touched the air. 'Pop' the invisible restriction disappeared and he took a step forward. The courtyard door opened before closing again, blocking everyone else outside.

Second apprentice brother said, "Zhou Saint was a long time friend of Master. In today's situation, he is also willing to help the Peach Garden and is worthy of being trusted. With him helping, elder apprentice brother should be fine." He then looked at Thousand Faces, "Seventh apprentice sister, you have just recovered and cannot be too emotional."

Thousand Faces replied, "Thank you for your reminder." However, she still continued to look at the small courtyard, not willing to turn away.

Second apprentice brother sighed lightly, not saying anything else. Everyone fell silent.

If elder apprentice brother could successfully break through, the danger the Peach Garden was currently in would disappear. But this happened...and junior-apprentice brother was still missing and there was still no news about him.

Perhaps this was the fate of the Peach Garden. After their master died, were they going to be destroyed?

.....

In the moment that the courtyard door closed, Zhou Saint lifted his head to look at the peach blossoms. All the leaves and flowers were wilted and seemed to be dyed a blood red. They emitted an aura that made one's heart palpitate.

"Zhou Saint?"

From the room, elder apprentice brother's voice could be heard. Although he sounded weak, he was calm.

Zhou Saint replied with an 'mmhm'. "Tall Sostrong, how are you doing?"

Elder apprentice brother was silent for a moment before replying, "Thank you for your concern. Some deviation occurred when I was breaking through but it is within my control...on the other hand, you probably know that I don't like this name; you can just call me Tall."

Zhou Saint's mouth twitched, "You are still in the mood to joke now. It seems like you are in control. But to break through two realms and reach the shore is something that has never happened before, it is too dangerous!"

He took a step forward, "I have done some research on the backlash from breaking through before. I should be able to help you to control the internal chaos."

Elder apprentice brother replied, "I do not want to trouble you, Zhou Saint. I can deal with it myself."

Zhou Saint stopped, "Perhaps you can deal with it, but now, there is not enough time for you. The Peach Garden is in extreme danger and things may spiral out of control at any time." He frowned, "Or do you not trust me?"

"You know that the situation is dangerous now, yet you are willing to help the Peach Garden; how can I disrespect you...then I will have to trouble you."

The room door opened automatically and Zhou Saint could see Tall Sostrong sitting at a round table behind the door. His face was pale as he smiled lightly.

As he stepped in, Zhou Saint frowned. He lifted his hand to touch him, "I will momentarily stop controlling my own power and you can take control. After all, it is your body and you know the situation best."

Elder apprentice brother nodded, "Thank you Zhou Saint."

A majestic and warm energy entered elder apprentice brother's body. It flowed smoothly according to his will. With Zhou Saint's help, elder apprentice brother very quickly stabilized his internal condition. His pale face slowly regained its color. The strange contaminated power that had entered his body was quickly being cleared.

The tense feeling he had slowly released. Elder apprentice brother frowned slightly. Perhaps he had targeted the wrong person. The danger did not come from Zhou Saint.

Then who was the one moving behind the scenes?

The sense of danger still did not subside. Although the contaminated power was quickly being banished, he felt even more uneasy.

This meant the danger was not over.

Forget it. With Zhou Saint's help, the contaminated power would slowly be completely cleared out. After that, he would be able to take the last step and reach the shore to become a True Saint. When that time came, he would be able to protect the Peach Garden, as long as a Ruler did not appear.

"Concentrate!" Behind him, Zhou Saint growled.

Elder apprentice brother took a deep breath as he closed his eyes and focused on pushing out all the contaminated power in his body. He was reaching the end.

Finally, he managed to clear the last of the contaminated power out of his body. Elder apprentice brother groaned as he opened his mouth and spat out a thick blood clot. As it landed on the ground, it evaporated with green smoke and a loud decomposing sound could be heard.

He opened his eyes and looked relaxed, "Thank you Saint..." He only managed to speak halfway before he groaned and paled instantly.

Zhou Saint's palm on him suddenly became like a sword cutting into his flesh. It sunk deep into his body!

Bom –

Bom –

In his chest, his heart beat rapidly. At the same time, the energy that Zhou Saint poured into Tall Sostrong started to rampage out of control.

In a flash, the warmth changed as if it were poisonous snakes that had awakened and were baring their fangs.

Moreover, icy cold webs seemed to grow from these snakes' bodies and spread outwards.

In order to get rid of the contaminated energy earlier, Zhou Saint's power had spread through elder apprentice brother's entire body, so in an instant, elder apprentice brother completely lost control.

Gulp –

Gulp –

An extremely greedy gulping sound filled his ears. Elder apprentice brother could feel that he was being swallowed. Of course, there was no need to mention who was causing all this.

He chuckled bitterly, "Why are you doing this?"

The gulping sound did not stop. There was an intensity in Zhou Saint's calm voice, "Because I don't want to share with others. And the power of a new True Saint will help me break through my current realm."

A black flame burned deep in his eyes, and an icy, silent and deathly aura emitted from within him. With the two of them as the center, ice quietly condensed and the frostiness expanded outwards, slowly covering everything.

Ghost Path cultivator!

If Qin Yu were here, he would immediately recognize that the frightening aura coming from Zhou Saint belonged to the Ghost Path.

It was slightly different from Close Saint yet it was equally horrifying!

Tall Sostrong's closed eyes opened once more. There was still pain within him but more of him was now frozen, "Strictly speaking, I am now at the level of a True Saint; are you certain that you can destroy me?"

Zhou Saint sneered and seemed extremely confident, "Of course, since I have already taken action, I will not give you any chance to fight back. Give up! After I swallow you, I will tell everyone that you failed to break through and eventually died. To repay you, I promise to help the Peach Garden through this calamity...of course, you can try to resist but this will mean that you reject my good intentions and I will kill everyone in the Peach Garden to repay you.

"You have already had a taste of my power in addition to how well I am able to hide. If I want to, no one from the Peach Garden will be able to escape. For example, the seventh disciple, Thousand Faces..."

Elder apprentice brother's pupils shrunk as he frowned, his emotions extremely conflicted. His body stiffened.

"I don't trust you!"

Zhou Saint chuckled lowly, "I am willing to swear on my Great Dao. As long as you don't resist, I will do everything I said."

There was silence and only the gulping sounds filled the air. The room was covered in ice.

Elder apprentice brother struggled to speak, "Okay!" He closed his eyes, covering the scarlet color that had appeared deep in his eyes.

.....

The frightening cold emitted from the house and everything around it turned icy. It was so cold that it made everyone's hearts go still from the horrifying aura.

This was...the scent of death!

Thousand Faces' expression changed as she closed her eyes and used her senses. However, her ability to sense was blocked by the frightening cold.

"Elder apprentice brother is in trouble!"

Without waiting for her to say more, Thousand Battles' eyes instantly turned blood red as an immense power erupted from him.

He stared at the courtyard as if seeing through all the barriers. He saw elder apprentice brother leaning completely on Zhou Saint.

"Ghost Path!"

As he spat out these bitter words, Thousand Battles did not hesitate as he threw out a blow.

Bom –

The ice instantly shattered and the courtyard door shook violently before being forcefully thrown open.

"Third apprentice brother!" Thousand Battles shouted.

Boom boom boom –

The Peach Garden's shield was activated and endless peach flower petals fell like a peach blossom shower.

Chapter 1419 – Peachy Takes Action

Every peach blossom that dropped rushed out with a terrifying aura, bombarding the courtyard that was covered with frost. Cracking sounds rang in the air, and the atmosphere that was full of frosty power was being torn apart.

In the room, Zhou Saint, who had followed elder apprentice brother around, roared, "How dare you lie to me!"

Whoosh –

Elder apprentice brother opened his eyes and said in a cold tone, "I don't trust monsters!"

The blood in his eyes became even redder and thicker. He opened his mouth to scream, and in the process, his hair stood up on ends and started to turn blood red.

Gulp –

Gulp –

The swallowing carried on, however, a blood red mesh suddenly appeared in the air. The mesh came from elder apprentice brother's body, and slowly inched its way towards Zhou Saint.

"Hmph! That's useless. Even now, you still do not understand the power of a Ghost Path True Saint!" Zhou Saint bellowed menacingly.

.....

Outside of the shield, the avatar that Zhou Saint left behind previously seemed to have sensed that something was wrong. It turned to look at the Peach Garden. Without any hesitation, it rushed forward.

The avatar moved so fast that its silhouette started to fade. Like a ray of light, it collided heavily against the Peach Garden's shield. However, no loud sound was produced. In fact, there was no sound at all. The silhouette broke through the shield directly, leaving a big and transparent hole in it.

At the boundary, there were traces of slow melting occurring, as if it had been subjected to extremely high temperatures. Its edges were burnt yellow, giving off a sense of impending doom.

.....

In the silvery-white sealed space, White Phoenix was suspended in the air. Countless illusions were interwoven with each other and moved ceaselessly around his body.

When the Peach Garden's shield was broken, there was suddenly a black spot in the silvery-white sealed space.

White Phoenix opened his eyes abruptly and coughed out blood. A patch of red appeared on his chest and robe, and started to spread outwards. There was a hole in his chest where flesh should have been.

The illusions around his body also became rigid, like a machine that had lost one of its most important parts.

Taking a deep breath, White Phoenix ignored the injury in his chest and channeled his energy into fixing the damage in the Peach Garden's shield.

However, at this moment, his face suddenly changed completely!

.....

Outside the Peach Garden, Lin Saint, who had previously left, came back once again. He looked at the shield and the gaping hole in it.

Not caring about anything else, he immediately took action.

"The heavens and earth are boundless, the star fragments are soaring towards the sky. Listen to my orders and destroy everything that obstructs you. This is the Perishing Star!"

Lin Saint raised his hand. The next moment, the celestial dome above his head started to turn red. Then, a terrifyingly loud rumbling sound was produced and everything was destroyed ruthlessly.

The redness in the celestial dome continued to spread, as if it had been set aflame. The skies were all dyed red.

Then, the celestial dome ignited, with fierce and hot flames rising up from beneath.

A meteorite that had been consumed by fire left a streak of flames behind it, like an arrow that had been shot by a deity. It flew straight towards the Peach Garden – more precisely, it was aimed towards the hole in the shield that was created by Zhou Saint.

Boom –

Boom –

Boom –

A world-shaking sound erupted, followed by waves of blazing flames that roared and rolled fiercely. A powerful wave of energy was also emitted, instantly attracting the attention of many people outside the Peach Garden. Their eyes were wide and filled with fear.

This was the power of a True Saint, it was close to what a deity could do according to the legends. The Peach Garden's shield vibrated violently as it became engulfed in flames. Cracks started to form around the hole that was already there and they began to spread outwards rapidly.

.....

In the silvery-white sealed space, cracks began to appear as well. It seemed to affect the controller of the space directly.

Countless cuts started to appear near White Phoenix's chest wound that spread outwards to his limbs.

A huge amount of blood began to flow, and his face turned pale. The immense pain that he was going through reflected through his eyes and his labored breathing. After all, he was only a Half-Saint and had only broken through recently, so he was unable to display the full power of the Peach Garden's shield.

However, White Phoenix was still fortunate. If it were not for the protection of the shield, facing a True Saint's power head-on would have caused him to lose his life instantly. Yet, even though he was not dead, he was unable to continue activating the shield.

.....

In elder apprentice brother's courtyard, the walls had collapsed. Amongst the rubble, the peach tree that was closely related to him was revealed.

Its leaves were wilted and showed signs of pollution. It was enough to prove that there had been a conspiracy from the very beginning.

A world-shaking rumbling shook the entire courtyard, and the peach blossoms that were falling from the sky were instantly turned into dust.

There was an extremely strong enemy attacking! White Phoenix must have already been heavily injured!

Crack –

Crack –

Huge cracks started to form in the skies above them, almost like a huge creature that had opened its mouth to swallow them whole. It was a sign that the Peach Garden's shield was on the verge of collapsing entirely.

A low, cold, and menacing voice rang out from one of the rooms, "This outcome was inevitable for the Peach Garden, and every single one of you will perish together with it."

Boom –

A huge wave of energy suddenly exploded, rushing towards the structures that were on the verge of collapse.

A blood net wrapped around elder apprentice brother's and Zhou Saint's bodies, but elder apprentice brother's face was full of pain. There was blood coming out from his eyes, ears, nose and mouth. His whole body was convulsing non-stop, and the blood net that he created was dulling bit by bit.

Behind him, Zhou Saint smiled coldly. "I have to admit that I underestimated you previously. You indeed had a chance of getting out alive, but you were too hasty. I was giving you a chance to attack me.

"Now, whatever happens is inevitable."

Thousand Battles roared, and golden streaks appeared on his body. He started to grow in size and in a blink of an eye, he was a hundred zhang tall.

An ancient, imposing and powerful energy emanated from his body. Streaks of gold and red interwove in his pupils, giving off a terrifying aura. He stomped and punched his fist forward. A golden river appeared and rushed towards Zhou Saint.

"So this is the rumored Divine Spirit that has been recovered. There's only a few of them – pitiful creatures that have been abandoned and forgotten by the world! Even though I'm not sure how you borrowed its power to unleash such a powerful force in such a short time, this is still not enough to defeat me."

Surrounded by the sinister aura of ghost energy, Zhou Saint punched his fist outwards and skeletal illusions started to condense to form a huge skeletal arm. It struck down, colliding with the golden river. Instantly, the golden river was split in half.

Evidently, after consuming a portion of elder apprentice brother's power, Zhou Saint had become even more terrifyingly powerful.

Thousand Faces screamed and heavy fog started to engulf her. Countless illusions started to appear and every single one of them had the face of a beautiful woman. They faded in and out throughout the fog.

She reached out to the fog and started to tear at it vigorously. Her body was trembling slightly after having gone through a great amount of suffering and pain.

The fog was sliced into pieces. She grabbed the pieces and threw them at Zhou Saint. Then it self-destructed in the air, leaving behind a beautiful woman that stared at Zhou Saint with watery eyes and smiled seductively at him.

Zhou Saint's eyes that had been consumed by black flames went sluggish for a moment before he regained his composure in a few seconds, breaking away from the power of the illusion.

He gave an evil grin, then opened his mouth wide and sucked. "A Mutant Wraith? It's similar to a curse. Hehe, this apprentice from Peach Garden is indeed extraordinary!"

The beautiful woman within the fog widened her eyes, as if she had discovered something terrible.

Her beauty withered away as she screamed desperately, wanting to escape. However, she was quickly sucked into Zhou Saint's mouth.

The screams instantly stopped!

Poof!

The fog surrounding Thousand Faces instantly dissipated, like a light bulb that had been blown, revealing her pathetic state. Her flesh was exposed as if it had been corroded by acid. Her skin was covered with welts that were oozing pus.

However, very quickly, the flesh started to squirm and the wounds began to heal rapidly. New flesh replaced the old, and soon, a woman with a different but equally beautiful face appeared once again.

Her skin was as white as snow, completely different from how it was before.

Whoosh –

Thousand Faces opened her eyes and stood up, as if she did not just suffer from heavy injuries. But there was something different about her aura.

It was even colder and even more distant than before, as if she had lost something incredibly important to her together with the fog that was swallowed by Zhou Saint.

“Save elder apprentice brother!”

Fifth disciple Iron Mountain, sixth disciple Earth Stride, and Lei Xiaoyu started to take action against the True Saint without any hesitation. However, they were too weak and were no match for him. They did not even reach the Saint due to his aura keeping them away.

White Phoenix had suffered a huge impact, together with the shield, second apprentice brother was unable to inflict any damage onto the enemy, Thousand Faces had sustained an unknown amount of injuries, and the rest were no match for the enemy.

The Peach Garden was in an extremely dangerous situation.

At this time, someone coughed, and the sound of light footsteps followed. With the noise from everything that was going on, the sound of the footsteps should have been completely covered. Yet, everyone could hear it clearly.

In the distance, a silhouette came into view. Her face was pale, almost transparent. It was almost like looking into a frosty mirror. Perhaps in an hour, or half an hour, or even the next moment, she would disappear into thin air.

Zhou Saint’s gaze landed on her, squinting his eyes to get a better look.

“Die!”

Zhou Saint did not actually say that. In reality, he had let out a series of complicated and weird sounds. They did not belong to a language of the living, but to one of the dead. It unmistakably meant impending death!

Peachy’s gaze was calm and unaffected. Almost as if she had not heard the True Saint sentencing her to her death.

She coughed lightly and said, "Second apprentice brother."

Thousand Battles' hundred-zhang body frame stood in front of Peachy like a huge golden mountain, his intense golden rays spreading towards the sky.

Hong –

The golden rays started to rush inwards into his body, as if he had been subject to a humongous power. The space between Peachy and second apprentice brother rang out with bubbling sounds, as if something was being corroded. Black smoke began to rise and the golden rays started to dull in intensity.

Thousand Battles' flesh started to shrivel and pale, as if he had lost his life force. However, his body continued to stay there firmly, not moving even an inch.

Peachy lifted her hand to touch the space between her eyebrows, and a light ray appeared in her palm. Her skin became even paler, and now she seemed like a faint shadow that could not be touched.

Reaching up, the light ray shot upwards towards the sky and let out a blindingly bright glow.

A peach tree illusion appeared within the light ray, causing all the apprentices' eyes to glow with vigor.

This was...the Spring Master's Great Dao!

A silhouette appeared beside the peach tree illusion. Even though it was just a blurry image, the Peach Garden's apprentices could immediately recognize it as their Spring Master.

However, there was no expression in the Spring Master illusion's eyes. Evidently, it lacked consciousness and self-awareness.

Peachy's gaze was pained for a moment. "Father, please help us to rescue elder apprentice brother from danger."

The Spring Master's illusion immediately took action. He lifted his arm and the broken shield was instantly restored.

At the same time, a terrifying and annihilating power condensed in his hands. He struck without any hesitation.

A scream of agony rang out from Zhou Saint who was behind elder apprentice brother. His body was cleanly severed into half, and the black energy that surrounded him dissipated as he collapsed to the ground.

Pa –

The Spring Master and peach tree illusion disappeared together into thin air.

Chapter 1420 – I Am Back

At this point, every disciple in the Peach Garden had the same realization.

This was the last bit of strength the Spring Master left before he died. His life in the Vast Brightness World had come to an end.

Sadness washed through their hearts and overwhelmed them but they did not have time to mull over this.

Because Lin Saint was attacking them!

With a step forward, his powerful aura felt as strong as a god. He glared coldly at the crowd and a suppressive force enveloped them.

Like Zhou Saint, Lin Saint did not care about his posture as a True Saint. Hence, he chose to directly attack. His target was Peachy!

After he forced his way through the Spring Master's shield, Lin Saint witnessed Peachy use the Spring Master's Great Dao to attack Zhou Saint.

Although it was highly unlikely that Peachy would make another attack under such circumstances, it never paid to be too cautious. He did not want to make the same mistake.

Furthermore, since he chose to attack, he could not spare anyone in the Peach Garden. Obviously, he would need to get rid of everyone and clear all weeds.

Elder apprentice brother's body vanished in a flash and he appeared beside Peachy. He was technically a True Saint now but because he just broke through and he was tricked and devoured by Zhou Saint, his powers were limited.

He pressed his palm forward and with a 'bang', elder apprentice brother flew forward. The space in front of him tore apart like a knife danced as it sliced through the air. In the blink of an eye, blood dripped from his countless wounds. He became drenched in blood quickly.

Thousand Faces flew forward and hugged him. Her body could not take the force and she was blasted backwards. A flash of pain crossed through her usually calm and indifferent face. Right as her face contorted in pain, her appearance suddenly changed again. There was a similar beauty about her new face but her eyes grew colder.

Lin Saint did not hesitate after the first blow and he did not chase after elder apprentice brother and Thousand Faces. As he raised his arm again, he targeted Peachy.

Buzz –

A thick, brilliant gold light was suddenly the only light in the Peach Garden. There was a golden touch on every object.

Thousand Battles felt like he was on fire. At the same time, everyone smelled wine.

Elder apprentice brother held onto Thousand Faces as she frowned deeply. Her pupils shrunk and she exclaimed, "This is bad. Second apprentice brother is using that thing in the wine cellar!"

The wine in the Peach Garden was brewed using numerous peach blossoms. It could produce top-quality peach blossom wine which could be considered the best wine in the world. It was not only because the wine was extra fragrant, it was also beneficial for cultivators.

Peach blossom wine was well recognized as a valuable resource in the Saint circle. However, the wine cellar in the Peach Garden was considered a forbidden place in the Peach Garden despite not being officially marked out.

Only the Spring Master, elder apprentice brother, second apprentice brother, and the beloved Peachy were allowed to enter it. However, none of them entered it.

As such, only elder apprentice brother understood what happened to Thousand Battles.

The golden light was dazzling and bright but there was also a terrifying aura it carried that suppressed the air. However, Lin Saint felt something else. There was an ancient thing within the golden light that was sinister. There was a lustful desire for blood.

As he breathed in the fragrance of wine, Lin Saint came to a realization. A piercing chill brought about by the cold, dark wind that penetrated his body was about to freeze and devour his soul.

His pupils shrunk and light exploded in small sections. Lin Saint followed his intuition and did not contest Thousand Battles directly. His body flashed and he appeared beside Peachy in the next moment.

With Peachy's current state, she was no threat to a Saint at all. However, Lin Saint felt an uncomfortable sense of threat from her that grew stronger with each second.

This was why he did not hesitate to attack now and kill her at the soonest possible time.

Thousand Battles was likely in trouble because he used a sealed object in the Peach Garden. It must be the rumored object that the Spring Master kept sealed in the wine cellar.

Lin Saint had some understanding about this. It was an extremely terrifying but mysterious thing. When the Spring Master got ahold of it back then, he could only choose to seal it and use the wine cellar in the Peach Garden to slowly extract its power.

Unless left with no other choice, Lin Saint would not want to be involved with it and leave a trace of himself on it. Who knew if he might land himself in deep danger because of it.

He quickly made his decision, and without further delay, he attacked Peachy.

Lei Xiaoyu grunted as she pressed her palms together and cried, "Substitution!"

Boom –

The blow from Lin Saint would have killed the weakened Peachy immediately, but she unexpectedly turned into a wooden block that was blown to bits in an instant.

Peachy appeared behind Iron Mountain and Earth Stride. Beside her, Lei Xiaoyu spurted out fresh blood and her body shook uncontrollably.

If a cultivator below the True Saint rank tried to save someone from one, they would have to pay a high price. She was lucky to have gotten away with just spitting out blood.

The golden light burst with brilliant hues again, just like the rays from the sun. It shrouded Thousand Battles entirely and hence, no one saw that his body was now being rapidly eroded by the golden lines.

This exchange granted him a lot of power but it came at the sacrifice of his consciousness. If not for his strong will, he would have lost control and become the puppet of the sealed item.

Thousand Battles roared and the blinding golden light burst out. The light stacked together like magma waves and swallowed Lin Saint.

This was a part of his plan from the start. The Spring Master had informed him a long time ago about how terrifying the sealed item in the wine cellar was. So, when Thousand Battles used it, he knew that he was going down a path of no return.

As such, he wanted to drag Lin Saint down with him. If this was successful, Lin Saint would not be able to escape easily and he would no longer harm the Peach Garden.

This was probably the last thing he could do for the Peach Garden, elder apprentice brother, and the rest of his juniors.

However, the intuition of a Saint was strong and Lin Saint felt the danger way before him. He would never associate himself with that strange aura from the sealed object.

Golden light flowed like a river but before it could completely encircle Lin Saint, Lin Saint stepped forward and disappeared. A True Saint had good spatial awareness; if he wanted to escape, he could do it easily.

In the next second, Lin Saint pressed his palm forward again. Lei Xiaoyu did not have any more strength left to do another substitution. Iron Mountain and Earth Stride both stood in front of Peachy and roared.

Iron Mountain's bones rang and his body burst with power. His skin turned golden and grew thicker.

At the same time, Earth Stride pressed both his palms on Iron Mountain's back. Layers upon layers of golden sand stacked onto his back.

Lin Saint frowned and a dark look crossed his eyes. He never expected so much resistance and courage from the Peach Garden disciples as they fought against a True Saint. Furthermore, he was being pushed back!

Continuous strikes from him had been useless and he had not even managed to touch a strand of Peachy's hair. This was totally shameful but it did not bother Lin Saint.

He was bursting with rage, and this anger stemmed from his uneasiness after continuous failures. He also had a bad feeling that something terrible would happen.

What was it?

The Peach Garden disciples did not pose a threat to him. Although they were putting up a resistance to him now, it was only a matter of time before he killed them.

Could there be another hidden card that the Spring Master left behind in Peach Blossom Spring? No, if that was the case, it would have been used already to help elder apprentice brother break through to become a True Saint. There was no reason to hold it back.

Or...was Mister Ninth about to return?

Lin Saint's heart beat faster at this thought and he breathed in deeply to calm himself down. The disciples had not threatened him with Qin Yu's return. After all, that person was inspecting aura changes in the environment...also so what if he returned? The Peach Garden was going to be theirs!

Don't think about it anymore, finish this quickly!

Lin Saint's eyes grew cold and he became more vicious with his strikes. Within a few moments, the layers of golden light on Iron Mountain's body started to crack from Lin Saint's blows.

Iron Mountain spat out blood and Earth Stride was forced backward. Iron Mountain lasted only slightly longer than Earth Stride in resisting Lin Saint but he also suffered greatly.

His blood and flesh broke apart in large pieces and deep wounds revealed his bones. They were broken and smashed into multiple pieces.

With one blow, Lin Saint almost killed Iron Mountain and Earth Stride. If they remained Lin Saint's targets, they would be killed in the next blow.

Lei Xiaoyu wiped the blood off her mouth in determination but she struggled to stand up. Just then, Peachy stretched an arm out and held her back. Her expression was tranquil, without any hint of fear. She calmly said, "Don't bother about me anymore."

She was no longer coughing and there was a light flush to her typically pale face. However, this only gave Lei Xiaoyu a bad feeling. Lei Xiaoyu's eyes grew red and she bit her lips, "Senior Sister, Peachy..."

Peachy smiled slightly, "Take any opportunity to run. If you have a chance, tell Qin Yu who our enemy was."

Lin Saint's sense of uneasiness grew stronger and he grew even angrier when he heard what Peachy said. He scoffed, "So what if Qin Yu returns? Mister Ninth of the Peach Garden is nothing in my eyes!

"He is not here now and even if he returns, he will only be burnt to death with the Peach Garden!"

There was no point in wasting words with them. If they were meant to die, he would send them on their journey as quickly as possible.

He raised an arm and an illusion seeped out from his palm. The silhouette roughly resembled that of a sword.

It was blurry but it constantly gave off a cold and destructive aura.

If he was going to pull out the weeds of the Peach Garden, his first and most important task was to kill Peachy. Lin Saint did not want to leave behind any traces of himself and hence, he needed to kill her in a single shot.

Once the death sword slashed down their souls would be directly destroyed.

And once they were devoured by the sword silhouette, there would be nothing left behind.

Even if a Ruler stepped in in the future and tried to turn back time, there would be no way to revive the Peach Garden disciples.

Whoosh!

The sword silhouette sliced at Peachy and Lei Xiaoyu. There was a strong sense of uneasiness but Lin Saint felt that this was his most effective method.

However, right before the sword met its target, Lin Saint's eyes narrowed sharply. His soul screamed and a thick deathly aura instantly covered his heart!

If he continued his attack, he could kill the girls but he would probably die in the process!

Naturally, True Saints were cautious about their lives. Lin Saint backed away and smacked his hand down. The space shocked violently like a strong wave crashing down in the ocean.

However, before the wave had time to erupt, it was pierced through. Like a fragile bubble that popped, that was the end of it.

"I am back...tell me how you are going to destroy the Peach Garden!"