

Refining 201

Chapter 201 – Yun Fan Crosses Tribulation

Snowfall City, Yun Family –

The front doors were tightly shut and all the array formations within the dwelling had been activated, as if they were facing imminent threat from a dire enemy. Yun Family cultivators hurried in, their serious complexions tinted with a hint of panic. It was obvious that this cultivator family, one that had a deep inheritance and long legacy, had encountered enormous troubles.

Within the main hall, the decision makers of the Yun Family and all Golden Core cultivators were present. The air was thick and heavy. Yun Fan sat in the seat of honor. He took a deep breath and slowly said, "I have decided that I will cross tribulation tomorrow to break through to the next realm!" As he spoke, the hall fell deathly silent. Everyone's eyes began to shake.

"Father!" Yun Xueqing cried out in alarm. "You have not yet fully refined the spiritual object. It is too dangerous for you to cross tribulation!"

The Yun Family's second master Yun Yi blustered, "Patriarch, crossing tribulation is a matter of life or death. You cannot be impulsive!"

"I ask Patriarch to reconsider!"

Yun Fan remained expressionless. "Enough. I have already decided on this; there is nothing else to say." He waved his hand. "Xueqing, Yun Yu, you both stay behind."

Everyone sighed. They bowed and started to leave.

Yun Xueqing's eyes reddened. "Father..."

Without sufficient preparations, the chances of successfully crossing tribulation were horrifyingly low. And, what awaited those that failed was nothing but death.

Yun Fan lightly said. "I'm fine. Father doesn't have much time left, so I have to be as brief as possible. Second Brother, if something were to happen to me, I ask you to find some way to bring Xueqing away. Moreover, the family juniors that we sent away, how are they doing?"

Yun Yu said in a low voice, "Big Brother, rest assured that I will guarantee Xueqing's safety with my life. As for the juniors, luckily we made preparations long ago, so most of them have been sent away. Once disaster occurs to our Yun Family, they will go into hiding to ensure that our bloodline will not perish."

Yun Xueqing was shocked. It was only then that she realized that many years ago, her father had already completed preparations in order for their family to resist any great calamity.

Yun Fan sat up. "Tonight, I will cross tribulation!"

Yun Xueqing's eyes widened.

Yun Yi seemed to have already expected this. "Big Brother, are you worried that there are spies in the family?"

“If they can perfectly calculate how my Yun Family will respond and cut off all possible paths, then if I were to say that there wasn’t a spy, Second Brother, would you actually believe that?” The Yun Family Patriarch’s eyes turned cold. “Whatever the outcome tonight, you must find that person in the future!”

Yun Yi bowed deeply. “Yes, Patriarch!”

Yun Fan began to step outside.

Yun Xueqing yelled out, “Father!”

Yun Fan paused for a moment, but in the end he didn’t turn around.

That night, in the skies above Snowfall City, at some unknown time, a black cloud appeared. At first it didn’t draw much attention, but as more and more time passed the black cloud became increasingly large, and a faint trace of its aura began to fall down.

Thus, the complexions of every cultivator in the city changed. They fiercely looked upwards, shock deep in their eyes.

This...this was...heavenly tribulation!

In a restaurant, there was a young cultivator who was happily eating and hugging two women by his side. He suddenly overturned the table and roared out loud, “I’ve been tricked!”

Rumble rumble –

A brilliant bolt of lightning cut through the dark, an incomparably striking sight in the night. There was a low and deep sound, as if an ancient slumbering beast was slowly awakening, making one feel fear in their soul.

The heavenly tribulation had begun!

Within the Yun Family dwelling, in the inner courtyard, there were layers of guards and defenses. Yun Fan stood there, his eyes open and earnest. He indeed didn’t have the confidence to cross tribulation, but he had no other choice. If things went smoothly today then his Yun Family would be able to solve their current crisis. Otherwise, he feared that they would truly step beyond any form of salvation.

“All my ancestors above, please bless me with success. Please carry my Yun Family into the future, so that we may lead a life of unprecedented prosperity!” Yun Fan whispered to himself. He raised a finger and a lotus flower quietly appeared. It was the size of a palm and dark blue in color. It was translucent and emitted a faint halo of light.

An icy cold aura began to spread out, causing the surrounding temperature to immediately drop. This was the ice-attribute spiritual object that the Yun Family had obtained. In the end, the reason the Yun Family suffered disaster today was all because of this.

Bang –

The first bolt of heavenly tribulation fell. Thunder twisted from side to side, cutting through space like a blinding blade, cutting straight down atop his head.

The lotus flower cried. Layers of blue light began to spread outwards like waves of seawater. The thunder fell inside and immediately slowed down, as if caught in a swamp. But, it still approached, and the lotus flower trembled even more violently. Yun Fan spat out a mouthful of blood. After the lotus flower absorbed it, the light grew brighter, until it finally fully surrounded the heavenly tribulation. Then, ice began to spread outwards and the heavenly tribulation started to freeze. Crack, crack, slowly it shattered into countless pieces.

He had crossed the first strike of heavenly tribulation.

The ordinary members of the Yun Family all cried out in joy, as if they could see the hope of success in their eyes. But, the masters of the Yun Family could see their Patriarch's distressed appearance. It was just the first strike of heavenly tribulation and yet he had been forced to use his blood essence. How could he possibly hope to cross the next two strikes?

Yun Xueqing clenched her fists, worry and panic written all over her face. She looked at her father in midair; she had long since lost count of how many times she had prayed. But, there was one thing she knew. As long as her father could come out from this safe and sound, she was willing to pay any price!

In the restaurant, after the young cultivator flipped over the table, all the women had been sent out. A massive number of his subordinates were now gathered around him and their complexions were all dark and gloomy. With their eyesight, they could clearly see that Yun Fan was hanging on by a thread. His chances of crossing tribulation were so low that they could almost be ignored.

They didn't care if Yun Fan died or not, but what their master wanted, that ice-attribute lotus flower, would be destroyed along with him in that heavenly tribulation. This was something that was difficult to accept. As they thought about how their master's anger would fall upon them, several of them had even gloomier complexions.

The young cultivator gnashed his teeth. "What a wonderful Yun Fan. He would rather die than hand over the ice-attribute spiritual object! Pass out orders! Starting tomorrow, I don't want the Yun Family to exist in Snowfall City anymore!"

This was his first time handling things for his uncle so he wanted to do it beautifully and cleanly. But who knew that in a situation where he occupied the absolute advantage, he would actually be tricked in such a horrid way. Losing face was a small problem. If he disappointed his uncle and caused him to doubt his ability, then the consequences would be severe.

Damned Yun Family!

Above Snowfall City, within those black tribulation clouds, brilliant arcs of lightning gathered from all directions before falling down in the second strike of heavenly tribulation.

This was what a cultivator's heavenly tribulation was like. Each strike would be stronger than the last. Success meant that their cultivation would drastically rise and their lifespan would increase. But defeat meant that their body would be reduced to ashes. The second strike of heavenly tribulation was clearly far more horrifying, and the terrifying pressure fell down upon Snowfall City, turning the hearts of all cultivators present cold.

Yun Fan roared out loud. Facing the heavenly tribulation, he no longer passively waited for it but chose to fight back. With a punch of his fists, the ice-attribute spiritual object flew into the skies. As this happened, the flower petals unfurled to reveal the stamen inside.

The tender and delicate stamen was pitch black in color. Faint traces of light circulated around it, like a mouth that was open. Then, the second strike of heavenly tribulation was swallowed up by the lotus flower!

This was beyond everyone's expectations. After a short silence, the entire Yun Family exploded with cheers that reached the heavens. Even the Yun Family masters couldn't help but reveal happy smiles after a moment of dazed surprise. It seemed that their Patriarch had already made additional preparations. It was no wonder he dared to do something as outrageous as crossing tribulation right now.

Now, two heavenly tribulations had been crossed. Although the third and strongest thunder tribulation had yet to arrive, Yun Fan had already blocked two, so who could say he couldn't block three? Once he succeeded, Yun Fan would ascend to the Nascent Soul realm. At that time, not only would the Yun Family's crisis be easily solved, but the entire Yun Family would reach a state of unprecedented strength.

Yun Xueqing's expression was full of awe and devotion, and a smile lit up her face. But at this time, she could see her father's body shake. His face flushed red and he spat out mouthfuls of blood.

Atop his head, the lotus flower that swallowed the heavenly tribulation suddenly shattered. Flower petals sprinkled down to the earth. The ice-attribute spiritual object had been utterly destroyed.

The cheers came to a halting stop!

The entire Yun Family fell into a deathly silence.

The ice-attribute spiritual object was Yun Fan's greatest advantage, but now it had been destroyed. Yun Fan himself was seriously injured, so how could he resist the third strike of tribulation thunder? The atmosphere filled with despair, spreading out like a viral sickness. Some people with weaker mindsets began to weep in sorrow, as if they could already imagine what would happen to the Yun Family.

Yun Xueqing's eyes filled with anguish. After going from great joy to great sadness, the sudden change caused her to slump to the floor.

Only a single thought remained in her mind. Her father...her father was going to die...

Although he had always been indifferent to her, she knew that her father was the person who loved her most in the world. From the moment she was born, he had carefully protected her and didn't let her suffer any injustice.

But now, this man who had always protected her was about to leave.

And there was nothing she could do.

She wiped the tears from her eyes. Her mind drowned in hopelessness, but somewhere deep in her heart, she subconsciously recalled a figure.

In the past when she was in a mountain valley, she had crossed her Golden Core heavenly tribulation. It was a similar situation to how her father was now. It was him who had helped block that heavenly tribulation, allowing her to survive and reach her current cultivation.

Today, could he also rescue her father?

As soon as Yun Xueqing thought of this, more misery filled her. Not to mention the fact that Qin Yu wasn't even here, but even if he was, what could he do? This was Nascent Soul heavenly tribulation. Compared with breaking into the Golden Core realm, Nascent Soul heavenly tribulation was dozens and hundreds of times more terrifying!

Who could stop it?

Who would dare to stop it?

The tribulation cloud roared. Blinding thunder lit up the world.

The third strike was about to descend!

It was so dazzling and horrifying that it drew all eyes. Because of this, no one discovered the beam of blood red light that suddenly appeared outside Snowfall City.

Without any hesitation, that blood red beam of light was like a blazing meteor that broke into the skies and rushed into the tribulation cloud.

Then, some people finally took notice of it.

Within Snowfall City, a cultivator suddenly spoke up. "What was that just now? Am I seeing things?"

He turned around and also saw the shocked expressions of those around him.

Whoosh –

Cries of alarm spread out like a tide, quickly reaching every corner of Snowfall City. The first thought that people had was – 'just who was this cultivator and why did he want to commit suicide in such a loud manner!'

Although the blood red beam of light was quick, one could still recognize a figure within. If they were directly rushing into the tribulation cloud, if it wasn't suicide then what was it?

What a pity – this person was actually quite fast.

Only a single person, frozen stiff, with eyes subconsciously widened, revealed stark disbelief. Yun Xueqing thought that within that blood red beam of light, that figure which appeared for a flickering instant was actually somewhat familiar. But that was impossible. Why would he appear here, and at such a coincidental time? Moreover, with his personality, there was no way he would do something ridiculous like this. It was no different from suicide!

The moment of shock soon vanished. The majority of people looked back towards the heavenly tribulation.

Bang –

The third strike of heavenly tribulation fell!

It was like an axe splitting open the heavens and skies, cutting across time and space, turning all of existence into powder wherever it went!

Yun Fan was deathly pale and despair rose in his eyes. He was someone who possessed great willpower and drive, but with things having come this far, he couldn't see a single ray of hope.

In the next moment, he would disintegrate into ashes.

Could it be that choosing to cross tribulation was wrong?

"Father!" Yun Xueqing shouted out in pained sorrow.

But in the next moment, her red eyes widened, as if she saw something utterly unbelievable.

The entirety of Snowfall City fell deathly silent!

Chapter 202 – Breaking Through to Nascent Soul

Stepping back a moment in time.

When Yun Xueqing was sighing in sorrow, the tribulation clouds that formed above Snowfall City suddenly contracted. Because the thunder was too dazzling in contrast to how dark the night was, no one noticed this. But, the next scene was hard for anyone to not notice.

From those tribulation clouds high above, that third strike of tribulation thunder which carried with it an aura that seemed as if it could destroy anything, suddenly slowed down. This scene was like space itself had become a swamp. As the thunder fell further, it became increasingly slow. Then, beneath the gaze of all those present, it froze in midair.

Yes, it had stopped!

No one had ever witnessed such a scene nor had anyone ever heard of something similar in legends or fables. This was tribulation thunder, so why would it ever stop as it was falling?

At this moment, within the hearts of countless cultivators, it was like billions of wild god beasts were galloping through the grasslands. Their thoughts were in chaos and their minds were blank.

Hey, could someone tell them just what was going on?

But following that, they would discover that heavenly tribulation coming to a stop wasn't the end; it could also retract! Thus, everyone understood that it wasn't that the void had turned into a swamp, forcing the heavenly tribulation to come to a stop. Rather, in those black tribulation clouds high in the sky, some sort of terrifying strength had appeared that was forcibly holding it back.

Everything was silent. Every cultivator in Snowfall City watched with wide eyes. They could only watch as that tribulation thunder seemed to be grabbed onto by some invisible hand and was being slowly pulled back.

The speed was extremely slow at first. Many cultivators rubbed their eyes, thinking that what they saw was an illusion. But even when they rubbed their eyes until they were red and teary, they discovered

that everything they saw was real! This was because the tribulation thunder was being pulled back at an increasingly fast pace, until with a sharp sound it was sucked back into the tribulation cloud.

In that pitch black darkness, all they could see were tumbling tribulation clouds. But, they had no idea what was happening inside.

And it was at this moment that someone inadvertently discovered something else happening. That person lifted a shivering finger and said, "Look...look...the tribulation clouds are shrinking..."

The sharp cry immediately caught everyone's attention. Countless people looked over and their hearts shrank with it.

It was actually...shrinking...

Holy shit, what was going on!?

Someone thought back to that beam of red light which hadn't gotten much attention because it had plunged into the tribulation clouds so quickly. If the change in the heavenly tribulation and tribulation clouds wasn't related to that red light, they wouldn't believe it even if they died.

Shock rose up in the hearts of everyone. Their eyes widened as they tried to find that figure. The legacy of cultivator civilization had been inherited downwards for countless generations, but through all this time it had always been heavenly tribulation cutting down on cultivators; since when had it ever been like this, where that heavenly tribulation was 'cleaned up' by a cultivator instead? They wanted to know just who was this fierce character that had accomplished this. And more importantly, how had he done this!?

But at this time, another change occurred.

Bang –

A powerful aura appeared. In the perception of the cultivators, it was like a sun sparkling with endless light, so bright that it blinded the eyes. Everyone turned their eyes and saw Yun Fan, his robes still swirling around him. At this time, his mouth had fallen open subconsciously and his eyes seemed pinned somewhere else.

He...had broken through...

Did this even count!?

The image from just before had been too terrifying, causing everyone to momentarily forget that Yun Fan was crossing his Nascent Soul heavenly tribulation. Now, the third strike of heavenly tribulation had already vanished. The tribulation cloud seemed as if it were being eaten up as it was constantly shrinking in size.

The consequence of this was that Yun Fan...had broken through.

Within his dantian sea, his cracked Golden Core had become a Nascent Soul. It drew a massive amount of heaven and earth spiritual energy into his body. Right now, he was a genuine Nascent Soul cultivator.

Countless cultivators groaned inwardly, feeling that their outlook on life had been destroyed in that instant. Wasn't it agreed that tribulation could only be crossed by oneself? Wasn't it agreed that tribulation couldn't be luckily crossed?

Everything that was passed down was – nonsense!

The Yun Family fell silent for a brief moment. Then, earth-shaking cheers spread out, as if all of them had been saved from the precipice of death. Many people began to cry copiously.

Their Patriarch had made a breakthrough and become a Nascent Soul cultivator. No matter how it was he had broken through, this was still a fact!

The Yun Family had a Nascent Soul cultivator...this was so wonderful it was like a dream!

Yun Xueqing sobbed with joy. But, her eyes still glanced towards the shrinking tribulation cloud. As she thought back to that familiar form, her heartbeat began to quicken.

It really was him!

But, this was Nascent Soul heavenly tribulation. How had he managed to accomplish this?

In the restaurant, the young cultivator paled, disbelief in his eyes.

Yun Fan had become a Nascent Soul. He had actually become a Nascent Soul!

“Young master, we must leave!” A subordinate anxiously said.

As they thought about how they had been forcing the Yun Family into a corner these past days, many of them began to drip with a cold sweat, their faces pale.

All of them nodded in agreement.

There was no time for idle chat. If they didn't leave now, once the Yun Family regained their bearing, they wouldn't even be able to leave anymore.

A struggling light flashed in the young cultivator's eyes. “I definitely believe that uncle will be interested in that cultivator who broke into the tribulation cloud.”

Everyone understood his meaning. Their complexions changed and one of them said, “Young master is truly considerate. But, we have our people within the Yun Family, and since the cultivator rescued Yun Fan, there must be some connection between them. We do not have to take any risks to obtain the necessary information.”

The youth no longer wavered. “Alright, let's go!”

The group quickly left, fleeing Snowfall City like a pack of stray dogs.

Yun Fan frowned. He looked in the direction the young cultivator ran off to and a trace of killing intent flashed in his eyes. However, for some unknown reason, he hesitated and didn't make a move. He looked up towards the tribulation cloud and his gaze became earnest. He had clearly looked within that blood red ray of light and saw that there really was a cultivator within. The reason he had managed to

smoothly cross tribulation was absolutely because of that person. The sentiment he owed this person was greater than the heavens; he really had no idea how he could pay them back.

And as he was thinking about it, that tribulation cloud which was less than half its original size began to shrink at an increasingly fast pace. It was like it was being suddenly swallowed up, and then it vanished in several blinks of an eye. No one could clearly see what it was that was swallowing the tribulation cloud, because it was being held in a hand.

Qin Yu's figure was exposed in plain view of countless eyes. Many cultivators widened their eyes. They never expected that the person who appeared would be such a young cultivator.

Yun Xueqing covered her mouth. Her face lit up with excitement. It was him, it was really him!

Yun Fan already recognized this person. It was the cultivator who had been chased out from the Yun Family in the past – Qin Yu, yes, that was his name. He was originally thinking about how he could use this chance to establish good relations with such a formidable character, but now all there was left over was awkwardness.

But no matter how awkward he felt, at this time he could only brace himself for what was to come. He approached Qin Yu and cupped his hands together, bowing, "Fellow daoist Qin Yu, I am deeply grateful to you for today's events!"

Without mentioning anything of the past, he would first thank Qin Yu for today. At least, this appeared slightly better.

Qin Yu smiled and cupped his hands together. "Congratulations, Patriarch Yun!"

Seeing his warm and moderate attitude that didn't have any dissatisfaction from what happened before, Yun Fan was overjoyed. He hurriedly said, "The last time when fellow daoist Qin Yu came and left in such a hurry, my Yun Family was unable to be a good host; it was truly disrespectful. This time, fellow daoist must stay here for a period of time so that I and my Yun Family can express our thanks."

This was both a vague and sincere way of expressing apologies towards Qin Yu, as well as an earnest invitation. As long as Qin Yu stepped into their Yun Family today, then another hidden figure would appear behind them. Before people could figure out just who this person was and how deep his depths were, they would surely feel dread.

Of course, there was also a wholehearted and genuine desire to express thanks. To become a Nascent Soul, no matter what sort of favor needed to be repaid, it was well worth the cost!

Qin Yu thought for a moment and nodded. "Then, I'll have to bother you."

Yun Fan laughed out loud. "Open the doors and prepare a banquet. We are welcoming fellow daoist Qin Yu!"

The Yun Family instantly became lively. Qin Yu joined together with them, smiling and laughing.

The reason he smiled was because after the little blue lamp ate up almost the entire tribulation cloud, it emitted a faintly unstable aura.

Perhaps it might recover soon.

As for why he didn't conceal himself and leave, Qin Yu's reasoning was like this.

Since he had been exposed, he was bound to cause some trouble. And there was no one who wouldn't want a treasure that could swallow heavenly tribulation. But as the true function of the little blue lamp wasn't discovered, the scope of potential should be manageable. After all, Qin Yu was no longer the little weak cultivator that he used to be, and he also had a powerful magic weapon in the Storm Flow set formed by the three swamp alligators, which gave him an even deeper confidence.

As for the advantage of staying here, once everyone learned that he could help cultivators smoothly cross tribulation, then he wouldn't need to spend so much time and effort looking for them. These cultivators would instead come and visit on their own initiative, and at that time the little blue lamp would have all the heavenly tribulation it wanted.

In order to restore the little blue lamp, Qin Yu chose to take a risk.

The Yun Family celebrated like a festival. Everyone in the family was drunk with joy as the party began.

Qin Yu sat in the seat of honor, sometimes speaking with Yun Fan and sometimes accepting the awed looks from the Yun Family cultivators around him.

This was because not only had he helped Yun Fan cross tribulations, but his actions were equal to rescuing the entire Yun Family!

Yun Yi and the other Yun Family elders that had 'welcomed' Qin Yu before, had already walked over in shame and embarrassment and proposed a toast. Qin Yu smiled in return, indicating that he didn't care about what happened in the past.

The several elders praised Qin Yu for being so broadminded and wise, their flattery so loud that it shook the heavens. Yun Fan felt it was a bit too gaudy, so they retreated when he coughed.

"Fellow daoist Qin Yu, you must find this laughable." Yun Fan smiled. "Helping me cross tribulation today is a favor that can't be returned with just some words of thanks. I must express my heartfelt sentiment, so I hope that fellow daoist Qin Yu can give my Yun Family a chance for us to do so. Unfortunately, that ice-attribute spiritual object was destroyed during tribulation, otherwise I would have given it to you."

Qin Yu smiled. "I am friends with Yun Xueqing, so it's reasonable for us to help each other. Moreover, Patriarch Yun should have already realized that heavenly tribulation does have some uses for me." He raised the subject himself, not hiding anything. In any case, this was something easy to guess, so he might as well acknowledge it here.

Yun Fan's heart shook. He looked at Qin Yu. Since Qin Yu dared state this out loud, then he must have the ability to protect himself. Currently, he was a Nascent Soul cultivator, but when he looked at Qin Yu it was still like looking at fog-covered mountains; he couldn't sense his depths at all. However, if this young fellow dared to swallow heavenly tribulation, then even idiots could tell that he was incomparably fierce!

His thoughts raced. If Qin Yu spoke up on his own initiative and was also willing to stay in the Yun Family...Yun Fan could faintly guess what he wanted. So he probingly said, "In the cultivator world there are a small number of Nascent Souls, so each time one is born, it is an extraordinary event. I can use this

chance to hold a grand celebration. I'm sure that influences throughout the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty will come to participate. I wonder if fellow daoist Qin Yu has any interest in this?"

Qin Yu praised Yun Fan inwardly. He was indeed a smart person. Qin Yu didn't even need to say anything for this person to know exactly what he desired. Since he stayed in the Yun Family, this was what he wanted. And with a living advertisement like Yun Fan, when various influences from the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty gathered together, it would be the best chance for him.

You want to cross tribulation and reach Nascent Soul? Then come on!

So, he cupped his hands and smiled. "I thank you for the hospitality!"

Chapter 203 – All Influences Move

The joyful celebrations continued. All the local influences from Snowfall City came to congratulate the Yun Family. Of course, they didn't have the qualifications to enter the hall, so once they left behind their gifts they were sent away by the Yun Family cultivators. In particular, several relatively strong cultivators who normally weren't on good terms with the Yun Family came to impishly pay their respects. This left the Yun Family cultivators all feeling refreshed, their grins spreading from ear to ear.

Yun Fan had just broken through, so he needed some time to stabilize his foundation. Qin Yu knew this, so once he obtained what he wanted, he smiled and indicated that he wanted to rest. When it came to this, everyone expressed their understanding; it must have been very tiring to swallow a tribulation cloud.

Yun Xueqing was called over to bring Qin Yu to his room. The reasoning was that since the two were old friends, it was easier to speak to each other. Of course, it was impossible that there weren't any people in the Yun Family making some small schemes.

The man had no wife and the woman wasn't married, so what if Senior Qin Yu held any intentions towards Yun Xueqing? At that time, not only would it be a good marriage but there would also be a powerful backer for the Yun Family.

With a Nascent Soul in Yun Fan, the Yun Family was already powerful enough. But, who wouldn't want to be stronger?

Far away from the crowds, the surroundings quieted down. Yun Xueqing led the way, with the night wind carrying the faint fragrance of the woman with it.

Qin Yu realized that she was silent and thought that she might feel awkward because of what happened before. So, he didn't say anything in order to avoid her being further embarrassed.

Suddenly, Yun Xueqing came to a stop. Qin Yu hesitated for a moment, about to speak, when he heard quiet sobbing. She turned around to reveal a face covered with tears. Her eyelashes were shaking, and she looked like a little bird being drowned on a rainy day.

Qin Yu quickly said, "What is this? Even though we're good friends that haven't seen each other for so many years, there's no reason to be so excited. Still, I'm flattered."

Yun Xueqing's heart warmed. She could tell that he was intentionally trying to comfort her. She took two steps and threw herself forwards, and in the next moment his arms were filled with her warmth.

Qin Yu froze. He could feel her fear and excitement. He reached out a hand and patted her back, "Alright. Everything has already passed, hasn't it?"

"I was so scared. Father was just an inch from death. Never in my life have I felt such despair." Yun Xueqing held onto him. "Qin Yu, thank you. I really, really, thank you!"

Qin Yu smiled. "I know. However, I think it's best if you let go of me first, or I might get beaten up."

Yun Xueqing loosened her grip. She turned away and looked towards the shadows, clenching her teeth at the approaching Fang Huohuo.

Yu Xueqing grit her teeth. "Fang Huohuo, just what do you want?"

The originally high and mighty and overly arrogant Fang Huohuo was now looking extremely pitiful. His legs were bound with splints and his face was wrapped in gauze. His somewhat young and handsome face was now bruised black and blue. If Qin Yu didn't look carefully enough, it would have really been difficult to recognize him.

Hearing Yun Xueqing's angry words, Fang Huohuo revealed a deep grievance. The pain was so deep that others could feel it just by looking at him. "Cousin, how could you treat me like this? Could it be that the words you said to me just a few days ago were all lies? I was sincere to you all this time, so how could you...sob, I don't want to live anymore, I'm going to kill myself!"

Yun Xueqing blushed red. "Fang Huohuo, what nonsense are you spouting? If you don't shut up I'll beat you again!"

Fang Huohuo shrank back, no longer daring to say anything. But, his gaze was even more dejected and sad.

Qin Yu found this quite interesting. But, it was best that he clearly explain this matter. "Miss Yun, I think you should have a discussion with him first." He turned around.

Yun Xueqing hesitated for a moment. Then, she walked over to Fang Huohuo, grabbed him by the ear, and walked to the side.

"Cousin, let go!"

"It's good if it hurts. You little bastard, just what is going on in that head of yours..."

"...You jumped into his arms..."

"...Bastard..."

From afar, one could faintly hear the conversation of the two. It wasn't because Qin Yu was deliberately listening in, but his hearing was just too sharp.

Qin Yu rubbed his nose, thinking that this fellow Fang Huohuo was indeed lucky. By relying on his willpower and earnestness, he had obtained the woman he loved.

After a moment, Fang Huohuo was somewhat unwillingly pulled over by Yun Xueqing. "What are you doing, hurry up and quickly apologize to fellow daoist Qin Yu!"

Fang Huohuo said with a sad face, "Sorry..."

Qin Yu nearly laughed out loud. If this boy was like this already, wouldn't he be completely overwhelmed when he was married? He was doomed to be subservient for the rest of his life.

Yun Xueqing coldly snorted, as if she were somewhat dissatisfied. But for better or worse, she took his face into consideration and thrust him away.

"Qin Yu, I'm really sorry you had to watch that."

Qin Yu shook his head. "It's no problem. I actually think that the two of you have a decent relationship."

Yun Xueqing blushed. She led the way, continuing to say, "In truth, I am very familiar with this cousin of mine and I always knew of his feelings for me. However, I never felt anything towards him so I always rejected him. This time, when my Yun Family met with disaster, many people changed the way they acted, as if they had become completely different people. Only this cousin of mine protected me the same as before. For me, he was beaten up until he looked like that. Afterwards, I suddenly realized that if I am with him, while it's inevitable I will get angry, I can't help but think that he will always protect me and take care of me. For a woman, perhaps this is the most important thing."

Qin Yu was silent for a moment. He nodded. "You're right. I don't like this fellow Fang Huohuo too much, but if he treats you like this, then he is worthy of you. Congratulations!"

Yun Xueqing smiled. "Enough about me. What about you, fellow daoist Qin Yu? That's not right, I should be calling you Senior Qin Yu by now. With senior's elegant demeanor, stealing the hearts of girls must be as easy as turning your hand. I'm sure you've had countless young ladies chasing you."

Qin Yu revealed an awkward expression. In the next moment he subconsciously recalled what occurred in the sea race capital city. If it was said that countless young ladies were chasing him, that was actually a fact. But then he thought back to Little Sea and his self-satisfied arrogance instantly vanished. He coughed and said, "Don't joke around."

Yun Xueqing smiled.

She already had some understanding of Qin Yu and knew what sort of person he was. Otherwise, how would she dare to make such a casual joke with him? Walking through the familiar Yun Family dwelling and feeling the surrounding joy and tranquility, she felt even happier. To be able to be friends with Qin Yu, she was an extremely lucky person.

Otherwise, all of her current happiness might have disappeared like a dream...Qin Yu, I really must thank you!

The Yun Family had arranged the best courtyard in the back. Servants had already swept the place clean, and it was spotless beneath the warm lamp lights.

Qin Yu turned and said. "Alright, we've arrived. It's best that Miss Yun leave quickly, otherwise that jealous Fang Huohuo might come over and threaten to kill himself again."

Yun Xueqing pursed her lips. "Don't laugh at me. Perhaps the young miss you meet in the future would be someone even more jealous?"

Watching her turn and leave, Qin Yu's expression darkened. Ning Ling's form appeared in his mind.

Are you the jealous type?

Unfortunately, he was destined to never find out.

...

"In the Northern Dynasty's Snowfall City, the Patriarch of the Yun Family, Yun Fan, has broken through to Nascent Soul. In celebration of this joyous occasion, the Yun Family humbly invites all influences to join together and celebrate the wonders of cultivation..." This news quickly spread out across the land. Countless cultivator sects and families responded in abundance. They dispatched messengers with gifts to attend.

For a time, the Northern Dynasty and Southern Empire became lively.

Skyvault City –

The masters of the Zhu Family had gathered together, all of them with looks of envy on their faces. The Zhu Family had a deep background, and with three Golden Cores amongst their ranks, that was enough for them to look down upon most common cultivator sects. Unfortunately, they never had the luck for a Nascent Soul to be born in their family. Yet, Snowfall City's Yun Family had accomplished this, so how could they not be jealous?

"I heard that a mysterious powerhouse interfered, and that was the only reason Yun Fan smoothly crossed tribulation and reached Nascent Soul." Between the words was a thick sense of envy.

Another person said, "I don't care about how others accomplish it. A Nascent Soul is a Nascent Soul, it is like a fish leaping through the dragon gate, becoming extraordinary with a single move! The Yun Family will be prosperous from now on!"

A Nascent Soul had an average lifespan of 800 years. It was enough to shelter a family for a long, long time. And by carefully cultivating the juniors and also having a Nascent Soul personally commanding the scene, there was a high chance that another Nascent Soul would appear.

This was what people meant by the rich becoming richer.

This was what the Zhu Family was most jealous of.

"Enough." The Zhu Family Patriarch Zhu Bluecloud spoke up, "Bluecloud, your cultivation has been at a bottleneck lately. Taking a trip will be advantageous for you, so I'll leave this matter in your hands."

Zhu Bluecloud stood up. "Alright. I'll bring some people and pay a visit."

...

Rainbow Sect.

"Snowfall City's Yun Family doesn't seem to be very famous. They are just a cultivator family in the Northern Dynasty, yet a Nascent Soul cultivator has appeared in their ranks." A pampered young girl spoke up. She blinked her eyes, her gaze vacant and envious.

“Don’t speak such nonsense from now on. With a Nascent Soul standing guard, the Yun Family can now be considered one of the formidable cultivator influences amongst the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty. Don’t go around provoking trouble for your sect.” A gentle woman cautioned after frowning.

“I understand, senior-apprentice sister.” The pampered young girl suddenly lit up with excitement. “I heard that teacher is taking some people to go and congratulate them. If so, then that means we can also go along! This is too wonderful!”

The group of girls all smiled. Their sect rules were stern and strict, and it was extremely rare for them to be allowed to leave the sect for a trip.

“Ah, everyone look, Ling’er’s daydreaming!” The pampered young girl stretched out her voice in a teasing manner. “Oh – I know! Ling’er must be thinking like this. Now that the Yun Family is holding a great Nascent Soul celebration, there will definitely be countless handsome young men gathering together. Perhaps at that time she will be able to find her prince charming!”

Gu Ling’er blushed red. She quickly said, “Senior-apprentice Sister Xuanxuan, please don’t speak like that. I’m not!” She was only thinking about her teacher’s explanation of cultivation. It couldn’t be helped. Who made her have the worst talent, the lowest cultivation, and also be someone who entered through the ‘rear door’.

Luckily, Gu Ling’er was a kind and gentle person. She didn’t argue or compete with others, and in addition to the Zhu Family intentionally looking after her and taking care of her, she had a good relationship with all of her fellow apprentice-sisters. The others saw her blushing and started to tease her too. Just as Gu Ling’er’s face was hot red, a woman wearing a crown stepped in and looked around, scolding them, “To make a mess in the sect, this is highly improper!”

The girls stuck out their tongues. They stood up and bowed, “Greetings, teacher!”

Rivermoon coldly snorted. “The Sect Master is sending myself and Senior-apprentice Sister Clearheart to the Yun Family to congratulate them. The rest of you will be following teacher along. But, remember to watch your actions outside, otherwise you will not be spared from punishment!”

“Yes, teacher!”

Hearing the rumors become reality, the girls were all excited.

Rivermoon swept her eyes around. She frowned, “Gu Ling’er, your talent is the lowest of the group and you still haven’t managed to reach Foundation Establishment. You don’t have to go this time; just stay in the sect and cultivate.”

She turned and left.

Gu Ling’er’s eyes reddened. She lowered her head.

Her fellow apprentice-sisters all huddled around to comfort her.

“Ling’er, don’t cry, teacher is thinking about you. It is tiring to hurry over to the Northern Dynasty.”

“That’s right, that’s right! Just stay here and cultivate well. If you manage to reach Foundation Establishment, teacher will surely praise you!”

“Don’t feel too bad. You should understand teacher’s personality by now. She’s hard on the outside but a softie on the inside. I’m sure she took everything into consideration.”

Gu Ling’er wiped her eyes and squeezed out a smile. “It’s fine. As long as my fellow senior-apprentice sisters can go, I’m still happy.”

“I will go and plead with teacher. We’re all going, so Ling’er won’t feel good being left behind.” A gentle girl said in a soft voice.

Gu Ling’er shook her head. “There is no need, senior-apprentice sister. Teacher might yell at you instead!”

The senior-apprentice sister smiled. “Who cares if I am scolded? Just wait here a little.”

She ran out. After a moment of anxious waiting, the senior-apprentice sister came back smiling. She turned to everyone looking at her with apprehension and nodded, “Teacher agreed!”

“Yeah! I knew that it would work if senior-apprentice sister put herself on the line! Now we can all go!”

“Hurry and tidy up! Bring your most beautiful clothes with you! If I go, I’m going to surprise every young man there!”

“Stop dreaming. Put on your sect robes; everyone must have a uniform appearance!”

Xuanxuan put her hands on her hips. “Even if we all must look the same, I still want to be the most beautiful one!” She grabbed onto Ling’er. “Ling’er, what do you think?”

Gu Ling’er’s eyes turned red with emotion. She smiled and nodded.

Chapter 204 – Let Her Go

There were still two days before the Yun Family’s great Nascent Soul celebration would begin. Besides the guests that were arriving from the most distant lands, everyone else had already arrived ahead of time and were staying in Snowfall City.

The Zhu Family and Rainbow Sect had always been on good terms, so they chose to stay in the same dwelling. When Zhu Bluecloud heard that it was Rivermoon and Clearheart who had come, he thought for a moment and decided to go chat with Gu Ling’er.

“Senior Zhu, have you heard any news from Big Brother Qin Yu?” Gu Ling’er respectfully asked.

Zhu Bluecloud shook his head. “I haven’t.”

Gu Ling’er was crestfallen. She cautiously said, “Then if there is any news later, I hope you could send someone to tell me.”

Zhu Bluecloud hesitated. “Ling’er, in truth, Qin Yu did see you once before, but he didn’t appear because he didn’t want to expose your relationship with him. You should know that the demonic path hates him to their very bones, so if they were to discover this, it would mean certain danger for you.”

Gu Ling’er froze. She instantly thought back to that day several years ago when she had gone on a trip out of the sect with her several senior apprentice-sisters, and that inexplicably close feeling she had.

Was that you? Big Brother Qin Yu!

Zhu Bluecloud patted her shoulder. "Okay. I believe that Qin Yu must be cultivating somewhere. You should know better than me what kind of person he is. Once he is ready, I am sure he will come to see you." But even though he said this, he sighed inwardly. If he hadn't heard any news for several years, while there was a chance he had gone into secluded cultivation, there was also a chance that some accident had happened. The world of cultivation was filled with countless risks, and no one knew what tomorrow would bring.

Of course, he wouldn't say these things to Gu Ling'er.

Zhu Bluecloud said, "There's something I need to do, so I will leave first. Ling'er, if you have any problems in the future, just come and look for me."

Gu Ling'er nodded gratefully. "I will send Senior Zhu out."

As they walked out, they passed by several female disciples. These were Clearheart's disciples from the Rainbow Sect.

Amongst these people, there was someone who caused Gu Ling'er's eyes to brighten. "Big Sister Zhang Zhang!"

Zhang Zhang looked up. When she saw Zhu Bluecloud standing next to Gu Ling'er, she revealed a troubled expression. She nodded and said, "How are you, Ling'er?" She also bowed towards Zhu Bluecloud.

The events from before were still an embarrassing memory. Zhang Zhang spoke a few words before finding an excuse to leave.

Gu Ling'er was a bit confused, but she could see that Zhang Zhang didn't really want to speak with her. She seemed a bit more crestfallen.

"That person just now is the Third Master of the Zhu Family, Zhu Bluecloud. I heard that within the Zhu Family, he is the person most likely to reach Nascent Soul. He's an extraordinary person."

"Hm, hey, why do you think such an amazing Third Master Zhu would hurry over to our Rainbow Sect to visit a girl?"

"I heard that the reason why this Gu Ling'er was able to join our Rainbow Sect was because of this Third Master Zhu."

"Hehe, who could have known that our young and pure junior apprentice-sister had such methods."

Zhang Zhang frowned as she heard this. She wanted to explain Gu Ling'er's situation to everyone, but she also knew that this matter involved Qin Yu and she could faintly guess that he didn't want other people to know of the relationship between him and Gu Ling'er.

She wavered a moment before deciding not to say too much.

She suddenly fell into a trance. It seemed to have been a very long time since she last saw Qin Yu. She hadn't heard any news about him all this time; just what was he doing these days?

She shook her head and cast aside these thoughts. In the end, what was between them had already passed.

Her cultivation was already at the seventh level of Foundation Establishment, and she was praised and valued by her teacher. It was also well known that Senior Iron Sword Shanhe from the Skysword Cloud Sect was pursuing her. Although there was still a great difference between them, Zhang Zhang believed that there would be a day when she would catch up to him.

In the past, it was her father who had made a mistake. But Zhang Zhang wanted everyone to know that by relying on just herself, she could also live a happy and wonderful life!

...

“Uncle, what happened was my mistake. Not only was I not able to retrieve the ice-attribute spiritual object, but I instead provoked the Yun Family. I ask you to punish me.” A young cultivator knelt on the ground, his face wracked with guilt.

An ordinary-looking middle-aged man sat on a round cushion. He didn’t appear angry at all. He wore long purple robes and emitted a solemn atmosphere. At this time, he opened his eyes and said, “Stand up.”

The young cultivator was overjoyed. He obeyed and stood up. With this, he at least knew that he hadn’t completely angered his uncle.

The middle-aged man’s eyes flashed. “About that cultivator who moved to block the heavenly tribulation, have you obtained news about him?”

The young cultivator quickly nodded. “I have. Uncle, please look.”

As he spoke, he meekly handed over a jade slip.

The middle-aged man took it and scanned it with his divine sense. After several breaths of time, he leaned back and whispered to himself, “Jiang Jiu, on the day of the Yun Family’s great celebration, go and visit.”

“Yes, uncle!”

...

The Yun Family’s great celebration proceeded as scheduled.

Their doors were pushed wide open, welcoming the congratulating cultivators from all over. Although they had made sufficient preparations, this was the first time they had held such a glorious celebration so the entire Yun Family was still extremely busy. It was inevitable that there would be small accidents popping up.

Luckily, the various influences had sufficient understanding and patience towards the newly ascended Nascent Soul family. So, no one created a mess and everything went on smoothly.

That was until Jiang Jiu brought a large number of cultivators and arrived at the Yun Family’s residence.

"It's you!" Yun Yi clenched his jaw. "I still haven't settled what happened before with you, and now you dare you to come to my Yun Family! You can forget about leaving!"

Hu –

Yun Family cultivators formed a large circle.

Their Patriarch was now a Nascent Soul and their courage had drastically risen along with him. Their gazes were filled with happiness. All of them were thinking that they were going to pay these bastards back for the shame that the Yun Family suffered, with both capital and interest!

The influences of Snowfall City naturally knew this person's origin. But, the arriving guests didn't know this at all. Many of these guests revealed looks of surprise.

On the day of the Yun Family's great Nascent Soul celebration, there were some people who came to stir up trouble? Wasn't this just a bit too brave?

Jiang Jiu swept his eyes around. He lightly said, "Today, I am representing my uncle to congratulate Senior Yun Fan on reaching Nascent Soul. Is this how the Yun Family welcomes guests?"

Yun Yi sneered. "You are not guests of the Yun Family. You are enemies!" He waved his hand, "Go, apprehend them!"

At this moment, a calm voice sounded out from the Yun Family's residence. "Those that come from afar are guests. No matter what has happened, that will be handled after today."

Every syllable seemed to cause a gentle shiver in the surrounding heaven and earth spiritual energy. This was caused by a formidable cultivation; only a Nascent Soul cultivator could do this.

Countless people felt their hearts chill. They looked towards the Yun Family residence, their eyes full of awe.

Within the crowd, Zhu Bluecloud sighed with emotion. This was the Nascent Soul realm. Even though it was only the initial entry into this realm, there was still a massive difference between that and a Golden Core.

He had no idea how much time he would need before he could step into that realm.

A group of female cultivators from the Rainbow Sect stood in the crowd. They were an eye-catching sight.

At this time, they were whispering amongst themselves. Most of them were looking at Jiang Jiu and his group. If this person could cause the new Nascent Soul cultivator Yun Fan to momentarily hold things back, then he must have quite the background.

"I've never heard of this person before. He's actually so arrogant. He must have come today because of some grudge, so why is he blabbering on about expressing congratulations or anything like that? He's clearly trying to provoke a scene!" Xuanxuan whispered in a low voice.

In front of the residence doors, Jiang Jiu suddenly turned his head and smiled. “Miss, do you not know me? Then, consider us as having met today. However, you have slandered me even though I only came to congratulate the Yun Family. That is truly disrespectful of you.”

Who would have thought that this person could hear her from such a distance? Xuanxuan was stunned for a moment before she curled her lips. “What has happened is obvious for everyone to see. I am not speaking nonsense.”

Jiang Jiu shook his head. “It seems that miss isn’t going to apologize. If this were any other day, then I wouldn’t want to cause trouble for such a beautiful woman and especially for something so trivial. But, today I came here representing my uncle, so I cannot allow you to be so dissolute!”

As his voice fell, a cultivator rushed out from behind him, his figure hurtling forwards.

Just like this, he directly made his move!

Everyone was stunned. Then, a single thought popped up in their minds. These people had definitely come to cause trouble.

Otherwise, they wouldn’t have attacked the Yun Family’s guests without any scruples at all. This was the same as stating that they didn’t place the Yun Family in their eyes.

Rivermoon couldn’t be bothered with scolding Xuanxuan right now. There was no way she could watch helplessly on as something happened to her disciple. She lifted her hands and thrust her palm towards the cultivator hurtling towards them.

Bang –

This was a Golden Core battle. The ground instantly disintegrated and pieces of stone went scattering into the air. Rivermoon coughed out loud as she was forced backwards.

Jiang Jiu faintly smiled. “So there was a master watching you; no wonder you spoke with no fear. But, if I want to take that little girl, will you be able to stop me?”

The cultivator that had been blocked coldly sneered. He landed back on the ground and rushed forwards once more.

Rivermoon clenched her teeth and lifted her hands to defend. With a loud bang, she was sent flying backwards. It was clear that her opponent was far stronger than she was. Just as the cultivator was about to rush forwards once more, a figure flashed in front of him, her face icy cold. “Just who are you all? Do you plan on becoming enemies with our Rainbow Sect?”

Although the Rainbow Sect didn’t have a Nascent Soul, they still had numerous Golden Cores. And, it was rumored that the strength of their Sect Master was only a thin line away from that of a Nascent Soul. They were considered a top faction within the Southern Empire.

However, this reputation clearly couldn’t suppress Jiang Jiu and the others. He stared at them with a frosty gaze, “The Rainbow Sect? What a reputed sect. But with just you, do you have the qualifications to insult my uncle?”

Whoosh –

Another cultivator moved forwards, forcing back the group from the Rainbow Sect. His appearance shocked the guests present.

Golden Core!

Just where did these people come from? They could actually control so many Golden Core masters?

In the blink of an eye, Rivermoon and Clearheart fought with their two Golden Core opponents. It was clear that they weren't a match and were only just hanging on.

"Get in formation. Help teacher!"

With a loud shout, the disciples of the Rainbow Sect gathered into a sword formation. The power of their formation couldn't be underestimated. They managed to momentarily stabilize the situation and fight to a draw with the two Golden Cores.

At the same time, the Yun Family's residence maintained an eerie peace.

Jiang Jiu's lips twitched and he cursed the old fox inwardly. It seems that the old fox had realized their goal for coming here.

Then let me see how long you can endure!

Jiang Jiu's eyes flashed. He suddenly raced forwards, his speed astonishing. He avoided the swords of several Rainbow Sect disciples, grabbing onto a young cultivator in the back and laughing as he flew back.

"Haha, the Rainbow Sect actually sent out a disciple that hasn't reached the Foundation Establishment realm yet. But, this little one is actually quite beautiful." Jiang Jiu cackled a few times. "I think I'll take this little girl back and give her to my uncle as an apology. Then, I suppose I'll let today's matter end like this."

Xuanxuan shouted out, "Ling'er! You let her go!"

Her other apprentice-sisters were enraged.

Jiang Jiu glanced at them. "And what if I don't let her go? Ling'er, right? Indeed, you are just like your name. I'm sure my uncle will like you." Just as he was about to say some taunting words towards the Yun Family residence and force Yun Fan to take action, he saw a young black-robed cultivator walk out from the doors.

For some unknown reason, as their eyes met, Jiang Jiu felt his body stiffen. Fear began to rise from deep in his heart.

"Let her go."

The voice was calm and didn't possess the startling strength that Yun Fan had when he spoke. But, the light and plain tone actually caused awe to swell up in the depths of one's heart.

It was like the endless mountains and seas, powerful but without any sense of rage.

Chapter 205 – Skylifting Peak Liu Zhi

Jiang Jiu furrowed his eyebrows together. He was acutely aware of every important figure within the Yun family, but, right now he had no impression of this person in front of him. Was this a guest? It seemed that this person's status wasn't low, and maybe Yun Fan had him come out to interfere. As he thought about the trace of panic and fear he felt, Jiang Jiu's complexion darkened. He sneered, "Just who are you? You dare to speak to me like that? You are seeking death!" Today's task had been assigned to him by his uncle. He didn't even place the Yun Family in his eyes, much less this unknown cultivator.

"Grab him!" As his voice fell, someone behind Jiang Jiu raced forwards. The aura of a Golden burst out, like a hurricane of flames sweeping around.

Countless cultivators felt their hearts tremble. How powerful! Compared to the two Golden Cores from before, this person was far stronger; he was at least at the eighth level of Golden Core or higher. This was already the third Golden Core and there were still several people behind Jiang Jiu. If they were all Golden Core cultivators then that was too horrifying; it was no wonder that these people didn't respect the Yun Family.

The Golden Core cultivator fiendishly grinned and his fan-sized hand came crashing down. He had been nicknamed Iron Hand by others, and he had cultivated a supernatural body ability. When facing his two palms, those with a slightly weaker cultivation would be sent flying away, and it was inevitable that their bones would break and their muscles would tear.

This brat in front of him, his momentum wasn't bad but his aura was average. Once he was sent tumbling away, he would probably fall on the ground in a ruined little pile. Hehe, that image was just too beautiful.

He licked the corners of his lips, the bloodthirst in his eyes deepening.

Many people looked on with pity.

Bang –

There was a crash like thunder. The stone road in front of the Yun Family residence was blown open and countless people heard a buzzing in their ears as they were momentarily dazed. Then, they saw a figure miserably scream as they were sent flying backwards. However, this person wasn't the black-robed cultivator that came from the Yun Family, but Jiang Jiu's subordinate. The man landed and his body plowed through the earth, creating a long gash in the dirt. His palm was blown open to reveal flesh and blood inside, mixed with shards of bone. It was clear he was crippled beyond any hope of redemption.

"Ahh! My hand! My hand!" Pained cries rang out in the air, causing Jiang Jiu and those behind him to stiffen.

All of them knew how strong Iron Hand was. He had a peak eighth level Golden Core cultivation, and from childhood he had trained in a technique that gave him hands which were nearly impervious to weapons. When combining his abilities together, he was incredibly strong. Yet he had been reduced to such a state by a single person, completely crippled in one strike. Just how terrifying was that person?

Could that person be a Nascent Soul cultivator? Since when had the Yun Family gained another powerhouse like this? They hadn't heard anything about it at all!

The eyes of the surrounding cultivators widened to reveal shock. They looked over again, this time with awe and reverence. Wasn't it said that the Yun Family's Yun Fan was the one who had broken into Nascent Soul? Then who was this person in front of them? He was so ruthless and vicious in his actions, it was clear he didn't care at all about these people in front of them.

If so, then it looked like things were about to become lively!

Jiang Jiu and his group were rampant and arrogant in both their words and actions; they naturally aroused the disgust and contempt of those watching. However, because they were too overbearingly strong, no one dared to speak up. So, while the sudden appearance of this newcomer left everyone shocked, they were also somewhat pleased.

"I said, let her go." The black-robed man stepped forwards.

Jiang Jiu grit his teeth. He shouted out, "Senior, I have done nothing to offend you, so don't you think your cruel methods are too excessive!?"

"Let her go."

"My uncle is Skylifting Peak Liu Zhi!" Jiang Jiu roared.

The crowd was immediately stirred into a furor.

Skylifting Peak was a title. The rumors said that this Liu Zhi possessed potent supernatural powers that could move mountains, and he had suppressed countless powerhouses from all around. He was an extremely powerful existence even amongst Nascent Soul realm powerhouses. It was no wonder that he had so many Golden Core subordinates and also no wonder why they acted so arrogantly towards the Yun Family. This explained everything.

So the one standing behind them was the mountain known as Liu Zhi.

The black-robed man came to a stop. As a look of arrogance grew on Jiang Jiu's face and the cultivators behind him straightened up, the black-robed man suddenly and slowly spoke up, "Do I need to repeat myself a fourth time?"

Bang –

A terrifying aura erupted from his body. The originally ordinary and common figure seemed to transform into a vicious beast from ancient times. A horrifying pressure broke out like a flood, seeming as if it could sweep across the skies!

Jiang Jiu and the others froze. An irrepressible fear gushed forth from their eyes.

Qin Yu continued forwards, each step seeming to push down on their chests. Their complexions rapidly paled.

Puff –

Puff –

One by one, they all fell to the floor, gasping for breath, their faces etched with pain. The only one still standing was Jiang Jiu, but even he stumbled about, barely managing to resist.

“My uncle is...”

Pa –

Just as these words emerged, a heavy slap sent them shooting back into his stomach. Jiang Jiu flew backwards, tumbling about in countless circles. Blood mixed with teeth sprayed into the air. His face instantly swelled up like a pig’s head, and this was only because Qin Yu had held back. If he hadn’t, then Jiang Jiu’s head would have been reduced to a bloody stump.

Gu Ling’er stood there in stunned disbelief. She looked at the person walking towards her, and her tears began to fall from her eyes, streaming down her fair cheeks.

The black-robed youth smiled. He reached out a hand and wiped away a tear. “You’re already a big girl, so why are you still crying like this? There are so many people watching, they might laugh at you.”

“Big Brother Qin Yu!” Like a little bird, Gu Ling’er threw herself into his arms and tightly held onto him, as if she were afraid he was an illusion that would disappear the moment she looked away.

Qin Yu held onto her. “I’m sorry, Ling’er. I haven’t come to visit you in many years. It must have been hard on you.”

As for the two Golden Cores that were fighting with the Rainbow Sect, once Jiang Jiu and his other lackeys were sent flying away, they put away their weapons and withdrew.

Xuanxuan and the other cultivators from the Rainbow Sect looked on with eyes wide with disbelief. What was going on here? It seemed that Ling’er was familiar with this mysterious powerhouse, and their relationship wasn’t ordinary either. The girls glanced at each other in stark confusion, their minds a little bit dizzy. No one knew just what was going on.

But there was one person who did.

Zhang Zhang had a complex look in her eyes. During these past years, she had thought that she had progressed quickly. It was only today that she realized the figure she was subconsciously chasing after for all this time had actually left her in the dust, already reaching heights she could never hope to imagine.

Nascent Soul...

He was already a Nascent Soul? Zhang Zhang thought back to the Skycloud Sword Sect’s Iron Sword Shanhe. Although she knew that it was wrong to compare them, she couldn’t help but place the two of them next to each other. And the difference was...simply too much. She laughed at herself for actually being pleased about this before.

Zhu Bluecloud bitterly smiled. He never imagined that the Qin Yu, who had disappeared for such a long time, would actually appear like this. Moreover, his cultivation had reached such astonishing heights. After being shocked, he realized that he hadn’t tried to help, and that his actions would surely leave Qin Yu unhappy. After all, Qin Yu had originally entrusted him to look after Gu Ling’er.

After wavering for a moment, he still walked up. He cupped his hands in shame and said, “Qin...senior, I didn’t help just now, but I hope you can overlook that.”

Qin Yu looked at Zhu Bluecloud, frowning a little. He nodded and said, "When Brother Zhu chose to stand on the sidelines and do nothing just now, that was also reasonable, so it's not a problem."

Zhu Bluecloud bitterly sighed. Sure enough, Qin Yu was unhappy about that. Thinking about it, if Qin Yu was willing to risk his life for Gu Ling'er, one could imagine just how much he valued her. But with things having happened already, there was no way he could explain himself, so he could only force out a smile.

Gu Ling'er sobbed several times and then quietly said, "Big Brother Qin Yu, Senior Zhu has looked after me for all these years and has been very good to me."

Qin Yu looked at Zhu Bluecloud. He could see that Zhu Bluecloud was the only person leading the Zhu Family cultivators here to express their congratulations, and if they were to rashly interfere, not only was there likely to have been an accident, but the Zhu Family might also suffer disaster. As the person in charge, it wasn't wrong for Zhu Bluecloud to do what he did.

Qin Yu's expression softened. He nodded. "Brother Zhu, it's good if you refer to me how you did originally. You and I are friends, so there's no need to distinguish ourselves so much."

Zhu Bluecloud relaxed a little. He glanced at Gu Ling'er with a thankful look. Luckily, Gu Ling'er had spoken up for him. Otherwise, while his friendship with Qin Yu might not have been thoroughly erased, it would still be worse than it used to be.

Yun Yi and the others caught up and bowed. "Greetings, Senior Qin Yu."

They had seen Jiang Jiu and his group being insufferably arrogant, so they were naturally glad to see them suffer. Although they hadn't known how fierce Qin Yu actually was, all they had to do was recall that night when he had swallowed heavenly tribulation, and this was enough for them to be confident in him.

Who cares about your Skylifting Peak whatever or Liu Zhi whatever? In front of Senior Qin Yu, they were just trash. That loud bone-cracking sound which rang through the area just now had left them all feeling refreshed. This Senior Qin Yu really didn't fear Liu Zhi at all!

Qin Yu nodded, not explaining anything.

From the Yun Family doors, Yun Fan stepped out, an apologetic expression on his face. "Fellow daoist Qin, I'm very sorry. I didn't know that you were old acquaintances with this young miss, otherwise I would have surely helped."

This couldn't be blamed on Yun Fan. Qin Yu smiled, "Fellow daoist Yun speaks too seriously. Come, allow me to introduce you. This is my little sister Gu Ling'er, and this is Yun Fan, you may call him Senior Yun."

Such a solemn introduction was enough to show just how much Qin Yu valued Gu Ling'er. Although it was surprising that the two didn't share the same surname, Yun Fan's smile still remained bright and wide. "Miss Gu, it is nice to meet you. Since this is our first meeting, then please take this spiritual jade as a meeting gift."

As he spoke, he took out a jade pendant the size of a child's palm. It was smooth and sparkled, glowing with a translucent light. It was clear that it wasn't some common object.

Gu Ling'er was too embarrassed to keep holding Qin Yu. She took one step back and looked up. This was her Big Brother Qin Yu's friend and also the Patriarch of the Yun Family, who possessed a scary level of cultivation. She wasn't sure whether she should take the gift or not.

Qin Yu smiled. "Since this is a gift from Senior Yun Fan, you should take it." With how much he had helped the Yun Family, receiving a precious jade was a minor matter.

Gu Ling'er nodded politely. "Thank you Senior Yun." She received the jade in both hands.

Jiang Jiu had already been lifted up by his subordinates. His entire head had swelled up and was mottled black and blue, and he had long since fainted. The others all had fearful expressions as they were unsure of what to do. Luckily, they soon regained their courage as they straightened their backs. A fierce and icy aura filled the air.

"The Yun Family is truly mighty and powerful. To beat my nephew until he became like this, are you not prepared to give me a confession?" A voice echoed out from all directions, stirring up the surrounding heaven and earth spiritual energy. Loud rumbles resonated in the air, as if the world was roaring. Compared to Yun Fan's methods earlier, this person was clearly far more powerful.

Qin Yu frowned. He looked up into the distance.

In the sky, a cultivator walked through space. His appearance was ordinary and his purple robes served to accentuate his dignified appearance. With every movement he made, he exuded an atmosphere that made one's heart throb.

Yun Fan's complexion sank. Just as he thought, there was indeed a plot behind today's events. But, he could no longer retreat. He stepped forwards and cupped his hands together. "Fellow daoist Liu Zhi, your presence is an honor. The Yun Family fully welcomes you!"

Skylifting Peak Liu Zhi, a master at least at the middle Nascent Soul realm, had arrived!

Chapter 206 – Three Day Deadline

Liu Zhi didn't pay any attention to Yun Fan. He looked down and glanced at the wounded Jiang Jiu, his eyes like ice reflecting a dark light, so cold that it sent a shiver through the soul. "My little nephew has always been stubborn and disobedient and he often gives me a headache, but in the end he is my nephew. I have no idea which fellow daoist he has provoked and what he has done to be punished with such a heavy hand."

Gu Ling'er froze. Fear rose in her and she looked towards Qin Yu with worry.

Qin Yu faintly smiled. He patted her hand and stepped forwards. "Fellow daoist Liu thinks that I was too heavy handed? Well, the reality is that I have been in quite a good mood recently, so I have already shown mercy. Otherwise, the only thing you would see before you would be a corpse."

Liu Zhi lightly said, "It seems that it was this fellow daoist who harmed him. I don't know the reason why, but right now I don't care. For taking a life, a debt must be paid. You injured my nephew, so now you must pay the price."

Qin Yu's lips curled up. "And what sort of payment do you want?"

“The hand of the person who injured him, or, something of equivalent value.”

“It looks like fellow daoist Liu has taken a liking to some treasure of mine. How about telling me what it is?”

Liu Zhi smiled. He could hear Qin Yu’s calm and careless tone, but he didn’t care about it. Since he came here today, he naturally had an absolute advantage.

“Then, how about the thing you used to resist heavenly tribulation that night?” With these words, everything was brought into the light. It could even be considered an open and honest acknowledgement that he was the one pulling the strings behind Jiang Jiu and the others.

These were clearly plots and tricks, but when he spoke up, he was unexpectedly calm.

Perhaps this was the confidence of a powerhouse.

He didn’t fear the criticism of others nor did he care, because everything was under his control.

Yun Fan revealed an expression of deep worry.

Numerous cultivators were shaken. They subconsciously drew backwards. Perhaps what would come soon was a battle between Nascent Soul masters. If they were to stand near this when it happened, that would be no different from courting death.

Qin Yu laughed and clapped his hands. “Fellow daoist Liu has good judgment! But I...won’t give it to you.”

This reply didn’t seem to have much momentum, but it was a complete refusal.

Liu Zhi said, “I only fear that it isn’t in your control.”

Yun Fan absolutely did not want to come into conflict with an established powerhouse like Liu Zhi, but, he knew that he had to speak up otherwise he would lose too much face with Qin Yu. Of course, a more important reason was that in his opinion, Qin Yu wasn’t any weaker than Liu Zhi, and might even be stronger.

“Fellow daoist Liu Zhi, fellow daoist Qin is my Yun Family’s honored guest. Your actions today are too crass.”

There were the strong and the weak amongst Nascent Souls, but as long as the difference wasn’t too great, if one wanted to run away with everything they had, they would most likely be able to do so. So, although Yun Fan didn’t want to develop any enmity with Liu Zhi, that didn’t mean he feared him. The Yun Family was his shackles, but it was also the same for Liu Zhi. Unless both sides had some sort of unending blood grudge, there were few Nascent Souls that would use extreme methods like complete family extermination.

After all, a Nascent Soul cultivator that bore a grudge and was willing to do anything to take revenge could cause a horrifying amount of damage.

Liu Zhi looked over. “Two against one. Even if we fight, do you think that you can suppress me?” He paused, and his gaze became even loftier. “But, it isn’t just you that has helpers.”

“Hahahaha!”

With great laughter, two figures came forwards, their pressure filling the air.

Countless cultivators stared in wide-eyed disbelief. Their expressions were filled with shock and awe, so much that it seemed their heads would explode.

Nascent Souls! It was actually two Nascent Souls!

Heavens...

Within the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty, no one knew how many Nascent Soul cultivators there were. Five had appeared, and while it couldn't be said to be half the number, it was certainly a sizable portion.

No one expected that today at the Yun Family's great Nascent Soul celebration, things would actually arrive at such a situation and cause such a great ruckus. This was now an argument between Nascent Soul powerhouses, and everyone else besides them had lost the qualifications to interfere.

“Brother Liu, I knew that it was impossible for you to succeed. It seems that since you haven't appeared much these past years, people have forgotten about your title of Skylifting Peak.” The one who spoke was an old bald man with a shiny head. The front of his robes were opened up, revealing his rolls of pale fat. As he laughed, his body shook with him.

The other Nascent Soul cultivator beside him hadn't spoken up until this moment. He glared at Qin Yu and a chill gradually filled the air. “It's you!”

The old man was stunned. He turned and asked, “Old Freak Cheng, do you recognize that person?”

“The impression is deep!” Old Freak Cheng was a middle-aged man with a pair of yellow eyes. He constantly looked around like a rat, “Old Poison, do you remember when I told you about the Radiant Red Wood?”

The old man's eyes flashed. “That's him?”

Old Freak Cheng sneered, “He destroyed my divine sense, how could I possibly be mistaken!”

Qin Yu didn't have any expression. “You rushed into my abode and even tried to seize my spiritual insects. So, it was you along. Today is truly a lively day.”

Yun Fan's heart chilled. Liu Zhi had actually come here with two other Nascent Souls. If the three of them joined forces, he and Qin Yu would be at an absolute disadvantage.

Even worse, Qin Yu seemed to have some old enmity with one of these people. This made things far more troublesome.

As Yun Fan was worried, Liu Zhi looked over to him and said, “Patriarch Yun might be surprised about why I am here with fellow daoist Cheng and Poison God. Originally, our goal was to form good relations with Patriarch Yun. After all, we are different from large cultivator sects. As rogue cultivators, we have a relatively low level of influence, so if we want to settle down and live good lives, it is best for us to join together. Unfortunately, it seems that Patriarch Yun isn't willing to join us.”

Poison God slapped his rumbling belly. "That might not necessarily be true. Brother Liu, why draw a conclusion so early? Perhaps Patriarch Yun has had a sudden revelation and would like to be friends with us?"

A light flashed in Liu Zhi's eyes. "Then, I suppose we must see what Patriarch Yun thinks of this."

It was clear that this was an olive branch extended to Yun Fan. If he accepted it, they would all be friends and the past troubles would be written off. Of course, what followed would be them joining forces against Qin Yu to seize his treasure.

One couldn't help but acknowledge that although this scheme was obvious to everyone, it actually had an amazing effect. Yun Fan admitted that there was a moment where he wavered, but when he saw Qin Yu's tranquil gaze, he ruthlessly suppressed this thought.

Although he hadn't seen Qin Yu's abilities, he had obtained sufficient proof of his strength during that night when he swallowed up the heavenly tribulation.

He had already made a mistake once in the past; he couldn't do so a second time.

Yun Fan took a deep breath. He coldly said, "I don't wish to be enemies with you all, but fellow daoist Qin is my Yun Family's friend. If there is anyone who is trying to harm him, then that is the same as targeting my Yun Family. I will absolutely not stand idly by."

Then this was...three against two.

The atmosphere was so thick and tense that it could be cut with a knife.

Liu Zhi's eyes flashed with a hint of gloominess and a trace of fear rose in his heart. If Yun Fan dared to make enemies of them, then it was clear he favored Qin Yu. His thoughts raced and he said, "It is not easy to become a Nascent Soul, and I do not wish to easily commit the sin of murder. I will give you three days to reconsider. If you still remain obstinate at that time, then don't blame me for being heartless!"

Old Freak Cheng frowned, as if he were a bit unhappy with this. But, Poison God laughed, "It's just a little bit of time, why worry?"

The three Nascent Souls brought their people away. Then, three boundless auras rose up around Snowfall City, surrounding it in a sphere.

"For the next three days, no one is allowed to leave Snowfall City!"

With loud cries of fear and shock, the complexions of countless cultivators changed. All of them looked over in the same direction.

Yun Fan's complexion was dignified. "Fellow daoist Qin..."

Qin Yu smiled. He cupped his hands together. "I thank fellow daoist Yun for the assistance."

Yun Fan shook his head. "The reason that fellow daoist Qin is in such trouble today is all because of my Yun Family, so I have a duty to help. But, what are we to do three days from now?"

Qin Yu's lips curled up. "They aren't the only ones who know how to look for helpers. Fellow daoist Yun need not worry about this matter. I will solve it myself."

Yun Fan's heart relaxed as he secretly rejoiced. He was glad that he had held his position, otherwise he feared the Yun Family would be in great trouble.

Qin Yu turned and patted Gu Ling'er's head. "Stop looking so panicked. Don't worry, your big brother here is very fierce. I have no reason to fear them at all." He glanced towards the Rainbow Sect. "Are these your teachers and apprentice-sisters? I will go and thank them for taking care of you for all these years."

He brought Ling'er over and cupped his hands together. "I am Qin Yu, Ling'er's big brother. During her stay in the Rainbow Sect these past years, I'm sure she must have bothered you a great deal."

No matter what sort of situation they faced, Qin Yu's cultivation stood above them all. No one in the Rainbow Sect dared to accept his bow.

Rivermoon and Clearheart quickly bowed, referring to him as senior.

Countless disciples watched with eyes full of awe.

Qin Yu thought for a moment. He said, "When you return, could I bother you to tell the sect that I have made other plans for Ling'er. She won't be staying in the Rainbow Sect any longer. If I have been disrespectful in any way, I ask that you excuse me."

Gu Ling'er's eyes widened, clearly startled. She couldn't believe that her Big Brother Qin Yu would make such a decision for her without discussing it with her at all. However, after a moment of hesitation she didn't say anything. Her Big Brother Qin Yu should have a good reason for doing what he did.

Rivermoon bowed, "Gu Ling'er is my disciple, so I can make the decision to let her leave with senior." She glanced at Gu Ling'er from the corner of her vision, and when she saw that she didn't seem to have anything to say, her heart calmed a little. To be fair, she had been a bit harsh to Ling'er these past years. But, she had never targeted her on purpose or tried to embarrass her. Still, she was afraid that Gu Ling'er might have a bit of resentment from being treated a bit strictly.

Xuanxuan and the other apprentice-sisters revealed a bit of unwillingness. But, they didn't have the qualifications to speak up.

Qin Yu smiled in gratitude. He turned to Zhang Zhang, nodded, and then led Gu Ling'er away.

This nod surprised everyone. They didn't think that there would be someone else among them that knew Senior Qin Yu.

Zhang Zhang had a complex look in her eyes. So, all that was left between them was a brief acknowledgement of old friendship? She pursed her lips, trying her best not to show her sorrow.

After bidding his farewells to Yun Fan, Qin Yu brought Gu Ling'er back to his dwelling. He looked down at the silent little girl and guessed her thoughts. "You aren't happy, right? That I arbitrarily decided to have you leave the Rainbow Sect?"

Gu Ling'er quickly shook her head. "No, no, I know that Big Brother Qin Yu must have a reason for doing so. I...I just find it hard to leave my apprentice-sisters..."

Guilt flashed in Qin Yu's eyes. After those years all alone, she must have taken her apprentice-sisters as her closest friends. He thought for a moment and gently said, "Ling'er, the reason I had you leave the Rainbow Sect is because if you continue staying there from today on, it will be dangerous for you. Still, I must apologize to you. I didn't take your feelings into consideration, and I was wrong to do that. Since you don't want to leave your apprentice-sisters, how about asking them if they would like to come with you?"

Gu Ling'er's eyes widened. "This...this..."

Qin Yu smiled. "Don't worry. Tell them that I will bring you all to Immortal Eclipse Valley. Maybe they will agree."

Worried about Gu Ling'er going out by herself, Qin Yu accompanied her to where the Rainbow Sect was staying. As they spoke and laughed along the way, his eyes constantly checked his surroundings.

A moment later, they arrived at their destination. Qin Yu also found what he wanted. He waved his hand and called over some people from the Yun Family who had followed him here, and ordered them to protect Gu Ling'er. Qin Yu said, "There are some matters I need to deal with. Ling'er, go ahead without me first. Don't worry, I am in the immediate vicinity and can catch up to you immediately."

Gu Ling'er nodded. She started to speak but hesitated.

Qin Yu traced her head. "Don't think about such things. I'll tell you this now, I already have the means to solve my problem. You should have some more confidence in your Big Brother Qin Yu. Now, hurry on over."

Gu Ling'er nodded her head, finally revealing a smile.

After watching her go, Qin Yu turned and left. Soon, he stood outside a store on a not-too-large street. He looked up at the store's plaque and the common patterns that adorned it, and then revealed a faint smile. Luckily, when his cheap senior-apprentice brother had given him advice, he had carefully remembered it. Now it had finally come in handy.

Chapter 207 – Real Act? Fake Act?

He walked forwards and knocked on the front door. The store quickly opened from within and a man with a moon-wide smile appeared, saying, "So it was senior Qin Yu. Please, enter." The store wasn't large and there was a faint scent of medicinal herbs in the air. Looking at the layout, it shouldn't have changed in years. There was a forced and depressed feeling; business shouldn't have been any better.

After sitting in a seat of honor, a young servant came forward to offer tea. The shopkeeper laughed and said, "I wonder why senior Qin Yu came to our small shop. Is there any way we can be of help?"

Qin Yu frowned. He took out a token and placed it on the table. "You should be able to tell for yourself if it's real or fake."

The shopkeeper cautiously picked it up. After carefully examining it, he suddenly fell to his knees. "Immortal Eclipse Valley outer court disciple Zhang Daqian greets Junior Granduncle!"

Qin Yu put away the token and waved his hand. "Stand up. You should have already recognized me, so why be so careful?"

Zhang Daqian forced out a smile. "Junior Granduncle, recently relations between the demonic path and our valley have become particularly tense, and a number of hidden footholds have been destroyed by them. This is the only reason why this disciple didn't dare to rashly recognize Junior Granduncle. I ask that you do not blame me for this."

Qin Yu nodded. Immortal Eclipse Valley had a longstanding grudge with the demonic path. He already knew that the Demon Monarch had fought with his cheap senior apprentice-brother in the past. But, since Immortal Eclipse Valley was able to stand tall for so many years, even if there was a problem with the demonic path right now, there still shouldn't be any issues. He nodded and didn't ask further. "Help me deliver a message to Immortal Eclipse Valley. Tell them that I am being bullied and I need others to come and support me."

Zhang Daqian was stunned. Although this was a fact, with Junior Granduncle's status, was it really good to be so straightforward about it?

Qin Yu chuckled and patted his shoulder. "You only have three days, so it's best if you are a bit faster in sending the message. Otherwise I can only fly."

As he spoke, he pushed open the door and left.

Somewhere else, Gu Ling'er was finishing speaking. As she stammered out the words 'Immortal Eclipse Valley', the room suddenly fell silent and everyone's eyes widened with shock.

Gu Ling'er flushed red, thinking that they didn't want to come with her. She quickly waved her hand. "Teacher, senior-apprentice sisters, this is what Big Brother Qin Yu wanted me to say. If you don't want to then I will tell him to consider it over."

"Don't!" Xuanxuan was the most urgent. As she cried out all of a sudden, she immediately thought that it wasn't too good for her to speak out right now, so she lowered her head in embarrassment.

Rivermoon took a deep breath, calming her shaking heart. No wonder Qin Yu had been so calm even when facing three Nascent Souls, with Liu Zhi himself included amongst them. So it was because he had Immortal Eclipse Valley, the number one great cultivating sect of the Southern Empire, standing behind him. He was surely close with Immortal Eclipse Valley, and maybe he even had an extremely high status within. Otherwise, how could he dare to make such a guarantee that he could bring Gu Ling'er and all her apprentice-sisters to cultivate in Immortal Eclipse Valley.

Rivermoon looked at the excited eyes of her disciples and she lightly sighed. Although she indeed wasn't too willing to give up all her disciples, for them, entering Immortal Eclipse Valley would ensure a higher and stronger starting point and inevitably help them accomplish greater things in the future.

Such a chance was hard to find even once in a thousand years. If she were to refuse, then while her disciples might not say anything, they would surely hold resentment in their hearts.

So be it. This was a wonderful opportunity. No matter which aspect she considered it from, she should help them along the way.

Rivermoon looked around the room. She said in a deep voice, "From this day on, none of you are disciples of the Rainbow Sect any longer!"

"Teacher..."

"There's no need to say any more. Teacher doesn't wish for any of you to regret this in the future. It's already been decided!" Rivermoon looked over, "Ling'er, teacher only has one last request for you. Please ask your big brother to look after your apprentice-sisters, and don't let anyone in Immortal Eclipse Valley bully them."

Gu Ling'er had never seen such a warm and soft expression from her teacher. She quickly nodded. "Teacher, rest assured that Big Brother Qin Yu will certainly make good arrangements. I will cultivate together with my senior apprentice-sisters!"

Rivermoon dismissively waved her hand. "You may all leave now. Wait for Senior Qin Yu to finish his plans."

The elder senior sister's gentle face revealed a bit of hesitation. "Teacher, allow me to stay behind and accompany you."

Rivermoon's heart was gratified but she maintained a cold expression. "I am not so old yet that I need someone to take care of me. Hurry up and go!"

She turned and left towards the back courtyard.

Gu Ling'er and the others knelt down, bidding their farewells to their teacher.

As they started packing their belongings, there was a short period of silence before several girls started to liven up with looks of yearning on their faces.

"Immortal Eclipse Valley! I never thought that we would have a chance to become a part of it." Xuanxuan crossed her hands together. "If he can bring us all together, Ling'er, your brother must be very fierce. Can you tell me just who he actually is? What is his relationship with Immortal Eclipse Valley?"

Gu Ling'er shook her head in confusion. "I don't know. Big Brother Qin Yu has never explained so I never asked...but, what sort of place is Immortal Eclipse Valley and why would teacher agree? Senior-apprentice sister, why do you all seem so happy?"

Xuanxuan was stunned. The other girls beside her also had strange complexions, as if they didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

"Ling'er, do you not know anything about Immortal Eclipse Valley? Heavens! Do you never care about anything happening outside?"

Gu Ling'er honestly said, "My talent is far lower than my senior-apprentice sisters' so I have to work much harder. Because of that I've never cared for what happens outside." After she spoke, she blushed a bit, revealing some embarrassment.

The senior-apprentice sisters were speechless.

There was a lot to say. Just how fierce was Immortal Eclipse Valley? Just how strong were they? Just how many powerhouses did they have? As the girls saw Gu Ling'er's innocent and ignorant expression, they all moaned inwardly, but at the same time they also envied her. Indeed, the lucky had no idea they were lucky. Ling'er didn't know anything at all, yet someone had already paved the path for her to enter Immortal Eclipse Valley and was also willing to bring them along with her.

This was life!

They finished gathering their things. Knowing their teacher's personality, they didn't say their farewells again. Under the complex gaze of Clearheart and the other disciples, they left the dwelling.

Zhang Zhang didn't show up.

Qin Yu was already waiting on the other side of the door. As he saw them emerge, he smiled. "It looks like you have all made your decision. Then, follow me."

Xuanxuan and the other senior-apprentice sisters quickly bowed.

They smoothly returned to the Yun Family. However, the Yun Family cultivators had no idea what Qin Yu had done. They only saw him take a trip outside and return with a group of girls that were as beautiful as flowers. Suddenly many of their eyes were filled with envy and worship.

Qin Yu sensed this but he simply shook his head, not explaining anything. He looked for Yun Xueqing's help and asked her to temporarily house Gu Ling'er and her senior-apprentice sisters. Luckily, the Yun Family residence was extremely large so there wasn't a problem.

After busying herself for a while, Yun Xueqing finally said goodbye to the girls and came out. She saw Qin Yu standing not too far away and rolled her eyes at him. She groaned and said, "Great Senior Qin has such a great appetite. Aren't you afraid that you support too many? Or maybe you'll sprain your waist?"

Qin Yu shook his head. "How come you're joining the rest in spouting this nonsense?"

"How is this nonsense? Isn't the evidence right here for everyone to see? It's not like everyone is blind."

Qin Yu shook his head helplessly, as if he had been deeply wronged.

Seeing that he was still in the mood to joke, Yun Xueqing calmed down a little. Still, she hesitated and said, "Three days from now..."

Qin Yu raised up a hand to stop her. "How come none of you seem to have any confidence in me? Can't you trust me as a friend? Don't worry, I've already handled things."

He cupped his hands together, bowed, and left.

Yun Xueqing's eyes widened. She thought, 'you just left for a short period of time, and all you did was to return with a bevy of beauties, and yet you say that you've handled things already?'

How come it felt like he was just boasting to her?

But even though this was what she thought, when Yun Fan came to ask her, she honestly replied to him. Of course, she clearly didn't seem to have much faith in him.

Yun Fan furrowed his eyebrows. "That's fine. Fellow daoist Qin is unfathomable. Since he's said he has resolved the situation, then there shouldn't be any problems. We will wait for him."

One day.

Two days.

Three days.

In the blink of an eye, the last day of the deadline arrived. Outside of Snowfall City, the auras of three Nascent Souls began to rise. They wove together, making it seem like an invisible mountain was descending on one's heart, causing an instinctual awe to appear in one's mind.

The Yun Family began to panic a little.

Liu Zhi and the others were about to come to their door, but where were Senior Qin's helpers? They hadn't heard anything at all!

Could it be that they couldn't make it...?

As this thought appeared, it grew larger and larger. They couldn't help but feel even more panicked.

"Patriarch, what should we do?" Yun Yi and the others asked with a pained expression.

If there wasn't any backup, Qin Yu might pat his butt and flee. While he could leave, could their Yun Family in Snowfall City grow wings and fly away with him? He feared that their end would be quite miserable!

Yun Fan took a deep breath. "That's enough. I am well aware of what you are all thinking. But, since my Yun Family has chosen to stand by fellow daoist Qin, then we can only continue walking down that road. Although I am only at the initial level, that is still the Nascent Soul realm. If I join forces with fellow daoist Qin, while we might not be able to fight on even ground, Liu Zhi and the others shouldn't dare to push us too far. You don't need to worry."

He stood up. The auras outside the city had begun to move and it would only be a short time before they arrived. He needed to find Qin Yu and discuss what to do next. Of course, he couldn't help but feel a trace of disappointment. Qin Yu's originally unfathomable image had become extremely frail in his mind.

Yun Yi and the Yun Family elders followed close behind, their expressions dignified. While it wasn't necessarily true that something would happen to their Yun Family, if some accident were to occur, they would all be beyond redemption!

Yun Xueqing had a worried look, and this caused Fang Huohuo to become deeply jealous. However, he knew that this wasn't the time to be showing attitude, so he mercilessly suppressed his temper and patiently endured it. Still, he couldn't help but mutter to himself in a low voice. After Yun Xueqing ruthlessly glared at him, he shrunk back his head, finally straightened his back, and put on a brave front.

The group arrived at Qin Yu's dwelling. As they saw what was happening within, even the calm Yun Fan couldn't help but twitch his eyes.

Smoke and fire swirled in the wind, and the fragrance of meat filled the air. Beneath the shade, a group of girls were laughing and chatting. They were actually...barbecuing!

Yun Fan coughed. He smiled, "Fellow daoist Qin must be in a good mood."

Qin Yu patted Gu Ling'er. He passed the barbecue stick in his hand to her. "Fellow daoist Yun, have you had this before? Would you like to try it? The flavor is quite good."

Yun Yi and the others groaned inwardly. Senior Qin, if you are trying to look awesome right now, are you putting on a real act? Or is this a fake act? If it's real, then where are your helpers? How come they still haven't appeared after all this time? If this is all fake, then you have truly harmed our Yun Family!

Yun Fan smiled. "Fellow daoist Qin, today is the third day and the auras of Liu Zhi and the others have already started moving outside the city. They will soon begin. You can continue barbecuing whenever you'd like. Right now, we should discuss our current predicament and how to deal with it."

He didn't raise the matter of Qin Yu looking for helpers, because he was trying to save a bit of face for him. But, there was a trace of discontent in Yun Fan's heart. He wanted to believe that Qin Yu's current performance was because he was full of confidence, but, the key problem was that he didn't see any reason for him to be confident.

Chapter 208 – Earth Python Beads

Gu Ling'er and the others revealed a worried look. They could feel the obvious tension coming from the Yun Family. Could it be something was wrong? Wasn't the situation already solved?

Qin Yu's eyes revealed a trace of helplessness. He thought that if his soul wasn't strong enough, then he really might have been tricked before. To come here and ask this question, did they just want him to lose face? Of course, he also understood the thoughts of the Yun Family. This event concerned the safety of their family, so it was normal for them to be anxious about it. So, Qin Yu smiled and said, "Patriarch Yun, rest assured that Liu Zhi and the other two won't be able to stir up any storm today."

As his voice fell, the auras of three Nascent Souls began to approach the city. Heaven and earth spiritual energy was stirred up, causing an earth-shaking rumble to spread outwards. Strong winds whipped into existence within Snowfall City. The rustling of dirt and stones filled the air, and the weather seemed to suddenly darken.

The Yun Family cultivators' lips twitched. This was just too embarrassing. Qin Yu had just said that they wouldn't be able to stir up any storm, but now a massive storm was rising into the heavens. But this thought was only for an instant. Right now, the Yun Family was tied up together with Qin Yu, and they shared both glory and loss. If he experienced trouble, then the Yun Family wouldn't be any better off.

Yun Fan took a deep breath, "Fellow daoist Qin, let us meet our enemies!"

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. Did those three people really have to choose the perfect time to ruin his honorable image as much as possible? It was just unbearable.

Liu Zhi and the other two weren't fast, but as they came forward their aura was like a tide, seeming as if it were capable of destroying everything. Snowfall City had long since fallen silent. Everyone looked at the three of them, their eyes filled with fear and awe.

Nascent Soul! These were Nascent Souls! They were considered the peak existences between the heavens and earth, and now three of them had appeared all of a sudden. Looking at their current momentum, they had enough to brag for a lifetime!

Strong winds roared forth, stirring up his black robes. Qin Yu narrowed his eyes, thinking that these three fellows were truly incredible at showing off.

“Qin Yu, three days have passed. Have you reconsidered?” Liu Zhi’s cold voice echoed from all directions.

Qin Yu’s lips curled upwards. “Fellow daoist Liu, just because your voice is loud doesn’t mean it’s effective. My treasure is with me. If you want it, then come and take it yourself.”

“Good. If this is the way it is, I will take it myself.” Liu Zhi had no expression as he raised his hands and thrust them forwards. The phantom of two towering mountains appeared in the void, rapidly condensing into reality. Beneath these mountains, the air seemed to become thick and viscous, as if it couldn’t withstand this amazing strength.

“Suppress!”

The mountain phantoms fell from the sky. Before they landed, the Yun Family people had already paled, endless fear gushing from their bodies. At this moment, they felt as if they were like tiny little insects, about to be grinded down to powder!

Within Snowfall City, all of the cultivators who came to celebrate felt their pupils shrank. They sighed inwardly. This person was truly worthy of being called Skylifting Peak Liu Zhi. His strength was ridiculously high.

Qin Yu’s eyes brightened. He looked up at the suppressing mountains and then with a tap of his foot he shot into the skies.

A fist came punching out!

Bang –

There was an earth-shaking bang. The two mountains were sent tumbling back and cracks appeared in them. Two round beads were faintly visible within.

Of course, Qin Yu also paid a price. He was sent flying back and heavily landed on the ground. A corner of the Yun Family’s residence was shattered by the spreading shockwaves of strength, and a giant hole appeared there. Cracks spread out from the hole, making the land look like a spider web.

Yun Fan had a nervous expression. If Qin Yu were severely injured in just a single exchange, then there was no need to continue today’s battle.

Gu Ling’er’s eyes widened as they filled with concern. If it weren’t for Xuanxuan pulling her back, she would have long since rushed over.

There was a fierce cough from within the swirl of smoke. “Those two mountains are quite good. I want them.”

Qin Yu stepped out of the dust cloud. He was inevitably dirtied, but looking at his face, one could see that at most his blood energy had tumbled a bit and he hadn't suffered any wounds at all.

Throughout the Yun Family, everyone could feel their hearts relax a little.

The struggling Gu Ling'er covered her mouth, tears nearly flowing out.

Xuanxuan said in a quiet comforting voice, "Let me tell you, Senior Qin Yu is definitely fine. You are seeing things wrong..." Her still pale face revealed just how scared she had been just now.

Liu Zhi's eyes darkened. He had placed his full strength into that attack just now. He originally wanted to quickly suppress Qin Yu and settle today's matter, but now it seemed that there would be trouble.

Old Freak Cheng and Poison God frowned. Liu Zhi was the strongest amongst the three of them and they never imagined that Qin Yu would actually be so fierce. However, this was only a minor frown. If they joined hands, they could even contend with a late Nascent Soul realm cultivator. To suppress just Qin Yu and Yun Fan, it would at most take a bit more effort than they originally thought.

The only reason that Liu Zhi put forth a deadline of three days was because they wanted to investigate Qin Yu's origins and avoid provoking people that shouldn't be provoked. But, now that three days had passed and nobody interfered, it was proof that this person didn't have any foundation. If so, there were a lot fewer things they needed to take into consideration before they attacked.

With a cold sneer, Old Freak Cheng stepped forwards. "The enmity of destroying my divine sense, let us settle it today!"

Poison God slapped his rolling belly. With a loud buzzing noise, a massive number of poisonous black bees appeared, all of them emitting a fierce and bloodthirsty intent.

Bang –

Bang –

Bang –

The auras of three great Nascent Souls startled the heavens and shook the earth!

Yun Fan took a deep breath. Just as he was about to step forwards and fight, Qin Yu stopped him with his hand. Then, he humorlessly said, "You've already had enough fun watching, are you still not ready to come out? Do you really want to see me beaten black and blue before you two old fogies are satisfied?"

Liu Zhi's complexion changed.

Everything remained quiet!

Old Freak Cheng smirked. "Qin Yu, you don't need to bluff. If there are other Nascent Souls here, do you think they could hide from me?"

"Hoho, Cheng Yuandu, where does your confidence come from? I am here, but have you sensed me?"

There was a cold sneer as the door of a nearby house was pushed open from within. Daoist Wang stepped out. His bearing and presence far surpassed how it had been in the past. His every action and movement exuded dignity. It was obvious that with the Heaven Mending Pill helping him, he had

managed to smoothly make a breakthrough. Although it was unknown what his exact cultivation was, he had been mired in a pit for many years without advancing and had also solidified his formidable background. After being so well prepared, his present boundary shouldn't be low.

"And there's me as well." A tall and regal white-haired old man appeared. His straight figure was like an unsheathed divined sword, and the aura he emitted left one gasping with fear.

Immortal Eclipse Valley, Jiang Li!

The sudden change in events left everyone dumbfounded. Then, after silently counting, they confirmed that seven Nascent Souls had appeared and that this wasn't a dream.

Heavens, seven Nascent Souls...

Countless people trembled and groaned.

Qin Yu looked over with dissatisfaction. "Daoist Wang, Senior Jiang Li, you really are comical people. If I didn't reveal you two, were you prepared to stay hidden and watch on?"

Daoist Wang coldly humphed. "You little brat, you have no idea how to tell good from bad! Did you think we rushed all the way over here to listen to your complaints? If you aren't happy with us then we don't need to help, we'll just leave immediately!"

Qin Yu clenched his teeth. "If you dare leave, then I will drink all the good wine you have hidden!"

Daoist Wang was aghast. "You brat, you are far too vindictive; you even want to obtain my goods! Wait, that isn't right, how did you know I have good wine hidden away? I've never mentioned this to anyone before!"

Qin Yu revealed a satisfied smile. "I naturally know. Are you scared?"

Daoist Wang coldly coughed. "Well I suppose you are fierce enough!"

Jiang Li faintly smiled. "You two are really a handful. If you want to argue, then please do so in a different location. There are many people here and you are wasting everyone's time." He paused for a moment and then lifted a finger. "Qin Yu, this was all Old Wang's idea. If you are unhappy, just bothering him is enough."

Daoist Wang's eyes widened and he looked at Jiang Li as if he had completely misread him. He coughed and said, "Proper business, proper business!"

Qin Yu stared at Daoist Wang, giving him a glare that said he would settle this in the future. Then, he turned and sneered, "I said that you aren't the only ones capable of finding helpers."

Liu Zhi, Old Freak Cheng, and Poison God turned pale white.

In particular, they had already recognized the identities of these newcomers; it couldn't be any clearer!

Immortal Eclipse Valley's Daoist Wang and Immortal Eclipse Valley's Jiang Li! The former was their newly ascended Nascent Soul, but he was rumored to be incredibly powerful. As for the latter, he was a Nascent Soul powerhouse with extremely potent skills. He had thoroughly comprehended the dao of swords and his combat strength had reached a horrifyingly high level.

But most importantly, this allowed them to know just what Qin Yu's background was.

Immortal Eclipse Valley...

Moreover, there was bound to be an incredibly close connection between them!

What nonsense, if there wasn't a close connection, could they speak like this? If they weren't close, did everyone think that Nascent Souls were some common cabbage that would come scurrying over whenever someone asked for help? Although they didn't want to acknowledge it, the fact was that they had kicked a sheet of iron, and this was an extra heavy extra dense sheet of iron!

Liu Zhi was relatively famous, and Old Freak Cheng and Poison God were also Nascent Soul powerhouses. If the three joined forces, they were incomparably fierce. But, if placed alongside Immortal Eclipse Valley, they could be completely overlooked.

In particular, that old freak Pill Crucible. Although it was said that he was frightened by the Demon Monarch so he hadn't dared to step out of Immortal Eclipse Valley these past years, if one really were to provoke him, it would be simple for him to sneak away for a short while and kill someone.

The Yun Family cultivators were completely bewildered. They never imagined that there would be such a drastic turn of events. As they looked at the pale complexions of Liu Zhi and his allies, their hearts turned from panic to excitement. And as they looked at Qin Yu, their faces filled with awe and worship.

No wonder Senior Qin Yu had been so confident and hadn't placed Liu Zhi and the others in his eyes. It was because he had such strong support!

Hehe, they had quietly entered Snowfall City without anyone noticing them, so was there any need to discuss their strength? They could beat these people in a minute!

Poison God rubbed his head. The poison bees soon vanished without a trace. He laughed and said, "So it is Immortal Eclipse Valley's fellow daoists Jiang and Wang. This is a misunderstanding, everything today was a misunderstanding."

Old Freak Cheng fell silent, his face cold. Although he didn't want to, he restrained his aura. Not everyone had the courage to become enemies with Immortal Eclipse Valley!

The most embarrassed was Liu Zhi, but he was also the calmest one. There was even a light smile on his face. "If I knew earlier that fellow daoist Qin was old friends with Immortal Eclipse Valley, then we would have long since become friends. If I affronted you in any way before this, I ask that fellow daoist Qin please forgive me." Disregarding all else, the thickness of his skin alone couldn't be underestimated.

Qin Yu sneered. "I don't think so. It's easy for me to bear grudges, so I don't plan on forgiving you."

Liu Zhi's smile stiffened. "Then what does fellow daoist Qin want?"

Qin Yu said, "I said before this that fellow daoist Liu's two mountains were quite good. If you give them to me as compensation, then I can write this matter off."

Liu Zhi's complexion changed. His expression darkened. "Fellow daoist Qin, you are going too far!"

Daoist Wang coughed. He pulled Qin Yu over and said in a low remanding voice. “Hey brat, that’s about enough. For better or worse they have three Nascent Souls on their side, so they aren’t much weaker than we are. Moreover, those two mountains you mentioned are the magic tools that made Liu Zhi famous. Why do you think he was given the silly nickname of Skylifting Peak? If you don’t let him retain a little bit of face, you’ll just stir up an ever worse problem!”

Jiang Li nodded, his expression indifferent. “Old Wang is correct. A battle between Nascent Souls is not to be taken lightly. It's best for both sides to calmly step back and make peace with each other.”

Qin Yu revealed a helpless look. He lowered his voice and spoke some words. Then, Daoist Wang’s complexion instantly turned strange, as if he was looking at some unknown being.

Jiang Li’s eyes brightened, his gaze so brilliant that it was like a burning sun. After several deep breaths, his robes began to swirl about as a dreadful sword intent wildly erupted from all around him. He turned and stubbornly eyed Liu Zhi, killing intent soaring around him. “Hand over your Earth Python Beads. Now, immediately!”

Chapter 209 – Gathering All Five Element Magic Swords

When Liu Zhi saw Daoist Wang call Qin Yu over, he knew that today’s matter was almost resolved. Daoist Wang was a wise veteran, so he should know how grave the situation was. This young brat actually wanted his Earth Python Beads? What a joke!

But, what followed caused his eyes to pop open as he was caught completely off guard.

Jiang Li had a violent reaction, and his stance made him seem as if he would immediately start a fight. Liu Zhi cursed inwardly and muttered ‘shit’ beneath his breath. He glared at Qin Yu. He didn’t know just what was said between them that the normally calm and composed Jiang Li would actually turn berserk.

Old Freak Cheng and Poison God were also left bewildered.

Yes, that was right, Immoral Eclipse Valley was extremely fierce. Whether it was in overall strength or their higher level combat strength, they weren’t able to compare at all. But for better or worse, they were still Nascent Souls and there were also three of them. If they weren’t given any face at all, wasn’t that just pushing things too far?

Daoist Wang covered his face with his hand and sighed helplessly. He could only feel sorry for Liu Zhi’s bad luck, that he would meet this brat Qin Yu who would definitely take revenge for the slightest grudge as well as that sword-obsessed crazy, Jiang Li. Hehe, even a trap like that Five Element Sword Diagram had been successfully cultivated by him. He was definitely a freak amongst freaks, there was just no limit to him!

Qin Yu said that the Earth Python Beads were the final materials he needed to refine the last of the Five Element Magic Swords. With his understanding of Jiang Li, that old boy would definitely recklessly risk everything to help Qin Yu. However, as he thought of the Five Element Sword Diagram combined with the Five Element Magic Swords and just what sort of formidable strength they could wield, he also couldn’t help but feel deep anticipation.

With a light cough, Daoist Wang said, “Liu Zhi, you have already played with those two Earth Python Beads for enough years. People say that poverty demands change, and change will lead to solutions.

Your cultivation hasn't advanced at all in these past years and it is because you haven't changed at all. This is the prime opportunity for you to discard those Earth Python Beads and reinvent yourself. So, hurry up and take them out. I'll be good, you'll be good, we'll all be good, and then we can go home."

Liu Zhi nearly laughed with anger. He had seen people not care about face before, but never to such an extent! This old man could even spit out such words!

The surrounding cultivators all had strange complexions. They thought that this lord from Immortal Eclipse Valley was a truly incredible actor. He could actually speak such nonsense with his eyes wide open, and even seem righteous while doing so. However, Jiang Li and Daoist Wang had spoken up one after another, so it was clear that they would take those Earth Python Beads no matter what. In other words, if Liu Zhi didn't agree, what followed would be a struggle between lions and dragons.

Right now, it was four against three. On the surface the disparity in strength wasn't too great. If they really fought, it would be hard to determine victory or defeat in a short period of time, and the battle would definitely be earth-shaking with all sides involved! In fact, perhaps the majority of Snowfall City would be razed in the battle. Everyone looked at each other, not saying anything. They all wanted to hurry up and leave, otherwise if the battle began while they were still here, it would be too late to run.

A good number of people started to flee into the distance. Still, they kept their eyes locked towards the Yun Family residence. While it was the right choice to get back as far as possible, this was still a battle between seven great Nascent Souls. This would be an event they could brag about for the rest of their lives. They absolutely needed to make sure they watched it through!

And there was no need to mention the pained expressions of the Yun Family's people; just the owners of the surrounding courtyards all had ugly complexions. But even if they were threatened with punishment, no one had the courage to jump out and say such death-worthy words like 'seniors, could you please take this fight somewhere else and not trouble us?'

Jiang Li stepped forwards. A sharp sword cry echoed through the void, becoming stronger and stronger as he approached, like a tsunami gathering power as it crashed towards the shore. "Liu Zhi, I will ask you once more, are you going to hand them over or not?"

For the first time ever this Nascent Soul sword cultivator, who hid himself away in Immortal Eclipse Valley and rarely emerged, revealed the entirety of his strength. His entire being seemed to become a great sword that lifted up the skies. No one doubted that if he wanted to, even if rivers and mountains blocked his path, he could still cut through them with a single slash!

Liu Zhi's breath caught in his throat and his heart began to shiver. Although he knew that Jiang Li wasn't weak, he didn't think that the difference between them was too great. It was only now that he realized Jiang Li was already a super powerhouse at the late Nascent Soul realm. While he was only at the seventh level, everyone knew just how mind-bogglingly powerful the offensive capabilities of a sword cultivator were. In terms of combat strength alone, he was absolutely an outstanding person amongst all late Nascent Soul cultivators!

If that sword came slashing down, while Liu Zhi might not die, it would be easy to severely wound him.

Poison God sucked in a deep breath. "Brother Liu, those who understand the times are the wisest. In the end, today's events are our fault, so it is reasonable for us to compensate fellow daoist Qin." These

words were to give Liu Zhi a way out as well as to vaguely indicate his own stance. Jiang Li was so strong, so what good was it to tear apart all pretenses of civility? Moreover, doing so would mean offending Immortal Eclipse Valley. In short, if Liu Zhi refused, he wouldn't help at all.

This was reality. To be able to judge the current situation and adapt to it was the most basic skill of any cultivator. If they couldn't do this, there wouldn't even be ashes left of them.

Old Freak Cheng stayed silent, not speaking. But, that silence was enough to indicate his stance.

Qin Yu looked on with praise. Indeed it was as they said; old ginger was spicier than young ginger. Once Jiang Li took action he was able to suppress three great Nascent Souls. As a late Nascent Soul and a sword cultivator too...hehe, just thinking about it was a headache.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. "Fellow daoist Liu, have you thought about it yet? If you don't hurry up a bit, then I have no idea whether or not I'll want something more." His eyes casually swept over Old Freak Cheng and Poison God, causing the two of them to stiffen.

Liu Zhi was enraged. He had wandered the world for so many years, but he had never been so humiliated; he had never been so bullied! However, just as the fires of his anger rose, he could see a smirk on Qin Yu's lips. His heart skipped a beat and he had a bad premonition. This brat, he wanted to deliberately enrage him and then take advantage of Jiang Li to completely eliminate him and prevent all future troubles!

What ruthless thoughts!

Liu Zhi's thoughts raced. After several tense moments, he clenched his teeth, "Fine! Since fellow daoist Qin insists, then I will agree. Here are the two Earth Python Beads, take good care of them!"

He flipped his palm and took them out. With a flick of his sleeves, he erased his mark from them. A flash of blood red light appeared, and soon after Liu Zhi's face paled. His body shivered, indicating that he was withstanding a terrifying pain.

Jiang Li's eyes shined.

Those two Earth Python Beads were actually blood refined objects! In other words, Liu Zhi had decided to turn them into his life's magic weapons. As a sword cultivator, his sea was located within his dantian, constantly tempered with his Nascent Soul strength. So, he naturally knew how important a life magic tool was to a cultivator; it was no less than a part of their body. Qin Yu taking those Earth Python Beads was similar to cutting off one of his arms or legs, but the result was even more serious.

Even so, Liu Zhi had unexpectedly agreed. It could be seen how strong his willpower was. But at the same time, his hatred towards Qin Yu would grow even greater!

At this moment, Jiang Li even had the impulsion to attack now and immediately kill off Liu Zhi, preventing any future troubles. His eyes turned, falling on Qin Yu.

Qin Yu seemed to sense this sudden rise in killing intent. He thought and shook his head, "I have already accepted the Earth Python Beads, so let's end things here today."

As he spoke, he lifted his hand and received the two Earth Python Beads.

Liu Zhi turned and left. Old Freak Cheng and Poison God followed behind without a word. In the blink of an eye, three great Nascent Souls vanished without a trace. They had come with overwhelming momentum, but when they left they seemed a bit too distressed.

Daoist Wang shook his head. "You cut the grass but not the roots. There will be no end of troubles in your future."

Qin Yu smirked. "You say that quite easily, but are you willing to go all-out?"

Jiang Li restrained his sword intent. "Qin Yu's decision was not wrong. It's already good that we were able to obtain the Earth Python Beads. If Liu Zhi and the other two really fought with everything they had, we would have had to pay a price."

He paused for a moment and then looked over. "Besides, even if we let them leave, Qin Yu didn't seem to be afraid of them at all. The next time we meet, even if all three of them join forces they still might not be his match."

Daoist Wang thought about how after not seeing each other for a few years, the junior of the past now possessed such formidable strength. The speed of his improvement really left one speechless. Thinking about it some more, how many years had he used to reach Golden Core? And how many years had he been stranded at the bottleneck? More and more he thought that people comparing themselves to others was enough to cause one to go insane with irritation.

Qin Yu's lips curled up. "That's right, they have no idea who this young master is!"

Daoist Wang couldn't stand it any longer. He clenched his teeth and roared, "Stop with the nonsense. Do you know what sort of trouble we've caused in order to help you today? You had better guarantee that what you said is true."

Qin Yu played with the two Earth Python Beads in his hand. He smiled, "Just wait and see."

...

Three days later, Qin Yu emerged from his cultivating room. Jiang Li had been personally standing guarding outside. He stood up and hurriedly paced over. "How was it?"

Qin Yu lifted his hand to reveal a brown-colored magic sword the size of his knuckle. It was bright and sparkling with a jade-like luster. He helplessly smiled. "I nearly fell for the trap."

After Liu Zhi refined the two Earth Python Beads into powerful magic tools, he actually didn't erase the Earth Python souls. He had refined them within in order to enhance the power of the magic tools. Before erasing his spirit mark, he issued two final orders to the two Earth Python souls: go into hiding, and when Qin Yu tries to refine you, create as destructive a backlash as you can.

The two Earth Python souls followed these orders. When Qin Yu reached a critical moment in the refinement process, they had attacked. If it wasn't for how strong his soul was, then perhaps they would have really succeeded. In the end, Qin Yu just had to spend a bit more time to destroy the two Earth Python souls and then refine them into a part of the magic swords. Through the twists and turns, this allowed the earth-attribute magic sword to reach perfection and increase its power to a new level.

Jiang Li's gaze was icy cold. In his opinion, at this time Qin Yu had already lifted the flag for all future sword cultivators. As the person he placed the most hope in, he was naturally the most important too. It was good that nothing happened to Qin Yu, otherwise even if he had to search through the heavens and earth, he would find Liu Zhi and kill him!

"So, you have now gathered all Five Element Magic Swords?"

Qin Yu smiled. "That's right."

Daoist Wang voiced up, "Then what are we waiting for? Let's go!"

An hour later, hundreds of miles away from Snowfall City, Qin Yu stood in a mountain valley. Jiang Li and Daoist Wang stood not too far away, watching him with an intense gaze.

Suddenly, Qin Yu lifted his hand and five rays of white, black, blue, red, and yellow surged out from his fingers. Following that, a heaven-shaking sword cry resounded in the air!

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Five beams of light howled through the air, instantly sinking into a thick cliff wall. After several breaths of time, they flew back out and returned to Qin Yu's body. With a loud rumble, an avalanche occurred. The thousand foot high cliff wall that was dozens of feet thick disintegrated in front of three pairs of watchful eyes.

Countless stones tumbled to the ground, shooting into the distance and creating a giant plume of dust and smoke!

Daoist Wang's mouth fell open and shock filled his face.

Jiang Li reared his head back and laughed joyfully into the air. "Great, wonderful! My sword dao lineage has finally found a successor!"

Chapter 210 – Light Up

Ever since the normally apathetic Jiang Li returned from the mountain valley, there was an occasional smile that lit up his face. He seemed to be in an excellent mood.

Daoist Wang curled his lips in disdain as he saw this. He thought that Qin Yu was more than a mere sword cultivator; he was also a formidable alchemist. His pill dao lineage also had a successor, so what was that blind Old Jiang being so smug and happy about?

But even though he thought that, when Daoist Wang thought back to that moment when Qin Yu demonstrated his new skills and instantly crushed that cliff to pieces, he couldn't help but feel a cold chill creep down his back. He thought that he needed to pay a bit more attention to how he spoke to the brat later on, otherwise if they both became irrationally angry for some reason, he wouldn't be able to withstand the consequences.

He thought back to how he had needed to cultivate for so many years to achieve his current strength and yet had been overtaken in such a short period of time, and he couldn't help but feel a bit of loss and

envy. As for jealous hate and other extremely negative emotions like that, there wasn't any need for it. After all, in a manner of speaking that brat Qin Yu was his disciple. As he thought of this, Daoist Wang couldn't help but feel a swell of pride.

Hehe, Old Jiang, oh Old Jiang, when it comes to this you cannot compare to me...ah, well, it seemed that the Five Element Sword Diagram was given to Qin Yu by Jiang Li. And with whatever attainment jade slips he had gifted, the two of them would be on equal ground.

Qin Yu put forward the idea of having Gu Ling'er and her five senior-apprentice sisters join Immortal Eclipse Valley together. Then, after suffering a few taunts from Daoist Wang, the matter was settled like that.

Gu Ling'er greeted the two old fellows and unsurprisingly obtained a harvest of two gifts. And, they were also extremely precious treasures. This left Gu Ling'er shocked speechless. It was only with Qin Yu's assistance that she was able to express her gratitude towards the two.

During this time, everyone within the Yun Family tried their best to flatter these two in the hopes that relations could be a bit better with Immortal Eclipse Valley. To the Yun Family, this was the most important matter.

Yun Fan broke into Nascent Soul, so the Yun Family still had a certain level of status. Daoist Wang was also quite polite when he dealt with them. It was unknown what sort of private agreement he reached with Yun Fan, but the two of them smiled and laughed happily.

Qin Yu didn't have any time to pay attention to these things. Right now, under the careful guidance of Jiang Li, he was beginning the blood refinement of the Five Element Magic Swords, refining their virtual forms into being his life magic tool.

When it came to this, grandmaster sword cultivator Jiang Li had enough staying power to speak about the subject. In his words, Qin Yu was extremely lucky. Most people only had one life magic weapon, but he had five of them. In the future as his cultivation rose he would constantly nourish them and their power would also rise. At that time, they would truly be fierce!

After using up an entire month, he had basically finished refining the Five Element Magic Swords. He fused them into his dantian sea, where they each hung above their respective Golden Cores. They circulated with the aura of the Golden Cores, constantly transforming.

"Qin Yu, from now on as you nourish your magic swords, you need to pay attention to the losses to yourself and find the best balancing point. Otherwise, I fear you will damage yourself." This was the only hidden danger. After all, these five life magic weapons would be an enormous burden on any cultivator.

Qin Yu nodded. "I will pay extra attention to this."

Daoist Wang drank a mouthful of wine and impatiently said, "You two really are something. You went into seclusion for an entire month for this? Aren't you bored of it already? I strongly request to change the topic!"

He rubbed his chin. "For instance, whether you really swallowed the tribulation cloud when Yun Fan was crossing tribulation."

The dissatisfaction completely scattered from Jiang Li's face to reveal a vigilant look. It was clear he was also concerned about this.

Qin Yu thought about it. "I don't want to lie to you two, but there really are some things I can't speak about. However, if I am purely answering your last words...yes, that is what happened."

Daoist Wang smashed his lips together and started to mutter to himself. It was clear he was thinking back to the saying that freaks had no limits, and it was also obvious that this wasn't some good phrase to him.

Jiang Li looked over. His gaze was deep and profound, but he didn't press further. However, Daoist Wang started to casually speak, "You really went all out for Yun Fan. Could it be you took a liking to their young miss? That girl Yun Xueqing, she's not too bad looking."

Qin Yu shook his head. "No, it is mainly because I need to swallow a massive amount of heavenly tribulation. Because of certain reasons I can't speak of, it is beneficial to me."

Daoist Wang's face froze. "Are you saying that the reason you helped Yun Fan cross tribulation was not because you wanted to help him, but because you needed heavenly tribulation?"

Qin Yu nodded. "That's right."

Daoist Wang's face was incredibly ugly. He gnashed his teeth together, as if he had rage within him but no way to let it out.

Qin Yu blinked his eyes. He turned and asked, "What's his problem?"

Jiang Li had a light expression. "Oh, are you referring to Old Wang? There's nothing actually wrong with him. It's just that when he attempted crossing his tribulation, he was nearly fried to charcoal by the tribulation lightning. I think some mental issues resulted from it."

"Shut up!" Daoist Wang roared. "When we cultivators cultivate, we should rely entirely upon ourselves! Have you never heard of the old saying before? The blade of a treasure sword is sharpened from stone and the fragrance of the plum blossom is sweetest coming from the bitter cold. Only by depending on ourselves can we become truly powerful! Yun Fan didn't personally experience the full baptism of heavenly tribulation, and this will surely become his life's greatest regret!"

His words were deep and booming. His expression was filled with an arrogant pride of having crossed his tribulation himself. But, he actually couldn't hide the lines of envy and annoyance etched in his face.

Then, Yun Fan just happened to arrive and give Daoist Wang another twist of the knife. He said, "I actually think it is very good. If someone can break through without having to cross tribulation, only a fool would say that they wouldn't!"

Old Wang felt as if he had been struck 100,000 times. He flicked his sleeves and hid himself away in his room.

However, when Qin Yu proposed that he hoped to obtain even more heavenly tribulation, he encountered resistance from Jiang Li.

“The matter of Snowfall City’s Yun Fan crossing tribulation may have spread out widely, but the vast majority of people only believe they are rumors; they would never believe something like that. In their opinion, how could something like heavenly tribulation be swallowed by a human?” Jiang Li had a solemn expression. “This is a concept deeply-rooted in their minds and also the greatest hidden danger. If there is a second or third time, and they have determined that you really can swallow heavenly tribulation, have you considered what sort of dangers you will have to face then?”

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. “I naturally thought of it, but heavenly tribulation is just too important for me right now. Even if I know that the risks are great, I can only accept them.”

Jiang Li’s eyebrows tightened together. If Qin Yu said it like that, then he must have his reasons. He thought about it over again and then said, “Perhaps we can think outside the box. You can hide your identity and go to a place where no one knows you and obtain heavenly tribulation there.”

“Where?”

Jiang Li faintly smiled. “The sea region!” He didn’t notice the strange look that flashed on Qin Yu’s face as he continued to say, “The sea region is endlessly vast and the sea monster races are incomparably formidable. They have countless powerhouses, so if you help them cross tribulation, do you think there won’t be enough heavenly tribulation? There are enough sea races. If they were able to completely destroy humanity, they would have already tried to do so. Not being able to leave the sea region is their greatest limitation and also the reason why I want you to go there. Otherwise, if you were to do whatever you wanted on the mainland, you would surely stir up a great calamity...”

Speaking to here, Jiang Li paused for a moment as if he had forgotten something. After several breaths of time, he looked up at Qin Yu. “Just several days ago, in the Northern Dynasty mountains, it was reported that a great Nascent Soul monster was born there. This matter shouldn’t be...”

Qin Yu dryly laughed. “If you are speaking of a lascivious white tiger, then that should be it.”

Jiang Li was left speechless for a long time. “Qin Yu, do you know why for all these past years – even though there are so many demons, monsters, and spirits on the mainland – one at the Nascent Soul step has never appeared?”

Qin Yu’s eyes widened.

“That’s right, it’s exactly what you think. It’s because we humans, whether it be the righteous or demonic path, have purposefully suppressed the strength of the monster races on the mainland, preventing them from rising!” Jiang Li frowned. “But now, the entire suppression plan has been destroyed by you. Once the first Nascent Soul appears amongst the monster race, there is a far higher possibility that a second and third will appear. Have you ever thought that perhaps someday us humans will have to withstand a potent threat from them?”

Qin Yu had an awkward expression. At the start he had only been worried about obtaining heavenly tribulation, so how could he think of all these variables?

Jiang Li shook his head. “It looks like I was right to suggest you go to the sea region. If you continue to mess around here, you might stir up more trouble!”

Qin Yu’s awkward expression deepened.

Jiang Li had a puzzled look. "Was there something wrong with what I said? Or is there something that you can't speak about?"

Qin Yu coughed. "Mm...not too long ago, I just came back from the sea region. Some things happened while I was there, so it's not convenient for me to return for the time being."

Jiang Li was left speechless. He looked straight at Qin Yu but found himself at a loss for words.

Just who was this person? In such a great world, he actually made trouble wherever he went. He couldn't stay here nor could he go there.

He couldn't help but admit that this could be considered skill. After all, if one didn't have skill, they couldn't accomplish this.

But you brat, aren't you messing around a bit too much!?

"If you can't go to the sea region for now, then there is nothing I can do. But, I want to remind you not to help anyone else cross tribulation."

Qin Yu nodded. He bitterly smiled.

Somehow, this matter was discovered by Daoist Wang. Daoist Wang ran over to scold and taunt Qin Yu, but the meaning behind his words was crystal clear: listen to Old Jiang, he's not wrong!

Qin Yu was moved, but he still didn't make up his mind. The little blue lamp was different; it was his foundation and his hope. For every day that it didn't recover, Qin Yu wouldn't be able to rest easy. How could he just wait forever?

Perhaps feeling Qin Yu's chagrin and dilemma, after being ridiculed by Daoist Wang for two days, as the dark of night approached, the little blue lamp which had been dormant for so long lit up without any warning at all. Seeing the deep blue light, Qin Yu felt as if he was seeing a friend after a long separation. Then, a wonderful feeling began to surge from deep in his heart. It was like his soul was flying, and even this pitch black night seemed to become lovable.

The blue lamp shined!

It shined!

Qin Yu carefully held onto it, as if he were afraid the slightest shake would cause it to extinguish. Luckily, the deep blue light continued to radiate without any sign of fading.

"Heavenly tribulation...still need...more..." These faint fluctuations resounded in Qin Yu's mind. He revealed a thoughtful look. He could feel that the little blue lamp had passed its most difficult time, and while it still needed heavenly tribulation, the desire wasn't too urgent.

This gave Qin Yu a great buffer of time.

Several days passed and the little blue lamp bloomed every night. Qin Yu finally felt relieved, but at the same time he fell deep into thought about what he should do.

Two days later, Qin Yu pushed open the door and found Jiang Li and Daoist Wang, telling them that it was okay to leave now. He looked at Gu Ling'er's hesitant expression and smiled, tracing her head.

“Don’t worry, this time I will go together with you. I provoked a good number of people in the past, so to avoid you being bullied, I will need to arrange some things.”

This was certainly an excuse.

The most important reason he wanted to go to Immortal Eclipse Valley was because his whereabouts had already been exposed, and the demonic path would find out sooner or later. In the war between the righteous and demonic, he became a thorn in the demonic path’s side. In addition to what happened in the sea region with the Saint Furnace, Qin Yu believed that the Demon Monarch wouldn’t mind personally coming to kill him.

Throughout the world, only Immortal Eclipse Valley was safe.

Of course, another reason was because Immortal Eclipse Valley had its Pill Disposal Department. Now that the little blue lamp had lit up again, he could obtain cultivation resources once more.

He bid his farewells to the Yun Family, then, with his group, they walked towards Immortal Eclipse Valley.