

Refining 531

Chapter 531A - Holy Nether Guard Commander

Five days had passed since the Demon Body test. The punishment that Qin Yu gave Gong Zhen and his two cohorts was both benevolent and cruel.

To say it was benevolent was because this punishment was an easy task to complete and there was almost no difficulty at all.

To say it was cruel was because since that day, Gong Zhen and the other two had disappeared, no longer making an appearance.

Many Demonic Path cultivators thought of Qin Yu's methods and subconsciously trembled.

Even if some people wanted to grab onto his thigh, they didn't dare to casually have any thoughts of him.

Because Qin Yu's punishment was – streaking naked for an hour.

Yes, it was exactly this. Even if there was a woman amongst the group, Qin Yu was as cold and callous as iron. There was not an iota of sympathy in his eyes.

It wasn't that Gong Zhen and the other two didn't think of refusing, but there were numerous witnesses that day, and Qin Yu's request didn't surpass their bottom lines either.

And most importantly, did they dare to refuse a white sun boundary talent?

If they obediently stripped off their clothes and ran for an hour, losing face was inevitable. But perhaps with this they could forget this matter.

Even if they tore apart all pretense of face, while Qin Yu might not be able to do anything to them momentarily, what about later?

No one wanted to be remembered by Qin Yu. Even Calamity Immortals had to be cautious, much less three new Demonic Path disciples.

Gong Zhen was the first to agree. He tore off his robes and began to earnestly run around.

Bao Yihan was the second.

When that chuckling woman from before started running, her tears fell directly onto her chest. The sight was like the arrival of spring, tinged with a hint of pity.

Within the Demonic Path, something like streaking might have appeared before. But, to see two men and one woman do it together, this was a considerably rare sight. And because of the commotion that Qin Yu had caused, many people were paying attention to him, so even more people saw this.

It was unknown how many Demonic Path cultivators widened their eyes, their eyebrows flying up even as they sighed with emotion. Were the new Demonic Path disciples so eager to horse around?

While the streaking event was still occurring, Qin Yu had already stopped paying attention to it. He used this sort of 'vicious' method in order to set up his own prestige and inform everyone that if they wanted to deal with him, they would have to be prepared for the consequences!

Now that his goal was achieved, he could toss it into the back of his mind.

Right now, Qin Yu was wondering who would be the first to contact him.

He learnt about the white sun talent boundary by talking to Zhao Qianyuan afterwards. At the same time, he was given a vague reminder.

Qin Yu mulled over things. Zhao Qianyuan shouldn't be wrong. Right now, the attention of most high level figures in the Demonic Path should be focused on him.

Five days should be enough time for all the various factions of the Demonic Path to reach a compromise.

Within the large dwelling at the summit of the mountain, Qin Yu's eyes flashed with an inexplicable light.

But the person he expected hadn't appeared. Rather, another guest appeared outside his dwelling.

Seeing Sun Zifu being welcomed in, Qin Yu's heart brightened. "Come and take a seat."

Sun Zifu shook his head, a look of shame on his face. "I know that fellow daoist Yao must be mocking me in your heart, but I am only one of the sons of the Sun Family. While I have some authority and status, I don't have the qualifications to make decisions on my own."

He took out a storage ring. "This is the reward that I promised fellow daoist Yao, along with some more as the Sun Family's apology. I hope that fellow daoist can accept it."

Once he laid down the storage ring, Sun Zifu turned to leave. But after taking several steps, he paused and said, "Right now, there are many people watching. The situation in the Demonic Path seems calm, but there are actually turbulent waves surging beneath the surface. Fellow daoist Yao must be extra careful and consider things twice before doing anything."

He came quickly and left just as quickly. Compared to before, Sun Zifu seemed to have experienced some changes. Qin Yu's eyes flashed. He picked up the storage ring.

Demon Body Tempering Pill.

He had long since heard of its name. Compared to the agreed amount, there was 50% more, a total of 30.

The rest were completely spirit stones. The Sun Family didn't disappoint their title as the wealthiest noble family within the Demonic Path; their show of wealth was extravagant. However, after the events of selling the precelestial wood to the Immortal Sect in Four Seasons City, Qin Yu had a mind-boggling amount of spirit stones on him. So, he looked over the amount several times and received it, not caring too much.

He picked up a Demon Body Tempering Pill. After probing it a bit, he discovered there wasn't anything wrong. He also scraped off a little bit of powder and tested it. When it was confirmed to be safe, he swallowed it down.

A moment later, Qin Yu opened his eyes, an additional color in his eyes. This Demon Body Tempering Pill was really something good; it could unexpectedly directly promote his Demon Body boundary.

Unfortunately, the Emperor level Demon Body was like a vast sea. The strength of the Demon Body Tempering Pill was a small stream. Even describing it as a glass of water wouldn't be an exaggeration.

This pill was most suited to cultivators who had just started cultivating the Demon Body. If such a person would take it, they would be able to double their cultivation speed with half the effort.

Qin Yu shook his head. He glanced at the remaining 29 pills and put them away.

With his Demon Body boundary, using these pills to cultivate was just a waste.

However, Qin Yu couldn't blame the Sun Family for their gift being unable to help him. Not to mention that they had agreed upon this long ago, but to the outside world, it appeared that Qin Yu's Demon Body cultivation hadn't even crossed the threshold yet. To deliver him 30 Demon Body Tempering Pills was already incredibly generous.

Whatever. If he had a chance later, he would simply trade them away. These 29 Demon Body Tempering Pills possessed a high exchange value in the Demonic Path.

The day after Sun Zifu left, the person Qin Yu had been waiting for finally came to contact him. While it wasn't some great figure, their status actually wasn't low.

The Holy Palace's True Demon Guard Commander had an even and temperate tone as he spoke, "Fellow daoist Yao Bin, I am here upon orders to inform you to pack up your things today. You will be entering the Endless Sea to cultivate."

Although his voice was even, it was also warm. But deep in his eyes, there was a hint of confusion as well as traces of sympathy. The Endless Sea...yes, this was a good place to cultivate. But, no one within the Demonic Path would go there on their own initiative.

A white sun boundary talent. Forgetting his title as a Holy Demon Son, how could this person suddenly be exiled?

Commander Liu Shen couldn't figure it out. But, he had always been a prudent person. He would never ask things that he didn't have the qualifications to know.

He smiled and cupped his hands together. After bidding his farewells, the commander left. Some people would naturally come to handle this later.

Soon, news spread throughout the mountain. Many disciples were disturbed and terrified all this time, and at the same time they couldn't help but feel envious of Qin Yu. After hearing this news, they let out a long breath and started to laugh out joyously in their hearts.

The rumors were indeed true. This surname Yao possessed unparalleled talent, but he was actually regarded as a threat by others. Being banished into the Endless Sea was the best proof of it! If this

surname Yao had known he would suffer such a fate today, would he regret his performance being too dazzling?

Tsk tsk. As it was said, sometimes blessings were misfortune in disguise. These words couldn't be any more right!

Chapter 531B - Holy Nether Guard Commander

The throne of the Holy Palace was empty so the main palace had been sealed away. Unless a new Holy Monarch was born, no one could open it. Luckily, the Demon Envoy had his own inheritance. He controlled an attached branch of the Holy Palace so he was able to control his own small corner. Although it wasn't as magnificent and boundless as the main body of the Holy Palace, its deep and vigorous momentum still left one feeling awe and wonder.

Within a dark-hued temple, countless shadow runes seemed to constantly weave about, as if following some specific rules.

These shadow runes separated the entire temple from the outside world. Everything that happened within was undetectable from the outside world.

Because of this, the Demon Envoy always liked to contemplate important matters here. He knew what sort of situation the Holy Palace faced right now. Any careless negligence would likely arouse massive quakes.

Of course, besides that, there was also another important reason.

An old voice echoed throughout the temple. "By sending him into the Endless Sea, on the surface it might seem as if he is being exiled, but in reality it is the best possible choice for him. Otherwise, for how long will you be able to protect him from the overt spears and hidden arrows? As long as he is given enough time to grow, we will have won."

The Demon Envoy had a respectful voice, "Teacher speaks wisely."

If anyone heard these words, the entire Demonic Path would be shaken. This was because the Demon Envoy only had one teacher, and that was the previous Demon Envoy.

According to the Demonic Path's rules of inheritance, if a new Demon Envoy was born, that meant the previous Demon Envoy had perished. For hundreds of millions of years, this had never gone awry in the Demonic Path.

But now, there had clearly been some sort of accident.

The Demon Envoy hesitated for a moment. "I am only worried that Yao Bin will be discouraged or disheartened by this. If his mental state is harmed, it won't be possible for him to make another breakthrough in his Demon Body."

The old voice was calm. "While I haven't seen him with my own eyes, according to what you say, he is an extremely splendid and talented junior. He must have his own thoughts. And if he is able to reach the Emperor level Demon Body at his age, the lucky chances he must have encountered cannot be imagined by either of us. We have already made the best possible choice now. As for how he walks down this road afterwards, that will all depend on him."

The Demon Envoy hesitated and nodded.

The previous Demon Envoy added, "The Endless Sea may be a forbidden zone, but you must prepare for unexpected possibilities."

The Demon Envoy respectfully said, "Teacher, rest assured that I have made arrangements."

...

The Endless Sea was located deep within the Demonic Path's small world. The waters were blue and clear and a warm sea breeze brushed against one's face, bringing with it the faint and unique scent of the sea. The sand of the beach was clean and pure. Seagulls with white wings and red beaks flew through the skies in graceful arcs.

Beneath the nine shining great suns, the sea sparkled with beauty and allure. In terms of appearance alone, this environment fascinated the heart and mind.

But in fact, this gorgeous sea was actually a place where numerous bones were buried. Throughout the recorded history of the Holy Palace, besides Holy Monarch Yuan Shen who was unaccounted for, all previous Holy Monarchs were buried here. Even many great figures of the Holy Palace were entombed in the Holy Mausoleum.

Without permission, no one could arbitrarily approach the Endless Sea. Otherwise it would be considered a great insult to the previous generations of Holy Monarchs, and this was a crime that no one could withstand. Thus, the speedcar delivering Qin Yu here stopped far away. Then, everyone got out and bowed respectfully towards the distant sea.

Qin Yu stood amongst the group, his body straight and tall as he looked at the Endless Sea. His eyes flashed and he seemed to understand something. It seemed that in the inner struggle occurring within the Demonic Path at this moment, the side that wanted to protect him had temporarily won. Otherwise he wouldn't be facing such comfortable and carefree scenery right now.

Qin Yu recalled the information that Zhao Qianyuan hurriedly sent him and sighed. The Demon Body talent examination had placed him in an unprecedented limelight, but at the same time it had caused him to fall into a great deal of trouble. But he didn't regret it. If he had the chance to redo things, he would still choose to make the same choice. In any case, this matter wasn't something he was able to control to begin with.

"Fellow daoist Yao Bin, I can only deliver you this far." A True Demon Guard cupped his hands together and bowed. He took out a wooden box and presented it. "Inside here is the Holy Nether Guard Command Token as well as your letter of appointment. After entering the Endless Sea, it will immediately take effect. Please accept it."

Historically, the Holy Palace had two armed forces beneath its command. The first was the True Demon Guard and the second was the Holy Nether Guard. To some extent, the Holy Nether Guard was even stronger than the True Demon Guard!

But this was only the situation recorded in the historical texts. Ever since the last Holy Monarch emerged, the throne had been empty now for over 100,000 years. The Holy Nether Guard had retreated into the Endless Sea and could not return without the Holy Monarch.

In that long span of 100,000 years, the last formidable batch of Holy Nether Guards had already completely died off. All that were left over were a few large cats now. Moreover, as long as a new Holy Monarch didn't appear, the Holy Nether Guard would never be able to leave the Endless Sea. As a result, being appointed as the Holy Nether Guard Commander was actually quite pitiful.

Qin Yu was able to perceive the grief, confusion, and empathy in the eyes of this guard. He maintained his composure and received the wooden box. Then, he nodded and left.

If he had been exiled into the Endless Sea before the Demon Body talent examination, he would surely have been left disappointed. He might have even thought of numerous ways to leave.

But now, all he felt was confidence.

He was just a step away from reaching the Saint level required for the throne. Once he smoothly took this last step, he would be directly in charge of the Holy Palace. To describe this as 'leaping into the skies with a single bound' was far from sufficient.

The reason he put on such a high profile performance was in order to obtain serious attention from the high level figures of the Demonic Path and then make use of their tremendous cultivation resources to become as formidable as possible and become a truly great and pivotal character.

But Qin Yu had an even better choice now. As long as his Demon Body made a breakthrough to the Saint level he would become the master of the Holy Palace. In an instant, he would become one of the most revered people in the entire world. Why reject what was near at hand to seek something so far away?

Entering the Endless Sea might look as if he was being exiled, but he had actually obtained a calm and steady cultivation environment where he could focus on his training. To Qin Yu, there were a hundred benefits and no harms. As for those mocking and sympathetic looks...well, people could think whatever they wanted, he didn't care at all. Not just that, but time would prove everything.

The group of True Demon Guards that brought Qin Yu here all looked at his tall and straight back as he faced the Endless Sea. He stood composed, his shoulders stable as a mountain. As they thought back to how calm he had been the entire way here, they couldn't help but reveal looks of admiration.

Disregarding all else, just this conduct and bearing was truly worthy of a powerful figure with a white sun boundary talent.

The True Demon Guard who handed over the wooden box took a deep breath and suppressed his emotions. "The mission has been completed. Let's leave!"

The group mounted the speedcar. With the low rumble of it activating, it soon flew into the horizon, disappearing without a trace.

Thus, in this boundless blue world, looking in all directions, only Qin Yu's figure was left remaining, silently welcoming the nine great suns shining above his head.

His steps weren't quick, but they were firm and steady. He moved forwards step-by-step without a single pause until he arrived at the edge of the Endless Sea. Everywhere he looked, the sea waves, the sea breeze, the white sands beneath his feet and the seagulls flying in the air; everything composed a beautiful picture.

Qin Yu's lips lifted in a happy smile. It wasn't just because of how beautiful the scenery around him was, but also because of how thick the heaven and earth spiritual energy was.

It was just like how Zhao Qianyuan described it. Although the Endless Sea was considered a land of exile, it was almost the most suitable cultivation land within the Demonic Path. If it weren't for the fact that one had to join the Holy Nether Guard to enter this forbidden zone and couldn't leave without the holy command, then people would have already punched each other black and blue trying to fight for the spots to come here.

Qin Yu took out the token which represented the commander of the Holy Nether Guard. This thing had started to send out a faint light after he entered the Endless Sea region, indicating that it was already working. But this beach was still empty, without the shadow of a single person. All he could see were several tattered wooden boats tied to a wharf and slowly bobbing up and down in the water.

It seemed that this 'commander' wasn't cared for by anyone.

Qin Yu shook his head. He walked to the first wooden boat and glanced at it. The bottom was broken.

He took several more steps and looked at the second boat; it was also broken.

The third and fourth were also ruined. After that...alright, if one considered these pieces of broken wood that were tied up in chains as ships, there were a total of five boats.

"The resentment is deep..." Qin Yu muttered beneath his breath. But there wasn't much discontent in his eyes. These people had possessed potent cultivations, and yet they were trapped in this tomb-like land where they were forced to die in unwillingness and sorrow. To witness the fates of their fathers, grandfathers, and even further back, it was natural for the current generation of Holy Nether Guards to feel some sense of enmity.

On the other hand, if Qin Yu had arrived today to a warm and boisterous reception, he would have been wondering whether or not these people were planning on assassinating him in order to vent their frustration and indignations on him.

The wooden boats were all bad. Okay, there was no need to say this. Then, it was time to be a bit more pragmatic and start repairing these boats. The Endless Sea was a sea, but it was more than what he saw right now. If he wanted to truly enter the Endless Sea, he needed the key to open it.

And that was what these wooden boats were.

He dismantled three wooden boats and nailed the planks together, barely cobbling together a boat. Although its appearance was ugly, it should be usable.

Taking a step onto the boat, Qin Yu flicked his sleeves. The pieced together boat started to sail deep into the Endless Sea.

Chapter 532A – An Unwelcome Person

The wooden boat broke through the tumbling waves. Looking out from the shore, it disappeared from sight after a short several breaths of time.

At the front of the boat, Qin Yu had a sudden feeling. He looked backwards and saw that the coast really had disappeared. All that remained around him was the vast and endless sea, extending as far as the eyes could see.

The Endless Sea. Its name came from the boundless sea and the limitless borders one saw upon entering it.

Beneath the boat, on the surface of the wooden planks that had been cobbled together, mottled runes began to appear. Perhaps because they were incomplete and broken, the runes on this boat gave off an extremely unreliable feeling.

Qin Yu looked down and subconsciously frowned. He wondered, would there be trouble if this ship couldn't break open the entrance? Then his thoughts took a darker turn. If these Holy Nether Guards that had inherited the work of their fathers really did decide to retaliate against him and pretend they didn't know anything...

As Qin Yu was thinking about what he should do at this time, the boat began to tremble. Then, the sea water in front of him started to separate, revealing a tunnel leading straight to the seabed.

The wooden boat dove beneath the surface.

Qin Yu relaxed a little. It looked like even if these people had complaints, they were just complaints; they didn't dare to push things too far. But just as this thought appeared, less than a breath of time later he discovered that he had been too optimistic in his thoughts.

Bang –

The two high walls of water around him suddenly burst apart and two giant fish rushed out. Their mouths had dark blue spikes. Although he didn't know how strong these spikes were, looking at how they shined with an almost metallic luster, it probably wouldn't feel good to be struck by them.

From the bodies of these two large fish, Qin Yu sensed the aura of them being controlled. These soul fluctuations were weak, but they couldn't conceal themselves from the Cosmic Seacross Bell's sensory powers.

Meimei ruthlessly mocked, "Qin Yu, you really are someone who was born with a corona of hatred. No matter where you go there are always people who find you unpleasant to their eyes!"

Hey you smelly little brat, are you forgetting who it was that spent so much effort to find you food before? Dismantling a bridge after crossing, are you really sure you want to play this game of abandoning your benefactor after getting what you wanted?

Of course, mockery was just mockery. If she needed to help, she would help. Meimei professed that she was a person of principle, and this human food-detector called Qin Yu was really useful to her.

Hum –

The Cosmic Seacross Bell began to lightly tremble. An invisible impact spread out, crushing the soul control upon the two large fish. The eyes of the two vicious fish suddenly froze and then looked around in a frightened daze, as if blabbering out loud, "Shit, how did we get here?"

They turned and ripped open the walls of water, fleeing for their lives.

...

Deep within the Endless Sea there was a large city. The array formations that guarded the city were stern and solemn, and a killing intent soared into the heavens. Right now, somewhere in a large dwelling within the city, a group of young cultivators had gathered together. There were men and women and they all had excited looks on their faces.

But at this time, all of them were silent, even holding their breath for fear of disturbing the woman who sat cross-legged in the center. She wore a sea-blue dress and her appearance was as gorgeous and fascinating as a painting. Just by sitting there, she seemed as if she had merged into one with the surrounding world.

No, this wasn't fusion with the heavens and earth. Rather, it was with the sea that was above their heads, one that was vast and beautiful and yet served to imprison them!

Suddenly, the woman's body trembled and her eyes flew open. Blood flowed out from the corners of her lips.

The excited young men and women were all stunned before they revealed looks of shock. They never imagined this would be the result.

A young man at the front of the crowd stepped forward. He was of average height but the aura he gave off was astonishingly strong. When he furrowed his eyebrows, it actually made others looking at him feel a stabbing pain in their eyes. They quickly moved out of the way.

"Lanlan, what happened?" His voice was deep and gentle, containing a steadiness that didn't match his young age. Unconsciously, the flustered crowd began to calm down.

Hai Lanlan lowered her head in contemplation for several moments. Then she said, "This person's soul cultivation is extremely high. He almost instantaneously discovered me and severed my control." She wiped the blood from her mouth and said, "It's only my soul that is a little shaken; there shouldn't be any problems. I am going to try one more time."

Speaking up until here, her eyes began to brighten.

But Hai Lanlan didn't get the chance to try again. Several middle-aged people with a dignified bearing suddenly pushed open the door and rushed in.

"You are recklessly causing trouble!"

Their reprimand was harsh, but these middle-aged people actually felt helpless inside. Unless they really wanted to tear apart any pretense of face, while they could allow these juniors to play around once, they couldn't let them do so a second time.

The Holy Nether Guards were the wardens of the Endless Sea. This was the iron law established at the very creation of the Holy Palace. These were rules that penetrated deep into their bloodline, an unchangeable truth. From the moment they were born, this was doomed to be their destiny.

They could be discontent with the situation, but they could never rebel. Otherwise, all of them wouldn't be able to withstand the consequences of their actions.

If it weren't for this, why would the illustrious and formidable Holy Nether Guard of the past be stranded here for 100,000 years after the fall of the last Holy Monarch, waiting here in despair and unwillingness until the eventual arrival of their deaths?

"All of you are to be confined. Without my permission, no one can come out!"

Hai Lanlan, Liang Shou, and the others bowed before leaving.

"The Holy Land has ignored us for 100,000 years and now they have suddenly sent a Lord Commander here. What do you all think of this matter?"

"Just step back and wait a little. Everything will make itself clear eventually."

"Humph! He had best recognize the clear reality around him. If he really thinks that he is our commander and makes some presumptuous request, I definitely will not be polite."

Within the silence, a deep infernal energy percolated in the air.

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After the attack of the big fish, the trip through the water went smoothly. This was actually unexpected. It seemed that these Holy Nether Guard people didn't dare to push things too far. Qin Yu smiled and a light flashed in his eyes. It was unknown just what he was thinking.

Around a quarter of an hour later, when the dilapidated wooden boat came to a stop, what appeared in front of Qin Yu was a city brimming with slaughter energy.

But this was different from the sea race capital city that Qin Yu had been to before. This city wasn't built upon the seabed. Rather, it hung high in the extreme depths of the Endless Sea, using seawater as support.

This was a large floating city!

Qin Yu revealed a look of acclaim. To build such a grand city in the ever-changing and unpredictable depths of the sea, the difficulty of doing so could be imagined. And what left him even more awed was the dense and strong atmosphere of the city before him.

Even if these people had been trapped in the Endless Sea for 100,000 years with countless people dying here in unwillingness, if they could still maintain such a momentum, this Holy Nether Guard truly lived up to their reputation.

The Emperor level Demon Body was just a single step away from the Saint level; this fact really did leave one shivering in excitement and elation. But, even if he really did smoothly manage to make a breakthrough and succeed the throne of the Holy Monarch, Qin Yu was someone who had no foundation in the Demonic Path and didn't even have a single person he could trust. Just how much of the actual authority and power of a Holy Monarch would he possess? It would be nothing but a nice title and some superficial dignity.

This wasn't what Qin Yu wanted. So, he needed to find a strength of his own within the Demonic Path. If this was what he wanted, then being exiled into the Endless Sea and becoming the commander of the Holy Nether Guard was the best choice for him no matter how he looked at it.

If he could bring the Holy Nether Guard under his control...Qin Yu's racing heart slowed down. It was too early to consider these things. He needed to slowly and gradually walk down this road.

At this time, the city gates opened from within and a large number of armored Holy Nether Guards rushed out. These Holy Nether Guards were similar to the True Demon Guards in appearance. However, their armor was bright crimson red, as if they had been dyed in endless blood. A cold killing intent quietly spread out in all directions, scaring away the fish within a massive distance and stirring up innumerable white flowers in the water.

Four figures stood in the front. Some were taller and some were shorter, but the auras they emanated were as solid and strong as a mountain. It seemed as if they could bear the stars and the moon on their shoulders. Their eyes were cold and without any warmth, like icy spears thrusting forward.

Qin Yu's gaze was light. It was as if he wasn't standing on some tattered wooden boat he had cobbled together, but a supreme throne of authority. He looked back at the four people, and his carefree and unflustered aura naturally revealed itself.

There was a deep silence. The atmosphere turned heavy and tense, and an invisible oppression made it hard to breathe.

But the silence was inevitably broken. Second from the left, this person in blood red armor that was neither the tallest or shortest suddenly cupped his hands together and bowed. "Holy Nether Guard Vice Commander Fu Shan greets the Lord Commander!"

The three people beside him as well as the numerous Holy Nether Guards behind them all simultaneously bowed, their scaled armors rustling together, sounding as if great waves were crashing deep below the sea. Then, that originally astonishing killing intent suddenly increased, reaching a situation that left one's mind trembling.

In the blink of an eye, the large floating city below the sea suddenly transformed into a terrifying large beast that had been imprisoned, its mouth open as it roared towards the heavens in anger.

Qin Yu's eyes paused a moment and he immediately smiled. It wasn't a bright smile, but it gave off a feeling of warm spring flowers. In this situation where slaughter energy reverberated through the world, many people across from him were left stunned by his actions. They thought, this boy really had some skills!

"I've troubled the Vice Commander and the others to wait here for so long. It really is embarrassing of me."

Fu Shan stood up, his calm demeanor unchanging. "Lord Command speaks too seriously. As subordinates, this is our duty."

Qin Yu smiled and nodded, "You are all too courteous."

Behind Fu Shan, the three lieutenants frowned. Was this boy not going to mention what happened while he was travelling here? Was he going to temporarily hold it back for now, or did he have something else in mind?

Chapter 532B – An Unwelcome Person

A person suddenly walked forward and said, “This subordinate is the First Lieutenant Yuan Zhen. I would like to take the liberty to ask the Lord Commander a question. The Holy Palace has ignored us for 100,000 years, but they have suddenly dispatched a Commander here. What instructions are there for us?”

These words weren’t polite, but it was a strategy that the several of them had already discussed before arriving here. Since this new Commander was a mysterious variable with unknown intentions, they would take the initiative to launch an attack. Of course, they had also prepared for any further possibilities. Regardless of how this Commander responded, they would be able to control the situation.

As for why they were so confident? That was simple...this was the Endless Sea. This was the place they had lived in and managed for countless generations. Although they weren’t able to free themselves from the shackles of their destiny, a newly arrived Commander couldn’t shake their positions.

Qin Yu’s smile didn’t change. He shook his head. “In truth, even I don’t know why I was sent here, much less as the Commander of the Holy Nether Guards.” This was the truth, so he spoke confidently. “So, I really cannot reply to Lieutenant Yuan Zhen’s question...I suppose that everything can continue as it was before.”

Yuan Zhen was clearly stunned. He had come up with all sorts of tentative plans, to be aggressive, to be soft, to admit defeat a little...but he had never expected this to be the result. Listening to the meaning behind these words, it seemed this new Commander had been...exiled here?

But as this thought appeared, he quickly suppressed it. He had almost been tricked! If this person really had been exiled here and sent to join the Holy Nether Guards, his entire life would be ruined already. Why was there any need to add some superfluous title like that of the Holy Nether Guard Commander?

This person’s words didn’t match his intentions!

Thinking all the same lines as Yuan Zhen, Fu Shan and the other two lieutenants also furrowed their eyebrows in unison, a dignified look in their eyes. This person was truly worthy of being a chess piece sent out by the Holy Palace. Although he looked young, his methods were fierce and decisive. He wore a calm and warm mask on his face, but he was actually not easy to deal with.

Without giving them much longer to think, Qin Yu lifted his hands and rubbed the point between his eyebrows. “I am somewhat tired today, so I will go and rest first. If there is anything else, we can discuss it later.”

Fu Shan nodded, “I will escort the lord to go and rest.”

Qin Yu waved his hand. “No need. You must all have a great deal of business to attend to, so just ask anyone here to guide me.”

Seeing that he wasn't willing to talk too much, Fu Shan called over an assistant. After giving the assistant some orders, the assistant bowed and said, "Commander, please follow me."

Although he bowed, his voice was cold without any meaning of respect.

Qin Yu carelessly nodded.

The side of the Holy Nether Guard was thick with resentment built up over innumerable years. Before he could think about how to win them over, he first needed to think of ways to relax the relationship between them. In the current situation, if Qin Yu displayed an attitude where he wanted to be friendly with everyone, they would likely all dread him.

Some matters in this world were all the same. It was best not to try running before one could walk.

Like this, Qin Yu followed behind this Holy Nether Guard. Beneath the scrutiny of countless eyes, he leisurely entered the large floating city.

Yuan Zhen licked his lips. "Commander, this person has hidden himself deeply!"

That's right, in the eyes of every Holy Nether Guard, Fu Shan was their only Commander. As for this newcomer...who cared? If he really wanted to pick up chicken feathers and pretend they were arrows, they would beat him black and blue in the next instant!

Fu Shan relaxed his eyebrows. "No matter what, he is the Holy Nether Guard Commander recognized by the Holy Palace. Be careful in your work and don't let him grasp your weakness. Otherwise even if you can withstand it, it won't be good if there is too great of a commotion."

Yuan Zhen hesitated, "Then what we do after this..."

Before he finished speaking, everyone knew what he meant.

Fu Shan lightly said, "Our arrangement is the Lord Commander's official residence, right?"

Yuan Zhen's eyes brightened. He smiled. "Of course. Since the Lord Commander has arrived, we naturally wouldn't dare to neglect him. It is just that the Holy Nether Guards have been stranded here in the Endless Sea for countless years and we are extremely barren on all sides. There is also the fact that the Commander's position has been left empty for so many years, so it's understandable if that uninhabited residence is a bit run down and dilapidated."

Fu Shan turned around and left. He really wanted to know what sort of reaction this new young Lord Commander would have. A sharp light flashed in the depths of his eyes. This was because this reaction would serve as an extremely important basis for his judgment. Just why did this new Commander come here?

....

Holy Nether City was extremely large. 100,000 years was enough for any group of people to multiply and develop into a massive tribe of people. So, after Qin Yu entered the city and boarded the carriage, he saw many people.

There were no speedcars here; it maintained a relatively primitive and rough original way of living, as formidable people did in the past. For instance, the carriage that Qin Yu was sitting in was being pulled ahead by two flood dragons.

Unfortunately, such a dignified carriage wasn't able to obtain him any respect or awe. Rather, there was a bit of curiosity and even more indifference and hostility.

The one controlling the flood dragons was the Holy Nether Guard who had guided him here. His figure wasn't tall or strong and he even appeared a bit thin. After mounting the carriage, he didn't speak a single word. A cold chill swirled all around him. He clearly had no intentions of flattering this new Commander.

The flood dragons flew forward at an astonishing speed. So when the carriage came to a stop, not too much time had passed. Qin Yu stepped down from the carriage and saw the black building in front of him, one that gave off an overpowering momentum. His lips twitched a little. It seemed that his unpopularity here was going to continue for quite some time.

Rundown...this word wasn't sufficient to express Qin Yu's first impression of this place. To be more precise, it should be 'ruins'.

The large entrance seemed as if it had experienced a great war. The large black stones that had been glued and stuck together had been shattered by some tyrannical strength, left tumbling all over the floor. Thick weeds grew haphazardly across the ground. One of the thick front doors had been ruined and the other half was rotten to the point of collapse; it could no longer block anything.

His line of sight passed straight through the door, past a high shadowy wall to a lake that was nearly submerged in grass and trees. The occasionally revealed lake surface was covered with dark green algae.

Qin Yu almost laughed from anger. Did these people from the Holy Nether Guard really think he wouldn't lose his temper? But thinking it over, perhaps these people were waiting for him to grow angry. So after mulling things over some more, his complexion calmed back down.

The Holy Nether Guard who led him here had his face covered behind a fierce blood red mask. Even so, he wasn't able to hide his surprise and disappointment from Qin Yu's eyes. Qin Yu secretly thought that he had been correct in his assumption, and his expression relaxed.

"Go back to Fu Shan and tell him that this place is very unique. He is quite thoughtful."

When the icy cold Holy Nether Guard heard this, he finally revealed a bit of stress. He carefully looked at Qin Yu's face but couldn't make out any change in mood. Annoyance and disappointment surged within his heart. Then, he cupped his hands together and quickly departed.

Qin Yu reached out a hand to push open the half-remaining rotten front door. He watched on helplessly as the door loudly crashed into the ground and disintegrated, causing dust to rise up everywhere. Even if he was already prepared for this, he still couldn't help but twitch his eyes.

Walking into the ruins of this dwelling, he could feel the dignity and glory that still hadn't been fully erased with the passing of time. He could imagine how lively this place must have been many, many years ago.

Unfortunately, thinking about these things was useless. If Qin Yu wanted to live here, he would need to clean up this area himself.

He looked around for a long time. Finally, near a rock garden sculpture, he found a stone chamber. This place should have been a training room in the past. The construction was exceptionally fine here. Even if the maintenance array formation had been destroyed, it still retained a certain degree of integrity.

After cleaning up the area, Qin Yu took out an illumination bead from his storage ring. Qin Yu looked around nodded. The environment here wasn't too bad. At the very least, looking at the messy courtyard from the entrance, there was an aesthetic sense of broken beauty to it.

People always had to have optimism even amidst suffering in order to live comfortably, right? Moreover, there was an old saying, if you wanted to make use of others, you at least had to let them vent themselves.

Chapter 533A – Road to Ascending Heaven

Demonic Path small world, Mu Family.

As the descendants of the previous Holy Lord, even if they had to sever half of their surname, they still remained a family that stood at the pinnacle of the Demonic Path.

Cloud Grove City was the land of the Mu Family. As such, it was managed perfectly without any leakage of information and countless powerful subordinates were accepted here. The city's influence was formidable.

Today, in some courtyard within the city, a gray-robed Mu Xianglin was sitting on a stone stool, a chilling aura wrapped around him. Spatial fluctuations flooded the surroundings and the power of array formations isolated out all perceptions.

"Yao Bin must die, even if he is exiled into the Endless Sea." A young man sitting across from Mu Xianglin suddenly spoke up. His tone was light and calm, as if here were speaking of what he was going to be eating for dinner that night.

Mu Xianglin nodded with relief. "Mu Mo, for you to think that, it means you haven't let your achievements cloud your judgment."

The blue-robed youth smiled, his temperament gentle like water. "White sun boundary talent..." Envy and acclaim filled his eyes. "If I were to underestimated him, I would be far too stupid."

He stood up and cupped his hands together. "Uncle, I will have to have to ask you to help in this matter."

Mu Xianglin said, "I won't give him a chance to leave the Endless Sea. Someone with a white sun boundary talent has the qualifications to be buried there. I will send him on his final trip."

Mu Mo turned and left, his eyes faint and cold.

The position of Holy Monarch was his! He wouldn't allow any accidents to occur. Anyone that dared to stop him must die!

...

Beyond the expectations of the Holy Nether Guard, there wasn't a stir from Qin Yu. Living in that ruined courtyard, he was like an invisible person. There wasn't a single change to Holy Nether City.

Of course, even if they weren't able to detect anything wrong from Qin Yu, Fu Shan and the others still didn't dare to lower their guard. Their surveillance never stopped. Moreover, this surveillance wasn't conducted silently in the shadows, but was done openly and honestly, clearly displaying a message of distrust.

So besides the Holy Nether Guard that patrolled the area often, when Qin Yu rested in an abandoned garden in the back of the courtyard, he could always sense the presence of a woman with a frosty temperament who seemed to blend into the surrounding areas.

Although she was born beautiful, her gaze was too cold. It was like two ice sabers stabbing straight into one's heart, making one feel a chill race up their back.

Fortunately, this woman only looked in from afar. She had no intention of approaching and she also never disturbed his rest. After quietly observing for some time every day, she would leave as silently as she came.

Occasionally, a young man who seemed covered in thorns would appear. The two would whisper to themselves. The young man appeared as if he were trying to persuade her of something, but he obviously never succeeded. As a result, his eyes when he looked at Qin Yu turned even colder.

This was an undeserved catastrophe. Qin Yu curled his lips secretly. Hey, I didn't ask her to come. If you could get her to leave, I would be more than happy.

If Qin Yu could, he really wanted to give the young man some advice. If he wanted to chase after girls, he could be strong but he should also know when to quit. If he was so disappointing already, even if he managed to barely catch up to her in the future he would likely have no ground left to stand on.

He opened his eyes and glanced over. As he thought, the woman who visited every day had come again. Qin Yu was already familiar with her cold stare and no longer cared about it. He leaned back onto a stone tablet of some unknown function. This thing had fallen at the perfect angle to provide him with a comfortable place to rest.

He closed his eyes. Just as he was about to rest, an eyebrow arched up. He opened his eyes to see a cold and beautiful face looking at him. Her lips moved, emitting a voice that was pleasant to the ears but also chilled the heart. "Do you know what that stone tablet is?"

Without waiting for Qin Yu to respond, Hai Lanlan turned and left. Her tall and graceful back seemed to emit an atmosphere of sorrow and anger.

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. He stood up and turned around. Looking at the common-seeming stone tablet thrust into the ground, he thought for a moment and started to clean it up.

A moment later, standing in front of the stone tablet that had been raised back up, he stared at it for a long time. He gently sighed. Then, he glanced towards the direction Hai Lanlan had vanished in before leaving.

The next day, Hai Lanlan didn't appear, and the day after that was the same. Afterwards, he didn't see that cold figure for a long time.

Qin Yu had some guesses and he couldn't help but feel a trace of guilt. But soon, he suppressed those thoughts. His time was precious. He naturally couldn't waste it on useless negative emotions that would hinder his cultivation mood.

"The flow of water has sound, the flow of water has substance. It continues without end, reversing softness and rigidity..."

Muttering to himself in a low voice, Qin Yu lifted his hand. His five fingers stroked the air, as if he were feeling the presence of some sort of imperceptible existence.

Five Element Mountain, path of water!

...

The powerful Qin Yu with his Emperor level Demon Body didn't know this, but ever since that day when he made a breakthrough with assistance from the demon blood crystal, his mortal body seemed to be kept in a constant state of some sort of evolutionary transformation. But, he could clearly feel that every inch of his blood and flesh was being strengthened with every moment.

When Qin Yu first cultivated the Demon Body, he had entered the General level. Afterwards he broke into the Golden Core realm and every realm after that he had promotions to the next tier.

The Commander level corresponded to Nascent Soul, the King level responded to Divine Soul, the Sovereign level corresponded to Blue Sea.

Then, the corresponding boundary of the Emperor level should be the Calamity Immortal realm.

The Demon Body was the foundation for countless supernatural arts within the Demonic Path. But its essence was still the most potent body tempering technique of the Demonic Path. Qin Yu didn't know how terrifyingly strong the pure bodily strength of an Emperor level Demon Body was, but thinking about it, it should be enough to suppress all Blue Seas.

In any case, the Demon Body provided a horrifying effect to one's combat strength. When the transformation of his body was completed and his Emperor level Demon Body boundary was consolidated, his strength would definitely experience a sharp and drastic rise.

He was well aware of all of this, but it wasn't reason enough for him to relax. How vast and boundless was the Land of Divinity and Demons? Proud elites of heaven were as numerous as stars in the night skies. Not to mention anyone else, just Zhao Qianyuan alone was enough to make Qin Yu feel cautious.

When he carefully thought back to the incident in the Demon Ascension Gate's small world, when Zhao Qianyuan faced off against the reviving Monster Race Great Emperor, he likely hadn't used his full strength. The moment he sensed something was wrong, he had instantly withdrawn from the battlefield. Qin Yu had a faint intuition in his heart that Zhao Qianyuan had concealed his true strength, and what others saw was only the part he was willing to expose.

The stronger Qin Yu became, the more he could feel the invisible pressure coming from Zhao Qianyuan. With such a character in his generation, how could Qin Yu dare to underestimate anyone?

In the beginning, starting as a young disciple in the land of exile's Eastern Mountain Sect, he had set off on an unexpectedly long road of cultivation ever since he obtained the little blue lamp.

Although this road was filled with countless perils and he had almost died innumerable times, everything that Qin Yu saw still left his eyes widened as he witnessed the vast boundlessness of the world.

At this time, he was only one step from reaching the peak of the world. Moreover, with all the different sorts of lucky chances and good fortunes he encountered, he had many hidden cards in his hand. This gave him the energy and confidence to dare to look up into the bright and starry skies and become one of the most dazzling existences shining there.

When the Demon Body broke through to the Emperor realm, that meant the throne of the Holy Monarch was close at hand. Qin Yu's heart and mind finally experienced a thorough transformation. He still loathed and hated the Immortal Sect, but he had already regarded his revenge as a way of tempering himself to climb higher up the Great Dao, and not as his ultimate objective.

Although the process hadn't changed, the significance behind what it represented was completely different. Now, Qin Yu had a bit of the heroic momentum of overseeing the heavens and earth!

Since he had the heart to ascend to the heavens, he needed to put in more effort than the average person would. Otherwise, no matter how good a hand he had been dealt, he would eventually be beaten up.

As Qin Yu's mind and will were undergoing a transformation and he was diligently cultivating for the future, some people were actually wandering about in confusion after falling into a stroke of bad luck.

The unlucky one was a small True Demon Guard squad leader. His name was Wang Chao, and he was accompanied by two good brothers of his who always followed him through thick and thin.

Looking at the cold face of the Justice Division's chancellor, Wang Chao was left in an absent-minded haze, unable to recover his composure for some time. He had only gone out drinking, and after drinking he would at most look for several young ladies to have some fun with. In fact, he hadn't even been on duty. This sort of activity was something everyone tacitly agreed to, so how could he have been stripped of all status and even exiled to the Endless Sea?

"What are you standing there all confused for? These are orders. Do you think you can disobey them!?" The chancellor's voice was stern but there was a hint of regret deep in his eyes. He didn't know who it was that Wang Chao had offended, but since these were orders from up above, he didn't dare to argue back.

His lips moved but in the end it turned into a sigh. With this, Wang Chao who was familiar with the inner workings of the True Demon Guard finally understood that things could no longer be recovered.

He handed over his status token and stripped off his True Demon Guard armor. Wang Chao's eyes flushed red and he bowed before turning around and taking deep strides away. Then, outside the compound of the Justice Division, he saw his two brothers who had ended up with a similar fate. The three of them were silent for several moments.

Wang Chao's voice was bitter. "Second Brother, Third Brother, you were wronged. It was I who implicated you both!"

Hua Yanting forced out a smile. "What is Big Brother saying? Yesterday the three of us went out together. If we fell into someone's trap, it is simply the bad luck of us brothers. How can you be blamed for this?"

"Third Brother is right!" Huang Shan suddenly spoke up. "Us brothers have long since said that we would share sorrows together. So what if we are exiled into the Endless Sea? As long as we are together, all things are possible!"

Hua Yanting quickly said, "That's right, that's right! Don't forget that the white sun boundary talent is in the Endless Sea right now. If we brothers can seize this chance and hold tight onto his thigh, perhaps we might be able to make a victorious return someday soon!"

These words were more of a way to console oneself. What sort of place was the Endless Sea? It was simply a tomb for the living dead. If a person were exiled into that place, everything would be over for them if their willpower and mindset caved in a little.

Who knew what state Yao Bin was in right now? And they still wanted to hurry over them and seek shelter from him? They could stop holding onto such beautiful dreams.

Wang Chao's eyes glazed over. He suddenly thought back to Heavenly Demon City where he inadvertently saw the Demon Envoy and Yan Liu enter Dawnperch Hotel in secret. Then, he thought of today's sudden accident. The Justice Division's chancellor might be cold and callous, but there was also confusion and pity in his eyes.

A thought suddenly appeared in Wang Chao's heart.

Could it be that...?

Chapter 533B – Road to Ascending Heaven

Although he couldn't determine if his thoughts were true, there was at least a possibility. If it really was as he thought, then being placed in the Endless Sea wasn't a form of exile, but a lucky chance that countless people couldn't seek out even if they asked for it!

With this thought in mind, his heart suddenly relaxed. He thought that his empty future was now filled with bright light, and strength surged through his body from top to bottom. His thoughts turned. Thinking about how the three of them had been placed into the Endless Sea, in order to prevent any enmity from appearing between them three brothers, it was best to tell them what he was thinking.

After all, yesterday's idea to go out and have fun was mostly his suggestion. Although he was confident in the friendship between him and his brothers, what need was there to use this matter to test how solid their relationship really was?

Wang Chao coughed to clear his throat. "Second Brother, Third Brother, please lend me your ear."

A moment later, Hua Yanting and Huang Shan's eyes lit up. Although they felt this unbelievable, after having known Wang Chao for so many years, they knew he wasn't something who would make things up and talk so irresponsibly like this.

Life was truly filled with winding peaks and paths!

In the Justice Division, some people already learned the results of the punishment. As they looked into the courtyard outside and saw the three men huddled together, their gazes filled with sympathy.

It had to be known that positions within the True Demon Guard were highly sought after in the Demonic Path. It was unknown just how much effort and how much luck was required in order for those three people to be smoothly selected to join.

But now, a single mistake and all had come to naught. Not only had they lost all their future status, but they had been banished into the Endless Sea. They would likely never be able to leave again in their lifetimes. This was no different from a death of the heart, a punishment more agonizing than any physical torture.

But soon, something occurred that left everyone puzzled. The three despondent people began to whisper amongst themselves in a low voice. Then, energy lit up in their eyes once more and the sounds of suppressed laughter came from them. Their voices were filled with excitement.

This was...had they gone insane?

Looking at the backs of Wang Chao and the others as they left, the other cultivators in the courtyard all revealed expressions of pity. These three people must not have been able to withstand such a great psychological attack and they had lost their minds together.

Soon, news that Wang Chao, Hua Yanting, and Huang Shan had gone insane because they wouldn't withstand the punishment of being exiled into the Endless Sea spread through the circles of the True Demon Guard, and travelled further out beyond that.

At this time, the three nervous yet excited people had boarded the speedcar headed towards the Endless Sea. The small squad responsible for bringing them over were old acquaintances of Wang Chao.

The squad leader tried to say some comforting words. After hearing Wang Chao's sensible replies, he somewhat didn't believe the rumors. But upon discovering a trace of anticipation hidden beneath the surface of these three people's faces, he couldn't help but sigh inwardly. He glanced at the people to his side and hinted for them to be careful.

Once the squad leader returned, the rumors were kicked up a notch. The story evolved, saying that the three people were thoroughly immersed in their own dream world. Although they seemed normal on the outside, they had already gone utterly crazy on the inside. This left many people feeling saddened for them.

Of course, these matters no longer had any relation to the three people entering the Endless Sea. Right now, they were trudging forward without hesitation, ready to grab onto the only thigh that could save them.

So, the ruins of Qin Yu's large residence welcomed three guests for the first time.

"Wang Chao!"

"Hua Yanting!"

“Huang Shan!”

The three people knelt down. “We greet the Commander!”

This was the first time that Qin Yu felt the dignity and majesty of being the Holy Nether Guard Commander. Although he didn’t care much for it, he still had to admit that he felt a bit more carefree.

“How did you come here?” After the three stood up, Qin Yu’s words caused them all to flush red with anger. Of course, most of this display of emotions was an act. If not for this, how could they arouse the Commander’s sense of compassion and have him receive them as subordinates?

This was all agreed upon!

After dramatically reiterating the pitiful story, Wang Chao fell to his knees once more. “Us three brothers have nowhere else to go. We hope that the Commander can accept us and shelter us. In the future, we will even walk through fire or water, dying 10,000 deaths if need be!”

Hua Yanting and Huang Shan quickly knelt down too, their heads lowered and their eyes tense.

Qin Yu had a helpless expression. “I can barely maintain myself after entering the Endless Sea, so how can I give shelter to the three of you? You might have come to the wrong place.”

Wang Chao’s heart tightened but he wasn’t too panicked. Yao Bin knew that people were aiming at him. If he didn’t have even this bit of cautiousness, then the three of them would need to seriously reconsider whether or not they made the right decision.

“Commander, we truly wish to submit ourselves. We have no dark intentions in our hearts. We only hope that one day you will rise up into the heavens and bring us away from here.” He paused for a moment before continuing, “The Commander’s mansion is extremely large. Can we stay somewhere here far away? You can observe us and make a decision later.”

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed. He said, “This place has become ruins. If you want to live here, you can clean up yourself. I won’t be accompanying you.” He turned and walked away.

Wang Chao quickly bowed, “We see the Lord Commander!”

The three stood up and glanced at each other. They could see the excitement in each other’s eyes.

The truth was clear to them. After entering the Endless Sea, Yao Bin’s mental state hadn’t collapsed. The more cautious he was, the more it proved how great and wild his ambitions and hopes must be.

This was exactly what they wanted!

At this time, the three of them finally felt some calm and steadiness in the depths of their hearts. Before this, when they had appeared excited and joyous on the surface, a great reason for it was to pump themselves up and psychologically hint to each other that things were going to be fine.

Wang Chao took a deep breath. “Alright. Let’s go to the front courtyard and find a place to stay. Whether or not we pass the test, that will depend on our following performance.”

Hua Yanting and Huang Shan nodded earnestly.

The large Commander's Residence that had been abandoned for many years gained three new tenants. Fu Shan soon learned of this, but he didn't care much about it. These three new Holy Nether Guards likely weren't willing to submit to their destiny and wanted to do everything they could to resist. They were all newcomers so it made sense for them to be closer to each other and try to attach themselves to Yao Bin.

However, the only thing that left him a little anxious was that Yao Bin was just too quiet. For some unknown reason, Fu Shan felt a bit restless in his heart. He always felt that this surname Yao was going to cause some great commotion in the future.

...

Every day, Qin Yu followed an orderly and measured life. There wasn't much difference from how he lived before. He was only a bit more cautious and avoided the attention of Wang Chao and the others when he was cultivating.

They knew that Qin Yu wasn't willing to approach them too much right now, but Wang Chao and the others didn't mind.

To show their obedience and good faith, the three of them still carefully tried to earn some points in Qin Yu's heart.

For instance, when Qin Yu was cultivating, the three of them would tactfully disperse and patrol along the edges. When Qin Yu was resting, they would go all-out to clean up the mansion ruins. They occasionally walked over to greet him, but they didn't dally much. They came quickly and left just as fast.

Qin Yu didn't seem as if he cared on the surface, but he was actually carefully probing the three people. Slowly, his suspicions were washed away. Wang Chao and the other two shouldn't be people sent to secretly deal with him.

And taking a step back, as long as he was careful enough, no matter how good the acting skills of these three were, if they wanted to do something harmful to him with their level of strength, that was no different from the delusions of a madman.

But Qin Yu still didn't show any indication that he was going to accept them. Just like an eagle flying high in the skies, he needed to have them know just how difficult it was to gain his trust. Only this way would they value and treasure this trust in the future.

Without followers of his own, since Qin Yu decided he wanted to take the road that ascended to the heavens, he naturally had to start gathering his own troops with people loyal to him.

But while Qin Yu was steadily cultivating and not willing to stir up any trouble, some people weren't willing to see him living there in peaceful days.

The Endless Sea might be a forbidden zone, but as long as one had sufficient strength and patience, they could always find an opportunity to make a move.

The Mu Family had prepared for a long time and now it was time for the daggers in the dark to appear. They would use a subtle and understated plan, one that would leave behind no smoke and fire, nor any sign of blood.

In the end, a white sun boundary talent was extraordinary. Even if everyone knew it was them who did it, they would save themselves a great deal of trouble if there was no evidence linking them.

Chapter 534A – Thank You

On this day, as Wang Shao was patrolling around, he stopped a Holy Nether Guard just outside the doors. He asked, “Who are you?”

The Holy Nether Guard cupped his hands together, his voice anxious, “I am here under orders to inform the Lord Commander that a restricted zone within Holy Nether City has suddenly opened. Lord Fu Shan and the others have already headed over. This matter is of high significance, so I ask that the Commander immediately go!”

Wang Chao’s heart skipped a beat. The Holy Nether Guard had always possessed one of the most mystic inheritances within the Holy Palace. He didn’t dare to assume anything; who knew if he would suddenly screw things up?

“Wait here. I will go and pass on the message!”

Moments later, Qin Yu appeared outside the residence. Now that Wang Chao and the other two had cleaned up and repaired this area, several points of its past elegance and grandeur had been restored. At the very least, standing here wouldn’t make a person feel embarrassed.

“Just what happened?”

The Holy Nether Guard was even more anxious. “Lord Commander, the situation is urgent. Please follow me there; I will inform you of everything on our way.”

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. He nodded and said, “Guide the way.”

Wang Chao and the other two wanted to follow, but they were blocked by the Holy Nether Guard. “Commander, this involves the secrets of the Holy Nether Guard you see...”

Qin Yu raised a hand. “You three can stay behind.”

The Holy Nether Guard said, “Thank you Commander for your understanding!”

The person hurriedly led the way, explaining the situation as they went.

The Holy Nether Guard’s inherited cultivation method was to draw out ferocious slaughter energy from deep beneath the ground, fusing it into their body and transforming it into a potent and tyrannical strength.

The advantage of this sort of cultivation was that it rapidly increased a person’s strength. Its combat strength was incredible and it gave one a fierce fighting spirit.

The shortcoming was that it affected the mind. Normally, the Holy Nether Guard had special techniques to control their thoughts and mood, suppressing the overbearing cruelty in their hearts so that they didn't lose control of themselves.

But if that fierce slaughter energy below erupted, it would break through the limits of a person's mind and will. Subsequently, a massive number of Holy Nether Guards would lose control, leading to terrifying consequences.

The Holy Nether Guard worriedly said, "Lord Commander, the cultivation area where we absorb slaughter energy should have been suppressed with a formidable seal. But for some unknown reason, the seal has burst open. The situation is dire!" He looked up towards a completely sealed carriage in front of him and forced a smile. "In order to avoid leaking the news and causing a great panic, I can only ask Lord Commander to hide in here. It really is disrespectful of me."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. Before entering the Endless Sea, Zhao Qianyuan had hurriedly met up with him and informed him of some matters related to the Holy Nether Guard. This just happened to be one of them. He originally thought that Zhao Qianyuan was worrying too much, but had an accident really occurred today?

After some time, the carriage came to a stop. The destination seemed as if it were very far away. The Holy Nether Guard pushed open the carriage door and leapt out, "Lord Commander, the seal is in front. We do not have the qualifications to go up so I can only bring you this far!"

Qin Yu walked over. Looking at a place on his finger, his pupils began to shrink. He slowly said, "Are you sure it is this place?"

With this question, the breath of the two Holy Nether Guards who drove the carriage here suddenly caught in their chests.

"Yes, Lord Fu Shan is inside!"

They braced themselves as they spoke. At this moment, they also seemed to sense the stiffness with which they spoke and their hearts began to sink.

Because the two of them lowered their heads, they didn't see the strange light flash across Qin Yu's face. As he looked at the common low-lying area in front of him, his lips started to curve up in a slow smile.

In order for this situation to be clearly explained, one had to rewind time to three days ago...

...

Three days ago, while the ruins that were the City Lord Mansion was being cleaned up, a small and mild earthquake happened. Besides damaging some of the work that Wang Chao and the others did, it didn't leave behind any substantial impact. But, it did interrupt Qin Yu's meditation. Feeling a bit surprised, he walked out of the stone building that was joined together with the training room, and his eyebrows furrowed together, puzzled.

Holy Nether City floated deep in the Endless Sea. If it couldn't even counterbalance the fluctuations of seawater then the city would have been destroyed countless times already. So, what happened today?

Before he could think about it further, he saw Wang Chao and the others rush in, a panicked and frightened look etched on their faces. Huang Shan was dragged in by the other two, his complexion gray and tragic as if his life was slowly fading away.

Hua Yanting anxiously said, "Second Brother, Second Brother, don't scare me! Please wake up!"

Qin Yu frowned. Because of his rich experience, he could immediately see what Huang Shan's problem was.

Pill toxins!

Moreover, these were incredibly fierce pill toxins. For better or worse, Huang Shan had an initial Blue Sea realm cultivation. But now he had been laid low in the blink of an eye, not even able to explain what had happened.

Wang Chao fell to his knees. "Commander, I implore you to please save Huang Shan! Even if we must be cows or horses, even if we crush our bones or die, we will repay this great graciousness!" He had already attempted to heal Huang Shan to no avail. Now there was nothing more he could do. Even asking Qin Yu for help was only an instinct of his. In times of great danger, it was a subconscious desire to ask more powerful existences for help.

But soon, the kneeling Wang Chao felt a trace of regret. If Qin Yu couldn't revive Huang Shan then the two sides would inevitably have an impediment left between them. How could he latch onto this thigh later? But what left him inexplicably surprised was that Qin Yu unexpectedly agreed.

"Lay him down. You are lucky you came to me fast enough. If you delayed any further it would have been difficult to save him."

Hua Yanting quickly laid Huang Shan down, a worried look in his eyes. He looked straight at Qin Yu and saw him squat down and reach out a hand between Huang Shan's eyebrows.

There was not the slightest fluctuation of strength. How could he save others with a single movement?

Hua Yanting gulped, his expression becoming even more anxious. He looked back at Wang Chao. When the two met eyes, Wang Chao thought for a moment and slowly shook his head. Since Qin Yu had already decided to help them, they could only wait. There was no way they could ask him to stop midway, otherwise what would they do in the future?

All sorts of chaotic thoughts were running through Wang Chao's heart. He was already wondering what consequences would occur if Huang Shan were to die here. It wasn't that he didn't wish for his brother to recover, but Qin Yu's current performance didn't instill hope in anyone's heart.

Suddenly, Hua Yanting cried out in alarm. Wang Chao's heart shrank. Before he could regain his composure, he saw a trace of red return to Huang Shan's ash gray face.

He subconsciously opened his mouth, a single thought echoing through his mind: This also works?

To be more precise, it worked very well.

Faint traces of black poison gas appeared on Huang Shan's face. It gathered between his eyebrows and then flowed into Qin Yu's fingertip.

Then, Huang Shan groaned and slowly opened his eyes. After a short period of confusion, he suddenly shouted out, "Boss, Second Brother, hurry and run...! Wait, Commander, what are you doing here?"

Wang Chao facepalmed. He scolded, "What are you doing? You almost lost your small life! Hurry up and thank the Commander! If it weren't for his help you would have already died by now!"

Huang Shan seemed to realize something. A cold sweat formed on his body and he tried to crawl up to his knees. But, his body was so weak that he almost toppled over. He was hurriedly supported by Hua Yanting.

Qin Yu waved his hand. "There is no need for such politeness. Huang Shan, tell me, what exactly happened?"

Huang Shan respectfully said, "Big Brother Wang Chao said that the garden the Commander rests in usually is too desolate and horrible to look at, so he sent me over to clean up..."

This brat, he still didn't forget to try and increase his merit points even in such a situation. A bit of helplessness appeared on the corners of Qin Yu's lips.

This was a strategy made up by Wang Chao long ago, but right now Wang Chao had an embarrassed expression. He hurriedly said, "What nonsense are you spouting? Hurry up and speak the important parts!"

Huang Shan felt a bit aggrieved. Big Brother, weren't you the one who told me to flatter whenever possible, so why are you trying to blame me?

Even though Huang Shan thought this, he didn't dare to beat around the bush anymore.

"Just now, the garden suddenly shook and a crack appeared along the broken courtyard wall. I just happened to be close to that area. Before I could respond, a black poison gas gushed out. I had already held my breath, but my field of vision still flashed black and then I fell unconscious."

As if thinking his experience was too shameful, an awkward look appeared on Huang Shan's simple and honest face. "By the time I woke up, I was already here."

Wang Chao was taken aback. Hey, I did tell you to get to the important parts, but was there a need to be so brief? But before the two could exchange any meaningful glances, Qin Yu had already spoken up. He said, "Bring me to that crack."

Huang Shan's eyes widened.

Qin Yu lightly said, "Once we find the place, you may all stand to the side."

Soon, the group marched into the back of the large residence. This was the garden where Qin Yu usually rested. In truth, he found the place without Huang Shan needing to say anything.

The courtyard walls were collapsed in several areas. The originally lush vegetation was filled with some sort of bamboo covered with sharp thorns; it occupied a great area. But, the ordinarily vicious-seeming thorned bamboo that swayed dangerously in the wind had completely died off, its yellow leaves falling to the ground.

Qin Yu lifted his hand, stopping the loyal Wang Chao who had clenched his teeth and was ready to walk up. He took a step forward to where the bamboo was and soon saw the crack that Huang Shan spoke of.

He reached out to touch the dead bamboo. As he thought, he could feel faint traces of pill toxins constantly entering his body, the same kind that was found in Huang Shan.

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. He stared at the crack, an interested look on his face.

Something like pill toxins wouldn't appear out of nowhere. This meant that there had to be some place where waste pills were stored. And looking at how violent and powerful these pill toxins were, these waste pills wouldn't be simple at all.

For others, once they discovered this place, the first thing they would do was move as far away as possible. But in Qin Yu's eyes, pill toxins were a tonic. Waste pills? To him they might be the catalyst he needed for his cultivation!

Qin Yu subconsciously licked his lips. He didn't know why, but he had a premonition that the waste pills he discovered today might give him a great surprise in the future.

He took advantage of the Cosmic Seacross Bell's strength to carefully scan the surrounding area. When he determined that there was no one spying on him, watched by the shocked gazes of Wang Chao and the other two, Qin Yu leapt into the crack.

"Commander!" Wang Chao's heart nearly jumped out from his chest. What are you doing? All of our futures have been placed on your body! If anything were to happen...

Hua Yanting on the other hand was surprisingly calm. "Big Brother, there is no need to be anxious. Since the Commander dares to enter, he must have confidence in himself. Moreover, he easily helped Second Brother dispel that poison just now."

Wang Chao took a deep breath and nodded, secretly hoping that this was true.

Qin Yu plunged into the crack. He tapped his toes several times and his figure plummeted downward. Within the darkness, his eyes were bright and clear, as if he were seeing everything in broad daylight.

There were pill toxins in the air that hadn't yet scattered and the density of it was much higher. This left Qin Yu even more excited because it meant that there must be a considerable number of waste pills.

But suddenly, his figure came to a stop. His hand stabbed into a wall and latched onto a large rock. He frowned and looked downward. The crack continued to extend downwards no different from up above. But, an invisible net had appeared below him.

The power of rules? This wasn't entirely true, because the strength of an array formation was hidden within. This was the imprisoning strength formed from an array formation utilizing the power of the rules.

Qin Yu frowned. After a long time, he sighed, a helpless look on his face. Many years ago he had an interest in array formations, but what a pity he never had the chance to properly focus on studying them. Although he did have some understandings, there was no way he could break through this great array formation below him.

Moreover, within Holy Nether City that was located deep in the Endless Sea, why would a great array formation pop out of nowhere? If he had tried anything just now he would have likely been immediately sensed.

Thinking things over again, Qin Yu couldn't think of anything he could do. He could only suppress his unwillingness and turn back around. When he left the crack, the worried Wang Chao and other two let out a deep breath of air.

Chapter 534B – Thank You

“Commander, are you alright?”

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows a little. He waved his hand dismissively and soon his eyes turned towards the edge of Holy Nether City. Thinking about it for a moment, he suddenly flew up quietly. Soon he landed in a low-lying region not too far away from his residence.

Because he had left behind his soul mark, Qin Yu could sense the area where he was not too long ago. Although it was deep underground, because of the angle of where he was at, the direct distance there wasn't too far away. As Qin Yu expected, in this place he saw that net of rules covering this region also.

He clearly knew there was a massive amount of waste pills here that were extraordinary and highly likely to be useful to him, yet he wasn't able to go and take them. To Qin Yu, this was the same as knowing there were unimaginable buried treasures just in arm's reach and yet he would never be able to obtain them. The mental anguish and torture this inflicted upon him couldn't be explained to outsiders.

Wang Chao and the others hesitated for a moment before following him out. Then saw Qin Yu looking at this open area in a daze and a puzzled expression came over their faces.

“Lord Commander, have you discovered something?” Wang Chao summoned the courage to speak up. This was because he discovered that Qin Yu had already accepted them in his heart.

Helping Huang Shan dispel his poison was the best proof of this.

As he thought, Qin Yu really did slowly nod. “Huang Shan was affected by pill toxins just now. I chased after the source, but unfortunately a large sealing array formation prevents me from entering. Still, the source of the pill toxins should be from here.”

Huang Shan's face immediately paled.

Pill toxins!

Anyone that had even the tiniest bit of experience with pill toxins knew that they weren't something to mess around with. A careless mistake and one would lose their life. Moreover, those that died from pill toxins often perished in the most miserable of ways. For instance, dissolving into bloody goo or something like that. Just thinking of it sent a cold chill running over his body.

Wang Chao's face turned green. Looking at this low-lying region and at the great ruined residence not too far away, he couldn't help but gulp. He really wanted to ask a question: Lord Commander, just how much do people hate you? Not only were you sent to live in such a damned and haunted place, but it's

even located near such an ominous land. This is no different from resting your butt on a barrel of oil. Perhaps one day it would suddenly blow up and destroy everything!

“Tell me, what kind of waste pills do you think are buried here?” Qin Yu whispered, as if he were asking himself a question.

He really was curious!

Wang Chao was thinking about how to persuade Qin Yu to move away from this area. As he heard these words, his heart began to tremble. The Commander didn't seem to be afraid and was even curious...after being left speechless for three seconds, he decided he needed to say something that would sufficiently shock Qin Yu. Otherwise, looking at his current appearance, not only would he not move away but he would even be more excited to stay here.

What to do? What to do?

His thoughts rapidly raced. Wang Chao's eyes suddenly brightened. He inadvertently remembered a secret that a senior from the Holy Palace had spoken to him during a drunken stupor. He mulled over this thought, and the more he considered it the more likely it seemed. Then, his originally restless and frightened heart began to fill up with genuine fear.

They absolutely could not stay here for another day longer!

Wang Chao took a deep breath and his complexion became incomparably serious and grave. “Lord Commander, this subordinate has a life or death matter to report!”

Qin Yu glanced at him, his tone light as he said, “Speak.”

This glance caused Wang Chao's scalp to creep and tingle, as if his entire being had been seen through. But he could only forcefully restrain the panic in his heart and say, “Many years ago, not long after I entered the True Demon Sect, I once attended a banquet. There, I learned of a great secret from the mouth of a senior.

“Lord Commander possesses a white sun boundary talent for the Demon Body and is an unparalleled proud son of heaven within my Demonic Path. So, you should know that within the Demon Body cultivation process, there exists a type of powerful auxiliary pill.”

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. “Demon Body Tempering Pill?”

Wang Chao nodded. “It is exactly this pill. But for any pill in this world, no matter how skilled the alchemy grandmaster is that refines it, there always exists the risk of failure. For Demon Body Tempering Pills, because of the materials needed to refine them, if the refinement process fails then the pill toxins that are produced are especially terrifying. In order to deal with these pill toxins, it is rumored that the Demonic Path spent a massive amount of resources and constructed a great array formation deep in the Endless Sea. This array formation makes use of the vast and limitless strength of the Endless Sea to quietly annihilate the pill toxins.”

He took a deep breath and spoke the key point. “This subordinate suspects that what Commander found today is the place where Demon Body Tempering Pills are destroyed!”

If time could be reversed, Wang Chao vowed he wouldn't have said a single word. Because before his voice fell, Qin Yu's eyes had turned bright and shiny.

"Are you sure?"

Wang Chao gulped. "I cannot fully determine if this is true, but the chances should be extremely high..." Why did he feel as if everything had suddenly spun out beyond his control?

Qin Yu took a deep breath, his thoughts wildly running about. His eyes grew increasingly bright until they resembled radiant stars in the skies. "Wind doesn't come from an empty cave without reason and there is no smoke without fire. If Wang Chao can hear these rumors, then they are likely to be true. If the Demonic Path dreads the failed Demon Body Tempering Pills so much and even have to borrow the strength of the Endless Sea to destroy them, then they would also assign people to watch over it. It's impossible for them to leave it here and ignore it. If so, then constructing the array formation within Holy Nether City is reasonable.

"When I saw the great array formation, the power of it was used to actuate countless rules, weaving them together into a sealing net that thoroughly isolated the outside world. Such a formidable array formation would have consumed a mind-boggling amount of resources in its construction. It wouldn't appear in the Endless Sea without good reason.

"There are also the pill toxins that were in Huang Shan's body. Not even someone with a Blue Sea realm cultivation could resist them in the least. Perhaps only waste pills from failed Demon Body Tempering Pills that even the Demonic Path dreads could leave behind such terrifying poison!"

After combining all sorts of factors, Qin Yu took a deep breath. His former intuition had been correct. To him, these waste pills were extremely important.

That's right, Qin Yu had indeed tried refining a single Demon Body Tempering Pill before. The effects weren't too good because the amount it promoted his body by was far too miniscule.

But what if the quantity was high enough? If one didn't work, what about ten? If ten didn't work, what about a hundred or even a thousand? An accumulation of quantity would eventually lead to a transformation in quality.

Within the Demonic Path, Demon Body Tempering Pills were incomparably precious. They were a scarce pill in high demand, a divine pill which countless people longed for in their dreams.

But the more precious a pill was, the more difficult it was to refine. Behind every finished pill that was up to standard, there were often three or more waste pills.

If all the failed Demon Body Tempering Pills were tossed here, just how many would have been gathered up to this day? Even if the strength of the Endless Sea constantly grinded away at them and destroyed them, the rich pill toxins that Qin Yu experienced just now was proof that this was definitely a substantial number.

At this moment, it was like a fire had been lit up beneath Qin Yu's heart. He could determine with almost absolute confidence that this place in front of him was where failed Demon Body Tempering Pills were buried!

But what followed his excitement was an even greater sorrow. Because even though he knew something so important and so breathtaking, there was nothing he could do about it. He could only stare helplessly at this great 'buried treasure' that could help him achieve the Saint level Demon Body sooner, yet remain unable to eat it.

Qin Yu's eyes darkened and his complexion paled!

This caused Wang Chao to lose all confidence in further trying to persuade Qin Yu. He realized that he did something that he thought was smart, but actually turned out to be incredibly stupid.

Reality proved that this premonition of his wasn't wrong. Not only did Qin Yu have no intention of moving away, but he suddenly erupted with great enthusiasm towards this terrifying danger zone. Although Qin Yu didn't say anything, Wang Chao and the others could clearly feel the urgency hidden below the surface as well as his helplessness.

He seemed to...want to go in...very much...

After realizing this point, the three brothers were silent. They remained so for a long time before looking up towards the heavens together, wondering if they had made the wrong decision.

Come on, this was the place where failed Demon Body Tempering Pills were buried. The terrifying pill toxins were so horrific that not even a Calamity Immortal would dare to easily approach this land. Yes, you are fierce and you easily managed to dispel the pill toxins, but even a fool knew that the amount of pill toxins contained within that land was surely an amount beyond anyone's control. There might even be some terrifying mutation within. If one went in, besides dying and dying more miserably, there was no other choice.

Although they hadn't lived for too long, because they had been True Demon Guards, for better or worse they were still considered relatively experienced and seasoned individuals. Still, this was the first time they had seen someone who was trying so hard to seek death...and, what left them particularly speechless was that this person was the large thigh they were trying to grab onto, their only hope to rise back up in the future...moreover, they had to spend so much time and effort to win his initial recognition. Just as they were all living in a happy moment...

This was a truly saddening reality!

Luckily, the Commander seemed to come across some difficulty. There was no way for him to quietly rush into the array formation and if he tried to directly destroy it he would surely be stopped.

This caused Wang Chao and the others to relax a little, but they didn't dare to underestimate the situation. So after discussing it, they decided to each stand guard at the various exits. They didn't want their Commander to suddenly decide that he wanted to play around and then lose his life as a result.

So this is why when the Holy Nether Guard came to report a message, he encountered Wang Chao at the front door.

Chapter 535A – Undying Awakens

Qin Yu looked at the two stiff Holy Nether Guards in front of him and wanted to remind them that they really were horrible at being bad guys. The only reason he had such a strange and random thought was

that his state of mind was surging with too much excitement right now. He didn't know who sent these two people here, but at this moment he really, really wanted to personally thank them. He had racked his mind for three days but wasn't able to think of a way to enter, and yet some people had unexpectedly come up to his door and offered the chance to him.

The Holy Nether Guard tentatively said, "My lord, is there something wrong?"

Qin Yu looked at his tense expression and was afraid this fellow would decide to turn and run away. He took a deep breath and nodded sincerely, "There's no problem, none at all!" He walked forward, his steps so fast that it seemed as if he was afraid he wouldn't be able to make it in time. As for the net of rules that sealed away the low-lying area, it had already vanished from sight.

To have done this definitely wouldn't have been easy. There might be someone who had risked their life and property in order to do so, and all of this was to help flatten his future road...completely disregarding what their original intent was, there really were too many good people in this world!

Thank you...I really must thank you...I thank your family...I thank your family's past 18 generations...the young, the old, the men, the women, I even thank your chickens, cows, cats, and dogs...

Seeing Qin Yu vanish from sight, the two Holy Nether Guards were stunned for a moment before they recovered themselves. They wondered, could it be that their flawed acting wasn't obvious enough, or was this new Commander blind?

But soon enough, the two people tossed these inopportune thoughts behind them. They glanced at each other and saw the worry and pleasant surprise in the other's eyes, thinking that no matter what the case was, they had completed the mission given to them. They nodded and turned around to leave. In the shortest period of time, they had to erase all traces of themselves so that they could safely withdraw from the storm that would soon follow.

Even an idiot would know that news of the new Holy Nether Guard Commander going missing and his life or death being unknown would stir up a commotion. But, they weren't worried. The Holy Nether Guard was already an existence that had been forgotten, so how much worse could the situation become?

...

Sky Hub Division Deputy Zhang Yuanling's complexion was pale as he looked at the chaos in front of him. He had to exhaust all of his strength in order to barely suppress the roaring in his ears and the terrifying fears that were rising up in the depths of his heart. He knew that Elder Qing Ruhong had gone into seclusion not too long ago and had temporarily passed over authority and control of the Sky Hub Division to him. But, who knew that just when he obtained true authority in his hands, before he was able to enjoy its taste, such a great catastrophe would appear today.

As the institution that was responsible for overseeing and maintaining all spells and array formations within the Demonic Path, the Sky Hub Division had a vast amount of authority, one that covered nearly all aspects of the Demonic Path. But correspondingly, they had to shoulder equally great responsibilities. They had to make sure that all current array formations and spells were revolving in an orderly manner, and if even the slightest mistake were to occur, they needed to promptly go out and repair it. If a

mistake occurred, they would be lucky if there were no serious consequences. Otherwise, even if they had three heads and six arms, that wouldn't be enough to chop off as punishment.

Zhang Yuanling didn't have three heads or six arms. So after his initial bout of fury, his focus had veered over from finding out who the perpetrator of this chaos was to hoping that no accidents happened. Otherwise, he would inevitably welcome the coldest and most callous trial of all time. He didn't even dare to think about the consequences.

Luckily, Elder Qing had always been a fair and impartial person who rewarded and punished people according to the rules. He had watched over the Sky Hub Division for many years already and had raised a formidable team of people with a rich plethora of experience. So, after a brief panic, they immediately began the repairs. Information constantly flowed in and they learned that the situation rapidly changed for the better, slowly returning to their control.

Zhang Yuanling quietly thanked the heavens. It seemed that at least right now, it was unlikely he had provoked some great catastrophe. Although he would be able to escape being reprimanded, he was already satisfied with this result.

But just as Deputy Zhang was feeling grateful, another message was sent to him. Before he even opened the jade slip, when he saw the pale complexion of the messenger who passed it to him, his heart shrank and a foreboding premonition rose up in his heart. Too worried to care about appearances, he grabbed the jade slip and probed it with his divine sense. Then, his body wavered and his field of vision flashed black.

There was an accident with the Endless Sea Array...as the Sky Hub Division Deputy and someone who oversaw many things, Zhang Yuanling had the qualifications to learn of some Demonic Path secrets not too long ago. Concerning the Endless Sea Array, before Elder Qing went into seclusion, he had cautioned about it several times and given strict orders that it had to be carefully examined. No problems were allowed to occur.

When Zhang Yuanling learned that this grand array formation sealed away all the Demonic Path's failed Demon Body Tempering Pills, his entire body had stiffened. He naturally understood how important it was...but an accident had unexpectedly occurred right now. And, this was not minor damage, but the whole array formation having stopped revolving for an entire hour!

As he thought about the horrifying pill toxins that Elder Qing had mentioned and the terrifying consequences that might occur from it, Zhang Yuanling felt as if he had fallen into an icy cave. Fear overwhelmed him as he felt that his life had reached its end. Even 'utterly disconsolate' wasn't enough to describe his current emotions.

As he was lost in a trance, the cultivator who brought over the jade slip suddenly said, "Deputy Zhang, in truth this matter isn't something that we might not be able to suppress..."

Zhang Yuanling's eyes spun and some light returned to his face. He looked over.

The person licked his lips and said, "If it were anywhere else, we wouldn't be able to do anything. But, the secret array is built beneath the Endless Sea. As long as we block out all channels of transmission, no one will learn of this. If no one investigates it, then once the matter passes we can look for countless reasons to deal with it more easily." He glanced around. "There aren't many people that know of this

matter. Moreover, as long as you take action, there won't be anyone that will try to meddle. No one wants to take on such a great responsibility."

Zhang Yuanling's heartbeat sped up. He licked his lips and light began to appear in his eyes once more. When a person was in a desperate situation, they would grab onto any ray of hope and pull on it with all their strength. Although this path was a bit risky, it was actually highly feasible. If he won this gamble, he would still be able to wield great power and be the great Deputy of the Sky Hub Division!

The messenger bowed and excused himself, not saying much more. When he turned around, a satisfied light flashed in his eyes. Once Zhang Yuanling made a move, then even if he had 100 mouths he wouldn't be able to explain the situation. He had already made sufficient preparations to cleanly extricate himself from this mess.

Of course, these were arrangements made for the worst case scenario. Perhaps he wouldn't even need to use them. The Demon Body Tempering Pill's toxins were known as something that even Calamity Immortals couldn't resist. Even if that person had a white sun boundary talent, wouldn't he also be placed in a hopeless situation?

....

Cloud Grove City, Mu Family.

Mu Xianglin exerted a bit of strength in his fingers and crushed the jade slip to pieces. A smug smile appeared on his face. He always believed that as long as a person had enough will and desire, there was nothing that couldn't be accomplished. And now, this result proved that he had been right all this time.

Demon Envoy, you thought that you could send Yao Bin into the Endless Sea and the Mu Family wouldn't be able to do anything? You thought he could conceal his abilities and then rise back up like a dragon in a deep pool?

...What a pity, I won't give him any chance to grow.

He let out a long breath. This anxiety had been pressed down in his heart ever since the day of the Demon Body talent examination. Now that he was finally able to release it, he felt entirely inspired and alive.

Some long lost small emotions suddenly rose up into his chest before soaring straight to his groin. In order to fully vent the excitement from annihilating a white sun boundary talent, he naturally needed some other channels to do so.

"Men, choose ten new maids to enter my room. Tell everyone else that I must rest for two days and if there is nothing important, not to disturb me."

There was a respectful reply from the other side of the door, followed by the sounds of fading footsteps. Moments later, Mu Xianglin walked into a vast and luxurious room. All sorts of sweet cries came from within, making one's blood race when they heard it.

While Mu Xianglin was enjoying numerous young and charming women, he never imagined what consequences his actions today would bring to the Mu Family.

Chapter 535B – Undying Awakens

The rumbling seawater roared like thunder as it rapidly flowed. The terrifying sounds entered Qin Yu's ears, shaking his eardrums and causing his mind to hum. What was even more astonishing was that even if he shielded his senses, this sound was still able to go directly to his soul space, making it impossible to avoid the acrid feeling it caused.

And the source of this continuous sound was a giant yin yang fish that was spinning at an alarming rate above his head.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed with light before immediately becoming blindingly bright. Then, the spinning yin yang fish seemed to slow down a great deal in his eyes, as if it were truly appearing in front of him.

The yin yang fish's head and tail were connected together in a circle. The black part was Qin Yu's goal for coming here. These were the waste pills of the Demon Body Tempering Pill that the Demonic Path had accumulated for countless years.

But at this moment, his attention was partially diverted somewhere else, falling onto the pure white part of the yin yang fish. This was because this dazzling white light actually came from the nine great suns that shone in the skies up above in the Demonic Path's small world!

However, because of the function of the array formation or perhaps because it had been so many years, that ordinarily thin strength of the great suns up above had reached an unexpectedly high degree of density here.

Qin Yu could clearly 'see' that the strength of the nine suns was moving at a slow pace, continuously neutralizing and counterbalancing the pill toxins and turning them into ashes. The ashes were like faint specks of dust, constantly falling down.

Thus, beneath the giant yin yang fish, that harmless gray dust had gathered up over the years, turning into mind-bogglingly large hills.

To borrow the strength of the Endless Sea to counterbalance the pill toxins...these words clearly weren't true. While the Endless Sea might play a role in helping, what truly destroyed the pill toxins was the strength of the small world's nine suns.

Qin Yu suddenly realized something concerning the rumors that the strength of the Endless Sea was used to counterbalance the pill toxins. Perhaps these rumors were intentionally spread out by the Demonic Path to begin with. The reasoning behind this was simple. The strength of the small world's nine suns was a strength shared by all cultivators within the Demonic Path, and yet a portion of it had been gathered deep in the Endless Sea where it was used to counterbalance these pill toxins.

Looking at this matter from a different angle, one could say that this was sacrificing the benefits of numerous Demonic Path cultivators in order to help some people cultivate the Demon Body that much faster. After all, the production of waste pills and pill toxins was ultimately all in order to obtain qualified Demon Body Tempering Pills.

What tortured the hearts of people was not scarcity, but inequality. A vast and aloof influence like the Demonic Path had to ensure it maintained internal equilibrium. They couldn't allow such a grave hidden danger to be known by others.

Qin Yu shook his head and suppressed these thoughts. He looked up towards the yin yang fish and started to mull over how he could safely and smoothly obtain the black part with the waste pills.

In his eyes, the fast spinning of the yin yang fish possessed a formidable strength in itself. And, there seemed to be a balance between both sides.

Qin Yu wasn't sure what would happen once the balance was broken. This caused him to remember some unpleasant memories.

For instance, when he was cultivating the Primordial Singular Energy Art and had fallen for the scheme of that old hag Purple Moon. Because of a shortcoming, the yin and yang energies had become unstable and had exploded. If it weren't for Undying helping him at the critical moment, he would have already died without even a grave left behind.

No matter how he looked at it, the spinning yin yang fish above his head contained inherent energies that were far, far more potent than the yin yang energies he cultivated in the past. Even if Qin Yu was no longer comparable to how he was in the past, he didn't have any confidence that he could resist it.

And more importantly...Undying had helped him escape from Four Seasons City like a cicada leaving its shell, and up until now he still hadn't awoken yet...Qin Yu frowned. He thought that the saying, 'the road to happiness was strewn with setbacks' was appropriate for this situation. He just wanted to obtain the waste pills, so how could it be so difficult!

He had already come here so he couldn't leave without anything in hand. If he couldn't think of a way then he could only use brute force. Qin Yu's face darkened. His Emperor level Demon Body should be powerful, right? Even if there was an accident, he wouldn't suffer the horrible fate of being blown to pieces...right?

Qin Yu clenched his teeth. Just as he decided that he was going to take this risk, the shadows beneath his feet released a deep sigh. "Oh my dear beloved little master, you're lucky I woke up just in time, otherwise you would have had to wait for me to collect your scattered corpse in the future."

A figure crept and wriggled upwards from his shadows. This was Undying who he had just been thinking about!

Qin Yu was overjoyed, "Undying, you've awoken?"

Hearing the happiness and relaxation in these words, Undying felt his heart warm a little. He cupped his hands together and said, "I shouldn't have woken up so early, but who told little master to find something so tempting? Just smelling it causes my mouth to water. I couldn't go back to sleep even if I wanted to." He looked up at the yin yang fish above and tsked in admiration.

Within Qin Yu's soul space, Meimei nodded repeatedly, a gratified look on her face. As she thought, this human-shaped food detector that was Qin Yu was truly good to use.

The purple moon gently hummed, expressing that it also wanted some.

Qin Yu had a strange complexion. He glanced at Undying and said, "I can roughly guess what it is you want, so let me warn you ahead of time. Those two villainous residents in my soul space have already come to an agreement."

Undying smiled and nodded. "Of course they can. I can't eat it all by myself." Then, he stepped up and his figure dissolved into shadows as he drilled right into the yin yang fish.

Qin Yu couldn't see Undying's movements, but soon there were loud clinking sounds as waste pills fell down.

At the same time, a vast halo of pure white light spread out from the yin yang fish like growing white clouds.

Meimei cheered out loud. She grasped forward and ripped away a quarter of it.

The purple moon was close behind. There was a flash of purple light and then only half of the original white clouds were left over.

Undying's figure appeared. He chuckled and took half of the remaining part, directly slapping it onto his body. He smiled in satisfaction.

Thus, only a quarter of the original amount was left behind.

As Qin Yu was puzzled, the quiet blue sun within his dantian sea suddenly emitted a faint fluctuation. Then, the last wisp of white cloud vanished from sight.

"Little master, our ability is limited so we can only take this much each time. Once we finish absorbing it we can help you again." Undying looked deeply at Qin Yu. He knew many of Qin Yu's secrets, but he also knew that he had never once touched upon Qin Yu's greatest secret.

In fact, he was instinctively too scared to investigate, because it was extremely possible that probing such secrets would bring with it terrifying consequences. Undying was confident in his intuition. So, while he was curious, he never once asked Qin Yu what he wanted these waste pills that were filled with violent poisons for.

Shua –

Undying turned and dove into the shadows. Qin Yu's soul space also quieted down.

Qin Yu didn't care about the meaning behind Undying's last profound look. He looked down at the small pile of waste pills at his feet and couldn't contain his smile.

Roughly counting, there were at least 1000-2000 waste pills here. Once he purified and refined them, he should be able to obtain 700-800 Demon Body Tempering Pills if not more!

Qin Yu looked up at the still massive yin yang fish and then back at the waste pills beneath him. It was as if he could hear the alluring beckoning of the Saint level Demon Body.

Don't waste time on words, let's get down to work!

His thoughts stirred. Because he had already communicated his desire beforehand, the space in front of him suddenly collapsed and the phantom of a great sun appeared. At this moment, an invisible prestige and energy thoroughly locked out the surrounding space and time. Even Qin Yu's independent consciousness was completely shielded so that nothing beyond him could probe him or find out anything.

Within the shadow world, Undying sat upon his throne. His eyes suddenly opened to reveal a dignified color.

“It came again...I really am curious, just what sort of power can have such a terrifying might behind it?”

However, as he thought about how it was Qin Yu who possessed this mysterious power, Undying’s complexion became much better to look at. Since he had already made his decision to back Qin Yu, the stronger Qin Yu was, the better it would be for him.

It had to be known that whether it was him or Spirity who was constantly enduring pain, neither of them had a chance to fail again. Otherwise, they would be thrust beyond redemption.

Within Qin Yu’s soul space, Meimei’s lips moved, but she didn’t say anything in the end. When she first chose to work together with Qin Yu, it really wasn’t because she had been frightened. Rather, through her keen perception, she discovered some extremely formidable aura coming from his body.

At first she felt it was extremely inconceivable for such a strong aura to appear in Qin Yu’s body. But, this was enough to change her mind. Perhaps the hope of her people, the chance for them to rid themselves of the shackles of their destiny, really lied upon Qin Yu’s body.

Feeling the shield that was blocking out her senses, Meimei looked at the purple moon and blinked. It was like she was saying, ‘proud and arrogant big sister, how come you aren’t going crazy with anger right now?’

But what a pity, the purple moon remained cold and peaceful, not revealing even the slightest fluctuation to this prodding.

There were all sorts of reasoning for everything that a person obtained in this world. It wasn’t something that could be decided with luck alone. Otherwise, that joyous surprise would turn to frightened despair in the next moment, and a lucky chance might have the possibility of burying someone’s life in the end.

Qin Yu never doubted that the reason he was able to come this far was all because of what happened on that night long, long ago. On the verge of unconsciousness, he had seen a trace of deep blue light and grabbed onto it.

And in fact, his thinking wasn’t wrong.

Chapter 536A – Like a God Looking Down From the Clouds Above

There was a commotion in Holy Nether City and the cause was Wang Chao, Hua Yanting, and Huang Shan. After waiting for a long time and not seeing Qin Yu return, they began to feel restless and left the residence to inquire into the situation. They found that the Holy Nether Guard simply hadn’t sent anyone to request help from the Commander and that no incident had occurred in the city. The three people were immediately left frightened. As they repeatedly confirmed this over and over, they felt a cold chill shoot from their hearts up out of their heads.

Without a doubt, the lord had encountered an accident!

Qin Yu was their final hope. If an accident were to happen to him, the three of them wouldn’t have a chance to even take half a step out of the Endless Sea for the rest of their lives. At the start of this

venture they had seen the dawn of hope, but now they had been thrust into the infinite abyss. No matter how optimistic they were, it was impossible for them to withstand such a blow.

As a result, Wang Chao and the others raised a ruckus in the Holy Nether Guard's central station. Both sides began with vicious insults before devolving into a brutal melee. As expected, Wang Chao and the others were beaten black and blue and they were ruthlessly tossed into jail, charged with the crime of defying orders and slandering their superiors.

But this matter involved the current Lord Commander. Even though a vice lieutenant had been punched in the face and was cursing his heart out, no matter how annoyed he actually was he didn't dare to conceal this and not report it. He had locked up Wang Chao and the other two with good reason, but even if he didn't fear offending the current Commander, who knew whether or not today's events were part of that surname Yao's dastardly plot?

Fu Shan soon obtained this news. His heart leapt up before he calmed himself back down. He waited for a day, wanting to see what sort of play this new Commander was trying to enact. But, things progressed differently to what he expected. This Yao Bin had truly vanished. Even though they searched through the entirety of Holy Nether City, they still couldn't find any clues leading to him.

Restlessness began to appear in the hearts of the people.

First Lieutenant Yuan Zhen had a heavy complexion. "Those three people beneath Yao Bin said that Commander Fu Shan had sent for him and he had to leave the mansion due to some important matter. What does everyone think of this?"

"It's all nonsense!" The Second Lieutenant sneered. "In my opinion, this new Commander had sensed the situation and is trying to stir up trouble."

The Third Lieutenant nodded. "I also think the same." His lips curved up in a taunting smile. "I have already sent people to investigate this. Those three people in jail keep shouting and hollering that someone secretly harmed Yao Bin. It's simply a joke. If someone is exiled into the Endless Sea, the only thing that awaits them is death. Why would anyone be bored enough to harm him?"

Once he finished speaking, he thought about how his own situation was to eat until he was full and then also wait for his death. His face darkened.

Fu Shan sat at the head of the table. He furrowed his eyebrows and suddenly said, "I am only worried that the Holy Palace must have realized something, so they decided to send a new Commander over all of a sudden."

Yuan Zhen's complexion changed. "My lord, are you saying that the reason Yao Bin suddenly went missing is because he wants to find a reason for the Holy Palace to move against us?"

If things were like this, the situation was more serious than he thought!

The Second Lieutenant cautiously said, "I don't think that's likely, right? If the Holy Palace really sensed something, they would have long since lowered thunder upon us and there would be nothing we could have done to resist it." He paused briefly and continued, "Moreover, this matter was always carried out with the utmost secrecy. Even within the entire Holy Nether Guard, the number of people that know of

this can be counted with two hands. Each of them has several generations of inheritance and there absolutely isn't any problem with their loyalty."

Fu Shan waved his hand. "Enough. I was just casually mentioning it. If we haphazardly guess, there is nothing we can obtain. Bring Yao Bin's three subordinates here. Let's see whether or not we can find out any clues from them."

They nodded.

Soon, Wang Chao and the other two were brought out from jail and delivered here.

After entering jail, the three people shouted out for a while before they calmed down. Once they discussed the situation amongst themselves, they realised that the Holy Nether Guard had no reason for killing the Commander.

If they killed Qin Yu, not only would they not obtain any advantages, but they would also welcome the wrath of the Holy Palace.

So after entering the hall, Wang Chao fell to his knees. "Vice Commander, three lieutenants, please hurry and rescue the Lord Commander!" Qin Yu had already been gone for over a day. As he thought about this, it was like his heart filled with stones, each beat becoming particularly difficult.

Fu Shan maintained his composure, "We also want to know what exactly happened. At the very least, you have to tell me who plotted to murder the Commander so we can find out where he is and rescue him."

The one who tricked the Commander and led him away was you Holy Nether Guard people! Wang Chao wanted to blurt out these words but he realized it wouldn't be useful. Not only would he be wasting his time, he would even cause these people across from him to be angrier at him.

"Reporting to the Vice Commander, it is people from outside the Endless Sea. They aren't willing to see the Commander survive any longer and threaten their future status. I ask the lords to thoroughly investigate anyone who has contact with those on the outside. You will definitely be able to catch the person who plotted to murder the Commander!"

The Second Lieutenant roared out loud, "Shut up! It is impossible for this matter to be related to the Holy Nether Guard. If you dare to recklessly slander us again, you will not be forgiven!"

Hua Yanting shouted, "What big brother said is true, why won't you believe him?"

The Second Lieutenant sneered, "Since you won't give up, then let's speak honestly. Yao Bin might be the Commander of the Holy Nether Guard in name, but in essence he is simply someone exiled into the Endless Sea. What qualifications does he have for others to try and murder him here...the words you say are simply unbelievable!"

Wang Chao's eyes popped open. He suddenly had the thought that from the very start, he had been mistaken about something.

When he first came to Holy Nether City, the only thought in his mind was to tightly grab onto Qin Yu's big thigh. So, when he saw the ruins of the residence he was staying in, he didn't think too much of it.

He assumed that the Holy Nether Guard's resentment was far too deep so they wanted to deliberately humiliate him. But thinking back to it...

He looked up, his lips shivering. "You...you don't know...who the Commander is..." Seeing the four people across from him furrow their eyebrows as if they were wondering what sort of craziness he was going to shout out now, Wang Chao closed his eyes in pain, his heart grumbling the entire time.

Fu Shan's eyes sharpened. "What are you trying to say?"

Wang Chao opened his eyes. His voice was hollow as he said, "The Commander's name is Yao Bin. He is a new disciple who passed the Demon Ascension Gate and joined the Demonic Path not too long ago..."

Fu Shan's heart shrank. A new disciple...even if they were exiled into the Endless Sea after committing a great crime, how could they obtain the position of Commander? He was always on guard, assuming that Qin Yu was some unknown chess piece raised by the Holy Palace. But now it seemed that he had been wrong all along.

"...During the Demon Body talent examination, the Commander shocked the heavens. He galvanized a world phenomenon and a tenth great sun appeared in the skies of the Holy Land's small world..."

Yuan Zhen lost his voice, "Sun step talent!"

Wang Chao remained expressionless. "To be more accurate, it is the sun step's white sun boundary. The entire Demonic Path was stirred up because of that and countless undercurrents erupted beneath the surface. Soon after, the Commander was exiled to the Endless Sea and became the Commander of the Holy Nether Guard."

His face twitched and he finally revealed an angry expression. "When I first arrived at the Endless Sea and learned that he was the newly appointed Commander, do you all know what my innermost feelings were like? I'm sure that the four lords here understand what this represents much better than I do.

"But I never imagined that from beginning to end, the Holy Nether Guard wouldn't know of the Lord Commander's white sun talent boundary. It was our mistake. I assumed that someone well known throughout the entire Demonic Path would have already reached the ears of the Holy Nether Guard. Yet things were actually so unexpected."

Tears flowed down, filled with sorrow and sadness.

The entire hall was left deathly silent.

Fu Shan's face paled. The three lieutenants were also left in an absent-minded daze, a loud rumbling crashing through their minds. At this time, it was no longer necessary for Wang Chao to lie to them about something like this. Moreover, the four of them were people with rich experiences of their own, and it wasn't difficult for them to judge the veracity of these words.

White sun boundary...

The Holy Nether Guard was forever guarding the Endless Sea. Only after being summoned by the Holy Monarch could their freedom be restored. Thus, through the countless generations of inheritance, the relationship between the Holy Nether Guard and Holy Monarch had always been closer than others

assumed. To a degree, it could be said that the entire Holy Nether Guard was controlled by the Holy Monarch and was a direct extension of his strength.

So, as for what a white sun boundary Demon Body talent represented, Fu Shan and the others were more aware than anyone else. As long as this Yao Bin put in enough effort, he might only need 100-200 years and there would be a significant chance that he would rocket straight into the heavens, successfully achieving a Saint level Demon Body and succeeding the throne of the Holy Monarch.

Qin Yu was the Holy Nether Guard Commander. As long as both sides lived harmoniously, they would have a shared relation together. And once he succeeded the throne of the Holy Monarch, wouldn't the day that the Holy Nether Guard retrieve their freedom be close at hand?

Now, it seemed that Qin Yu wasn't exiled at all. Rather, someone had deliberately sent him here to take advantage of the secure environment of the Endless Sea. Not only would he have the protection of the Holy Nether Guard, he would also be able to safely grow.

All of this was perfectly planned, but what did they do?

They coldly spurned Qin Yu and tossed him into the cold ruins of the Commander Residence without caring for him. When he suffered an accident after falling for the plot of others, they even continued to suspect him.

If regret medicine really existed in this world, they could have eaten hundreds of them in a single gulp. But with things having come this far, it was already too late.

Fu Shan stood up and his roars echoed throughout the hall. "Everyone set out! Find where the Lord Commander is no matter the cost!" Beneath his robes, he clenched his fists so tightly that his nails pierced through his flesh and blood dripped out. But, he didn't think about this at all.

As the Vice Commander, Fu Shan's life mission was to lead the Holy Nether Guard and break free of this giant cage that imprisoned them. But when that hope appeared, he didn't grasp it at all. If something really happened to Qin Yu, he would never be able to forgive himself.

The full force of the Holy Nether Guard was put on display. All of Holy Nether City was turned upside down. In this vast search and rescue mission, two people led their respective squads across a street. When their eyes met, they could sense the fear in each other's eyes. They suddenly discovered that they miscalculated something.

But what was done was done. There was no way to return things to how they were. The two of them could only lower their heads and vow to forever bury this matter in their hearts.

The Holy Nether Guard didn't find out anything. Fu Shan didn't hesitate to personally activate Holy Nether City's grand array formation. He determined that Qin Yu hadn't left the city, but had vanished somewhere inside.

Wang Chao was deathly pale. The more they searched and didn't come up with any clues, the more this proved how meticulous the plot was. He feared that the Lord Commander had fallen into a trap and his fate was more unfortunate than fortunate...he stood in the rear court of the ruined residence and looked at the chaotic Holy Nether Guards all around him. Then, his gaze inadvertently looked into the distance. His heart skipped a beat as if he had forgotten something.

That direction...yes, why did he forget that area!?

If the Lord Commander was able to survive the Demon Ascension Gate's small world, his strength shouldn't be low. Since none of the high level figures within the Holy Nether Guard did anything, then there was probably no one else in this city that could quietly kill him. If so, then borrowing the strength of something else to kill him became the best possible choice.

The more he thought about this, the more he believed it to be true. He immediately sent up a message to the Vice Commander that he had found a clue. Then, crossing the collapsed courtyard walls, he raced towards the city's edge.

Chapter 536B – Like a God Looking Down From the Clouds Above

Soon, Fu Shan and the others caught up. Wang Chao pointed at the low-lying region covered with holes in front of him and said in a low voice, "I suspect that the Lord Commander entered here." But as he thought about how the Commander might have rushed in on his own initiative even after sensing there was something wrong, the distressed Wang Chao couldn't help but bitterly smile.

Hua Yanting and Huang Shan revealed strange looks. But soon, this look vanished. The two of them weren't idiots. They needed the Holy Nether Guard to save the Commander right now, so they certainly couldn't thrust the responsibility onto him.

Fu Shan had a dignified expression. His thoughts began to race. He soon guessed what Wang Chao was thinking and his heart sank. As the Holy Nether Guard Vice Commander – the one who actually held the highest level of authority here – he naturally understood what sort of terrifying killing strength was hidden below this pock-marked low-lying region.

Waste Demon Body Tempering Pills!

If it weren't for this reason, the Commander's Residence that was close to this area wouldn't have gradually declined over the years. The reason was simple – no one was willing to live there.

But this place had always been protected by a great array formation...Fu Shan's eyes darkened. If there was some power capable of extending their tentacles into the Endless Sea, they were definitely a top tier influence within the Demonic Path. If so, it wouldn't be difficult for them to temporarily disable the protective array formation.

If Yao Bin had actually been deceived into entering this place and so much time had already passed, then the odds were against him.

Yuan Zhen and the others all revealed bitter expressions and temporarily paused the search and rescue mission. Regret rose up once more and worry tore at their hearts.

Wang Chao quietly said, "The Lord Command can still be saved." He lifted a finger, "My brother here had been injured by pill toxins several days ago, but the Lord Commander easily dispelled them." He knew he had to give the Holy Nether Guard hope so he continued to say, "The Lord Commander once said that he doesn't fear these pill toxins and was only curious where they came from."

Of course, Qin Yu naturally never said these words before.

But, did that matter?

The eyes of Fu Shan and the others lit up. Yuan Zhen roared, "What are you all waiting for? Go and rescue the Commander!"

"Calm down!" Fu Shan took a deep breath, "There is a formidable protective array formation here. It cannot be destroyed with brute strength alone, otherwise the consequences will be inconceivable!" He took out a jade slip. "I will send a message outside and request for a tunnel to be opened in the array formation. There will soon be a response."

As he finished speaking, he exerted some strength and the jade slip was crushed to dust.

Wang Chao prayed, "There is finally hope. Commander, you have to be safe..."

At this moment, similar thoughts appeared in the hearts of numerous people.

But as time slowly passed, the message of the jade slip was like a stone tossed into the sea.

Although Wang Chao vowed and repeatedly expressed that Qin Yu didn't fear pill toxins, this was all to stabilize the will of the people and give Fu Shan and the others hope. But in reality, he didn't have any faith in his own words.

He thought about how the Lord Commander was likely struggling to hold back the pill toxins after entering the array formation, and was hovering on the border of life and death this entire time. His heart felt as if it were gripped by an invisible hand.

He couldn't wait any longer!

"Vice Commander!"

Fu Shan's complexion was dignified. He clenched his teeth and said, "Wait another quarter hour!"

He lifted his hand and crushed the second signaling jade slip.

Wang Chao gnashed his teeth.

Another quarter hour passed in quiet agony, with no reply.

Before Wang Chao could open his mouth, Fu Shan took a deep breath. "Everyone draw back. Yuan Zhan, bring the others away and lay down a great isolating array. If anything happens to me, you will replace me as Vice Commander!"

It was clear he wanted to personally take action and break through the Endless Sea Array.

Yuan Zhen was shocked. "No! My lord, it is better for you to stand back and assume command. Allow me to do this for you!"

Fu Shan coldly waved his hand. "Your strength is lacking. Don't waste any more time; immediately begin!" He turned and looked ahead, his cold eyes grim and indifferent. In today's situation, there was a responsibility that was his, a duty he could not shrink back from. As he thought about how his actions might have ruined the Holy Nether Guard's hopes of leaving this cage, there was a suffering in his heart that no one could fathom...to Fu Shan, this was a way of redeeming himself.

Wang Chao took a step forward. "I will follow the Vice Commander." His eyes stopped Hua Yanting and Huang Shan from approaching. "Second Brother, Third Brother, if I die today, I hope you can live well in my stead."

Compared to being stranded in the Endless Sea for the rest of his life, Wang Chao would rather die a heroic death.

The group began to draw back. Yuan Zhen's face was pale as he brought everyone back and started to arrange the array formations. Layers of them lit up one after another, isolating Fu Shan and Wang Chao from the outside world. Once the pill toxins erupted, these array formations would be able to buy valuable time for the Holy Nether Guard to flee.

Fu Shan looked at Wang Chao, a bit of surprise in his eyes. But soon, he composed himself. He walked towards the low-lying region filled with pits up ahead and a formidable aura erupted from his body. It was like an awakening volcano, one so deep that it shook the mind.

...

After the little blue lamp became the incarnation of a great sun and started shining down its light on the small world, its strength had clearly increased by a great deal. The waste pills within the yin yang fish were soon completely purified and the materials were received into Qin Yu's storage ring. The projection of the little blue lamp dispersed as this happened.

But a conundrum appeared. Due to the fierce and violent rumbling emitted by the yin yang fish, whether it was refining pills or cultivating, he would surely be seriously affected.

So, there were two choices laid in front of Qin Yu right now.

The first was to endure the barrage of thunderous rumbles from the yin yang fish and simply wait until Undying woke back up. Then, Undying could continue to take out more waste pills. The problem with this was that Undying's absorption rate was too slow and it would inevitably waste a massive amount of time. Moreover, there was also that thunderous rumbling which shot straight into his soul. While it wouldn't create damage for a short period of time, if Qin Yu were to stay here for too long, his soul would definitely be harmed.

The second choice was to leave right now. As soon as he touched the imprisoning array this would be known by the outside world, and then leaving would become much simpler. But the problem was that if he were to leave now, it would likely be much more difficult to come back in the future. Once the mysterious forces aiming at him discovered that pill toxins couldn't harm him, there wouldn't be any more sudden winds of fortune appearing out of nowhere to help pave his path.

Neither of these choices were good, but Qin Yu didn't hesitate too much. He had to obtain these Demon Body Tempering waste pills, even if that meant his soul would suffer damage.

But just as he made this decision, within his soul space, Meimei seemed to realize his thoughts and immediately poured a bucket of cold water on him.

"The array formation here is terrifying, strong enough to resist the onslaught of a Calamity Immortal. I can momentarily shield you from most of the impact against your soul, but I can't keep it up for too long. If you want to stay here for a long time, besides death, your only option is more death."

The first choice had been directly snuffed out...Qin Yu fell silent. He looked up at the yin yang fish. If he left like this, he really would be unwilling.

Undying stepped out from the shadows. Qin Yu was overjoyed to see him. "Are you done absorbing?" If this was the speed then it should be enough to take away all the waste pills.

Undying shook his head, "How can it be so quick?" But before Qin Yu could express his disappointment, he threw out a happy surprise. "However, I have a way to help little master smoothly leave and enter this place without anyone discovering you."

"What way is it?"

"It's not good to explain the specifics, but the effects are absolutely easy to use. But to accomplish this, the residents residing in little master must provide some help."

Qin Yu nodded, "Speak."

Undying's eyes flashed. "The purple moon in your soul space and the blue sun in your dantian. I won't cause any damage to them. I just need them to lend me a bit of their moonlight and sunlight."

Hum –

Above Qin Yu's head, a blue sun arrived. After several breaths of time, a purple phantom appeared alongside it. It was clear that they understood the dialogue between both sides and were responding with action.

Of course, the true reason wasn't because they cared about this cheap master Qin Yu and were trying to help him obtain waste pills no matter what price they had to pay.

Rather, that extremely rich strength of the nine suns was the reason they were willing to help.

Qin Yu knew this, but he didn't care about it. Since it was a win-win situation for everyone involved, why provoke the unhappiness of others by deliberating on it?

Undying smiled and said, "Little master, please wait a moment. We will be able to leave soon."

He raised a hand. Because he had taken the initiative to cut off his own perception, the phantoms of the sun and moon turned into streams of light that howled and sank into Undying's hand. At this time, no one knew that Undying was finally able to confirm the speculation in his heart. He sighed in satisfaction inwardly.

"It really is the inheritance of the Lunar and Solar Holy Lands..."

His thoughts moved. He wanted to give Qin Yu a reminder, but as he thought about how these two schools of cultivation arts focused on freedom of the heart and mind, he decided against it. If he said anything to Qin Yu and Qin Yu was then prepared, the result might not be a beautiful one. If so, it was better to quietly watch on. Perhaps there would be an unexpectedly pleasant surprise. After all, since these two cultivation arts had crossed the threshold, there shouldn't be a backlash.

The Lunar Star and Solar Star, these were two great Holy Lands! Just how strong had they been in the past? Yet their inheritances both appeared in the same body.

This was destiny.

Undying felt more and more that his decision was correct. If he followed by Qin Yu's side, he might be able to take back everything he lost in the past.

Take back everything, and perhaps even some more!

Hum –

Purple and blue light erupted and waves of light proliferated outwards. One could faintly see the shadows of a sun and moon appear on both sides.

Undying seemed to sense something. A bit of hesitation appeared on his face before it immediately turned into a smile. His hands formed a new law formula. This law formula didn't have any substantial function to it and only served to deepen the blue and purple light, causing it to become even more gorgeous and radiant. A dim haze surrounded the phantoms of the sun and moon.

Hum –

The layers of light struck against the array formation. The imprisoning and isolating rules trembled before retreating outwards, opening up a path to the outside world.

"Little master, you may leave now."

Before Undying's voice fell, he already fused back into the shadows.

Please, with your unsurpassed image of brilliance and glory, shock and subdue those people outside.

Qin Yu walked outside. His figure was shrouded in a halo of purple and blue light. Surrounded by the sun and moon, he resembled an ancient deity descending upon the world. On his firm and resolute face, there were additional traces of dignity and mystery.

...

At the edge of Holy Nether City, Fu Shan stood before the array formation, his aura increased to its limits, ready to erupt with a heaven-shocking barrage. As an unimaginable event was about to erupt, at this time, Fu Shan's complexion suddenly changed.

Lines began to emerge in the empty space before him; these were the representation of the invisible rules. But, the difference now was that they were rendered into some sort of strange visible blue and purple color.

No matter how experienced Fu Shan was and how good he was at concealing his emotions, he couldn't help but widen his eyes and reveal a shocked look upon seeing what happened after this.

The rule lines that were dyed purple and blue suddenly started to move about like the tentacles of living creatures. Then, as if following some formidable will, they began to quietly disperse outwards. The rule line quietly hung down, as if silently expressing their awe and reverence.

A channel appeared before Fu Shan. Soon after, faint footsteps sounded out, followed by some sort of illusionary and ethereal atmosphere that left the mind entranced.

From this sort of scene that was inconceivably dazzling and gorgeous, Qin Yu walked out. He was bathed in a halo of blue and purple light from top to bottom and the phantom of a sun and moon came from the channel, magnificently appearing in front of everyone.

Dignified, noble, regal, like a god looking down from the clouds above, leaving everyone stricken with awe.

Chapter 537A – Forgiveness and the Heart of the People

Fu Shan was stunned. His face began to fill with disbelief. He, more than anyone else, was aware of how powerful the Endless Sea Array was. Although he had been prepared to go all-out just now, the truth was that he didn't have much confidence he really could break through, much less bend the rule lines and cause them to disperse on their own.

At this moment, Qin Yu's image in his mind became much larger, and that seemingly ordinary aura also gained a mystical flavor. But as he thought about how this person possessed the inconceivable white sun boundary Demon Body talent, he felt that this could all be reasonably explained. After all, how could a proud son of heaven like this be as simple as he appeared on the surface?

He had already been mistaken before and nearly became a vile evildoer who harmed the entire Holy Nether Guard.

Now that the heavens had given him a chance to correct his mistake, how could he miss out on it?

Fu Shan drew back one step. He cupped his fists together and bowed deeply, "Subordinate Fu Shan greets the Lord Commander!" Unlike when he first met Qin Yu, this greeting contained true respect.

Undying's little tricks had an effect after all. He had helped Qin Yu create a mysterious and formidable image in everyone's minds. Otherwise, while Fu Shan might have bowed his head, it wouldn't have been today and definitely not in front of so many people.

This bow helped Qin Yu establish his dignity and position with the Holy Nether Guard.

Through the layers upon layers of isolating array formations, Yuan Zhen's eyes revealed a complex look. He gently sighed inwardly. He could correctly guess that Fu Shan's actions were a form of apology for his past behavior. He also knew that from this moment on, they were no longer in control of the Holy Nether Guard's future.

He only hoped that the heavens didn't plan on playing any more jokes on them. He hoped that this young Commander in front of them could lift the shackles that wrapped around their bodies and free them from their cage.

"First Lieutenant Yuan Zhen pays respect to the Commander!"

There was the rustling of scaled armor brushing against itself. Yuan Zhen's large figure knelt down as he lowered his proud head.

Yes, it was true, they indeed held a deep enmity towards the Holy Palace. 100,000 years...they had been trapped here for an entire 100,000 years! Just what amazing and illustrious characters were their ancestors? Yet they had been stranded in the Endless Sea, unable to take a single step out, until eventually they finally perished here, drowning in their own wretched despair and sorrow. Moreover,

how many of their descendants had never been able to see the great sun in the heavens high above, or even take a single breath of fresh and free air?

But in order to strive for a better future for the Holy Nether Guard, all of these grievances could be tossed to the side. As long as the younger generation and their descendants were able to leave this sea, what was the harm in forgetting about the past for a brighter future?

“Second Lieutenant and Third Lieutenant pay their respects to the Commander!”

Behind them, even more Holy Nether Guards fell to their knees, their armor crashing and rumbling for a moment before quieting back down.

The air was suddenly filled with solemnity and respect. A deep momentum rose up! At this moment, wherever one could see around them, only Qin Yu stood tall.

No, to be more precise, there was Qin Yu and another half of a person.

Because Fu Shan was only bowing.

Qin Yu lifted his hand and the purple and blue light began to rapidly fade away. The sun and moon phantoms also disappeared and the rule lines that bent outwards began to restore themselves to how they were in the beginning. His light expression swept over Wang Chao’s face that was flushed red with excitement. He thought for a moment and nodded. Disregarding what Wang Chao’s thoughts were, if he was able to stand here with Fu Shan, then he had sufficiently earned enough points and Qin Yu really could trust him.

The future would prove just what sort of rich repayment Wang Chao’s performance today would bring him.

“Rise.”

“Yes, Commander.”

Fu Shan straightened himself. “Commander, may I ask exactly what happened and how you entered the secret array?” He carefully looked over Qin Yu and saw that his appearance was complete, without anything resembling injuries. As he thought about the terrifying pill toxins within the secret array, his heart filled with even more awe.

He already believed the words that Wang Chao and the others had said. Since he had decided to stand by Qin Yu’s side, then he naturally had to display the correct attitude. No matter who it was that did this or whatever their reason was, they needed to be pulled out in exchange for Qin Yu’s forgiveness.

Qin Yu’s expression was light. “A day ago, two Holy Nether Guards came to my residence and said there was an important matter that you needed me for. Then, they brought me here.”

Fu Shan was furious. “How bold! Commander, rest assured that I will conduct a thorough investigation and catch those two people so you may deal with them!”

Qin Yu shook his head. “There’s no need for that.” His eyes swerved to the side. “A person’s appearance may be changed and their cultivation may be concealed, but they cannot fake their soul aura. I just

happen to have a technique that can differentiate between souls. Those two Holy Nether Guards from yesterday are now...right here.”

His eyes came to a stop.

Two Holy Nether Guard squad captains lowered their heads. Their bodies were entirely still but sweat had already gushed out all over them, drenching their armor.

A dense chill rose up from the depths of their hearts, spreading through their limbs and bones and making them feel as if they fell into an icy hell.

Fu Shan looked over, following Qin Yu’s gaze. The corners of his eyes gently twitched and he took a deep breath and coldly shouted, “You two, come out!”

The two squad leaders marched forward, “Subordinates Xu Wei, Xu Hu, greet the Commander and Vice Commander!”

Fu Shan was expressionless. “Do you two plan on speaking yourselves, or do I have to hand down the punishment of the Holy Nether Guard?”

Xu Wei and Xu Hu trembled. They fell to their knees, “We acknowledge our guilt. We are willing to die as an apology!”

The punishment of the Holy Nether Guard...this was a fate more frightening than death. As for denying it, they never thought of this to begin with. Since Qin Yu had already locked onto them, as long as people sincerely investigated into them, their seemingly safe arrangements would all be torn apart.

The two lifted their hands to strike their own foreheads!

Sometimes suicide was a grace in itself.

But before the crushing strikes of these two men were able to land, their hands were bounced back by invisible strength.

Fu Shan’s eyes flashed with unwillingness before immediately turning cold and callous. “Men, take Xu Wei and Xu Hu away. Toss them into the jail so that the Lord Commander can personally deal with them later!” He couldn’t allow these two people to commit suicide because he needed to give the Lord Commander a way to vent his anger and indignation. No matter how much he didn’t want to do this, he no longer had any choice.

Qin Yu lifted a hand. “Wait a moment. I very much want to know, just why did you plot to murder me?” He paused briefly and continued, “If you speak the truth, you may be given leniency.”

Xu Wei bitterly said, “We have no idea who it was working behind the scenes.” To be given a little leniency, was that to be given a happy death? Qin Yu didn’t allow them to die so they didn’t dare to try and commit suicide anymore. Otherwise, if his anger was to be vented upon their family, that was truly the most horrifying possibility.

Unfortunately they really didn’t know anything. From beginning to end, they were just pawns in another person’s game.

Who willingly wanted to be a chess piece? Yet they had no other choice.

Qin Yu shook his head. "I don't want to know who directed you to harm me." This was because he didn't need evidence at all. His heart told him that whoever would obtain the greatest benefits from his death would be the one who tried to murder him. He already had an idea in his mind.

"Just say why you agreed to work for them."

Xu Wei clenched his teeth. "It is to save my mother!"

Fu Shan's body visibly trembled.

Qin Yu maintained his composure as he succinctly asked, "Be specific."

Xu Hu loudly said, "My mother is grievously ill and must be treated with pills from the outside! They agreed to give us brothers the pills needed to cure our mother, so that is the reason why we agreed to harm you! Since we have been caught, if you want to kill or torture us, do whatever it is you please. But Lord Commander, please do not play jokes with us brothers anymore!"

The atmosphere clearly changed. The originally shocked and silent eyes suddenly revealed unwillingness, pain, and even deep resentment.

There was surely another story behind all of this.

Qin Yu looked towards Fu Shan.

Fu Shan sighed. He began to explain, "Commander hasn't been in the Endless Sea for too long, so there are some secrets of Holy Nether City that you are still unaware of. The Holy Nether Guard is to be forever stranded here if we are not given permission to leave. Countless generations have lived in the deep sea for 100,000 years, and while we may live in Holy Nether City, it still remains a land different from the outside world.

"For some unknown reason, there is the chance of a severe gradual collapse syndrome appearing within the ranks of the Holy Nether Guard and their family members. Once this illness appears, unless there is a special pill refined from a special type of hyacinth grass found in the outside world, the person will be bedridden with that lingering disease until they eventually succumb to weakness and die."

Speaking to here, Fu Shan's expression was especially heavy. "In these last 10,000 years, this collapse syndrome has been appearing more and more. Roughly estimating, at least 400,000 people have died of this disease already."

Qin Yu knew of this hyacinth grass. It was a relatively common spirit plant found in the outside world; its value was probably several thousand spirit stones. But in exchange for a life, it wasn't comparable at all.

Yet it was the lack of such a common spirit plant that had caused the Holy Nether Guard to lose 400,000 lives. If someone said that there wasn't another reason behind it, he wouldn't have believed them at all.

No wonder the Holy Nether Guard held such a deep resentment towards the Holy Palace. Qin Yu even felt admiration towards Fu Shan and the others that they could see the bigger picture and didn't brutally attack him upon seeing him.

Qin Yu finally understood the situation. Someone had offered hyacinth grass as a reward and Xu Wei and Xu Hu who loved their mother dearly had been caught in their net.

Chapter 537B – Forgiveness and the Heart of the People

The scene was quiet, so quiet that one could hear the heavy breaths of those present. Many Holy Nether Guards had reddened eyes; they all had a friend or family member who had died to this disease.

Suddenly, a chaotic sound came from the crowd. The sad and frightened voice of a woman spread out, “Brother Fu, please forgive those two children, they did this all to rescue me!”

After a brief hesitation, the Holy Nether Guards drew to the sides like a falling tide. A woman in cotton robes staggered forward. Her hair was almost all white and her face was etched with wrinkles left by pain and suffering.

Xu Wei’s eyes instantly turned red. “Mother, why did you come!?” He squeezed out a smile. “We’re fine Mother, please don’t worry. Go back home!”

The woman threw herself onto the two brothers and slapped their backs, “You two idiots, how could you do something like this? After I die I can reunite with your father, so what is the point of paying with your lives!” She turned, her eyes filled with pleading. “Brother Fu, please look at my two sons. On behalf of the fact that they lost their father when they were little, I beg you to forgive them. I vow to you that this will never happen again!”

Fu Shan quickly reached out to help her up. “Sister-in-law, please stand up.”

The woman heatedly shook her head, “Brother Fu, if you want to enforce the law impartially then I won’t have any complaints. Just allow the three of us to die together!”

Fu Shan bitterly smiled. He simply didn’t have the ability to intervene in this situation. Otherwise, what would Yao Bin think?

There was another disturbance. Several figures rushed over. The man in the lead had a cold and callous look. He cupped his hands together and said, “Vice Commander and Lieutenants, I ask that you forgive Xu Wei and Xu Hu and allow them to live!”

Hai Lanlan stood to the side, her face flushed red due to how tense she was. But, this also caused the chilling atmosphere around her to be much more diluted. She respectfully bowed and said, “Xu Wei and Xu Hu may have committed a crime, but it was all in order to save their sick mother. Furthermore, there was no irreparable harm caused, so I ask fellow uncles to please pardon them.”

The others also pleaded for mercy on their behalf.

News of Qin Yu’s white sun boundary Demon Body talent was still limited to the uppermost echelons of the Holy Nether Guard. These juniors naturally didn’t know of this, so they didn’t understand that Xu Wei and Xu Hu’s life or death existed at the whim of Qin Yu.

In their opinion, such a grand search and rescue mission was all because he possessed the title of Commander. If he were to die here, the Holy Palace would surely punish them.

They presumed that he didn't have any true power in the Holy Nether Guard at all. As long as Fu Shan and the others decided to shelter Xu Wei and Xu Hu, their lives could be saved.

Fu Shan's complexion was pale. He shouted out, "Silence! To plot to murder the Commander, even if you are only an accomplice it is an unforgivable crime worthy of ten deaths. All of you, draw back! If you dare to recklessly speak out like this, you will be punished!" He cupped his hands together and bowed, "Lord Commander, please give us orders!"

Shua –

Hai Lanlan, Liang Shou, and the others were all left dumbfounded. They looked towards Qin Yu, a hollow feeling in their hearts. They had no idea why Lord Fu Shan wanted him to decide on this matter.

Would this person forgive Xu Wei and Xu Hu?

The hope of this wasn't too high.

Hai Lanlan's eyes became increasingly indifferent. They were like sharp and icy knives, stabbing deep into the heart.

Qin Yu seemed to be hated...

Qin Yu smiled, feeling a bit helpless. Since when did he say that he wanted to kill these two people? He looked towards Hai Lanlan and the others. After several breaths of silence, his calm voice sounded out, "Since you have satisfied my curiosity, I will abide by my promise and grant you leniency. Then, this matter shall be forgiven in light of this."

Time seemed to come to a stop. Countless people widened their eyes. Because their shaking emotions were completely different from their cold and cruel expressions, the expression they made was especially strange.

A stunned light flashed in Hai Lanlan's eyes. She never thought that she would hear these words from Qin Yu's mouth. Seeing Qin Yu's calm expression, her face flushed red and she shifted her eyes away.

Luckily at this time, everyone's minds were shaking and no one noticed the rare awkward expression on the normally ice cold maiden. Of course, Qin Yu was an exception. When he first noticed the change in Hai Lanlan's mood, his lips curved up a little.

If he killed Xu Wei and Xu Hu, what would he obtain? Venting a bit of anger? The key point was that from beginning to end, everything he did was voluntary.

Moreover, to some extent, the reason he could obtain the Demon Body Tempering Pill waste pills was because of these two people. He had to give them a thank you.

Then why not forgive them? They weren't a threat to him to begin with, and he would be able to exchange their lives for a favorable impression from the Holy Nether Guard.

The woman was overjoyed. She held onto her two sons and bowed again and again. "Thank you Commander, thank you Commander!"

Fu Shan's eyes flashed with a bit of gratification and hesitation. But several breaths of time later, a decisive light crossed his pupils. "These two brothers Xu Wei and Xu Hu are the children of my second brother and I have already regarded them as my dear nephews. Since Commander was kind and benevolent enough to forgive them today, I am deeply grateful. My lord, please accept my bow."

He knelt to the ground and bowed.

From this moment, the chips of the Holy Nether Guard were truly bet on Qin Yu.

The heart of the people had always been such a marvelous thing!

...

Qin Yu refused the request of Fu Shan to move him to a new residence; in fact, he didn't even allow people to come here and clean up the ruins of the residence. While these people were disturbed, he snuck into the training room. The waste pills had been purified and it was time for him to finally make full use of his skills, so where did he have the time to waste on such trivial matters?

Besides additional Holy Nether Guards standing outside the residence with solemn and respectful looks, nothing seemed to have changed. But in reality, the transformation had already occurred.

For instance, Wang Chao, Hua Yanting, and Huang Shan. These three people who were originally minor characters that the others ignored, suddenly became respected guard officers that were close to the Commander. They were in high spirits and happiness seemed to emanate from every inch of their bodies, making them seem like completely different people from before.

An accident had already occurred once. Although Fu Shan and the others had issued orders that no one could reveal any news about the Commander, it was hard to guarantee that there wouldn't be any leaks.

So, the ruined residence became the most sternly guarded area in Holy Nether City. Not even a single fly was allowed to enter.

Surrounded by all these strict protections, Qin Yu sat down cross-legged and took out the Ninth Province from his storage ring. He patted the furnace and said with a sincere voice, "Old buddy, we should have a discussion."

Demon Body Tempering Pills were too important to Qin Yu; they concerned the vital matter of his rise to a Saint level Demon Body. If he didn't communicate with the Ninth Province ahead of time, it would absolutely embezzle a massive amount of pills from him.

If the furnace lid opened once, it was a no. If the lid opened twice, it was to add more. If the lid opened three times, that was an agreement. After a good back and forth bargaining session, the two sides came to an agreement. Qin Yu let out a breath and clenched his teeth, deciding to endure it. This bastard seemed to know how much he valued these pills so it had decided to open its mouth wide enough to swallow a mountain.

Humph! Just you wait and see, there will eventually come a day when this young master returns everything back to you tenfold!

After paying his 'earnest money' (all sorts of pills and materials), Qin Yu finally began to refine pills. As for the pill recipe, that was a small additional gift that Sun Zifu had given him when he was apologizing

and fulfilling his promise. After all, Demon Body Tempering Pills were precious. If he ever came upon the materials needed to refine them, he needed to try and obtain them.

The Sun Family was indeed worthy of being a wealthy family that maintained its riches for generations; they even handled small details like this impeccably. Even if Qin Yu knew that they were deliberately trying to flatter him, he couldn't help but develop a favorable impression towards them.

As for the materials and nature of the Demon Body Tempering Pill, Qin Yu had already grasped the situation. He mulled over it in his mind, and after determining there wasn't a problem, he began to take out a complete set of materials.

Ten days later, the last furnace of Demon Body Tempering Pills was completed. Qin Yu lifted the furnace lid and placed the pills in a jade bottle, a satisfied look on his face.

Demon Body Tempering Pills undeniably deserved their status as a precious pill; the difficulty of refinement was incredibly high. Luckily, Qin Yu was a skilled alchemist, had the treasure furnace helping him, and also had the little blue lamp that could purify his failures. After deducting all necessary and unnecessary losses, there were 637 pills in the end. Compared to his original calculations, it was a bit lower. But, this was due to him just having begun to refine them and not being familiar with the process. The next time he started refining pills the success rate should match his expectations.

He closed his eyes and began to meditate. When his condition was restored to its peak, he took out a jade bottle and poured out ten Demon Body Tempering Pills. These pills were a soft blue color and shimmered with a lustrous light, as if they were made from some kind of blue jade. After being purified by the little blue lamp, these Demon Body Tempering Pills had undergone a qualitative improvement.

Anticipation appeared in his eyes. But, Qin Yu wasn't impulsive. He thought for a moment and put three pills back. The remaining seven Demon Body Tempering Pills were swallowed into his stomach. With his Emperor level Demon Body, he should be able to withstand this amount of medicinal efficacy. If he were to digest them one at a time, it would be a waste of time.

Less than an hour later, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a gratified look on his smiling face. The little blue lamp was truly his greatest dependence. After being purified, the strengthened Demon Body Tempering Pills had effects more than several times better! He could clearly feel his body becoming several points more powerful than before. Although the effect was limited, when one considered his Demon Body foundation at the Emperor level, this increase could be called astonishing.

However, swallowing seven pills together created some wasted medicinal efficacy and the refining rate slowed down, causing it to cost even more time. After several tests, Qin Yu decided to lock in the number of pills to swallow at one time at five. Thus, the process repeated itself continuously like this: eating pills, refining pills, eating pills, refining pills...

Chapter 538 – Painful Realization

But Qin Yu didn't think this process was dry or boring at all. If it weren't for him running out of Demon Body Tempering Pills, he would even want to stay in this training room forever. What nonsense. This extremely comfortable state where he felt himself growing stronger continuously was something all cultivators longed for in their dreams. How could anyone dare to say it was boring? Even if a person

were to complain just the tiniest bit, if he went out into the streets he would definitely be chopped to pieces by an angry mob!

Without Demon Body Tempering Pills, his cultivation was forced to come to a pause. This was like a person cozily lazing around in bed and then suddenly being called away because an accident occurred...cough cough, this analogy might not be exactly appropriate, but the approximate meaning was there. Thus, when Qin Yu left the training room, his complexion was ugly to look at, as if there was a hidden bitterness beneath the surface.

Wang Chao's mind was shaken. He thought, could this be some aftereffect left behind by the pill toxins? The Lord Commander was fine before, so how did he end up with such a distressed and ill-tempered appearance? He hesitated again and again before finally deciding not to approach Qin Yu. After bowing from afar, he led everyone else away.

Luckily, Qin Yu's mood was soon restored, at least on the surface. He stood in the spacious garden, his eyes slightly closed as if he were meditating.

His entire mind was released as he sensed the fluctuation of rules between the heavens and earth. Sometimes it was gentle, sometimes it was ferocious, the thousands and millions of ever-changing variations left one unable to fully grasp it...this was the path of water, one that was both soft and hard.

Without Demon Body Tempering Pills he could still cultivate. But what a pity, the path of water was unpredictable and ethereal. Even up until now he still hadn't managed to peep into the threshold. However, today, not long after Qin Yu started his contemplation, his eyebrows furrowed together and he opened his eyes.

"What is it?" His tone was a little unhappy.

Wang Chao didn't know why, but he was frightened by the current Qin Yu. For some reason he felt that this Lord Commander had some aura that was becoming increasingly strong, to the point that it placed pressure on him. When he heard Qin Yu speak, he shook himself out of his daze and hurriedly said, "Commander, a young miss is waiting outside. She said that she wants to seek an interview with you."

As if fearing Qin Yu wouldn't know what he was speaking about, he added, "It was the miss who appeared on that day to plead mercy for the brothers Xu Wei and Xu Hu."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. Why would she come here? He looked not too far away at the stone tablet that had been cleaned up. His eyebrows stretched out, "Have her come in."

Wang Chao was thrilled. He praised himself for being smart enough, otherwise if he were to refuse this request, he would have definitely offended others. As a newly promoted guard captain, his rank might seem low and humble but his actual status was very high. Even the three Lieutenants smiled at him when they saw him.

Within the Holy Nether Guard, there weren't many people Wang Chao was awed by anymore. But, when it came to matters that occurred in bed, as someone who was experienced in relations between men and women, he knew that the persuasiveness behind such things was terrifyingly strong.

What? You think that the woman outside has no relation with the Commander? Pah, let me splash you awake with water!

If there was no relationship between them, why would this sort of beauty that could bring disasters to empires come knocking on their door? Moreover, the Lord Commander seemed obsessed with his cultivation and wouldn't even see Fu Shan and the others. Why would he suddenly take time out to see a stranger?

Qin Yu watched Wang Chao quickly walk away. He absolutely never would have expected that such a regal-looking Holy Nether Guard who was covered in ferocious armor and wreathed in slaughter energy would actually have such a wretched heart and gossipy mind beneath the surface.

Wang Chao led the woman to the garden entrance. Then, he thoughtfully stopped and said, "Miss, the Lord Commander is in the garden. This subordinate has other important matters to attend to, so I won't send you in."

The deeper meaning behind this was, 'I, Old Wang, am going to run out and stand guard for the both of you, so don't be afraid. If you want to do something bold, go ahead and do it, no one will disturb you.'

Hai Lanlan bowed and expressed her thanks. She thought that this guard captain wasn't some fake person who was needlessly arrogant. However, if she knew just how dirty and filthy Wang Chao's thoughts were right now, she would absolutely have given him a few ringing slaps.

She stepped into the garden and soon found Qin Yu's figure. He wasn't assuming some lofty and indifferent posture by facing his back towards her, but was looking straight her way. When their eyes met, Hai Lanlan maintained a calm and carefree expression.

This should be her normal temperament. What Qin Yu saw that day should have been a rare loss of composure. He gathered his random thoughts and smiled, "Miss, for what reason do you wish to see me?"

"Hai Lanlan." She said softly. Her voice was pleasant to the ears, somewhat similar to waves crashing on the rocky shore. Though it was gentle, there was a strength that could not be underestimated.

Qin Yu was stunned. This was because at this moment, he could sense a flavor of the path of water from Hai Lanlan's voice. He had been searching for this flavor for a long time but still hadn't managed to comprehend it.

So after Hai Lanlan spoke her name, what she saw was the new Lord Commander standing there with a dazed expression. This was not the first time Hai Lanlan had encountered such a situation. So, she tranquilly coughed as a gentle reminder to prevent the Lord Commander losing too much face.

But what was beyond her expectations was that he simply didn't seem to hear her at all, but continued looking straight at her.

After the stand-off continued for a long period of time, a trace of red began to appear on Hai Lanlan's cheeks. There might be some shyness, but there was even more anger. Just as she couldn't bear it any longer, Qin Yu let out a long breath and the light returned to his eyes. "My apologies. I was disrespectful."

A happy look appeared on his face.

The door to the path of water had opened just like this. This was a truly unexpected yet happy accident.

Hai Lanlan's expression became increasingly crooked and cold. "Commander, please remember my name." She glanced at the stone tablet not too far away and a trace of well-hidden sadness flashed in her eyes. Then, she turned and left.

In truth, before she came here she had prepared some excuses. But Qin Yu's performance made her choose to remain silent.

Qin Yu had a helpless expression. He understood that his actions just now had likely offended the young lady, causing her to doubt his moral behavior and character. With his current disposition, he normally wouldn't care about such things. But as he thought about how she had unknowingly helped him just now, he said, "Miss Hai, don't worry, I will take good care of this stone tablet."

Hai Lanlan paused for a moment. Then she continued without turning her head.

They had met twice and said a single sentence to him along with her name. This was a girl with an attitude!

Qin Yu smiled. He walked in front of the stone tablet and looked over it. Soon, he found a name in the middle section: Hai Yunsheng.

Just who was this person? And after such a long time, if she really cared about this stone tablet she could have just taken it away and kept it somewhere else. It was unlikely anyone would care what happened in this dilapidated ruin.

As for whether or not that young lady was intentionally trying to find a way to approach him...to be honest, Qin Yu did think of this possibility but he immediately suppressed it. Although he hadn't come into contact with her much, this miss was definitely an incredibly prideful person who wouldn't do something like that.

Without any other reason, Qin Yu believed it must be because of this common and ordinary stone tablet. He couldn't help but be a little curious.

Wang Chao was scratching his head. He looked at Hai Lanlan's back as she left and his brain was ringing with a single thought: The Lord Commander seemed to be bursting with essence energy, so he actually finished so fast?

Mm...if I can find some tonics that improve sexual vigor and quietly offer them, will the Lord Commander commend me?

...Uh, the higher possibility is that the Lord Commander will kill me to eliminate any possible witnesses!

As these random thoughts were racing through his head, Wang Chao heard the sound of rustling steps and looked up to see Qin Yu right in front of him. He cried out once and nearly fell onto his back, a shocked expression on his face.

"What were you thinking so deeply about?"

Wang Chao didn't dare to say it. He mumbled about some unrelated past events. Luckily, Qin Yu seemed to just be casually asking him.

Qin Yu said, "Go investigate the stone tablet in the courtyard for me as well as the name Hai Yunsheng. I want to know what they are about."

"I will go immediately!" Wang Chao rapidly scurried away like someone who had barely managed to survive a disaster.

With his current status as guard captain and his reputation as the Commander's trusted subordinate, it wasn't difficult to uncover some secret matters that occurred many years ago.

Soon, Qin Yu obtained a record jade slip. There was a detailed record of Hai Yunsheng and the origin of the stone tablet within. The general summary was like this: 20 years ago, there was a small rebellion within the Holy Nether Guard. Dozens of Holy Nether Guards tried to secretly leave the Endless Sea but ultimately died encircled by troops.

These Holy Nether Guards all shared a common ground; they had relatives that were stricken with the gradual collapse syndrome. An investigation afterwards proved that the reason they rebelled was to go and obtain hyacinth grass.

Hai Yunsheng was one of these people.

Qin Yu laid down the jade slip and gently sighed. He thought back to that day when Hai Lanlan looked at him with an icy cold gaze. Carefully remembering it, he could now detect the bitterness and resentment hidden behind her eyes.

It was no wonder that even though she had such a cold and indifferent temperament she would still stand out to plead mercy for Xu Wei and Xu Hu; it was because she empathized with them as someone who had gone through something similar. As for Liang Shou and the others, they likely also stepped out because of similar reasons.

Wang Chao's investigation was extremely thorough. There were many records of Hai Yunsheng. For instance, it was said that he didn't retreat from his final battle, that he had gone crazy and self-destructed, not leaving his bones behind.

Perhaps in Hai Lanlan's mind, this stone tablet that recorded the initial matter of the rebellion and served as a warning to others, was the only thing left over of her father's.

As for why she didn't take the stone tablet away...Hai Yunsheng was involved in the rebellion and died in the encirclement. The reason she could possess such a high status within the younger generation was because she was a wise and intelligent person. She naturally wouldn't do something that would make things awkward for everyone.

Qin Yu suddenly thought back to when he first arrived at Holy Nether City. Hai Lanlan had come every day, and in truth he did feel a little happy. Although there were no other thoughts behind it, to grab the attention of a woman of her caliber, it was the natural biological instincts of men to be a little smug.

But looking at this now, she was probably afraid that the stone tablet on which her father's name was recorded would accidentally be ruined by him.

What a painful realization...

Qin Yu rubbed his nose, secretly rejoicing that there was no one else around. Otherwise, his embarrassed expression would be incomparably stiff and hard to look at.

“Wang Chao, clean up the stone tablet in the garden and set it in place. Make sure you don’t damage it.”

“Yes.” Wang Chao turned around. As he did, the respect and earnestness on his face immediately scattered, instantly replaced by an expression that said, ‘I really am a genius.’ This young girl Hai Lanlan, she definitely had some sort of significant relationship with the Commander, and there was some hidden story between them. As long as he made sure to be on good terms with her, his future status would be as stable as a mountain.

The stone tablet needed to be placed well, and it had to be placed very, very well...mm, it was best if he did it secretly so that when Hai Lanlan found out the Lord Commander had done all of this for her, wouldn’t she be moved to tears? At that time, wouldn’t the Commander acknowledge Old Wang who had done all of this for him? Wouldn’t Wang Chao then be able to reach the peak of his life?

Thinking of this, Wang Chao was filled with excitement. His thoughts began to rapidly race as an idea floated up in his mind. The more he thought the more wonderful he imagined it would be. He couldn’t help but chuckle out loud to himself, his step becoming increasingly light.

Chapter 539A – Lord Commander, I’ve Been Wronged

Undying finally finished refining the strength of the nine suns. Qin Yu couldn’t conceal his own impatience. After announcing that he was going into seclusion, he entered his training room and utilized Shadow Step to quietly leave. When he appeared in the low-lying area where the waste pills were buried, he didn’t need to give any reminder before the projections of the purple moon and blue sun appeared. It seemed that absorbing the strength of the nine suns during this period had been helpful to the both of them.

Undying smiled and put away the projection of the sun and moon. In the next moment, a halo of blue and purple light erupted. The noise and movement stirred up today was much more diminished than before, but the effect was no less. The rule lines that formed the imprisoning array were affected by the diffusing light, slowly bending outwards to form a channel.

Qin Yu entered smoothly without alarming anyone. The loud rumblings from the yin yang fish could be heard. Although the sounds still left one feeling stuffy and bothered, Qin Yu’s face was full of smiles. After having experienced the benefits of the Demon Body Tempering Pills himself, he couldn’t control his emotions. It just felt too good to be here! Once again, he wanted to thank all those people hiding in the shadows who had spent so many resources to send him here originally, yet wanted to remain unknown...

After suppressing these random thoughts, Qin Yu waved his hand and vigorously said, “Undying, begin.”

“Yes, little master.” Like a shadow, Undying drilled into the yin yang fish. Then waste pills began to rain down like a storm. At the same time, within the space of this array formation, the density of the pill toxins began to drop at a dramatic pace.

Qin Yu closed his eyes, sighing comfortably. All of his pores were opened up, allowing the terrifying pill toxins to crazily drill into his body. The surface of his right hand's index finger shined with a faint luminescence as runes appeared. As time passed, these runes appeared much more lively and bright.

Not only were the waste pills wonderful, the pill toxins were also good!

The yin yang fish maintained constant balance. As a massive amount of waste pills fell down, the strength of the nine suns flowed out. As usual, Meimei disregarded the rules of seniority and tore out a section first. Then was the purple moon and the blue sun. Undying smiled and received the last part.

The blue and purple light flooded out once more. Qin Yu left the pill burial area, stepped into the shadows, and reappeared in the training room.

Since he had announced he was entering seclusion, there was no reason to stop halfway. He took out the Ninth Province furnace and after some brief arguing, the two finally came to terms with each other.

Qin Yu rubbed his eyebrows. He thought that he needed to find a way to restore the Ninth Province as soon as possible, otherwise no matter how wealthy he was, there was no way he could keep up with the blood loss from these thousands of tiny cuts!

...

In the dark world within shadows.

Undying sat on his throne, his eyebrows gently furrowed together as if he was deep in thought. Within this empty world of deathly silence, time seemed to lose all meaning. In comparison to the normally friendly image that he revealed in front of Qin Yu, at this moment the quiet Undying was like a Sovereign King of Destruction, his dignity and slaughter intent so rich that it made the heart tremble.

Suddenly, Undying stood up. With a flick of his sleeve, darkness tumbled and a path opened up, the stone stairs leading down into the unknown.

At the bottom, there was an altar formed from the strength of darkness. Chained to it was a Spirit even more pale than before. Her long eyelashes gently trembled and she seemed to use up an immense amount of energy as she slowly opened her eyes.

Her eyes were still beautiful, calm, gentle, and stoic.

But, there was a weariness and weakness beneath it all that could not be concealed.

"What did you come again for?"

Undying was silent. He looked at Spirit. The chains that bound her to the altar appeared tighter than before, somehow making her beautiful and delicate body appear even more seductive. But, Spirit's gaze was faint and indifferent, without any embarrassment.

After a long time, Undying sighed. "I want to know whether or not you are good at judging people, or is your luck just that amazing?"

A light flashed in Spirit's eyes. "It seems that Qin Yu's performance lately has been very good."

“Very good?” Undying mulled over it and shook his head. “To be more precise, it is extremely, extremely good, so good that he has exceeded my every expectation. Right now he has already joined the Demonic Path. There is even a chance that not too far from now, he will succeed the throne of the Demon Palace’s Demon Monarch.”

He shook his head as if in deep praise. “Even during our golden years, the Demon Monarch was a peerless powerhouse who helped support the heavens. I never imagined that Qin Yu’s speed of growth would be this high.”

A smile appeared on Spirity’s face. As it did, it seemed like warm flowers were blooming in the spring around her. Something that could be called a soul-stirring atmosphere began to surge in the air.

Her eyes fell into a trance. She was remembering the calm and insistent face of a young man from a long, long time ago.

Perhaps from the moment they met, she had already recognized that this seemingly common and average young man would have an incomparably bright future ahead of him.

She hadn’t misjudged him...

Undying reached into his chest and drew out a pure white light. The yin chill in the air drew away from this light, causing a warm feeling to fill the surroundings.

Spirity looked over and frowned. “What is the meaning of this?”

Undying smiled. “It’s simple. I have discovered that Qin Yu has the potential to walk even further than I anticipated, to have even greater achievements than I hoped. As for you, the price you paid will be returned to you ten times, a hundred times in the future. So, I am prepared to please you and flatter you. This pure yang strength is a token of my sincerity.”

Spirity was incredibly weak. In order to block off the perception of the demonic altar, she had to constantly lose her source energy. This mass of pure yang strength would be of great help to her. But, she didn’t reveal any urgency. On the contrary, her look became increasingly indifferent. “I can sense the traces of three formidable auras left behind on this pure yang strength. It should have been divided into four parts.”

Undying nodded. “True. The Cosmic Seacross Bell, the purple moon, and blue sun, they each have a part.”

Spirity knit her eyebrows. “You are playing with fire.”

Undying lightly said, “They cannot discover my methods.” A cold intent rolled all around his body. “Of course, even if they detect something is wrong...so what?”

A cruel and vicious momentum broke free from his body!

Undying had already savored the taste of despair, so he would never allow himself to fall into such a situation again. As long as he could make his future brighter, he didn’t mind doing anything.

Moreover, even if the Cosmic Seacross Bell and the two inheritances of the great Lunar and Solar Holy Lands were mystical and powerful, he didn’t dread them.

Spirity could guess what Undying's thoughts were because that despair had also left her drowning many years ago in the past. After several moments of silence, she closed her eyes and said, "I owe you a favor."

Undying's smile became blindingly bright. He lifted his hand and the pure yang strength flew towards the altar, melting into Spirity's body. "Later when I do this again, I'll keep a part for you."

He turned and walked away, whistling in his heart.

Spirity had accepted the pure yang energy; this meant that there was now an agreement between them. Even if the Cosmic Seacross Bell, purple moon, and blue sun all had good relations, he wasn't afraid he would be pushed to the side.

Because he knew that one day, the little master would understand who sacrificed the most for him. Since Undying couldn't do what Spirity did, he could only take a step back and search for benefits elsewhere.

Where there were people, there was intrigue...these words were applicable anywhere. Of course, none of them would allow Qin Yu to notice this sort of minor internal strife. Otherwise, how would he be at ease and allow them to stay around?

This was a tacit understanding between them all.

...

After patiently waiting for another month and determining that his actions didn't cause any waves, Mu Xianglin finally decided to see what the aftermath was. Without much effort, he obtained some news from the Endless Sea because the information channel had been closed and isolated.

A total of four signaling jade slips were sent out. The first and second were requests to open the Endless Sea Array Formation. It seemed that the Holy Nether Guard had found out where the problem was. But what a pity, these two signaling jade slips didn't receive any response. Then, the third signaling jade slip was a message that they suspected the current Commander Yao Bin had been murdered. The last signaling jade slip was a letter of apology from the Holy Nether Guard...after that, there was no more communication.

Mu Xianglin smiled in satisfaction. The Holy Nether Guard were pitiful and unlucky fellows, but they weren't all idiots. It was already difficult for them to realize what was happening. Since there was no further news afterwards, this must have meant that they decided to suppress this information.

After some years passed they would casually find an excuse and report that Yao Bin had died. With this, the Mu Family would be thoroughly cleared of any suspicion.

The Holy Nether Guard would be spared punishment, the chess pieces he manipulated would be preserved, and the Mu Family wouldn't have to bear any pressure from the other factions...this result couldn't be any more wonderful.

After casually crushing the jade slip in his hand, Mu Xianglin laughed several times, fully satisfied with his scheming. The hot emotions erupted within his body once more, causing him to feel as if he had caught on fire.

“Men, choose ten...no, twenty maids from the mansion and deliver them to my room.”

Following this, he engaged in carnal revelry for nights and days.

The hidden calamity of the Mu Family had died and their prospects were bright once again. Such splendid news was worthy of being celebrated.

There was nothing wrong with that.

Chapter 539B – Lord Commander, I’ve Been Wronged

But eventually, Old Master Mu’s debauchery was ruined. As the descendants of the Holy Monarch, the Mu Family had always placed great importance on maintaining a proper image. Even if Mu Xianglin was one of the decision makers of the Mu Family, he couldn’t blatantly violate such customs. So, the place he chose to seek his pleasure was somewhere outside.

.....

A boy was causing trouble outside. Surprisingly, he possessed considerable strength as he hacked his way through the guards and barriers, eventually forcing Mu Xianglin himself to come out from the brothel. Hearing the loud shouts and cursing outside, it was clear that the woman he had been playing around with just now was very close to this boy.

“I shouldn’t appear in such a situation. Teach him a lesson.” Mu Xianglin turned and left. A shadowy figure ran out from his side, a dark gray light flashing in his eyes, so cold that it left one trembling.

In the end, the trouble-causing boy who started the chaos to begin with was tossed out. Several Mu Family cultivators who had previously suffered punches and kicks ruthlessly stomped on the boy, swearing at him before turning around to leave. They considered this boy lucky. The family had strict orders for everyone to keep a low profile recently, otherwise they would have killed this boy and fed his corpse to the dogs.

In the next moment, a heavy rainstorm fell down. Several tall figures tore through the curtain of rain, holding back the person on the ground as he howled out in revenge and tried to rush his way forward once more.

“Don’t go, you are not their match.”

Shang Yuntai looked at the tightly shut doors of the imposing courtyard in front of him. Rainwater washed across his eyes, rolling down his cheeks. As he thought about how the woman whom he had loved for many years and regarded like a treasure, not willing to injure her in the least, had become a toy beneath the person in that courtyard, it felt like countless poisonous insects were gnawing at his heart.

He violently coughed, blood spewing out from his nose and mouth before being washed clean by the rain. All that was left over was a slight coppery taste. The poisons in his body had become more severe lately; perhaps it wouldn’t be too long before he died. If so, why did he feel the need to come here and ruin the decision she made?

It was time to let her go.

This wasn't because he was open-minded, but because there was no sorrow than a heart that already died.

"Senior-apprentice brother! That cheap whore actually dares to treat you like this, I will never forgive her, I will never forgive her!" A young Demonic Path cultivator roared in rage.

Shang Yuntai closed his eyes and shook his head. "None of you can go and cause trouble, otherwise you won't be my brothers anymore. Do you understand me?"

His voice was weak in the rainstorm. Because the several people beside him were filled with anger and grief, their bodies constantly trembled and white mist rose up all around them.

"We will listen to you, senior-apprentice brother!"

They were well aware that the reason their senior-apprentice brother Shan was being so unreasonable and decisive was because he knew that the master of this courtyard possessed a strength that none of them could match.

Shang Yuntai let out a long breath. "Bring me away. Make an application to the Elders for me. Tell them that Shang Yuntai knows his life is coming to an end, and he hopes to enter the Endless Sea."

"Senior-apprentice brother..." Everyone was sad.

"Just do as I say." Although the Endless Sea was a forbidden land that the living didn't wish to enter, if a person were to die there, they would be buried there after death. This in itself was a great honor.

"Senior-apprentice brother, rest assured that we will help you achieve your wish!"

Shang Yuntai nodded his head, not saying anything further. Someone helped lift up his arms in the pouring rain.

...

Qin Yu resumed cultivating his Demon Body. Of course, to be more precise, it was restarting the great repeating process of swallowing pills. A massive number of Demon Body Tempering Pills were thus buried in his belly. Their 'sacrifice' was valuable and Qin Yu could clearly perceive the transformation of his Emperor level Demon Body accelerating as his mortal body absorbed the medicinal efficacy. It wouldn't be too long before it was completed.

The process would be shortened by at least several years. Only when his Emperor level Demon Body was stabilized would he be able to rush towards the Saint level with all his strength.

Another month passed. Qin Yu entered the pill burial land for a third time to gather more waste pills. He didn't know if it was an illusion, but while Undying's attitude was the same, the two residents in his soul space were actually silent. As for the blue sun in his dantian, it maintained a stance of not eating and not moving, as if it barely existed at all.

He thought back to how Meimei and the purple moon were both girls and shook his head. Every month there were bound to be some days when they weren't how they normally were, so it was best not to provoke them.

His Demon Body constantly strengthened. As it did, Qin Yu's bloodline of restriction also improved with it. In the Demon Ascension Gate's small world, the demon head in the skies had helped Qin Yu enormously. It was the first time he learned that Ning Ling had given him his own bloodline ability.

As if a window had been pushed open, once Qin Yu learned the name of the 'Blood of Restriction', he was naturally able to control all of its strength. A person's bloodline was rooted in their mortal body and was closely linked to their body and spirit. When Qin Yu broke through to the Emperor level Demon Body and also consumed a massive volume of Demon Body Tempering Pills, it was like fresh rain falling after a prolonged drought, vigorously growing the 'Blood of Restriction'.

Perhaps for some time the Blood of Restriction wouldn't provide Qin Yu with a great strength, but as he thought about the demon head in the skies above the Demon Ascension Gate's small world, his heart filled with anticipation. Like a young tree that had taken root in fertile soil, it would grow up strong and healthy and finally bear fruit one day.

...

While Qin Yu was in cultivation, Wang Chao was making his move. After a series of arrangements, it was time to begin the most critical part of his plan, the 'heart-throbbing' step. In order to ensure absolute safety, Wang Chao decided to personally take action. With his status as a guard captain close to the Commander, it was easy to grab a few young and inexperienced people.

In truth, his plan was simple. As long as the people he chose 'inadvertently' spoke some words to Hai Lanlan and successfully passed the news to her, this plan would be considered a success. Then, he could hide his work and step back, waiting for the Lord Commander to summon him.

As Wang Chao expected, when he appeared in his armor and identified himself, the several youths he approached suddenly paled. In the past perhaps they might have been the same as everyone else, not placing this so-called new Commander in their heart and eyes. But on that day when Fu Shan knelt to the ground and bowed, his actions had thoroughly rewritten the atmosphere.

He spoke to them for several moments and had them repeat themselves. After correcting them a few times, Wang Chao nodded in satisfaction. These fellows had at least some intelligence.

"Alright, just do everything as I planned. You may all leave now." As for the several people left, Wang Chao reminded them, "Remember, not a single word can be leaked concerning this matter."

The several youths quivered as they bowed and excused themselves. Watching their backs as they walked away, Wang Chao couldn't help but smack his lips together. There had still been some unnaturalness to his tone and expressions just now...he could display even more dignity...mm, he had to practice more...after all, before long he would likely obtain the heavy trust of the Lord Commander as well as more responsibilities.

If the Commander asked him, what position should he request? If he asked to be a Lieutenant, would that be too greedy? Moreover, Yuan Zhen and the others didn't seem easy to deal with...this was really a problem he was happy to worry over!

The next day, a small accident occurred at the Holy Nether City Institute. Although everyone kept silent and were afraid to say more, their eyes were filled with anger. The reason was that some powerful figure tried to take Hai Lanlan away, who had the well-deserved title of 'The Flower of the Institute'.

Wang Chao's failure lay in the fact that he underestimated the impulsive recklessness of young men. Perhaps they might be frightened afterwards, but when their hot blood rose to their head they would dare to do anything. Moreover in their minds, they were trying to save the so-called 'Flower of the Institute' from being blasphemed.

Hai Lanlan furrowed her eyebrows together, a bit more disgust and loathing in her indifferent expression. But after some hesitation, she decided to go and verify and saw that the newly cleaned stone tablet was set beneath a pavilion.

Although she felt disgusted by that person's intentions, when she saw how carefully the stone tablet had been taken care of, something collided in her heart and her anger diminished by half.

After standing there for a long time, Hai Lanlan gently sighed. No matter what his motives were, she would simply pretend that she didn't know.

She turned and quietly left.

But what she didn't know was that this scene fell into Liang Shou's eyes. He was extremely angered to begin with, and once he saw Hai Lanlan's response, he was no longer able to suppress the rage in his heart.

They had grown up together since they were young. Besides being close to each other when they were children, during these years they maintained a certain distance with each other. Liang Shou was well aware that she was a proud woman with an indifferent temperament.

This surname Yao's actions had definitely crossed the line. Even if he was the Commander, Hai Lanlan absolutely wouldn't accept this so calmly.

Unless...her heart was moved.

As soon as this thought appeared, his mind blanked. Liang Shou was confident that one day he would eventually capture this ghost-like girl for himself, so as he realized what was happening, his eyes flooded red with blood and anger rolled around his body like a raging sea.

This couldn't be...this absolutely couldn't be...

Liang Shou looked up towards the ruins of the mansion and his eyes became increasingly red. Then, with a roar like an awakening beast, he finally rushed forward.

The Holy Nether Guards stationed there were startled. They seemed to know Liang Shou and didn't want to fight him, but after several of them were injured they had no choice but to suppress him.

Without accident, Liang Shou was suppressed. Although he was extremely strong, those guarding the mansion were all elites of the Holy Nether Guard. They wouldn't give him any chance to break past them.

The leader of the Holy Nether Guards bit his cheeks. As he saw his injured brothers, his expression darkened and he said, "Go and report this to the Vice Commander!" To rush into the Commander's residence and wound the guards here, this matter was too great to be concealed.

Qin Yu was forced to emerge from his cultivation. His face was frighteningly dark. As his appearance entered the eyes of Fu Shan and the others, their hearts immediately skipped a beat.

The Third Lieutenant Liang Taiyuan fell to his knees, almost bursting into tears, "Commander, my disobedient son has lost his mind today. Please show benevolence and don't punish him too severely!"

He didn't dare to beg for mercy. Although Qin Yu had forgiven the brothers Xu Wei and Xu Hu before, that was because he hadn't obtained the approval of the Holy Nether Guard yet. But now, he was the Commander in every sense of the word. If he were provoked in such a manner and didn't hand down punishment, wouldn't his prestige sweep the floor? Thinking about this, a cold sweat drenched him.

"Yao Bin! Don't think that just because you are the Commander you can do whatever you want! If you have any dark intent towards Lanlan I will definitely kill you!" Liang Shou viciously roared, looking at Qin Yu as if he wouldn't let him off even if he were to die here.

Hearing these words, Liang Taiyuan's field of vision flashed black and he almost fainted. You little idiot, you are simply bringing about your own destruction!

Qin Yu was stunned. When he sensed the strange expressions of those around him, his complexion became even uglier. Could someone tell him what was going on here?

At this time, Hai Lanlan rushed in. She first saw Liang Shou who had been suppressed but was still struggling and her eyes became increasingly cold. "I thank the Lord Commander for your kindness and appreciation, but that is something I cannot withstand. Today, Liang Shou has broken the rules because of me. If the Lord Commander wishes to use thunderous methods to maintain authority, then please punish me together with him."

Wang Chao was left dumbfounded by the scene unfolding before him. He constantly roared out in his heart. This was wrong, this was all wrong! Hai Lanlan, whose side are you standing on right now!? When he regained his composure, he just happened to see Qin Yu's icy cold glare. He was immediately startled and his face instantly turned green.

"Wang Chao, can you explain just what the situation is?"

The disturbance ended with Wang Chao falling to his knees and begging for mercy, explaining the situation from beginning to end.

Qin Yu waved his hand, expressing that he wasn't going to pursue this matter any longer. But what left him feeling aggrieved and indignant was that in the expressions of everyone around him, there was clearly 'disdain' written all across their faces.

If you had no interest in this young lady, why would your own guard captain take matters into his own hands and do something so thankless and ridiculous? This was simply too fake! You are simply pushing all the responsibility onto Wang Chao and making him a scapegoat so you can step away from this situation without feeling too awkward!

There was an additional trace of disgust in Hai Lanlan's eyes.

It took Qin Yu a great deal of effort to suppress his desire to choke Wang Chao to death on the scene. He flicked his sleeves and left in a huff. He would allow these people to think whatever they liked. If he tried to explain himself, things would only become increasingly worse.

As everyone dispersed, Wang Chao was lifted up by Hua Yanting and Huang Shan. His face was pale white and he looked ill. He didn't think that the plans he arranged so diligently would finally end up like this.

Lord Commander, I've been wronged!

You couldn't figure out the girl yourself and this subordinate of yours was only trying to lend you a helping hand. Even if things didn't end up as expected, was there a need to sell me out?

Huang Shan's voice was heavy. "Big Brother, accept it. To be a subordinate is to become a scapegoat if necessary."

Hua Yanting comfortingly said, "Since you took this bow for the Commander, perhaps there will be some comfort in the future. Maybe the Lord Command will show his thanks soon."

The next day, Wang Chao was ordered to help clean up the appearance of Holy Nether City. In short, he was appointed as the temporary Captain of the Sanitation Squad. With a small shovel in hand, he was sent on his way.

The Lord Commander failed in his courtship and decided to vent his anger on others, causing the bad luck guard captain to suffer once again...for a time, countless rumors swirled in the air!

Chapter 540A – Pick the River of Stars

Within Holy Nether City, the matter of the Lord Commander's 'bumpy road of love', became a topic that everyone loved to discuss. Although there was some ridicule and disdain, there wasn't much loathing. Rather, inexplicably, some people felt even closer to the Lord Commander. The reason was that they all felt that the Lord Commander was also an ordinary person in some ways. He could lose face, he would be ashamed, and he would try to save face by shifting responsibility onto others.

Even the story of him venting his anger onto Wang Chao and making him sweep and clean the streets had a little bit of cuteness and lovability added to it as it was retold and interpreted numerous times. After all, if the Commander really was a bad person, he had many ways through which he could thoroughly suppress this matter and make it so that not a single person dared to utter a single word about it.

As Qin Yu was somehow obtaining a favorable impression from the residences of Holy Nether City, at this time, Shang Yuntai's application to enter the Endless Sea was finally approved. Several brothers with which he was on good terms brought him all the way to the edge of the Endless Sea.

Shang Yuntai pushed open the car door and stepped out. He looked at the great waves surging in the distance and took a deep breath. "Brothers, you and I will bid farewell here today. From here on out, we will never see each other again. I wish all my brothers an infinitely bright future."

“Senior-apprentice brother Shang!” Everyone’s eyes turned red. Though their lips moved, none of them could say a single word of comfort. This was because they all knew that he didn’t have much time left.

Shang Yuntai chuckled. “In my life, I have been humble and weak and I have also been great and magnificent. I have once lowered my head in humiliation, and I have once raised my head in overweening arrogance. But after so much has happened, I have eventually been defeated. Luckily, I still have my good brothers who haven’t given up on me or abandoned me. That in itself makes my journey worth it in the end.”

He cupped his hands together and walked away. The sea breeze lifted his robes, making him seem calm and carefree. He boarded the wooden boat and sailed into the depths of the sea. Not once did Shang Yuntai turn his head. However, his previously relaxed expression was now especially pale.

But, his back still remained straight. He was like an ancient pine at the summit of a mountain. Even if there was a thick layer of snow covering him, he still wouldn’t bend.

After all, he was still a proud individual. Even if he had been tortured by poison for years, he didn’t reveal his weakness to anyone. But the betrayal by the woman he loved had thoroughly crushed the remnants of Shang Yuntai’s dignity and he no longer wished to see those eyes full of pity and sympathy. Thus, Shang Yuntai had chosen to enter the Endless Sea. He hated escaping from his situation like this, but now he no longer cared about it.

No one knew him in the Endless Sea. He could peacefully die here.

The wooden boat dove straight into the sea. Shang Yuntai was like a walking corpse. After dealing with some formalities, he chose not to join the Holy Nether Guard and left. He had once imagined countless times what this forbidden land would be like. He thought it would be a barren place of scorched earth and ruins, but he never expected it to be so bustling, like a solemn pearl shining deep below the waters.

His eyes swept across the lively streets and the rushing flow of people. Shang Yuntai stood still and issued a satisfied sigh. Alright, then let’s die here quietly.

He closed his eyes and relaxed his body, no longer resisting the onslaught of the violent poison. Shang Yuntai toppled to the ground. The crowd was frightened by the sudden crash and drew away from him.

Wang Chao was squatting in the shadows on the side of the road, wiping the sweat from his face. He watched as the street he had spent so much time cleaning was quickly dirtied once more, and he began to cry without tears. As he was bemoaning his own destiny and lamenting the Commander’s ‘revenge’, he suddenly heard a loud commotion like a flock of birds passing over his head.

He stood up and looked down the street. The crowd seemed to be gathered over there. Wang Chao suddenly thought that perhaps this might be his chance. The Lord Commander loved to cultivate and he would go into seclusion for long periods of time. If there was no one to remind the Commander, who knew how long Wang Chao would have to serve as the temporary Captain of the Sanitation Squad? He couldn’t ask his Second Brother or Third Brother for help, and it was inappropriate to ask others. So, Old Wang could only help himself.

“Move out of the way!” Wang Chao stepped forwards and the crowd drew back like a tide.

Thanks to the 'situation' between Hai Lanlan and Qin Yu becoming the hottest topic of discussion, Wang Chao's profile also leapt up and he became one of the most well-known figures in Holy Nether City. Everyone knew that he was the guard captain who suffered a stroke of bad luck.

Wang Chao saw the fallen Shang Yuntai and frowned. "Does anyone here know what happened?"

"I'm not too sure. He was walking perfectly fine just a moment ago and then he suddenly fell over."

"That's right! He clearly isn't doing well and his breathing is weak!"

"If he's sick he should stay home and rest. Why is he running out here?"

Within the chaos and confusion, Wang Chao's eyes flashed. "Does anyone recognize this person?"

Everyone shook their heads.

Wang Chao was overjoyed but he maintained a serious expression. He lowered his head in thought for several breaths of time and then deeply sighed, "Whatever. Saving a life is of the utmost importance. I can't just watch as he dies." He turned around and ordered, "The rest of you continue to clean up the street. I will return this person back to the mansion and see whether or not he can be saved."

He lifted Shang Yuntai up in his arms and walked away. Many people looked at him with eyes full of praise and admiration. This squad captain Wang Chao was truly a kindhearted individual. Even though he was being punished right now, he was still willing to help others. Tsk tsk, the Lord Commander's luck was definitely amazing to be able to have such a responsible and morally upright first-class subordinate!

Wang Chao immediately felt that the person on his shoulders wasn't heavy anymore. His body filled with righteous strength.

Lord Commander, can you hear this? This is the voice of the people! I am such an outstanding subordinate; you will never find a second person like me! If you aren't going to wake up and start treating me better, when will you!

Wang Chao finally returned to the Commander's Mansion and let out a long breath. Although this place was still in ruins, he felt a little bit of the excitement of returning to the center of power.

But the key point was how could he remain here? As for cleaning the streets, whoever was willing to do that could do that. He was determined not to go back.

He hastily placed the person down. Then, flaunting the banner of saving someone, Wang Chao requested a medical expert from the Holy Nether Guard. Unfortunately, the examination result wasn't good. This unconscious person had been struck by some fierce poison.

"Captain Wang, poison has invaded the organs and marrow of this person. I fear his time has come to an end. There really isn't anything I can do. What a shame."

Wang Chao expressed his gratitude and sent the medical expert away. He looked back towards the person unconscious on the bed, and his expression became a little complex. So this person was about to die...to use a dying person, was that going too far? But as soon as this thought appeared, he changed his mind. If this person was going to die, he might as well make use of him. In the worst case, he could make his last moments of life in this world a bit more comfortable.

Hua Yanting looked up. "Big Brother, I have looked through this person's belongings and found his status information. His name is Shang Yuntai and he just entered the Endless Sea today."

Huang Shan came back just in time to hear these words. He furrowed his eyebrows together. "Shang Yuntai...this name seems a little familiar."

Hua Yanting lightly said, "When us three brothers were in contention for spots in the True Demon Guard, this person joined the examination with us. He was an extremely fierce person. But in that examination, he was somehow struck with poison and he vanished soon after. I inquired about him afterwards. Shang Yuntai used to be someone who rode the wind and waves, but what a pity, he rose rapidly and fell just as fast." There was a bit more emotion in his words. "I never imagined that the next time we met, he would have ended up in such a state."

Wang Chao shook his head, "Parting in life and separating in death, have we seen little of this in our lives? If Shang Yuntai ended up like this today, there is a reason for his own fate. If he perishes here, that is also his destiny."

Huang Shan scratched his head. "Big Brother, if this person dies you won't have an excuse to stay here any longer."

Wang Chao's expression stiffened and his appearance as a wise expert who understood the tragedy of life and death immediately collapsed. His face paled and he clenched his jaws, "Since you know this, hurry and find a way to extend his life! At the very least we have to last until the Lord Commander leaves seclusion!"

If he couldn't see the Commander, how could he weep and beg for mercy. Of course, he wouldn't tell these plans to anyone...anyone who knew about it would be silenced!

When Shang Yuntai opened his eyes, he could smell the rich scent of medicine all around him. His body was still weak, but the poison in him had calmed down. It seemed he had survived this time and would continue living for a while longer. But Shang Yuntai knew that the next time the poison within him erupted, he would die.

He laid down in bed for a long time before he struggled to get up. As he was drinking water, Wang Chao suddenly pushed open the door. There was a happy look on Wang Chao's face as he asked, "You're awake? How do you feel?"

Shang Yuntai cupped his hands together. "Thank you for saving my life..." Knowing that he wouldn't be able to return this favor in his life, he paused here and didn't say anything else.

Luckily, Wang Chao didn't care about these things. Seeing this person wake up, he was in a much better mood. He laughed, "Your luck is good. The Endless Sea is barren, but on the seabed there is a type of coral which contains a poison that just happened to be able to restrain the one in your body. Although it can't dispel the poison within you, living for an additional period of time won't be difficult."

But Shang Yuntai didn't seem too happy to hear this. He calmly nodded.

Wang Chao was puzzled. But as he thought about the ravaged state of this person's body and how they must have been enduring the pain of this poison for many years, barely managing to maintain a feeble existence, perhaps living longer wasn't a blessing to him.

There was a brief silence. Then he smiled and said, “Shang Yuntai? In truth, you and I are old acquaintances. Back during the True Demon Guard selection in the past, we were tested together.”

Shang Yuntai was stunned. He never thought that he would run into an old acquaintance after entering the Endless Sea. Although he didn’t have any impression of Wang Chao, he instinctively felt closer to him.

In the end, they were people who fought together for a better and brighter future. What a pity, that test which should have transformed his life had actually caused him to encounter his life’s greatest setback instead, eventually leading him all the way here.

But soon, surprise appeared on Shang Yuntai’s gloomy face. He looked up.

Wang Chao shrugged his shoulders, his expression relaxed. “It’s like you see, my luck isn’t that great either. I was exiled into the Endless Sea several months ago.”

The two fell silent at the same time. There was some emotion in their eyes. But then, the two of them started to laugh; a bitter mutual understanding was born in their hearts.

Chapter 540B – Pick the River of Stars

After today, another resident appeared in the ruins of the Commander’s Mansion. At first Wang Chao only hoped to use Shang Yuntai to open up an opportunity for him to beg for mercy from Qin Yu. However, as they lived together, they discovered that they got along unexpectedly well. This was what a so-called confidant should be like. Everyone drank together and chatted together, as if they had been friends for many years.

Seeing Shang Yuntai’s despondency and his apparent indifference towards his life or death, Wang Chao didn’t say anything about it, but he did find Fu Shan in private and requested to find him a skilled healer.

The following attempts at treatment left Shang Yuntai moved. Although he didn’t believe there was any hope, he didn’t want to disappoint Wang Chao’s good intentions. The results of the consultations weren’t good. The various healers expressed that they weren’t confident they could eliminate the poisons.

As Wang Chao was disappointed, a medical expert offered an out-of-the-box suggestion. Since coral poison was effective, perhaps it was possible to use poison to treat poison.

The general idea was that since Shang Yuntai had already approached death’s door, why not make a final bet to see if it worked? Perhaps this method might accelerate his coming death, but if it succeeded there was a chance he could live.

However, the medical expert explicitly stated that although this method had a chance of success, it would also cause enormous damage to the patient himself. If he didn’t manage to endure it, he would die. Wang Chao hesitated over and over before telling Shang Yuntai about this method.

Shang Yuntai was silent for a long time. Then he asked, “What are the chances?”

Wang Chao originally raised three fingers. But underneath the other person’s heavy gaze, he took two fingers down and said, “10%...”

His voice was rough.

Shang Yuntai suddenly smiled. "A 10% chance is already considerable. I am someone that is going to die anyways, so there is nothing for me to be dissatisfied about."

In the past, he had fallen into a poison trap. From being a chosen pride of heaven, he crashed to being worthless waste of his generation. The amount of shame and humiliation he suffered during that period was incalculable. Moreover, the pain that corroded his organs was like 10,000 bugs constantly gnawing at him all the time. If it weren't for him have a firm will he would have already committed suicide.

Shang Yuntai persisted all this time. Although he had felt despair, he never truly gave up struggling because he didn't want to submit to destiny. If it weren't for the betrayal of the woman he loved, perhaps his proud heart would still insist on pushing him forwards until he toppled into the infinite abyss.

Entering the Endless Sea was the last dignity he allowed himself. He didn't want to bear all those sympathetic gazes, quietly waiting around until his death arrived.

But life was unpredictable. When Shang Yuntai had given up, another chance had been given to him to survive. And more importantly, Shang Yuntai knew that Wang Chao was the personal guard of the current Commander, and that Commander was the white sun boundary talent who had shaken the entire Demonic Path.

This meant that as long as he could struggle and survive, perhaps it wouldn't be too long before he could return to the Demonic Path once more.

The plot he had fallen for during the True Demon Guard test in the past, the shame he had withstood all these years, the final stab in his heart by the woman he loved...could Shang Yuntai really be indifferent towards all of this? He couldn't. It was just that he wasn't capable of changing anything so he could only quietly endure it.

But now, a chance had appeared in front of him. Although the hopes of success were very, very small, what did he have to lose? Rather than waiting for death to arrive, he might as well go crazy one last time. Within the pain he would either undergo nirvanic rebirth or plunge to his own death.

Shang Yuntao began to eat a massive amount of corals that contained inherent poisons. This sort of thing was light blue in color with spots on their surface. The color wasn't beautiful, the smell was sour, and the taste was acridly bitter.

But Shang Yuntai ate calmly. He used a wooden spoon to eat in great heaps, his face calm as he devoured the corals that had been smashed into a paste.

The absorption rate of the coral poisons was extremely fast. Before he finished eating, the two poisons would begin to fight each other in Shang Yuntai's dilapidated body. His complexion grew increasingly pale. Even if all his strength was exhausted, the hand that grabbed the wooden bucket still moved. When he finished eating, his entire body was drenched in sweat.

Wang Chao spoke to the doctor privately. After he learned about how great this pain was, he could no longer suppress the pain in his eyes. But, Shang Yuntai actually smiled at him, "Brother Wang, there is no need to be like this. To strive for life when I'm already halfway dead, this is something I must

experience myself. If I can be reborn in the end, who cares if this pain is ten times or even a hundred times worse?”

When the two poisons in his body formed an initial balance, the pain coursing through him was slightly relieved. Shang Yuntai began to move through Commander’s Mansion. Almost all of his cultivation was frozen by the poisons. He could only use the primitive method of moving about to get his blood energy moving in order to speed up the metabolism of the poisons.

Eventually Wang Chao could no longer bear to see his good friend suffer such pain every day. After helping him eat coral, he left to look for some pain reducing medicines that wouldn’t come into conflict with the poisons. But because Shang Yuntai had used countless medicines over the years, his body had already developed resistances to many of them, so his progress wasn’t smooth.

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Shang Yuntai gasped for breath. Each heaving breath was like a cold knife stabbing into his chest. The pain of his flesh being ripped open left him shuddering. A cold sweat dripped down his chin and fell to the ground.

Shang Yuntai struggled to stand up and not fall. He was afraid that if he fell down here, he wouldn’t have the chance to stand up once more. Black spots began to appear in his field of vision, emerging and dispersing all around.

Qin Yu stood silently in his quiet courtyard, a bit of surprise in his eyes. He remembered this Demonic Path cultivator from when he first entered Heavenly Demon City. Although there had been something wrong with his aura at the time, there had been a solemn dignity around him. Seeing him again today, his situation clearly wasn’t good.

Even though they were far away, he could still feel how incomparably weak Shang Yuntai’s body was. Looking at his shaking body, even a gust of wind could blow him down.

Thinking about it, Qin Yu walked over. He didn’t conceal his footsteps but the wavering Shang Yuntai was fighting the rising weakness in his body so he wasn’t able to discover him nearby.

“I can’t fall here...I can’t fall here...I want to live...I want to survive...”

The quiet voice entered Qin Yu’s ears, leaving him stunned. As he looked at Shang Yuntai who was struggling to live, his thoughts were flung far back into the past, towards memories that he didn’t want to remember.

Because in the medicine garden where the wild boar managed to break in and damage the precious spirit plants, he had been ruthlessly and mercilessly beaten. Although he just about managed to survive, a deadly ailment had been left in his body.

The feeling of clearly sensing your own condition worsening constantly was like a poisonous snake wrapped around your body in the darkness. It was cold and frightening, leaving a person drowning in despair.

In the past, whenever he finished his daily work, he would try to eat some more and then desperately run to get his blood flowing. His distressed appearance then was similar to this man in front of him right now.

Qin Yu and Shang Yuntai had only met once, and this person hadn't even said half a word to him. Qin Yu wasn't some good person with a great deal of compassion, and normally he wouldn't get himself involved in the destiny of others. He had received Wang Chao and his two brothers and had also obtained the approval of the Holy Nether Guard. He didn't need any more people beneath him.

But what Qin Yu saw in front of him touched his innermost feelings. He couldn't help but think of them both as people who had suffered similar pains in the past. If it weren't for the little blue lamp then he would have died in the valley during that night many years ago. Perhaps he would have been hurriedly buried, becoming bones in the ground that no one remembered.

So now, why didn't he make another 'little blue lamp' to illuminate the life of someone else as they were on the cusp of despair? Qin Yu's thoughts constantly raced.

The suffering Shang Yuntai never would have imagined that from this moment on, his destiny would move a different direction, crossing into a new direction and ushering in a new future.

Qin Yu let out a breath and his chaotic thoughts returned to tranquility. When Shang Yuntai left, he didn't call out for him.

Watching Shang Yuntai leave, Qin Yu turned back into the stone house. In this world, there were no gains without reason. When he obtained the little blue lamp he had put forth his complete strength and passed through a tempering of life and death.

Qin Yu decided to set up a final test for this person. He wanted to see whether or not he had a strong enough will to survive. If this person already decided to give up, why should he help save him?

The next day, Shang Yuntai was running.

The third day, he was still running.

Then there was the fourth day, fifth day...it was only on the 23rd day that Shang Yuntai's figure didn't appear any longer.

In a room filled with the scent of medicine, Wang Chao watched as Shang Yuntai struggled to lift a hand, spooning the disgusting coral paste into his mouth. Finally, he couldn't suppress himself and said, "Old Shang, stop forcing yourself!"

Shang Yuntai was startled. He dropped the spoon back into the bucket. Because he couldn't control himself, there was a dull thump as the spoon crashed down. He let out a long breath and raised his head with effort, smiling at Wang Chao, "I've long since wanted to say that this coral is really damn hard to eat...Old Wang, I'm sorry, but it seems that I will have to disappoint all your efforts..."

"To survive when you're on the verge of death, it's easy to say this, but only the person experiencing this journey could really understand how hard, how incredibly hard it is...I want to endure, but in the end..."

His voice gradually lowered and his breathing became weaker.

Wang Chao's eyes turned red. "Old Shang, don't go to sleep. My Commander is going to leave seclusion soon. Perhaps his cultivation cannot compare to some great figures we have seen before, but in reality his methods are amongst some of the fiercest in this world. You know Huang Shan, right? That simple and honest fellow who is actually quite wretched inside, well he was struck by a deadly poison not too long ago and it was the Lord Commander who saved him. He only had to reach out a hand and before I could respond he had already pulled Third Brother back from death's door.

"I'm not bragging, I'm really not bragging. You have to believe me. Hurry up and open your eyes. If you fall asleep like this, will you really accept such a fate?"

These words seemed to stimulate Shang Yuntai. His eyes opened a sliver. There was a great fear in the depths of them, one that only someone on the border of death would feel.

"I originally thought...that I didn't fear death...but now it seems I...overestimated myself...Old Wang...I don't want to die..."

He didn't want to die, yet he had no choice but to die. Perhaps this was the greatest and most helpless sorrow in the world.

Wang Chao's eyes flushed red and tears flowed down his cheeks. He had seen many partings through death, but it was only today that he truly felt how desperate a person was when death came for them.

The door to the room was suddenly shoved open. In Old Wang's tear-filled eyes, Qin Yu walked in. His expression was calm and faint, and there was an unexplainable dignity in his eyes.

Many, many years from now, Wang Chao would still remember Qin Yu's expression today. It was a sight carved into the depths of his heart, one that he would never forget.

"Remember the despair and unwillingness you feel today, because from this day forwards you are no longer free. I will take you away from death, but you must use your life to repay me."

Qin Yu lifted a hand and placed a finger between Shang Yuntai's eyebrows. Surging black gas rolled out, as if a great snake was emerging from beneath his skin. The snake furiously struggled before it was swallowed up. Shang Yuntai's eyes widened and he stared at Qin Yu, as if wanting to imprint his appearance in his mind.

After a long time, Shang Yuntai's chest fell. As all of the poison accumulated in his body over the years was drawn out, he closed his eyes and dozed off.

At this moment, Qin Yu became keenly aware of something. Shang Yuntai would repay today's graciousness with his life. Similarly, in the future he would inevitably need to pay some steep price to the little blue lamp.

A brief moment of panic rose in his heart. Qin Yu couldn't help but feel a tinge of fear. But soon, he suppressed this emotion and his heart returned to serenity. He had already walked too far down this road and had become one with the little blue lamp; it was impossible for them to be separated. If so, then why not thrust out his chest and openly face everything. He was confident he could withstand it.

Wang Chao looked at Qin Yu's profile in stunned disbelief. He discovered that the atmosphere around him seemed to change once more, as if he were a mountain as high as the heavens, capable of picking down the stars in the skies.