Refining 901

Chapter 901 – Cannot Be Saved

Although Qin Yu had used his greatest trump card, the Origin God mark, he didn't have much confidence that he could hide the truth from Lei Qianjun.

After all, while he hadn't seen him fight before, just from his aura alone Qin Yu could sense that this man's level was almost that of the Great Dragon Overlord's...while he wasn't an Origin God, the disparity between him and an Origin God was bound to be close.

If he couldn't suppress him...Qin Yu secretly sighed. No matter how unwilling he was, he could only choose to escape.

As for recklessly risking his life in a battle?

No way. There was no need for that. Moreover, the strength of the Origin God mark wasn't endless. And with Xue Zheng in such a state, it was best if he was more careful.

If he was careless and extracted too much strength, causing something bad to happen to Xue Zheng, he wouldn't even have time to cry.

In truth, Qin Yu's guess was correct. While an ordinary Origin God mark was a strong deterrent, with Lei Qianjun's strength it wasn't difficult to resist it.

At that time he would be able to judge and determine Qin Yu's actual situation, poking through his act and exposing his little tricks.

But what was wonderful was that a true Origin God was deeply sleeping within Qin Yu's Origin God mark. So, what Lei Qianjun sensed was a genuine Origin God, a true giant that held up the heavens.

Although there seemed to be a minor problem with Qin Yu's aura, a giant was a giant. Just by casually rolling over he could squash him to death.

On the path of the God boundary, as one travelled closer to its peak, one was gradually able to feel more and more of the boundless terror that came from a higher level. The difference was like a pond and a vast sea – there was no comparison between them.

Origin God...it was actually an Origin God...even with Lei Qianjun's strong willpower, he still couldn't help but feel bewildered.

He originally believed that this mysterious character at Immaterial Mountain was a peak Divine Dao character, but he was gravely wrong. The difference in his judgment was as vast as the heavens and earth!

This sort of existence stood at the peak of the world and could change the colors of the sun and moon with a wave of his hand. Why would he appear at Roc City?

Lei Qianjun asked himself in reflection. He immediately forced a smile. If nothing else, he was sure all his previous guesses were just a joke.

At the Origin God level, one could freely travel the world uninhibited. Even the imperial family had to treat an Origin God with respect. An Origin God would not place a small Roc City in their eyes.

He quickly recalled the entire meeting process. Once he was sure there had been no show of disrespect or offense, Lei Qianjun finally calmed down and rejoiced. Fortunately, he hadn't acted rashly, otherwise he would have offended an Origin God. The consequences would have been unimaginable.

He took a deep breath and bowed, "I did not know of senior's status. If there was any place where I disrespected or offended you, I ask for your forgiveness."

At this moment, not to mention the several other City Lord Mansion experts, even the normally calm and emotionless steward couldn't help but feel his eyes go wide with shock and surprise.

Even when facing the envoys of the imperial city, the City Lord treated them equally. How could he be so sincere and awed now? Yes...this was sincerity and awe. They could even feel the City Lord's unease.

Senior...senior...

For the City Lord to say something like that, there was only one possibility.

Origin God...

As this thought appeared, the steward and the others all felt their breath catch in their throats. They subconsciously bowed deeply. Right now, a suffocating oppression flooded the air.

Snowside was dumbfounded. She looked at the docile Lei Qianjun who was doing his best to restrain his aura like a little cat. It was completely different from his previous image.

In truth, although Snowside felt incomparable dread towards Lei Qianjun, he just happened to be the type of person she admired.

Powerful, dignified, cruel...possessing infinite authority and influence. He looked down at the world with disdain!

But this person, a man like a king of lions, was dealt with without saying anything?

Snowside groaned inwardly. She looked up at Qin Yu. Just who was this boy and why did he have such a fierce skillset?

Qin Yu was also confused. But he had hidden beneath his black robes so no one noticed. Although he was still perplexed, it was clear that this overwhelming Lei Qianjun was thoroughly shaken.

Good, good, this was good. Have him hurry up and leave so that no one interferes with each other and this part of the story is finished.

But before Qin Yu could say something, Lei Qianjun took the lead. "Senior, my daughter suffered a great catastrophe when she was a child but was lucky enough to survive. Even so, her foundation was injured. Recently she was also attacked by a strange poison. It infiltrated her body, and now she is on the verge of death. I heard that senior is collecting soul enhancing treasures. As long as you can save her, I am willing to offer all of this."

A light flashed and a massive number of jade boxes appeared on the ground. Each one opened up one after another, revealing the contents sealed within. Immediately, splendor and sparkling lights filled the air. Numerous intoxicating auras wove together. Just taking in a breath, one felt an earnest desire swell forth from their soul.

Qin Yu couldn't say the words that were on his lips. During this period of time as he was training and learning, he obtained a good understanding of soul treasures. Disregarding the things he couldn't identify, everything else in the jade boxes was peak treasures.

He silently calculated it. As long as he could make today's deal, he would no longer have to take risks by putting on a play. He could tidy up his things and leave Immaterial Mountain, returning to Riverwater City where he could go into seclusion and refine everything!

Seeing the black-robed figure remain silent, Lei Qianjun would never have thought that Qin Yu had been knocked dizzy by this giant bag of presents that fell from the skies. He could only sigh with emotion. An Origin God was truly an Origin God. While he believed this to be a satisfactory offering, this senior didn't even take a liking to it.

After a moment he tentatively said, "Of course, if senior is not satisfied, I still have more gathered in Roc City's secret storehouse. I will personally offer them with both hands."

No, no, if Lei Qianjun continued to speak like this, Qin Yu feared his nose would bleed. He lightly coughed and looked around indifferently. The group from Roc City immediately straightened up.

"I can give it a try, but that little girl's problem is severe. Whether she can survive or not depends on her luck."

Lei Qianjun was overjoyed. "Thank you senior!"

He really did love his only daughter. If he could save her life, he wouldn't hesitate to spend even more.

The steward and two other Lei Family experts respectfully placed a small cot on the ground. The light that wrapped around it scattered, revealing a pale-faced Lei Xiaoyu inside.

She had clearly woken up some time ago and had seen everything that happened just now. At this moment, besides awe, there was hope and anticipation in her eyes.

No one wanted to die if they were able to continue living. This was especially true for a little girl who had yet to experience the world. Her life should have just begun.

Qin Yu was stunned. It was her! At first he was overcome by dread towards Lei Qianjun and then was smashed in the head by the halo of treasures. He hadn't realized who she was for a moment.

She was Lei Qianjun's daughter?

"Xiaoyu, why don't you bow to senior? If you survive, you must keep this life-saving graciousness in mind!" Lei Qianjun loudly shouted.

Lei Xiaoyu struggled to bow. "I thank senior for saving me."

Qin Yu looked at her and said, "You will stay here. Without permission, do not casually move around."

As he spoke he glanced at Snowside. It was unknown what this woman was thinking of right now, but she was unexpectedly distracted.

Cough cough!

Snowside only regained her composure after hearing his reminder. Once she stabilized herself, she stepped forward and received the jade boxes lined up on the ground.

Every time she picked one up, her heart would tremble and she would quietly start to calculate. For better or worse, she was still a participant in this drama. Although she hadn't done much, she had still been frightened miserably by Lei Qianjun. She should get some rewards for her efforts.

I don't need a fifty-fifty split, sixty-forty split, and I'm not even asking for a seventy-thirty split. But, taking one or two items wouldn't be excessive, right?

Fluctuations rippled through the air, wrapping around Qin Yu, Snowside, and Lei Xiaoyu. They vanished from sight.

The steward looked around. He quietly asked, "Master, this person...?"

Lei Qianjun slowly nodded.

Origin God, this was an incomparably formidable Origin God. He had touched the peak of the Divine Dao and only seemed to be a short distance away from it.

But this short disparity was the difference between the heavens and earth. Lei Qianjun had been arrogant for his entire life and never conceded. But, he had no confidence that he could ever break into the Origin God boundary.

Perhaps this was a chance. If he could win over this person at Immaterial Mountain, his position in the Heavenly Chu Empire would be as stable as a mountain!

Lei Qianjun was a worthy father and he loved his daughter deeply. But at the same time he was also the Lord of Roc City and ruled over a territory of hundreds of thousands of miles.

After 'confirming' Qin Yu's strength, his thoughts began to inevitably change.

. . .

Lei Xiaoyu fell into a deep sleep. Looking at her pale face that was even smaller than when he first saw her, Qin Yu subconsciously thought back to the hope and desire in her eyes just before she closed her eyes.

What a pitiful girl...that's right, she was pitiful, even if she had a powerful father or was of noble birth.

If he didn't see it with his own eyes, he never would have imagined that she could overcome the heart-ripping pain that tore at her and survive until today.

In Qin Yu's eyes, besides the surface, her body was already torn and tattered. It was already a miracle that she could survive until today.

He took a deep breath and decided that whether it was due to Lei Qianjun's sincere offering or his pity towards this girl, he would try to help her recover her health.

At the very least there was some fate between the two of them. Although the process wasn't pleasant, it could be considered a kind of fate.

But soon, Qin Yu discovered that things weren't as simple as they seemed. He knew that Lei Xiaoyu's injuries were difficult to heal, but he never imagined the price would be so great.

In a collapsed space, the great sun phantom's thought fluctuations spread out. "Since her childhood she has been under the effects of a witchcraft art. She only survived because it had been sealed up until now. But, the witchcraft bug was activated some time ago. This girl should have died then, but someone used a heaven-defying technique, damaging a massive amount of their vitality to forcefully give her ten days of life. If this was the only problem, I could have found a solution. But afterwards, someone destroyed the last vitality in her body, stimulating all that the witchcraft bug absorbed. While it appears she will last another half-year or so, her path to survival was completely cut off."

Qin Yu frowned. "Is there really no way to help?"

The little blue lamp paused for a moment before slowly saying, "Yes, there is. The first way is to find the corpse of an Origin God boundary existence. Then, build up its blood essence and allow the witchcraft bug within her body to swallow it and complete its evolution. Not only can she escape this dead-end, she can turn misfortune into blessing and become far stronger."

Qin Yu shook his head. What kind of joke was this? Let alone the matter of whether there was the corpse of an Origin God boundary existence on this world, if he tried to obtain it with his minor abilities he would be torn to shreds.

Being able to suppress Lei Qianjun was already a great stroke of luck. Qin Yu never believed that using tricks and acting worked in the long run!

"There is also another method. I can summon precelestial strength to remold her body and soul, stripping the witchcraft bug from her. But this will cause a deep loss and the little world I am creating might collapse due to too much precelestial strength being drawn out. That would lead to me falling into a deep slumber."

Qin Yu fell silent. He looked at Lei Xiaoyu's pale face. Although he struggled a bit, he quietly apologized.

He had numerous cards in his hands, including the little blue lamp and the sun and moon force field.

But Qin Yu never doubted that the little blue lamp was his greatest advantage. It helped him cross the endless river of cultivation so that he could finally reach the opposite shore.

The price was too high, so high that Qin Yu couldn't accept it. He could save Lei Xiaoyu...but he actually couldn't!

The little blue lamp seemed to sense something. It sent out another thought fluctuation. "Do not feel guilty. Even if you chose to save her I would have refused."

Qin Yu forced a smile. "It's not guilt. We've only encountered each other several times and cannot even be considered friends. I won't be hot-headed and desperately risk everything just because I felt a little

pity...whatever, since it's been decided that she cannot be saved, can she at least be freed from pain so she can complete the last journey of her life in peace?"

The little blue lamp said, "Yes."

Chapter 902A - Divine Tools are Ominous

Lei Xiaoyu woke up. As if she had rid herself of a nightmare that had hounded her all her life, she felt an unprecedented state of relaxation.

She felt as light as a feather, like she could fly into the skies at any moment. Her body was no longer sore and painful. The feeling of her life being swallowed up at any moment had vanished.

She closed her eyes, opened her eyes, closed them, and opened them again.

This wasn't a dream!

Teardrops fell from the corners of Lei Xiaoyu's eyes. She stood up and fell to her knees. "Thank you senior for saving me. I will always remember this graciousness for the rest of my life and never dare to forget it."

Before she woke up, Qin Yu had been hesitating about whether he should tell her the truth. But as he saw the smile that came from her heart, he sighed inwardly and came to a decision.

"You have just recovered from your injuries so you must rest more. Keep your mood happy and pleasant, and do not get upset or angry." An old voice came from beneath the black robes.

Lei Xiaoyu was stunned. It wasn't because of these words, but because she sensed a warmth from this person's eyes.

The cold and indifferent senior who faced her father was this person?

Lei Xiaoyu couldn't figure out the reason but this didn't prevent her from feeling more respect. She bowed towards him, "Thank you for the reminder. I have been suffering since I was a child, but now I can finally live like a normal person. I will certainly live well and I won't disappoint the graciousness of the new life you gave me."

She looked at the black-robed man in front of her and blinked her eyes. After some hesitation she asked, "Senior, have we met before?"

Qin Yu was silent for several breaths of time. He shook his head and said, "No." With a flick of his sleeves, space ripples. "Come. I'll send you back."

When Lei Qianjun saw Lei Xiaoyu, his smile stagnated for a moment before brightening. After hugging her, he bowed respectfully and said, "Thank you, senior!"

Lei Xiaoyu's body had recovered. In her excitement, a trace of fatigue swept over her and she soon fell asleep.

Lei Qianyun glanced down at her before passing her to the steward. He cupped his hands together and said, "Regarding her future care, does senior have any instructions?"

Qin Yu stepped forward. Space folded around them, isolating them inside.

"You realized it?"

Lei Qianjun had a heavy expression. "Senior, may I ask how much time she has left?"

Qin Yu said, "Without any influence from outside factors, she will be fine for three years."

As for after that, he didn't say anything. Lei Qianjun naturally understood what that meant. He squeezed out a smile and said, "This child Xiaoyu, from when she was in her swaddling clothes, she's been subjected to suffering from witchcraft arts. Although she shows a happy appearance, I know that she is intentionally putting on an act. While she cannot be cured, at least starting from today she will have three years of life during which she can live in true happiness. I still thank senior for helping me and giving her this time."

With this, he bowed deeply.

Qin Yu said, "I haven't been able to save her. So, please take back a part of the reward."

"No! I believe that senior has made sufficient contributions. And to trade these things for three years of Xiaoyu's happiness, I think that is worth it." Lei Qianjun bowed again, "But if senior think it isn't appropriate, I have another request today."

Qin Yu nodded, "Feel free to speak."

"I have already investigated who was responsible for the witchcraft bug in the past. But, I never had a chance to uproot and eradicate them."

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows together. "You want me to take action?"

Lei Qianjun shook his head, "I am not that stupid. I only ask that senior allow Xiaoyu to stay here and help me leave Immaterial Mountain in secret."

Qin Yu glanced at him, "Where do you wish to go?"

Lei Qianjun was puzzled, "Wuling City."

Qin Yu hesitated for a moment, "Don't resist." Space shivered. Like a flood, it started to gather in from all directions.

Lei Qianjun could sense the boundless strength contained within the shaking space. But, it didn't pose any threat to him so he allowed himself to be submerged within it.

In the next moment his surroundings darkened. The tearing feeling vanished and when he opened his eyes he was left shaken by what he saw.

Wuling City...he had unexpectedly arrived at Wuling City! Immaterial City was almost 100,000 miles from here. Yet, he had been transferred here with just a thought.

Could that person's divine sense directly lock onto an area 100,000 miles away? That was simply terrifying!

With Lei Qianjun's level, it wasn't that he hadn't been able to come into contact with the Origin God boundary. But, he had never heard of such incredible abilities before.

Could it be that the person at Immaterial Mountain was a peak existence who even stood at the top of the Origin God boundary?

Drawing in a deep breath, Lei Qianjun suppressed his vibrating heart. Now was not the time to have such thoughts. His ice cold eyes fell upon Wuling City.

At this moment, with his sudden appearance, his aura had been detected by the city. Several figures shot into the skies above it. They were Wu Family powerhouses who had followed Wu Zucheng to Roc City together. They cupped their hands together and bowed, "I had no idea that the City Lord would arrive so suddenly. Our Wu Family has been disrespectful. We ask the City Lord for forgiveness!"

As they spoke, their thoughts raced and beads of sweat appeared on their foreheads.

The family had already confirmed that Lei Qianjun had gone into Immaterial Mountain and hadn't once come out. Yet, he had suddenly appeared here. It was obvious things weren't so simple.

Could it be that he discovered something?

But even if Lei Qianjun was aware of the news that their Patriarch had gone into seclusion, with just himself here, would he dare to attack Wuling City?

What kind of a joke was that? If Lei Qianjun really had such strength then the 13 cities would have no way to survive. Everyone would have fallen to their knees and sang songs of praise as they were conquered.

Don't panic. Stand firm. The Patriarch would soon emerge from seclusion and once the Skyshard Sword was fully refined, everything would be decided.

Lei Qianjun glanced at the several people and stepped forward. As he did, dreadful killing intent erupted from his body as if a great beast that awakened from slumber had reared back its head and roared at the heavens.

Rumble rumble -

The skies above turned black and infinite black clouds gushed out, blocking the skies...in an instant, it was like yin and yang in the world had been reversed.

Puff -

Puff -

The several Wu Family powerhouses all spat out mouthfuls of blood and fell back. Their wide eyes were full of shock and disbelief.

Lei Qianjun had attacked them, he actually attacked them! He had shed all pretense of peace and was going to attack Wuling City by himself!

Insane! He was definitely insane!

Whoosh -

There was the sound of howling air. The Wu Family experts were left panic-stricken.

"No!"

Bang -

The several people exploded in midair, flesh and blood splashing out in all directions. Lei Qianjun's killing intent rose once again. He looked down at Wuling City and his roar seemed to come from the deepest abyss. "After today, in this world...there will be no more Wu Family!"

Hum -

A sphere of light appeared, instantly covering the entirety of Wuling City. The Wu Family had an inheritance that stretched back for hundreds of thousands of years. Numerous powerhouses had appeared amongst their bloodline and they had a deep background. Since this city was the place of their foundation, it was natural for them to have protections built up.

But as soon as this sphere of light appeared, it suddenly shook. Out of the 21 key hubs that maintained its existence, four had been completely paralyzed.

Although this wouldn't result in the defensive barrier directly collapsing, it would cause its defensive strength to drop to less than half of its original state.

Lei Qianjun lifted a fist and punched out. The protective barrier distorted. With a second punch, it completely collapsed.

There were roars of shock and anger from the Wu Family's residence. They never imagined that the defensive barrier which they had spent so much time and effort arranging, one that they believed would absolutely protect the city, had already been infiltrated by Roc City. It had been nibbled away at over the years and was no longer able to produce its intended effect.

But luckily, they managed to block him for some time. The Wu Family dwelling's protective array formation had been activated. While its strength couldn't compare to the city's great defensive array, it could resist Lei Qianjun for the time being.

And in that time, the Wu Family's army would arrive. No matter how strong Lei Qianjun was, he would be forced to retreat. If he chose not to then only death would await him!

"Humph! The only hub of our family's great array formation is in Reflection Hall. I want to see just what methods this Lei Qianjun has!" A Wu Family master loudly roared, anger and shame flooding his voice.

The solemn Wu Family had been forced into such a state by a single person. It was simply shameful.

Once the Patriarch emerged from seclusion and smoothly refined the Skyshard Sword, he would definitely kill his way into Roc City and execute Lei Qianjun on the spot!

"I believe that Lei Qianjun does have a way." A calm voice sounded out from a corner.

Everyone's complexions changed. Their eyes veered over. "Shu Hang, what do you mean?"

An outsider was actually more trusted and favored than they were. This had caused numerous Wu Family cultivators to be dissatisfied. Now, several people were eager to test him. If he dared to say anything more, they would take this chance to teach him a lesson.

They wanted to let this lackey dog know that the Wu Family belonged to members of the Wu Family. It was not up to an outsider to act as he pleased!

Shu Hang had always given off a quiet and taciturn appearance and he rarely spoke unless spoken too. But there was something obviously wrong today. He looked around at the people in Reflection Hall and his lips curved up in a smile. "Don't you want to know why I know Lei Qianjun has another method?"

"This is bad, seize him!" A Wu Family expert shouted. He rushed over.

Shu Hang lightly said. "You've discovered it too late."

He closed his eyes. Without any resistance, he allowed the hand to grab him.

In the next moment...

Bang -

Chapter 902B – Divine Tools are Ominous

All the Wu Family cultivators outside that were waiting for battle were scared by the loud explosion behind them. Then turned around, stunned, only to see that the location where Reflection Hall had been now looked as if it had experienced a typhoon. The entire area had been razed to the ground by a terrifying strength!

The Wu Family experts gathered there were all slumped on the ground. Besides a few old and exceptionally formidable masters, everyone else was grievously wounded.

One of the family Elders had been blown in half. He lay on the ground in a bloody mess, about to take his last breath.

This...how did this happen?

Before they had time to mull over the situation, a thunderous rumble came from above. Lei Qianjun arrived, dreadful killing intent following in his wake.

He lifted a hand and pressed down. Hundreds of millions of threads of killing intent instantly erupted. They condensed from intangibility into substance, transforming into a jail of death. It was pale and deadquiet as it covered the entire Wu Family.

"Today, no one with the Wu Family bloodline will escape alive!" Lei Qianjun took a step forward and walked into the jail of death. He lifted his hand and pressed down. A massive number of Wu Family cultivators didn't even have time to scream out loud before their bodies collapsed inwards and burst apart!

"Ahh! Run away!"

"Lei Qianjun, you dare to slaughter my Wu Family!? The other factions will inevitably fight back!"

"City Lord, no matter what has happened, please give my Wu Family a chance! And also to keep an escape route open for yourself!"

Lei Qianjun ignored them all. He walked forward a step at a time. Wherever he visited, endless corpses stacked up and rivers of blood flowed. He truly did not let anyone off, whether they were men or women, no matter how old or young they were!

"Hurry and break open this killing intent jail!"

"It's too late! None of us can escape!"

"Then let's fight!"

The Wu Family experts that had no way to escape all cried out in despair. Then, they initiated a suicidal barrage of attacks. With their lives, they wanted to gain a chance of survival for their family. In their suffering, they all hoped that Wu Zucheng would leave seclusion. At that time this hopeless situation would be resolved.

But what left the Wu Family drowning in despair was that their only hope, Wu Zucheng, never appeared.

Bang -

Within the heaven-shaking explosions, the final Wu Family Elder cried out loud before he struck the ground. His eyes were full of unwillingness and hatred.

How could their Wu Family fall this far...

Lei Qianjun indifferently crossed over the corpses beneath him. Wherever he passed in the killing intent jail, he killed whoever he saw. Finally, he came to a stop. Besides the rich and substantial smell of blood in the air, all that remained was a deathly silence.

Lei Qianjun stood amongst the ruins of Reflection Hall. He slowly said, "Wu Zucheng, when you sent someone to place a witchcraft bug in my child, did you ever wonder if today's events would happen?"

He stomped his foot. The ground collapsed. The cracks quickly extended into the ground, tearing open the dome of an underground temple and revealing the cross-legged Wu Zucheng sitting within.

At this time, a sword hung in front of him. Although the blade was complete, it was covered in cracks. If one looked carefully, one would discover that it was actually formed from 37 small swords perfectly combining together.

Skyshard Sword. The day the sword was formed, a calamity came from the heavens, sundering the blade into 37 parts. But the sword spirit wasn't destroyed. The fragments each formed their own sword and were scattered throughout the world.

Thus the name Skyshard.

Countless years later, the Skyshard Sword was complete once more. But Wu Zucheng, who personally revived it, only had despair in his eyes.

An incomparably powerful swallowing force erupted from the Skyshard Sword. It grasped onto him so tightly he wasn't able to shake it off.

Pa -

Lei Qianjun landed on the ground, his eyes indifferent. "The Skyshard Sword was born unlucky and destroyed by the condemnation of the heavens. Any being that reforms the sword will perish from the backlash.

"The Wu Family has pursued the Skyshard Sword for generations but they never learned its mysteries. Because of this, their bloodline was cut off. What a pathetic and pitiful story."

Puff -

Wu Zucheng spat out a mouthful of blood and died on the scene. The Skyshard Sword hummed as it flew into the air and floated there.

A burning heat flashed in Lei Qianjun's eyes, but he quickly suppressed it. He knew that he didn't have the qualifications to wield this sword.

The Wu Family had been exterminated. If it wasn't for greed, how would Xiaoyu have been implicated in this mess, to the point where she suffered her entire life and wouldn't even be able to die a natural death?

Divine tools were ominous!

...

Lei Qianjun, who dominated Roc City and the surrounding territory, once again demonstrated his great strength to the world. The Wu Family with its hundreds of thousands of years of inheritance and countless powerhouses had its bloodline cut off in a single day. While there were a few fish that slipped through the net, they were destined to hide in the darkness, wallowing in their shame and dishonor. They wouldn't be able to stir up any waves.

This massacre showed Lei Qianjun's strength and violence. It made everyone be in awe and fear of him, but his next actions, tempered by rationality and reasoning, showed that he had the qualifications of a leader.

On the day the Wu Family was destroyed, Roc City sent out a message to all factions. The City Lord obtained a secret report that the Wu Family had traitorous thoughts. Well, as everyone knew this had to be a case of planted evidence. But with the Wu Family gone, no one was left to speak for them.

With this he could occupy the side of righteousness.

What truly left everyone sighing in admiration was Lei Qianjun's second step. Roc City had withdrawn from carving up the Wu Family's territory...in other words, while he destroyed the Wu Family, he didn't want anything at all. He took all the benefits and used them to appease his allies.

In the third step, Roc City signed a series of agreements with the 12 cities. There was cooperation from all sides, and it showed further sincerity for appearament.

With just three steps, the waves that should have appeared after the annihilation of the Wu Family were all quickly extinguished.

Because the imperial family wanted to make a fuss about this matter, they tried to probe Roc City several times but failed. In the end they could only settle down and remain quiet.

After this incident, Roc City's status became as steady as a mountain. While it didn't seem that they had obtained anything, their dominance over their territory rose by more than one level.

All parties watched as the storm passed by. They saw Lei Qianjun ruthlessly slaughter on one side, and perfectly handle all fallout on another side. Regardless of what they thought, they could only praise his fierce actions.

As for Lei Qianjun, while he was incomparably powerful and awe-striking in the eyes of the people, he was actually filled with helplessness right now.

Once he handled his business affairs and returned to Immaterial Mountain to pick up Lei Xiaoyu, before he could make another move he discovered that the mountain was now empty.

The steward and the others had been at the mountain the entire time, but they had no idea when or how the other party had left.

But that was also reasonable. With that person's boundary, if he wanted to quietly leave, how could they possibly know?

With a sigh, Lei Qianjun restrained his thoughts. He smiled, "Xiaoyu, come home with father."

...

Qin Yu went into seclusion.

After leaving Immaterial Mountain he quietly returned to Riverwater City. He exchanged a few brief words with An Ke and An Xin before returning to his room.

Snowside found this hard to accept. They had just delivered the perfect play, taking countless treasures from Lei Qianjun. So, couldn't he celebrate a little?

Cultivation, cultivation, his entire brain was full of cultivation. He didn't even know how to enjoy life's pleasures. Qin Yu's life must be bitter and boring beyond imagination.

At the very least, as Snowside followed him these past days she had never seen him relax...it was like he was an old man on the verge of death, waiting to break through his current boundary so he could extend his life.

That's right. This was the feeling she got. But Snowside could clearly sense that Qin Yu's soul was full of vitality and was a long way from deteriorating. There was no threat to his life.

Furthermore, with his current strength it was assured that he would break into the God boundary. Why did he have to struggle so hard every day and night?

She couldn't figure it out, she really couldn't figure it out. She curled her lips. She could only file this as one of Qin Yu's strange peculiarities.

Perhaps he was that kind of person who wasn't comfortable when they weren't cultivating? Well, no matter what it was, she would have a good period of relaxation herself.

While she didn't expend much effort during this trip to Immaterial Mountain, she really did feel tired...fortunately, she had been rewarded for her work.

She patted her pocket, a happy smile on her face. No matter what she thought of Qin Yu, this boy was indeed generous.

...

15 days later, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a smile on his face.

Just now, he had felt a resonance in his soul.

Shua -

His figure flickered and he left Riverwater City. Standing in the skies, he pointed a finger forward.

Rumble rumble -

Between the heavens and earth, endless spiritual strength seethed and crashed. It was like stars had fallen from the highest heavens!

An invisible pressure arrived. Qin Yu lightly coughed, immediately scattering the Blue Finger.

God boundary barrier...the World's Dragon Gate...

Qin Yu laughed out loud. He finally felt it. And, he was sure that as long as he was willing, he could use the Blue Finger to successfully knock on the door.

Now, he had two paths to the Divine Dao.

He took a deep breath and stabilized his excited thoughts. He turned and walked away, vanishing with a single step.

He didn't have much time to be happy about this. This was because he had only opened up two paths to the God boundary.

And his goal was more than this!

...

Two hours after Qin Yu left, a golden carriage wrapped in flames arrived from afar. With an 'eh?', the carriage came to a stop.

Two figures flew out. The leader was a one-armed old man carrying a sword. He said with a look of acclaim, "What amazing supernatural arts!"

He looked at his disciple to the side and asked, "Can you make anything out?"

The disciple was a young girl with a silver belt and sash tying up her hair. She wore white clothes and carried a white sword. She thought for a moment and said, "Not long ago, someone was using supernatural arts to shake the God boundary barrier here. But while they had the strength, they didn't knock on the Dragon Gate."

The one-armed old man said, "How does this supernatural art compare to yours?"

The young girl said, "I can break it with a single sword."

The one-armed old man shook his head. There was a profound look on his face, "Not necessarily."

The young girl said, "This person hasn't broken through to the God boundary so he clearly has great ambitions. Not long from now, the imperial city's Divine Mark holy stone will arrive. He should be going there."

The one-armed old man raised an eyebrow. "And so what?"

The young girl turned and walked away. "I will break it with a single sword and show you."

The one-armed old man guffawed. There was praise in his eyes. Although he hadn't been too willing when he received this disciple in the past, he was now fully satisfied with her. His sword dao focused on one standing above the world, believing that their sword could cut through all myriad things.

With this confidence, how could her sword intent not condense? He looked back towards the imperial city and said, "This is your last trial. Once you are finished we will rush back to the imperial city and see if your sword really can suppress all!"

Chapter 903 – Equivalent Exchange

Entirely innocent, Qin Yu had no idea that a sword-loving manic had unilaterally decided he was an opponent that she would chop in half on the stage.

With the Blue Finger complete, he began trying to break through to the third path of his God boundary.

This time, Qin Yu chose the Five Element Samsara. The revolution of the five elements conformed to the Great Dao of the heavens and earth, circulating without end.

If he could thoroughly comprehend it and understand the five elements, Qin Yu was absolutely sure that he could guide a resonance with the heavens and earth, condensing a Glory of the God Mark.

At the same time, he continued to refine treasures and increase his soul force.

But soon Qin Yu encountered a new problem.

This problem lay in him refining treasures!

He frowned as he left seclusion. After finding Snowside, he told her his problem. Seeing her strange expression, he frowned even tighter. "If you have something to say then just say it. What's that expression supposed to mean?"

Snowside licked her lips, "My meaning is just how did you cultivate to reach your current boundary?"

This was something she had been wondering for some time. There were times when Qin Yu was so unpredictable that she had no idea what to do.

But now he was completely ignorant of things that should be common.

If it weren't for the fact that she feared causing Qin Yu to be dissatisfied, she really wanted to dig deep into him and ask what hole this kid came from.

Looking at her expression and hearing her tone, Snowside clearly knew the reason. Moreover, the problem didn't seem too critical. Qin Yu relaxed and sat down. He stretched back against the seat and said, "Hurry up and tell me...miss."

When he finished speaking he looked at her complexion. He thought that if he hadn't had a sudden inspiration and added in a 'little' word, then this woman would have gone crazy.

As if satisfied with Qin Yu, Snowside smugly smiled at him and said, "If you hadn't been so anxious to cultivate and spent more time at the academies, then you would have known what was happening. For example, let's say that you raised a pet and loved it very much, letting it eat all the good things you had. At the start, your pet must have been happy. Its appetite was great and it ate with gusto. But once it has eaten its fill it needs some time to digest before it can eat more. Don't you think this sounds right?"

Before she finished speaking, Qin Yu responded. Although this pet analogy was unreliable, he wasn't in the mood to argue about it. He furrowed his eyebrows and said, "You mean I have to give my soul time to absorb it? But I have already absorbed it."

Snowside curled her lips. "That's only a surface appearance. You've been confused. Close your eyes and carefully feel it. You will naturally understand."

Okay. When he discovered that the absorption rate of his soul had been reduced, he had been confused. He took a deep breath and closed his eyes, suppressing all thoughts.

A moment later, Qin Yu opened his eyes. Without another word his complexion grew even uglier.

Snowside glanced at him, "You found it? Although your soul has absorbed it, that doesn't mean the absorption will happen immediately. You can understand it as a secondary internal digestion. After this is finished, you will recover to the fastest rate possible.

"So, this isn't a problem at all. Brat, you have no idea when to be content. Other cultivators dream about having such concerns."

Qin Yu said, "How much time do you think I need before I recover?"

Snowside shook her head. "It's different from person to person. There's no way to answer it."

Qin Yu waved his hand. "Then let me change the question. According to my current performance, how long will it take to refine all the things from Lei Qianjun?"

"City Lord Lei was generous and all the things he offered were top items. I suppose you will need 100-200 years." As she spoke, Snowside looked over Qin Yu. "What are you so worried about? It's just 100-200 years. With your lifespan, that's not anything at all."

Snowside was correct. Even if he hadn't yet broken through to the God Boundary, after achieving the Ancient race's Undying Body he had a lifespan that was at least several hundred thousand years long.

100-200 years couldn't be considered much, but Qin Yu couldn't wait that long. Before 200 years passed, he needed to return to the Land of Divinity and Demons.

Seeing Qin Yu's complexion grow increasingly ugly and the pressure around him rise, Snowside hesitated for a moment and said, "Tell me why you're in such a hurry. Perhaps I can help you think of another way."

Qin Yu looked at her. Snowside fidgeted around, "You can call this equivalent exchange..."

Before she couldn't finish speaking she was interrupted by Qin Yu. "I have to save someone."

Snowside was stunned. "Xue Zheng?"

Qin Yu shook his head. "My wife."

Snowside's eyes flew open. "Are you joking with me?"

Qin Yu continued to say, "Because of me, she was secretly harmed by others and fell into unconsciousness. Within 200 years...no, at most 150 years, I have to find a way to awaken her."

He looked up, his eyes incomparably calm. But, this calmness was an unshakeable firmness that would not be moved even if the heavens were to collapse. "You will help me, right?"

Snowside finally understood why Qin Yu always had a sense of urgency every day.

Seeing Qin Yu's earnest expression, her lips moved and she muttered in a quiet voice, "I never imagined you to be such an unreasonable passionate person."

Before Qin Yu could figure out whether to laugh or cry, she continued to say, "Alright, consider yourself as having passed the test. I do know a solution."

She raised a finger. "The first solution is simple. Find an Origin God boundary existence to help you. They can naturally speed up the recovery rate of your soul."

Qin Yu's complexion darkened. He did have an Origin God by his side, but he was unconscious and still needed Qin Yu to save him.

"Tell me the second way!"

Snowside raised an eyebrow and raised a second finger. "The second solution is more difficult. From the moment humans are born they are divided into various ranks. Some wander on the streets, suffering from hunger and cold, some tend to the land, and some are born with the path to the Great Dao already paved before them."

"Tell me the key point."

"The key point is that the situation you have encountered is increasingly likely to occur amongst those that live at a higher level. So these people have already come up with a plan to deal with this. They devised something called a Soul Casting Array Formation. With the support of this array formation, they extract a mysterious strength from between the heavens and earth, allowing for acceleration of the soul's digesting speed."

Snowside swept her eyes over Qin Yu and curled her lips. "Hey, don't look at me like that. I'm not just making things up. I have seen such things before. Moreover...hum hum, I know which place has one."

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows together. "How would you know?"

Snowside happily smiled. "This big sister has great foresight and has expected you would encounter such troubles today. So, I inquired about it in advance."

Qin Yu took out a jade box. "I'll give this to you and you tell me where the array formation is?"

"Deal!" She received the jade box and took a glance inside. Her smile grew even brighter. After carefully putting it away, she said, "In truth, you should also be able to guess it. In this region, who has the qualifications and the strength to build a Soul Casting Array Formation?"

...

Roc City.

Standing outside the towering gates, Qin Yu sighed with emotion. Before, he had been doing his best to run away from this place, but now he came here on his own initiative.

As he thought, everything in the world was constantly changing!

That's right. Snowside's inquiry revealed that the one who had enough resources to construct a Soul Casting Array Formation was the Lord of Roc City.

It wasn't that Qin Yu hadn't thought about putting on an act again to obtain the rights to use the Soul Casting Array Formation. But after considering things over and over, he suppressed the thought.

There were too many holes in his disguise and it wouldn't stand up to close scrutiny at all. If he wasn't careful, there would be great troubles awaiting him.

Qin Yu sighed and followed the stream of people inside, stepping into Roc City. He had already decided to figure out another way to borrow the Soul Casting Array Formation.

But as for how to do that, he had no idea. He could only take things one step at a time.

He casually looked for a place to stay. Then, he started to walk through the city. Soon he discovered that he had been made a fool of.

It was not a secret that the Roc City Lord had constructed a Soul Casting Array Formation; many people on the streets knew about it.

He clenched his teeth. No wonder that Snowside woman's smile had been so bright at the time...he would mark this down and find an opportunity to settle things later!

Several days passed. Qin Yu discovered that things were much simpler than he anticipated. While many people knew that there was a Soul Casting Array Formation in the City Lord Mansion, this thing had never been opened to the public.

That's right, not a single time!

Before, some people had come to the City Lord Mansion and promised many rewards, wanting to borrow the Soul Casting Array Formation to accelerate their cultivation.

But in the end they achieved nothing.

Sitting in his room, Qin Yu contemplated the situation for a long time. Eventually he wryly smiled.

It looked like Snowside was right. If he wanted to accomplish this in a short period of time, besides using the 'handsome man' tactic, there was no other way.

Qin Yu hesitated repeatedly. Then, with a deep sigh, he pushed open the door and walked out.

Chapter 904 - Doll

Ever since being reborn, Lei Xiaoyu's love for life had been fully activated. She didn't want to waste her days cultivating...that's right, she thought it was a waste. If it weren't for the fact that cultivating was able to reduce the pain in her body she wouldn't have wasted so much time doing it.

Lei Qianjun smiled at her choice and approved it with a wave of his hand. But an agreement was made between the father and daughter. She had at most three days of freedom and bliss, and then after that she would have to enter a mystic realm to cultivate until she broke through to the God boundary.

As for what mystic realm it was, Lei Qianjun only told her it was a secret.

Upon receiving this pardon, Lei Xiaoyu began to play. Each day she would run out of the City Lord Mansion. Besides the experts who protected her in secret, she was like an ordinary girl, dragging her group of friends everywhere with her.

Today's activities were arranged by Shen Xing. She said that there was an absolutely amazing place they had to visit, so Lei Xiaoyu's interest reached new peaks. The young men and women chatted as they hurried along.

Suddenly, Lei Xiaoyu's eyes flew open. She jogged forward and ruthlessly slapped the shoulder of a passer-by. "Qin Yu, what are you doing here?"

At this moment, she really thought that all the shadows in her life had been scattered. All that was left was sunlight and warmth.

Otherwise, why would this person whom she had been seeking for a long time suddenly appear in front of her after her illness was healed?

Were the heavens compensating her for her suffering? Yes, that had to be it!

As her thoughts raced around, her smile grew brighter and her cheeks flushed red. She fixed her eyes on Qin Yu.

Shen Qing and Cao Yaozong had once seen Qin Yu. They watched from behind, a cold intent in their eyes.

There were millions of cultivators in the vast Roc City. Their group had concealed their status as they mingled in the endless crowds of people, so why would they meet him here so coincidentally?

It seems like Lei Xiaoyu's previous search she had conducted with so much effort had been discovered. This Qin Yu should know of Lei Xiaoyu's identity.

Disregarding all else, there was one thing they were sure of. This was not a chance encounter; Qin Yu had been waiting here all along.

Qin Yu originally believed he had a formidable enough heart, but now that he faced Lei Xiaoyu's happy expression he couldn't help but feel some guilt.

On that day, he chose not to save her. But today, he was going to use her...although he had his reasons, such behavior was not glorious or heroic no matter how he considered it.

He paused and nodded at her. "It's been a while."

The subtle changes in his expression and his dry words caused Shen Qing and Cao Yaozong to become increasingly sure of their original thought. Their eyes became colder.

A toad wishing to eat swan meat...this boy was really courageous!

"Hahaha, isn't this the person that Xiaoyu was searching for some time ago to thank? Since we've met, how about we go and play together? Things will be even livelier." Cao Yaozong smiled as he walked over.

Lei Xiaoyu's eyes brightened. She looked at Qin Yu and asked, "Do you want to come?"

Facing her expectant eyes, for some unknown reason, Qin Yu couldn't commit to his plan of playing 'hard to get'.

After a brief silence he nodded and said, "Alright."

Shen Qing walked over, grabbing onto Lei Xiaoyu's hand and going ahead. "Hurry, hurry, if we delay any longer there will be too many people. I don't want to wait in line!"

Several women smiled and crowded Lei Xiaoyu within them. She only had time to glance at Qin Yu before she was dragged to the front.

Cao Yaozong smiled. "Xiaoyu is a great girl, right?"

Qin Yu glanced at him.

Cao Yaozong turned his head, "But not all people have the qualifications to stay around such a great girl. No matter what your thoughts are, you had best put them away, otherwise you will regret it."

After finishing speaking, he patted Qin Yu's shoulder and followed behind everyone else.

The place Shen Qing brought everyone to was a lively night market. Although night had just started to fall, streams of people were already here.

In addition to all kinds of food there were also many interesting stalls. The liveliest one with the most people was a little game called 'Treasure Watch'.

The rules were simple. The vendor would put out reward items and the player would need to put a personal item in the middle of the wooden table as required. Nine wooden bowls placed on the tabletop would immediately be flipped over and the player's item would be placed under one of the bowls.

Within a specified time limit, the player would need to find their item.

Finding it in ten breaths of time was excellent and one could choose any of the vendor's reward items. 20 breaths of time was average, allowing one to take back their own item. If it took more than 30 breaths of time, the dropped item would go to the vendor.

It was an interesting kind of gamble.

Of course, in the end this game tested a cultivator's cultivation. As long as their boundary was profound enough they wouldn't suffer a loss.

But on the other hand, such a formidable powerhouse wouldn't use such a method to get rich. Even if one or two were encountered, they would usually give up after one or two tries. After all, when it came to things like honor, people with status cherished it all the more.

Shen Qing was excited. "This is it, this really is fun. I lost a hairpin I liked yesterday so now that I'm here today I have to take it back."

Listening to her, Lei Xiaoyu approximately understood the rules. She glanced over the reward items, eager to try. This was the first time she had seen such a gambling game. However, she immediately thought back to something. She turned around and smiled at Qin Yu who was standing not too far away.

Cao Yaozong saw this scene and briefly smiled before saying, "How difficult can this be? Once I win I will take the hairpin back for you!" He pushed his way to the front of the crowd. After a visitor reluctantly gave up, he loudly shouted, "I'll come, I'll come!"

As he spoke he cupped his hands together and bowed at everyone around him. "I told my friend that I would win back the reward she lost. I ask everyone to please forgive me."

His bearing was elegant and his manners were impeccable. Although some people were secretly dissatisfied, they didn't show it. Cao Yaozong thanked them again before standing in front of the stall. "Vendor, these are my belongings. You can choose any one."

The vendor was a quiet man. His eyes were calm as he looked around, "Your items are too precious. My stall has nothing appropriate to match them."

Cao Yaozong waved his hand. "That's fine. Just choose any one. But, I want to say ahead of time that if I win, I want to take back the hairpin that miss left behind."

The man lowered his head and hesitated for a moment. "That isn't part of the rules...but since young sir wants to play with such sincerity, I will add one more item in the reward section. But I need to state in advance that if any other visitor wants to take it away, they have to come up with something that satisfies me."

As he spoke he reached into his robes and carefully took out a wrapped cloth bag. He opened it to reveal a purple-gold-colored wooden doll with light spots on its surface. It was carved in the shape of a woman wearing a dress. For some unknown reason, one couldn't see its face, as if it was a flower covered in fog.

"How beautiful!"

Many women cried out from the crowd.

Now that night had fallen, lights sparkled from all around. The spots of light on the puppet's long dress seemed like a dazzling galaxy, gorgeous and mesmerizing.

Lei Xiaoyu's eyes widened. She stared at the doll and subconsciously bit her lips.

Cao Yaozong looked at it several times. "Vendor, you have great taste. But even so, as I said before, after I win I hope you will return the hairpin to me."

"Of course." The man pointed a finger. "Then I'll choose the jade pendant on your waist."

As he spoke he took a step back and made an inviting gesture.

Cao Yaozong untied the jade pendant and tossed it into the hole in the middle of the round wooden table. It closed with a pop and nine wooden bowls flipped over on the tabletop.

"The time has begun."

Cao Yaozong stared at the wooden table. After seven breaths of time he pointed a finger, "That one!"

As his voice fell the wooden bowl he pointed to opened, but it was bare inside.

"How is that possible!?" Cao Yaozong was shocked.

Pa –

Pa -

The other wooden bowls opened. The jade pendant was in the third wooden bowl from the left on the first row.

The vendor cupped his hands together. "I thank dear visitor for your patronage. According to the rules, the jade pendant is mine."

He took back the pendant. Then after thinking for a moment, he took back the doll.

"Hold on!" Lei Xiaoyu suddenly spoke up. "Vendor, I like that doll very much and would like to try it."

Perhaps it was because they wanted to appreciate the doll more or perhaps it was because they found this group of uncommon youths displeasing to the eyes and wanted them to suffer more losses, the crowd drew backwards.

Lei Xiaoyu walked in front of the stall. Cao Yaozong said, "Xiaoyu, don't try. Even I lost here. You..."

"It's fine." Lei Xiaoyu responded. She looked up, "Vendor, choose something."

As she spoke, her eyes remained locked on the puppet.

The vendor hesitated for a moment. He glanced at Cao Yaozong and said, "This doll is my beloved treasure and I shouldn't have taken it out today. But since I have received this guest's precious jade pendant and since young miss is his friend, I will make an exception one more time. But I have to say that I will only allow this young miss to participate. Afterwards I will put away the doll."

He reached out a hand. "Miss, you know the rules?"

Lei Xiaoyu nodded. "You may choose anything on me."

The vendor swept his eyes around. "Then I'll choose the jade ring on your finger."

Lei Xiaoyu took off the ring and tossed it in the hole. Nine wooden bowls closed with a 'pa'. The vendor said, "Time, start!"

She stared tightly at the nine bowls. At the sixth breath of time her eyes brightened and she said, "That one!"

The wooden bowl opened to reveal nothing inside.

The vendor smiled. "Thank you for your patronage young miss." As he spoke he opened the other wooden bowls and took away the jade ring.

He turned around and picked up the doll.

"Vendor!" Lei Xiaoyu stopped him. "I want to try one more time. You said before that you will only allow me to participate, but you didn't define the number of times."

Cao Yaozong said, "Vendor, you should be able to see the value of the jade pendant and ring. Since my friend wants to continue playing, you shouldn't have a problem with this."

The vendor thought for a moment. "Alright. Since young miss wishes to play, I will accompany you." He glanced around, "This time, I choose the button on miss's coat."

Lei Xiaoyu tore off the button and tossed it forward. "Continue."

But what a pity, she also chose the wrong one this time. The button was taken by the vendor.

"Again."

Defeated.

"Again."

Defeated.

Cao Yaozong tugged her arm. "Xiaoyu, it's over. This vendor's skills are too fierce. Even I am distressed by all the things you've lost."

Shen Xing also said, "That's right. Let's go somewhere else. There are still many fun things to play."

Lei Xiaoyu shook her head, "I want to try again." She looked at the doll. "Vendor, let's continue."

The vendor furrowed his eyebrows together. He cupped his hands together and said, "Miss, how about this. I'll return half of the things you lost and we'll consider it over with that."

Lei Xiaoyu said, "I only want that doll."

The vendor sighed. "The rules of the Treasure Watch cannot be ruined by my hands. If miss is so insistent, then let's continue."

11th defeat.

Lei Xiaoyu lost the last of her personal items. Her complexion paled as she stared at the doll.

The vendor relaxed. "Miss, you no longer have anything that will allow you to participate."

Cao Yaozong's complexion was ugly. "Xiaoyu, don't be sad. Since you really like that doll I will definitely help you find a way to obtain it."

"No." Lei Xiaoyu shook her head. "None of you interfere in this. I will find a way myself."

She looked up. "Vendor, I like this doll very much. If you are willing to sell it I will surely give you a satisfactory price."

The vendor forced a smile. "I do not doubt miss's sincerity. But, the rules of the Treasure Watch do not allow me to sell prizes. Since you have lost 11 times, that can only mean you have no fate with this doll. You should not try to force it."

Lei Xiaoyu bit her lips. "I want to try one more time." She lifted a hand. Light surged and a puppet appeared in her palm.

Chapter 905 - If You Want It Then Come With Me

There were hushed gasps from all around. Everyone finally understood why Lei Xiaoyu was so insistent on getting this doll. Because what she took out now was unexpectedly a doll that was identical to the vendor's in material and quality. The difference was that the doll in Lei Xiaoyu's hand was a bit smaller, carved to look like a playful little girl.

The vendor's eyes brightened. "Miss, do you wish to use that puppet? If so, I can make an exception for you and give you three tries!"

Lei Xiaoyu drew in a deep breath and nodded. She cautiously placed the puppet into the hole in the center of the table.

"Miss, the time has begun."

On the first try, Lei Xiaoyu was defeated.

The second time was a repeat of the first.

Beads of sweat started to form on the bridge of her nose. Lei Xiaoyu's fingers gently shivered as she fixed her eyes on the nine wooden bowls. Shadow images began to weave in and out of her vision.

This...it's this...no...it's this one...

The vendor's voice echoed in her ears. Lei Xiaoyu's complexion paled and her breathing became rapid.

Tenth breath of time.

She trembled. Since she wasn't able to find the doll, that meant she had lost the qualifications to obtain the doll in the vendor's hands. Moreover, if another ten breaths of time passed, she would lose her own doll.

Thump -

Thump -

Lei Xiaoyu's heartbeat reverberated in her thoughts. Each beat seemed to extend to forever. Gradually, she felt as if she could no longer breathe.

"From the left to right, second row, first one." A calm voice sounded out from her side.

Lei Xiaoyu lifted her head in shock to see Qin Yu's calm expression. For some reason, all of the panic and fluster in her mind disappeared, entirely vanishing. As if just by seeing Qin Yu, all her troubles receded.

As she was in a trance, Qin Yu continued to say, "If you keep staring off into the distance like that, you won't have enough time."

"Eh?" Lei Xiaoyu regained her composure. She pointed a finger, "This one!"

She never even considered if Qin Yu might be wrong.

Before the vendor was able to conceal the ridicule in his eyes, he directly froze. Then, all that remained was disbelief.

The little girl doll was lying peacefully below the bowl. Lei Xiaoyu cried out, "There it is, there it is!" She turned and hugged Qin Yu, "Thank you, thank you!"

Qin Yu glanced at the vendor, his eyes serene. Before the vendor could say anything, Qin Yu had already picked up the little girl doll. "That's enough, hurry and take back your doll."

Lei Xiaoyu flushed red and received the doll, looking at Qin Yu with gratitude.

Cao Yaozong's face stiffened. He hurried to conceal his expression as he squeezed out a smile. "Qin Yu, that was wonderful. We're lucky you were here today!"

Shen Xing also hurried over. The group of women surrounded Lei Xiaoyu, chattering around her.

Qin Yu drew back several steps and looked at Cao Yaozong walking over. "Is there a problem?"

Cao Yaozong stared at him, his eyes ice cold. "It looks like you've forgotten the advice I gave you before."

From behind the crowd, there was a sudden burst of noise and chaos. Then the crowd parted to the sides and a group of city guards responsible for watching over the night market marched in. The guard in charge shouted out, "We have received a report that your stall has been manipulated with and has violated the rules of the night market. Follow us for an investigation!"

Before anyone could respond, the city guards lifted the stall and left in a hurry with the vendor.

Cao Yaozong grinned at Lei Xiaoyu. "Don't worry. Since he's been taken away by the city guards, he won't be able to escape."

As he spoke he flashed a smile.

Shen Xing indignantly said, "No wonder our Xiaoyu never won once. It's because this vendor was using tricks to cheat! Humph, the rules of the treasure watchers are very severe. If a problem is discovered, he will be in great trouble. And everything lost to him will be sent back intact!"

Cao Yaozong said that he would go and take back their belongings. Since the vendor broke the rules, it shouldn't be a problem.

Lei Xiaoyu hesitated before nodding and agreeing. She said not to humiliate the man and just take the doll.

Cao Yaozong grinned. He turned and left to chase after the city guards.

Shen Xing and the group said they were tired and pulled Lei Xiaoyu into a temporarily built night stall. There was a table for four and it just so happened that there was no room for Qin Yu.

Lei Xiaoyu was going to stand up when Shen Xing smiled and said, "Big Brother Qin, I'm sorry but could you sit down first. Once Cao Yaozong comes back then you'll have company."

Qin Yu nodded and sat down.

Disregarding all else, the taste of the food was great. It had been a long time since he had satisfied his appetite for food and drink, and he ate with refreshed gusto.

But Lei Xiaoyu found her food somewhat distasteful. She would occasionally glance at Qin Yu and then look around.

Finally, as Qin Yu was about to finish eating, Cao Yaozong returned. He had an angry and resentful expression. "Curse it, those city guards are all useless trash. Halfway back, the treasure watcher managed to run away!"

He shamefully said, "Xiaoyu, I'm sorry. The doll was also taken away. But don't worry, I have asked the city guards to search with all their strength. That fellow absolutely cannot escape!"

Lei Xiaoyu was disappointed. Her eyes darkened as she forced out a smile. "It's fine..." She took a breath and stood up. "I'm feeling a little tired today. You can all continue to have fun; I'll be going home first."

As she reached the exit she said, "Big Brother Qin Yu, can you bring me back?"

Qin Yu put down his chopsticks and stood up. He glanced at the group of people not too far away and nodded, "I thank you all for your cordial company today. Until we meet again."

He followed Lei Xiaoyu and the two left together.

The night deepened and there was a chill in the air. But not only were there no fewer people in the night market, there were even more than before. After a long silence, Lei Xiaoyu released a breath. She turned around and said, "Big Brother Qin, we haven't officially introduced ourselves yet."

She came to a stop and reached out a hand. "Nice to meet you. My name is Lei Xiaoyu."

After a brief hesitation he gripped her hand. Her fingers were soft and cool to the touch.

"Qin Yu."

Lei Xiaoyu gently smiled. "Then from now on we can be considered friends. Everything that happened in the past was my fault, so I hope you don't mind."

Qin Yu shook his head, "I've already forgotten about it."

Lei Xiaoyu blinked her eyes. "Big Brother Qin, do you know why my name is Xiaoyu?"

Qin Yu was a bit confused. Did the thoughts of this girl usually change so quickly? After thinking about it he honestly shook his head.

"My father said that on the day I was born, there was a thunderstorm billowing in the skies, but the raindrops tinkled down lightly without any hail or deluge. So before I was born, he determined I would be a girl. He said that although I have his last name, I don't have his imposing momentum. Xiaoyu...Xiao Yu...it's a name that means light rain, so from then on I was called Lei Xiaoyu. My father said that he didn't expect me or need me to have any achievements in my lifetime. All I needed to be was like a light rain, steady and calm, safely sheltered for the rest of my time." As she spoke to here she wrinkled her nose in dissatisfaction. But then she slyly smiled and said, "But he looks down on me too much, so I'm angry about that. Although when I think about it, my days have been good so far, so I won't bother to haggle with him about such things."

Qin Yu was silent for a moment. He slowly said, "Your father must love you very much."

Lei Xiaoyu proudly looked up. "I never doubted that." She quickly walked forward and turned around, coming face to face with Qin Yu. "And you, Big Brother Qin? What is the meaning behind your name?"

Qin Yu shook his head, "There isn't one."

Lei Xiaoyu curled her lips. "How can you not have one? Cao Yaozong, you've seen him right? He's that annoying pest. His father gave him his name in the hopes that he could bring honor to his ancestors. Although now, it seems that these expectations will be difficult to realize. But for better or worse, the hope is still there. So tell me, since I've already told you something so embarrassing."

Qin Yu said, "I really don't have one. I am an orphan so I'm not sure where my name came from."

"Ah!" Lei Xiaoyu's eyes widened. "Big Brother Qin, I'm so sorry! I didn't ask you on purpose!"

Qin Yu laughed. "I'm not that fragile. It's been many years so I've grown accustomed to it."

His eyes drooped down for a moment and he suddenly asked, "Could you tell me why you want the vendor's doll so much?"

Lei Xiaoyu was silent for a moment before a big smile appeared on her face. "There's not much of a reason. It's because I think that puppet is very similar to a gift an elder of mine gave to me. But I wasn't careful and lost it later, and I've been looking for it all this time."

Even though she was smiling, Qin Yu could still see the truth in her eyes.

He sighed inwardly and said, "Do you want to take back that doll?"

Lei Xiaoyu's eyes widened. "How?"

"If you want it then come with me." Qin Yu grabbed onto her hand and headed back to the night market.

Chapter 906 - Smash the Rice Bowl

Lei Xiaoyu's eyes widened even more. This was the first time her hand was held in such a manner by someone of the opposite sex, and it was also the strange and unusual Qin Yu. After a brief pause her face flushed red.

She felt faint as if she had a lack of oxygen. She continued to follow behind Qin Yu and it was only when he loosened his hand that she regained her composure. She pursed her lips together and tried to cover up the awkward expression on her face. "Big Brother Qin, what are we doing?"

Qin Yu said, "We're going to smash the rice bowl. In a moment, don't say anything. Just follow by my side." As he spoke he moved towards a crowd of people. When Lei Xiaoyu caught up, she discovered that they had arrived at a stall with another Treasure Watch game.

Qin Yu silently continued forward. Even though he didn't do anything, an invisible strength spread out from him and the crowd parted like water.

Many eyes landed on Qin Yu and their eyes shrank. They couldn't say why, but they all had a similar thought – this person wasn't good to mess with.

Since he wasn't someone good to provoke, he shouldn't be too excessive. They glanced at Lei Xiaoyu who was blindly following behind him and everyone understood what was happening. He was clearly trying to make a good impression in front of this woman.

When a man in this state – especially when it was one that wasn't easy to provoke – it was best not to say anything to him.

They continued unimpeded. Qin Yu brought Lei Xiaoyu to the front of the stall.

The vendor had already noticed them. He glanced at them a few times. Once the guests in front of him smiled bitterly and backed away, he rubbed his hands together and said, "Dear guests, do you have any interest in playing the Treasure Watch game?"

Qin Yu stepped forward. "I'm interested. Choose something."

It seemed this boy was someone who knew the rules. The vendor looked around and smiled. "Everything you have is good. You can take out any one item you'd like."

Everyone knew that treasure watchers had the most sinister and ruthless eyesight. Several unhappy cultivators secretly rejoiced.

This was indeed not an average person!

Qin Yu looked at him and took out a palm-sized stone from his robes. Although it appeared ordinary it continually released a faint fragrance. "How's this?"

"Heavenly scentstone!" Someone from the crowd shouted out loud.

Initially the crowd didn't recognize what this was but now their complexions all started to change. Although this was called a heavenly scentstone, the truth was that it was the egg of an ancient monster that had already gone extinct.

Due to certain reasons, the embryo in the egg died before it could hatch. The egg was buried deep below the earth and evolved into its situation over a long period of time. It was extremely rare and incredibly precious.

The vendor's expression changed. "This item is too precious. I have no reward that can match it."

Qin Yu lightly said, "If you think it's too precious, then if I win I will take a few more things."

The vendor's eyes flashed with uncertainty. He thought this was a fat sheep, but now the taste seemed a bit off. He looked at Qin Yu for a few moments. While his aura was somewhat vague, he definitely hadn't entered the God boundary. Even if he had some background, what could he do?

Hum hum. Treasure watchers were usually loners and wanderers but for their inheritance to be passed down without interruption, how could they not have their own methods? The heavens had given him a chance to obtain such wealth; how could he not take it?

The vendor smiled and stretched out three fingers. "I don't want to take advantage of you. If you win, you may choose three rewards."

"Deal."

Pa -

With a flick of his fingers the heavenly scentstone fell into the hole in the round table. Nine wooden bowls immediately flipped over.

The vendor licked his lips. "The time has begun. Please..."

Before he could finish speaking, Qin Yu pointed a finger. "That one."

The wooden bowl opened to reveal the heavenly scentstone lying peacefully within. Everyone, including the vendor, was stunned silly.

Was this a coincidence?

Besides this, they couldn't think of another possibility. As for whether or not Qin Yu could see through it with a single glance...what a joke, if treasure watchers who relied on this game for their livelihood were of this standard, they would have gone bankrupt ages ago.

The vendor's lips twitched and he squeezed out a smile. "Your methods are incredible. According to the rules, you may choose your rewards."

Qin Yu casually reached out and three reward items flew into his hand. He turned and gave them to Lei Xiaoyu.

"Take them."

Lei Xiaoyu cried out in surprise and hurriedly received them. When the crowd saw this, they became increasingly certain of their previous guess.

As they thought, this boy was putting on airs in front of this girl.

The vendor relaxed even as his heart hurt. There were differences in quality amongst the reward prizes. The ones Qin Yu casually chose couldn't be considered too precious, so his losses were reduced somewhat.

As the vendor secretly felt that he was destined to pay out a lot today, he heard Qin Yu say, "I want to go again."

The vendor's eyes brightened and he smiled. "Of course, as long as you are willing, treasure watchers will welcome you whenever. Dear guest, please!"

Pa -

The heavenly scentstone fell into the hole and the wooden bowls came out. Just as the vendor was about to speak, his heart skipped a beat.

In his eyes, Qin Yu raised his hand once again. His speed seemed even faster than before.

This couldn't be, right? Did this boy really think he would be lucky every time?

Many people sneered inwardly.

But as the cold sneers came out, they all froze. A deathly silence filled the air, and the wooden bowl opened to reveal the heavenly scentstone. Beads of sweat rapidly formed on the vendor's face.

He was frightened!

The first time might be luck, but could the second time? Don't joke around. The probability of one out of nine was multiplied twice, so could it be such a coincidence?

Okay, there was a possibility. But look at this boy and his performance from beginning to end. Did it seem as if he was testing his luck at all?

This was a ruthless person, and the most ruthless amongst ruthless people.

The vendor wiped away his sweat as his life replayed within his mind. He even glanced at Lei Xiaoyu. He had no impression of her at all. What did he do to offend them and why would this big brother do this to him!

Ignoring the vendor's complexion, Qin Yu took back the heavenly scentstone and picked three more reward prizes, turning around and passing them to Lei Xiaoyu. He lightly said, "Let's continue."

Hearing these words, the vendor's heart nearly came to a stop. He bowed deeply and put forth his most humble smile. "Dear guest, may I ask if I have offended you somewhere?"

Qin Yu didn't answer. Instead he asked, "I cannot play?"

The vendor's heart sank and he knew he was in great trouble. This person was really doing all of this intentionally. There was absolutely no reason for this type of ruthless person to waste their time here.

His thoughts turned. The vendor looked around the crowd and saw that the people he had arranged there had already left. His heart calmed as he tried to delay for more time.

But when facing Qin Yu's gaze, the vendor spoke a few times but didn't dare to say anything too reckless. In his eyes, this seemingly handsome young man was like a monster. If he really provoked him, his fate was bound to be miserable.

So by the time the person who rushed over to deliver a report came back, the game had continued for five more rounds. The vendor's face was pale white and drained of all blood.

At this time, the crowd parted ways. Three people walked onto the field. A large man with a beard was in the middle. He had a calm demeanor and eyes that were filled with vigor.

The vendor humorlessly laughed. His voice was nearly gone as he uttered, "Third Brother..."

The bearded man called Third Brother glanced at the rack where the prizes were located. He frowned and cupped his hands together, saying, "This guest, the little game that we treasure watchers play is for the entertainment of everyone. For you to play again and again, that is a slight against your status."

Qin Yu gave Lei Xiaoyu a comforting look and passed her the prizes in his hand. He turned and said, "I am just an average person without any status. According to the rules of the treasure watchers, as long as I don't leave on my own initiative then I have the qualifications to continue playing."

Third Brother lightly said, "But why? If news of this spreads out, your face will suffer a loss."

Qin Yu no longer cared about him. He looked at the vendor and said, "Let's continue."

The vendor's legs softened and he slumped to the ground. This person really had a wonderful mind. He decided to never do business with Qin Yu again, otherwise the other half of his life savings would be lost today.

Moreover, his current display was to add more pressure to Qin Yu's mind. With so many people watching and the vendor being forced to such a state, wouldn't Qin Yu be too embarrassed to continue?

This move might be effective against most people, but unfortunately for the vendor, this didn't include Qin Yu. He shook Lei Xiaoyu's hand and said, "Is this the standard of Roc City's treasure watchers? If you can't afford to play, don't come here and set up a stall."

Third Brother coldly snorted and said, "Your words are too exaggerated. What you see is only the most useless and good-for-nothing treasure watcher in Roc City. If guest wants to play, then I will take over the game. Do you want to continue at my stall? Of course, the items I have are extremely precious. Even if you use the heavenly scentstone as a gambling stake, you can only take away one item."

Among the treasure watchers, the more precious their prizes the stronger they were. He said this to place more pressure on Qin Yu in hopes that he would quit while he was ahead.

After all, just from glancing at this young man and woman, it could be seen they weren't easy to provoke. It was best if they could avoid needless conflict.

Peace brings wealth.

Taking a step back, even if he won, once news of this spread out then the reputation of the treasure watchers would take a drop for the worst- hey, you come here to trick and lie to steal the belongings of us ordinary cultivators, do you think we are stupid!?

But what a pity. The deep and profound meaning behind Third Brother's words were wasted on Qin Yu. He readily agreed to play with him.

Third Brother bit his cheeks and took in a deep breath. Since their escape path was ruined, even if he was subjected to a punishment later he would claw back everything now.

Brat, you are the one who doesn't know right or wrong so don't blame me!

"It's been a long time since I've set up a stall. I have a personal rule that as long as a guest enters the arena, they have to play at least ten rounds with me." A cold light flashed in Third Brother's eyes.

Qin Yu looked at him. "That's not a problem. But, I also have a rule. If you accept my bet, unless I take the initiative to leave then the game must continue."

Third Brother bared his teeth. "Of course. As long as you want, I will accompany you to the end!"

Quickly driving away the vendor who was feigning unconsciousness on the ground, Third Brother flicked his sleeves and his utensils of livelihood landed on the ground. The table was large and deep red in color. Its wrapping was thick and sturdy; one could see that this was a treasure that had been passed down over many years.

A well-informed spectator sucked in a deep breath. "That's a red-level treasure table. Things are going to be fun this time!"

Some knew, but even more didn't. After a brief explanation, everyone looked at Qin Yu with pity.

This young boy was too na?ve. He had no idea when to quit when he was ahead, and even kicked away the steps that were laid at his feet. He was in trouble this time!

According to the rules of the treasure watchers, according to their strength, their tables were divided into yellow, blue, and red – three different levels. Yellow was the lowest and red was the highest. The richer and deeper the color, the stronger they were amongst those at the same level.

At the same time, these different colored tables also served as a vague warning to the guests. They should play according to their level and not give away their belongings for free.

Looking at things from this angle, those in the treasure watcher profession still had a bottom line.

But this time, no one was in the mood to pay attention to such things. They were all waiting in excitement to watch the game!

This deep red color was proof of Third Brother's strength. And ten continuous games...tsk tsk, it looked like he would take away a great wealth this time.

Third Brother held his head up high, arrogance in his eyes. With a stamp of his foot, square bricks rose from the ground, turning into a stone shelf.

Lights flashed in his hand one after another. Ten prizes soon filled the shelf.

Hiss -

Seeing these items, everyone sucked in another breath of cold air. Disregarding all else, as soon as these prizes appeared, this Third Brother's weight in everyone's heart increased.

This performance, this wealth, this was absolutely a peak character amongst all treasure watchers!

Third Brother calmly stood on the other side of the table. His aura was sharp and somewhat heroic. He gestured with his hand. "Guest, if you have no objection to the prizes then let's begin."

Qin Yu hadn't imagined this Third Brother would be of such a high level. But this was perfect. He didn't want to waste any more time here.

"Okay."

With a wave of his hand, the heavenly scentstone landed in the table's hole.

Nine bulges appeared on the deep red tabletop, stretching into nine large bowls.

The bowls were a red color even deeper than the color of the table, as if red lacquer had been brushed onto them several more times.

Chapter 907- Examination

Now that he was already in the spotlight there was no more reason to remain low-key. Since he was going to smash these people's rice bowls – their livelihood – then he would utterly break them apart.

Qin Yu glanced at the calm Third Brother. His eyes were serene and without waves.

He lifted a hand...

Here it was! Here it was! It came again!

More and more people were drawn over because of the previous disturbance. There were more than ten rings of them, all thronging around to see.

At this moment, everyone shouted out in their hearts. At the same time their eyes flew open. Among the treasure watchers, this was the highest-level red table. Could he still see through it?

Impossible!

But now, before the truth was revealed, no one dared to take a stand. Qin Yu's previous actions had suppressed everyone present.

Seven continual times, he had lifted a finger and won. If they hadn't seen it with their own eyes they simply wouldn't have believed it!

This was how things were...it was difficult not to be shocked.

The finger fell.

"There!"

Third Brother looked over and clapped his hands. The wooden bowl that Qin Yu selected suddenly melted like liquid, slowly settling into the table.

Hu -

The entire audience sucked in a collective breath of cold air. Everyone's expressions were frozen in time, as if a paralysis technique had been used on them.

How...how was this possible...?

Everyone groaned inwardly. But, the one who groaned most painfully was undoubtedly Third Brother who was standing on the other side of the table.

What calm and collected demeanor? What brave and arrogant style? All of it had been crushed to pieces. His eyes nearly bulged out of his head and as he looked at the heavenly scentstone it was like he saw a ghost.

Impossible! This was impossible!

But Qin Yu didn't give him time to be shocked. "I've won. According to the rules, you can give me one of the items on the shelf."

He didn't make a choice at all. But this wasn't because he was kind-hearted or generous. When everyone regained their senses, they subconsciously felt a cold chill rise up from their backs and shoot into the skies.

The meaning of this was that he was going to be ruthless and chase him down to the end, never to give up!

That's right, this was chasing him to the end. Even if what Qin Yu faced was the strongest red table of the treasure watchers.

No one doubted this.

Third Brother's confidence had been washed away, none of it remaining. He stared at Qin Yu, his lips shivering.

He already knew what had happened before. This young man...no, what was hidden beneath this seemingly young bag of skin was likely an extremely old and powerful monster!

But that wasn't right. While appearances could be concealed, one couldn't fake their soul aura. This person wasn't that old. Before this he had played seven games, all of his actions the same, none of them wrong.

If things were like this...

A cold sweat dripped down Third Brother's face. He drew in a deep breath. He warned himself not to panic. He had to stand firm. He had to control himself.

What great storms hadn't he seen before? Could he allow everything to capsize today?

Third Brother looked over Qin Yu. The higher his cultivation was, the sharper his senses would be. This young man and woman clearly hadn't stepped into the God boundary.

Taking a deep breath, Third Brother thought that he had grasped some key point. These two weren't at the God boundary and hadn't even detached themselves from the mortal coil. No matter how strong of a soul they were born with, there was still a limit; it couldn't be that exaggerated.

Even if he had to take another step back and considered the possibility that this boy had practiced some incomparably formidable soul art and his senses were also outstanding, he still shouldn't surpass the level of the God boundary. And the red-level table he took out today would even render a peak God boundary powerhouse powerless.

That left only one possibility...some kind of tool!

The world was vast and there were bound to be things that existed beyond expectation. In the inherited records of the treasure watchers, there had appeared cultivators who used special types of treasures to recklessly win.

Of course, since there were such records, the people who cheated naturally had pitiful fates.

After all, to a treasure watcher, cheating was no different from theft! And Third Brother suspected that this young man and woman possessed such a treasure.

But it was obvious that these two people had an extraordinary status. If he exposed them without managing things well, there was bound to be a disturbance!

After a brief hesitation, Third Brother clenched his teeth. He didn't care anymore!

There was no way to withdraw in today's situation. Was he supposed to watch on helplessly as these two people swept up all his treasures?

The potential consequences of that left Third Brother shivering in a cold sweat.

Taking a deep breath, Third Brother pressed down his hands. "Guest, please wait. Our gambling game hasn't changed, but I need to suspend it right now. Please assist me in conducting a simple examination."

As he spoke, the atmosphere on the field changed. Several treasure watchers who had caught up after hearing the rumors suddenly had grim expressions.

The crowd began to shout.

A treasure watcher's examination...it seemed that such things really did happen. When a treasure watcher suspected a guest of cheating, they would pause the game and carry out an examination.

However, though they heard that such examinations often occurred at high-level treasure watcher games, no one here had seen it with their own eyes yet.

The looks of the people started to change.

Originally, these were just two youths with average auras. No one imagined they would display such terrifying abilities. If they really had used some method to cheat in a treasure watcher game...then they were in for some trouble!

Before the examination began, many people felt as if they could already see the result occurring before their own eyes. They became even more excited.

There were even people shouting out to call their friends and their friends' friends over. No one could miss out on such a lively event today!

Night markets were rarely allowed to be opened in the past. After all, when many people mixed together it was easy for trouble to occur. But for some reason, the City Lord suddenly relaxed the restrictions, allowing applications for the previously suppressed night markets to mysteriously pass.

As the opening notice for the night market was served by the city guards, there was also an additional request for enhanced preparedness measures. Increased staff were requested to ensure that no trouble occurred within the night market and secret screenings began to remove any unstable factors from the night market in advance.

These two simple notices threw the city guards into confusion. Many members who were on leave were urgently recalled.

Everyone wailed in sadness. Even if they cracked their heads open they couldn't figure out what the City Lord was thinking.

This was a mere night market. How much trouble could occur, especially in Roc City? Did it deserve so much special attention?

As one of the deputy captains of the city guards, Zhu Youwen knew the reason why. This was because he had a capable father, Zhu Tiande, who held an important position beneath the City Lord; he was in charge of nearly a third of the garrisons outside the city.

After obtaining his father's vague notification, Zhu Youwen knew that the opportunity he had been waiting a long time for had finally arrived.

So he had started to prepare a while ago. He spent a great deal of energy, time, and favors to complete his arrangements, waiting for Lei Xiaoyu to arrive.

In order to avoid her suspicion, he activated his plans several days after the night market began. Everything was going smoothly to begin with and once Lei Xiaoyu lost her puppet, he would appear as a hero and gain her favor.

Then, everything proceeded as he anticipated. As long as Lei Xiaoyu developed a favorable impression towards him, he had the confidence he could obtain her in the end.

But who knew that at the very last step, something would go wrong...a street rat came out of nowhere and ruined his chess game.

It was only then that he learned this boy's name...Qin Yu!

At this time, Zhu Youwen really did have the impulse to tear him to shreds. Because he wasn't unfamiliar with this name at all and had been annoyed by it for several months.

Fortunately, Zhu Youwen was a cautious person. He always liked to set up contingencies.

So once a problem occurred, the city guard cavalry that had been secretly keeping watch were sent out to carry away the treasure watcher. As long as he had that puppet he would still have a chance.

But Zhu Youwen was sure that now wasn't the time to continue his original plan. Rather, he needed to expel Qin Yu from Lei Xiaoyu's side.

This person was too threatening. He could not be allowed to stay!

Another incident occurred at the night market, blocking the flow of an entire street. The city guards were dispatched to maintain order. Zhu Youwen cursed beneath his breath. He had no choice but to put down his plans for Qin Yu and hurry over to help.

This was because he knew that the order to maintain peace within the night market, and even the source that allowed it to open, came from the City Lord himself. No mistakes could be allowed.

Zhu Youwen arrived. There were many people and they circled around a stall in droves.

He heard some people vaguely speaking. There seemed to be a treasure watcher's stall in front. When Zhu Youwen heard this, his face darkened.

What rubbish, if he knew that a boy would pop out of nowhere and ruin his plan, he would have come up with another method.

"Go, disperse the crowd!"

The city guards started to take action. The stream of people gradually scattered. Riding on a tall horse, Zhu Youwen was deep in thought even as he patrolled around.

Suddenly, his expression stiffened. He stared at the center of the crowd. At this moment several subordinates who followed close behind Zhu Youwen ran into him and almost stumbled to the ground.

What happened? That even the deputy captain would lose his composure so unexpectedly. Looking ahead, their complexions immediately changed. They lowered their heads and pretended not to know anything.

They knew that the deputy captain desperately wanted to obtain the City Lord Mansion's miss no matter the cost. Seeing her being so intimate with another man today, it was no wonder he was annoyed.

Zhu Youwen took a deep breath. He clenched his teeth and said, "Go and find out what happened here."

But soon, a subordinate returned and briefly explained the matter.

"Examination?" Zhu Youwen's eyes lit up. He slapped his horse and moved forward, "The night market is under my jurisdiction. Since something like this happened, as a deputy captain of the city guard I must come to bear testimony."

His voice wasn't low and many eyes veered towards him. The faces of the crowd filled with awe as they drew back. This was a deputy commander of the city guard. To them, this was an extraordinary person!

As Third Brother was making preparations, he also heard of Zhu Youwen's arrival. His expression brightened, "Hahaha, so if it isn't deputy commander Zhu. With your status, it is perfect to be a witness."

Zhu Youwen nodded and didn't say much to him. This person was just a treasure watcher. Even if he had some status, it wasn't enough to care about. He glanced over Lei Xiaoyu before looking at Qin Yu.

"In front of the public today, I will inform you in advance that if you really are caught using illegal means in this gambling game, you will receive the most severe punishment! In Roc City, the law has always reigned supreme. Today, as an enforcer of the law, I publically announce that no matter who you are and what status you have, as long as you violate the rules then you will not be shown mercy!"

Chapter 908 – Compromise

The crowd began to loudly cheer and applaud!

Zhu Youwen's performance was wonderful. As he rode on his horse, with his impassioned speech, heroic figure, and dashing demeanor, many female cultivators swooned as they looked at him, their hands covering their hearts.

Lei Xiaoyu's complexion changed but she soon came to a decision. She reached out and quietly held Qin Yu's hand.

She had to tell him to not be afraid. That no matter what happened today, she would guarantee his safety. Although she was the City Lord's most favored daughter, she didn't like to suppress others with her status. But even if she did, who would say anything about it?

As Zhu Youwen saw this, his expression didn't change but killing intent rose in his heart. He looked over Qin Yu, his eyes so cold they could freeze ice.

He came to a decision. Once it was determined that Qin Yu really was cheating, he would immediately kill him.

Even if Lei Xiaoyu loathed him, he wouldn't change his mind...if she loathed him, there was a chance to resolve it. But if he freely let them go, there would be no chance for him!

"Begin."

Third Brother looked at Qin Yu coldly. His hands fell onto the red table. With a buzzing sound, the bowls on the tabletop began to dissolve, gathering towards the center like waves of water. Then, a crimson bead around half the size of an adult's fist slowly floated up.

"I ask the ancestors for guidance!" With a shout, Third Brother pointed at Qin Yu. The crimson bead flew over, slowly revolving around him.

One circle, two circles, three circles...

Lei Xiaoyu anxiously clenched her fists, her palms slightly wet. Qin Yu turned and glanced at her, revealing a faint smile.

He was calm. He was genuinely calm, without any anxiousness at all.

Through the long span of years, after trillions of proud elites of heaven fell from the skies, their undying wills condensed on their own, forming the jade embryo egg.

It was itself something that seized the good fortune of the world. In some sense, it was an existence that surpassed the material world.

Even the little blue lamp believed it was incomparably important. It had done everything in its power to help Qin Yu fuse with it.

Could a treasure watcher's examination technique discover it? Sorry, it wasn't that he was looking down on others, but there really was zero chance of it happening.

No chance at all!

The crimson bead that revolved around Qin Yu didn't react. The doubt in their minds gradually turned to confusion and awe.

Third Brother started to sweat profusely. Although his cultivation was bad, it shouldn't be a problem to activate this examination bead.

Why wasn't it responding? Was this boy's concealment technique that amazing...or, was it another possibility? Third Brother didn't even want to think about it. Just by stopping the game and holding an examination, that was a provocation already.

Reconcilement? Peh!

You already wanted to take a life, so how could something so wonderful happen? If there really was no problem with this person...Third Brother shuddered at the thought.

No. No way. He was so young and hadn't reached the God boundary. There was no way he could possess such a terrifying sensory ability.

He had to just be good at hiding himself. He had to be!

Zhu Youwen's complexion didn't change but his heart grew increasingly heavy. He didn't want Qin Yu to stay by Lei Xiaoyu's side, not even for another second!

"Is there a problem?"

These treasure watchers, all of them were trash!

Third Brother sweated more and more. He said, "I will immediately begin, I haven't fully activated the power of the examination treasure yet."

This was of course a lie. He had already used all his strength. No, he was even overdrawing himself.

Ancestors, ancestors, please open your eyes, I'm begging you to open your eyes!

Another moment passed. Third Brother's face paled and then turned red. Then, all the blood drained from his face to reveal a hollow and gloomy blue color.

He was like a conjurer, his rapid changes impressing the crowd. But then Third Brother spat out a mouthful of blood and fell on his back.

The crowd fell silent.

Now, even if no one said anything, everyone knew the result. This black-robed little brother hadn't used any tricks at all.

From start to finish he had relied on his true ability. Even a treasure watcher as fierce as Third Brother had gone crazy because of this and had fallen into his own trap.

These people all forgot that just some time ago, they were all thinking along the lines of Third Brother.

This was why it was said that the public really could be forgetful sometimes. Sometimes their memories could be three days, five days, or three seconds, five seconds.

What mattered wasn't time, it was the change in situations and whether they conflicted with their positions...hehe, I am part of the public, I am such a hypocrite!

Before the breathless Zhu Youwen could erupt with anger, the crowd separated once more. This time, many people came, at least dozens of them.

The one in the center was a man with a full beard. But, he was much taller than Third Brother in more ways than one. Not only because he had a very nice braid in his beard, but also because of the momentum he released.

He was motionless like a mountain, like a great expert of his profession. Just standing there he gave off a feeling that he could suppress any scene.

The atmosphere fell silent once more.

Third Brother had an ashamed expression. He struggled to stand up and bowed, "Teacher, this disciple has brought you shame..."

This bearded man was called Jin Shui. Amongst treasure watchers, he was a true pinnacle figure. His methods and bearing could not even be compared with Third Brother. He glanced over lightly and said, "Since you know you have been shamed, don't say anything else."

Third Brother let out a sigh of relief. He knew his teacher's temperament well. The ruder he was, the less he cared. If his teacher laughed and comforted him, that was only an act put on for outsiders. He would have to shed several layers of skin later!

Without paying attention to Third Brother anymore, Jin Shui cupped his hands together. "Greetings. My unworthy disciple must have seemed like a joke. I know that you are a little impatient in your heart now, thinking of what might happen next. Perhaps you are thinking that you poked the hornet's nest, and after the little one is defeated, a bigger one keeps coming in an endless cycle. That does give off a greasy and crooked feeling."

He was charming and humorous, and with his temperament it was easy to change the mood. Most of the tension in the scene was gone and many people chuckled lightly.

Jin Shui paused and continued to say, "Now, I am going to be responsible and tell you that you have no need to worry. Amongst the treasure watchers in Roc City, I am the oldest, with the highest qualifications and merits. No one else will jump out after me."

Qin Yu glanced at him, "So you're saying I need to pass a final test?"

Jin Shui calmly smiled. "You can phrase it that way. Just take it as this old man's interest having been aroused. Or, perhaps I don't want this old companion of mine to lose inexplicably." He said, referring to the old table. He patted the red table and the examination bead flew back, falling into the hole. "Then, dear guest, please play one more game. It doesn't matter if it is victory or defeat. Just treat this like a game of competition."

Qin Yu thought for a moment and nodded, "Alright."

He flicked his finger. With a 'pa', the heavenly scentstone fell into the hole. Nine large deep red bowls appeared. Although everything looked the same as when Third Brother was controlling things, it actually gave off an extremely different feeling...as for where that difference was, it was difficult to say.

As expected, a grandmaster was a grandmaster. Everyone immediately understood that the red table was Jun Shui's, and Third Brother was merely a fake fox, trying to bully others by relying on his connections.

The pitiful Third Brother's image had now gone from that of an extremely 'fierce' person to a 'fake fox'. This was reality. The victor enjoyed all flowers and glory, and the loser was stomped into the endless abyss.

Jun Shui warmly stroked the table, his manner gentle. "My old companion, are you prepared?" He stood up, the smile gone from his face. The true manner of a grandmaster rushed forth. He gestured with a hand, "Guest, please."

Qin Yu lifted a hand and pointed a finger.

That's right, he lifted his hand without hesitation and pointed a finger.

There was no difference from the eight previous times. As if no matter who was standing in front of him, it was all the same.

Jin Shui had a strange expression. He looked at Qin Yu and then at the table. After a brief silence, he smiled and said, "Guest, may we have a private word with each other?"

Qin Yu was waiting for this. There were some people that liked being the center of attention and some people that didn't.

For today at least, he was the latter.

He nodded, "Alright."

Then, this storm that had considerable momentum and attracted numerous people quickly faded away, both sides leaving together.

But many people were dissatisfied. Just as the climax came, why did everything stop so abruptly? And the most dissatisfied among them was Zhu Youwen. He wanted to choke Qin Yu to death on the spot so how could he be willing to watch him leave?

But Jin Shui was not Third Brother. While he was also only a treasure watcher, he actually had the greatest power and influence amongst all treasure watchers.

Even Zhu Youwen, after hesitating repeatedly, decided not to provoke him.

In the western part of Roc City, there was an ordinary small courtyard. Only after stepping in did one realize there was an entirely different space inside. This was Jun Shui's residence and also the place of highest authority for Roc City's treasure watchers.

Jin Shui looked at the calm Qin Yu. He glanced at the darkness behind the two youths and finally pressed down some other thoughts that were stirring in his heart.

Everyone took a seat. Jin Shui smiled and lifted a teacup. "These tea leaves have no name but they are of the highest quality. Even I'm not willing to drink it too often. Dear guests, please give it a try."

Qin Yu lightly said, "My apologies but my time is tight, so let's get down to business."

Jun Shui didn't lose his temper. He laid down his teacup and said, "What request do you have? Please tell me."

In this world, there was no baseless hate or love. Everything had a reason.

Qin Yu went straight to the point. "In today's night market, a treasure watcher was carried off by the city guards for interrogation. But he disappeared halfway. I need something that he has. As for the specifics, Mister Jin Shui can ask around. I don't think this will be difficult for you."

Jin Shui smiled. "No problem." He clapped his hands. "Go, find the boy that our guest is speaking of and bring him here."

Outside the hall, there was the sound of footsteps quickly hurrying away.

Jin Shui's eyes shined. "Guest, do you have any other requests?"

Qin Yu lifted the teacup. "Only that."

Jin Shui laughed. "Great. Starting from today, dear guest is a friend of us treasure watchers." He took out a gray and inconspicuous wooden sign. "This thing is a token of us treasure watchers. In the future, you can use this to obtain help or assistance from us. Within reasonable expectations at least."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "Thank you, Mister Jin Shui."

With this, a compromise was formed from both sides.

A moment later, the vendor who was carried away by the city guards was led to the hall with a pale face.

Some time after, Jin Shui personally escorted Qin Yu and Lei Xiaoyu outside, happily conversing as he did.

Once the two left, a person who constantly stood behind Jin Shui, as silent as a shadow, spoke up. His voice was hoarse, "He chose?"

There was no context for these words, but Jin Shui understood what he meant. He shook his head, "I don't know, but I cannot make a bet."

"You were right."

The person closed his eyes, unilaterally ending the conversation.

Jin Shui narrowed his eyes as he looked in the direction of where the two met. If the City Lord Mansion's miss wasn't present, he really did want to capture Qin Yu and figure out what secrets he had.

But subconsciously he also felt a danger lingering above his heart. As if once he tried to do something, there was going to be great trouble.

At this time, Jin Shui suddenly felt a trace of melancholy. He had a clear feeling that if he couldn't figure out Qin Yu's secret today, he would never get a second chance in his life!

Chapter 909A – Meeting

Lei Xiaoyu cautiously looked down at the two velvet-wrapped dolls in her hands. She put them away and happily said, "Big Brother Qin Yu, thank you so much for everything today!"

Qin Yu looked at her and smiled. "There's no need to thank me. Just consider this compensation for how much time and effort you spent looking for me before."

Lei Xiaoyu's face flushed red. She didn't think that Qin Yu was going to bring this up; it was embarrassing for her. As she was playing with her fingers, Qin Yu suddenly called out her name.

"Ah? What is it, Big Brother Qin?"

Qin Yu said, "Xiaoyu, I hope that for the rest of your life you will spend every day as happy as you are now." Before Lei Xiaoyu could respond he turned and looked into the darkness behind her. "I'm leaving. You can bring her home."

After a brief silence, two figures crept out from the dark. They were wrapped in black robes and seemed to melt into the night.

At this time, as these two black-robed figures looked at Qin Yu, there was a faint shock in their eyes. This boy had actually discovered them!

Lei Xiaoyu's eyes widened. "Big Brother Qin!"

Qin Yu waved his hand and walked away. When Cao Yaozong 'invited' him out to join them and he agreed, he already had a thought forming in his heart. Now, he had come to a decision.

He didn't save Lei Xiaoyu because the price was too steep, so steep that he couldn't withstand it. Although there was some hesitation, he had no trouble facing his choice.

But if he were to borrow Lei Xiaoyu's favorable impression of him and continue using her, that would actually touch his bottom line. He thought he could do it at first, but now it seemed he had overestimated himself.

Since he couldn't do it then he would simply leave and look for another solution. Because to him, every day, every moment, was precious.

"Big Brother Qin, hold on!" With the sound of quick footsteps, Lei Xiaoyu chased after him. She said with a flushed face, "Are you leaving Roc City?"

Qin Yu said, "There is no endless party in the world. Moreover, I am just an ordinary traveler in Roc City to begin with."

Lei Xiaoyu bit her lips. She suddenly panicked, as if once Qin Yu left she would never see him again. "Big Brother Qin, am I your friend?"

Qin Yu was startled. He nodded, "Of course."

"Then shouldn't friends help each other out?" Lei Xiaoyu continued to ask.

Qin Yu hesitated for a moment, "What are you trying to say?"

Lei Xiaoyu said, "I know that you must have a reason for approaching me on your own initiative." She paused before saying, "Big Brother Qin, if there is anything you need my help with, please tell me."

With just these words, Qin Yu knew this was a smart young girl.

Welcoming her gaze, Qin Yu thought for a moment. If he continued to insist there was no reason then he would be lying to himself and insulting her intelligence.

"There were some problems originally, but now I've thought of an even better solution."

Lei Xiaoyu shook her head, "Big Brother Qin, you're not telling me the truth." She seemed to think back to something. After a brief silence she said, "Big Brother Qin, you are a genuinely good person. I know that you don't want to use me, but if you are willing to remain, I would be very, very happy.

"And for me, the happiness you bring is the greatest reward I can ask for...of course, if Big Brother Qin Yu doesn't think this reason is sufficient, then I'll add another one. During the time you stay for, maybe I can find a way to make you like me."

...

Lei Qianjun closed his eyes. He softly said, "Is that really what Xiaoyu said?"

The steward nodded, "Yes."

"I understand." Lei Qianjun tapped his fingers against the armrest and said, "Bring him to my study tomorrow. I want to see with my own eyes just how much weight this boy who is able to move my daughter's heart has."

The steward said, "In addition, I have investigated the matter you had me check into. The one who arranged all of this was Zhu Tiande's second son, Zhu Youwen."

Lei Qianjun sneered. "Humph. In my Roc City, not only are there many tigers and wolves outside, but there are far too many people at home who overestimate their smarts. Go and inform Zhu Tiande. Have him think about what he should do. I want a result in three days.

"As for the other little children who participated in this, have them all go into seclusion and reflect on their mistakes. From now on they aren't permitted to come to the City Lord Mansion anymore."

The steward hesitated, "Master, because of her body, the miss doesn't have many friends. If you do this she might be sad."

Lei Qianjun said, "Xiaoyu's so-called friends have not considered her feelings."

The steward said, "The young miss is very intelligent. Even though she was in a trap she still knew what she should do. It would be better to allow her to choose."

The normally discreet steward who was a man of few words had said more than enough today.

Lei Qianjun glanced at him, his eyes faint. "You realized it?"

The steward's waist bent lower. "Yes."

A silence followed.

Lei Qianjun waved his hand. The steward backed up several steps before turning and leaving respectfully.

After leaving the study, the steward habitually looked up at the skies and let loose a long breath.

...

Qin Yu spent his first night in the City Lord Mansion peacefully cultivating. After deliberating on the subject numerous times, he finally agreed with Lei Xiaoyu.

Although she clearly stated the reasons why she wanted Qin Yu to stay, giving him enough room to maintain his honor, the more she was like this the heavier his heart was.

Each time he faced Lei Xiaoyu he couldn't help but remember that this young girl had less than three years to live.

There was a knock on the door. Qin Yu restrained his emotions and opened it to see a maid bowing to him. "Sir Qin, the City Lord has requested your presence."

The steward was waiting outside the study. He waved his hand, dismissing the maid. After glancing at him he said, "Qin Yu, the City Lord is in the middle of business right now. You may wait in the side hall."

Qin Yu nodded. He entered the side hall and chose a seat to sit down in.

The massive Roc City presided over a region that was hundreds of thousands of miles wide. Countless matters both small and large needed to be processed so there were many people waiting here.

When Qin Yu arrived, lots of eyes gathered on him. Some were curious and some were judgmental. But no matter who it was, there was a faint coldness in their eyes.

This was the boy who stayed in the City Lord Mansion last night just because the young miss favored him?

There were few secrets in the mansion.

Last night, Lei Xiaoyu brought Qin Yu back to her home. One night was enough for news to spread, and those with the qualifications to know quickly found out.

And those that could arrive at this side hall and wait for a meeting with the City Lord naturally had those qualifications.

Qin Yu had a calm expression. His eyes hung low, blocking off everyone's gazes. His heart was serene and indifferent.

This performance left everyone surprised. Some people felt appreciation but even more people sneered inwardly.

But no matter what they thought, no one would express their opinions publicly. They simply stood on the sidelines.

People passed in and out of the side hall. As they observed Qin Yu, he also observed them.

Time slowly passed. Soon, noon arrived. During these four hours of waiting, Qin Yu truly saw the status that the Roc City Lord had.

In this side hall, there were confident people that looked around with disdain. There were unruly people with sharp and tumbling auras. There were even some quietly taciturn people that possessed shocking killing intent.

But no matter who they were, once they obtained the sign that the City Lord was ready to meet with them, they all stood up and straightened their clothes. At the same time they restrained their aura to the limit, putting on their most submissive and respectful attitude.

This was power and influence, unsurpassed power and influence...the ability to summon wind and raise with the turn of a palm!

"Qin Yu, the City Lord is ready to see you."

Qin Yu put down his teacup and followed behind the steward. After passing through an exquisite garden, they arrived at the study.

The steward pushed open the door. With a signal from his eyes, Qin Yu walked in.

As Qin Yu stepped inside he looked around. He saw Lei Qianjun sitting behind a desk, his eyes slightly closed.

To be exact, this was the second time they had met. But the last time at Immaterial Mountain, Lei Qianjun had been shaken by Qin Yu so he drew back his sharp fangs and claws.

Today their statuses were reversed and Qin Yu was in the other party's study instead. In Qin Yu's eyes, his light and casual aura was like a tower between the heavens and earth, suppressing everything around it.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and bowed, "Greetings, City Lord Lei."

"You are Qin Yu?"

"Yes."

"Xiaoyu has already informed me of the situation. You want to borrow the Soul Casting Array Formation? What incredible gall you have. Do you know how much it costs to activate the array formation once?"

Qin Yu said, "I am willing to pay."

Lei Qianjun said, "If it weren't for Xiaoyu asking on your behalf, you would not have the qualifications to stand here, much less barter with me."

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. He cupped his hands together, "I ask the City Lord for clarity."

Lei Qianjun opened his eyes. "You are quite intelligent. You know that if I was going to refuse, you would not even have a chance to come here." He raised a finger. "There's one thing I need from you. Marry Xiaoyu and become the son-in-law of my Roc City. Then, you may freely use the Soul Casting Array Formation!"

Qin Yu shook his head without hesitation. "City Lord, I am already married with my dao companion and we are very much in love. Forgive me for not being able to obey your orders."

Lei Qianjun coldly sneered, "We are cultivators so why do we have to care about mortal customs? As long as two people like each other, who cares if a man has three wives or four concubines? Are you saying that you cannot take a liking to my daughter?"

Qin Yu said, "Xiaoyu is a good girl. I am honored to have obtained her favor. But if I were to agree to that in order to use the Soul Casting Array Formation, that would be the greatest insult to her."

Lei Qianjun leaned forward. A boundless pressure rushed out. "Qin Yu, are you sure you want to refuse the only request that I have of you?"

The air nearly froze solid!

At this time, the quietly sitting Lei Qianjun was like a cruel and vicious beast, about to cause a scene of slaughter and carnage.

Qin Yu was like a little rock in a stormy sea. Endless pressure crashed into him from all directions.

Sweat gushed out, soaking his back wet. But his back remained straight as he maintained his silence.

"Father!"

With a shout, the study door was pushed open from outside. The terrifying aura that flooded the air suddenly vanished, without a trace left behind.

As if everything had been an illusion.

Lei Xiaoyu blushed red. She loudly said, "How can you treat Big Brother Qin like that...this isn't what we agreed to!"

Lei Qianjun had a helpless expression. "You are my treasured daughter and I don't want you to suffer a loss. That's why I needed to test this boy's character. He just barely qualifies."

Lei Xiaoyu stamped her feet in anger. She bitterly said, "And your testing is done?"

Lei Qianjun nodded and laughed.

Lei Xiaoyu grabbed onto Qin Yu. "Big Brother Qin, let's go!"

Qin Yu took two steps before he stopped, signaling for Lei Xiaoyu to wait a moment. He turned and cupped his hands together, "City Lord Lei, do not worry. I will keep in my heart the graciousness of you allowing me to use the Soul Casting Array Formation. If possible, I will repay this favor in the future."

Lei Qianjun waved his hand, not saying much.

The door opened and closed. The steward walked in, stood to the side, and lowered his head.

Chapter 909B - Resonance

"What do you think of that boy?"

The steward said, "He is extremely calm and stable, with some momentum to him."

Lei Qianjun nodded. "You aren't telling the truth. That boy is arrogant to his bones, but more than arrogant, he is confident." He smiled, "It's been many years since I've encountered such an interesting boy. Even under the suppression of my aura he managed to remain calm...did you know what I sensed from him just now?

"He was composed! Although he appeared distressed on the outside and his face was pale and he seemed to be struggling, deep in his heart he felt no fear. It seemed that even if I were to attack him, he really did believe he could escape unscathed. Humph, this kid is...interesting!"

To use the word 'interesting' twice, the steward knew that the City Lord must appreciate Qin Yu a great deal. He hesitated for a moment and said, "And about the matter you raised?"

Lei Qianjun shook his head, "This boy has a spine. Since I wasn't able to force him to lower his head today, I cannot mention this again in the future otherwise he will definitely leave. I don't want Xiaoyu to be sad, so let him do as he wishes."

The steward said, "The young master also applied to use the Soul Casting Array Formation. You rejected him because you stated that it wasn't the right time. I fear that as things are, he might have some unnecessary thoughts."

Lei Qianjun said, "He is my son. He can have any thought he wants, but before I die it is best if he patiently waits."

The steward nodded. "I understand."

He sighed inwardly. The young master's talent and disposition were far above average, but it was a pity that he was born in the family of the Roc City Lord. The standards required here were astonishingly high.

This was also a test.

•••

After obtaining Lei Qianjun's approval, Qin Yu was able to borrow the Soul Casting Array Formation. And, what was even more coincidental was that this incomparably precious array formation that was amazingly expensive to construct had actually been built in Lei Xiaoyu's residence.

To be more precise, no matter how one saw it, this array formation was prepared for Lei Xiaoyu alone.

With this thought in mind, Qin Yu followed behind Lei Xiaoyu. She easily opened her way through various spells and barriers with familiar ease. When they reached the Soul Casting Array Formation and opened it, Qin Yu was able to determine something.

Lei Qianjun loved this daughter of his to the extreme!

"Big Brother Qin, while the Soul Casting Array Formation is in use, no outside disturbance is allowed. This jade slip has the control method and there is also a brand mark placed within that allows you to pass in and out. Memorize the method and then put the jade slip away. Remember, don't lose it." After giving him some more words of advice, Lei Xiaoyu smiled and left.

Looking at her back, Qin Yu sighed lightly. She was indeed an extremely bright girl. Taking a deep breath, he suppressed his thoughts and then probed the jade slip with his divine sense. Moments later he put the jade slip away and stepped into the Soul Casting Array Formation.

Diamond-shaped lights lit up on the ground one after another. It didn't appear too unusual, and only after stepping inside did one realize its mysteries.

Once within, the air rapidly flowed like an endless underground river, filled with currents that recklessly shook. Each step had to be carefully placed in the correct position otherwise they would be thrust out. Even a God boundary cultivator would end up severely wounded.

According to the information in the jade slip, after Qin Yu walked forward for some time, he reached the core of the array formation. All of the shaking strength around him faded away.

He sat down cross-legged. Immediately, he could feel faint traces of a weak strength begin to be drawn in from nothingness by the Soul Casting Array Formation and fusing into his body.

"Mm? This strength is..." Qin Yu was surprised. Before he could think of anything more, the sun and moon force field in his soul space caused it to splash and ripple. It wasn't violent at all, like a handful of sand being scattered onto a lake.

But the changes began here. These seemingly ordinary waves were like holes that had been opened up, connecting to an unknown place.

And these holes released a formidable power of attraction. The shaking of the Soul Casting Array Formation intensified and countless cracks appeared along the edges of space. They proceeded to fall off and tumble around before vanishing, leaving nothing in their place but dark nothingness.

From this nothingness, a massive amount of strange strength rushed out. Compared to before, the quantity was at least ten times more!

There was no need for Qin Yu to absorb it. As the sun and moon force field revolved, the strange strength was pulled into him, fusing into his body.

At this moment, not only was it Qin Yu's soul, but every inch of his flesh, blood, and bone, was cheering in happiness.

Everything was being constantly strengthened!

Although it was on a small scope, this continuous feeling of improvement was an unimaginable miracle.

Qin Yu had no idea why the Soul Casting Array Formation could resonate with the sun and moon force field, but it was clear that this was good for him.

After examining himself and confirming that this resonance wouldn't affect the Soul Casting Array Formation itself, he closed his eyes and started absorbing with all his strength.

...

When it was said that the Soul Casting Array Formation's losses were astonishing, this wasn't just empty talk. Even with the City Lord Mansion's background, it still took them five years to construct it.

Afterwards, in order to guarantee that the Soul Casting Array Formation operated as smoothly as possible, Lei Qianjun passed down an order to establish a special array formation maintenance team.

This team was composed of three array formation grandmasters and 27 supporting cultivators. Altogether, 30 people were tasked with maintaining the Soul Casting Array Formation.

When Qin Yu obtained Lei Qianjun's permission to use the Soul Casting Array Formation, the team of 30 people had started preparations ahead of time, inputting the materials needed for a single use.

Today, according to the report, Lei Xiaoyu brought Qin Yu to where the array formation was. Moments later the array formation activated and the consumption began.

Everything started out normally, but after a short time, the four supportive cultivators responsible for observing and recording data from the array formation all widened their eyes in collective shock.

"Continue reporting. I will go and report this to the grandmasters!" Someone said before turning and dashing away.

Soon, three grandmasters who had been cultivating all looked up at a screen of data projected onto a curtain of light. As they looked at the energy reserves within the array formation rapidly decreasing, they all had dignified expressions.

"Immediately refill the materials and maintain normal operations of the array formation!"

"Turn on the self-checking mechanism and see if there has been an accident with the array formation."

"Activate the emergency energy reserves. We need to prevent any possible damage that might occur to the array formation due to insufficient supply!"

The team of 30 was fully mobilized.

An hour later, when the three grandmasters looked at the compiled list of reports, their eyebrows furrowed tightly together. They glanced at each other in blank dismay.

Everything was normal.

That's right, this was the conclusion they obtained. Worried that their subordinates hadn't been careful enough, the three grandmasters personally rechecked the data twice, but came to the same result every time.

"Hah...fellow daoists, let's go and see the City Lord together." A grandmaster sighed as he spoke. After the Soul Casting Array Formation was completed, the City Lord Mansion had treated them well these past years. Fortunately, the revolution of the array formation had always gone smoothly so the three grandmasters felt at ease.

But today, the array formation was experiencing problems for the first time and they weren't able to find a solution. Although the test reports indicated that there was no problem with the array formation itself...this was only something good to hear; it wasn't a fix in itself. If word of this spread out, others would laugh at them and say they were three old fogies that couldn't do their jobs.

It was impossible to conceal the truth. When the Soul Casting Array Formation was activated, the losses were amazing to begin with, much less it was consuming three times the resources now. For every two hours that passed, an unimaginable amount of wealth was being used up!

Lei Xiaoyu was among the first to learn that there was a problem with the Soul Casting Array Formation, even if she didn't know what the exact problem was. Before the three grandmasters arrived, she had found Lei Qianjun and begged him to handle this.

Seeing the tense expression on his beloved daughter's face, Lei Qianjun readily agreed. He wanted her to feel relaxed.

When the three grandmasters arrived and explained the situation, Lei Xiaoyu let out a long breath of relief. She quickly asked, "Grandmasters, you're saying that the consumption of resources has increased, but there is no problem with the array formation itself, right?"

A grandmaster said, "Yes, young miss. According to our examinations, the array formation is revolving per normal."

"Good, good..." Lei Xiaoyu was overjoyed.

Lei Qianjun helplessly smiled. While he had a great enterprise and plenty of wealth, he had no reason to give it away to outsiders, especially when the losses were three times higher than normal.

This girl...

Another grandmaster hesitated before saying, "City Lord, according to our calculations this should be because an unknown chance has appeared in the environment of the outside world, thus causing the array formation's revolution to quicken and its energy consumption to rise. This should be an accidental situation. If we temporarily stop the revolution of the array formation and wait some time before opening it again, we should be able to prevent unnecessary losses."

Lei Xiaoyu was too embarrassed to be too obvious in front of outsiders. She quickly looked at her father with wide eyes.

Lei Qianjun lightly coughed. "No need. I agreed to this to begin with, so how could I go back on my word? This is simply a minor loss. Go back. I will pass down an order and give you all sufficient authority to ensure you can replenish any losses."

"Yes, City Lord." The three grandmasters excused themselves.

Lei Xiaoyu ran over behind her father and started kneading his shoulders. "Father, you're so wonderful, I love you the most!"

Lei Qianjun coldly coughed. "I still can't tell what's so good about that smelly boy that you treat him so well."

"Father –" Lei Xiaoyu wrinkled her nose. "Just do this for me. Okay, I'm not going to argue. I'm going back to cultivate."

She turned and happily jogged away.

The steward said in a soft voice, "After Qin Yu entered the Soul Casting Array Formation, the young miss was waiting for him outside."

Lei Qianjun closed his eyes. "I understand."

Chapter 910 - Qualified Shield

In a room, the sounds of smashing continued for a long time as if a storm were raging inside. The maids and guards stood outside with their heads bowed down deeply, in fear that anger would be vented upon them.

The young master had been in a bad mood recently, but he was in especially poor spirits today.

After smashing a jade table with a single kick, Lei Jinyun panted for breath. He had nearly ruined the entire room but the anger in his heart only increased, causing his eyes to turn faintly blood red.

With a creaking sound, the door opened. Lei Jinyun turned and roared, "Who let you come in, screw off!"

There was the sound of footsteps followed by a calm voice. "Pass down a sealed command. Anyone who dares to leak out what happened today will be severely punished. In addition, send for people to come here and clean this place up. Have it restored to its original condition as soon as possible."

After relaying his orders, a man walked over. His name was An Taiping. He had the appearance of a 50 year old man and his bearing was dignified and collected. He cupped his hands together and said, "I greet the eldest son."

Lei Jinyun drew in a deep breath and squeezed out a smile. "I had no idea that teacher arrived. I was disrespectful. I ask for your forgiveness."

An Taiping was a famed scholar in Roc City. He was a grand authority with a long line of inheritance behind him. Lei Qianjun had personally visited him several times before he agreed to come here to teach. He possessed an extremely high status.

He stood up straight and looked at the disciple he had painstakingly cultivated. He said in a slow voice, "I am your teacher. Our rise and fall have already become one, so why would I care about things like this? But if the City Lord were to learn about what happened today, have you thought about that?"

Lei Jinyun's complexion changed. He forced out a smile and said, "Teacher is correct. This disciple understands. I am just...I am just upset, so I couldn't help but vent my anger."

An Taiping lightly sighed. Sometimes, he understood Lei Jinyun. It was because the way the City Lord handled his affairs was far too obscure and deep; it made his thoughts impossible to grasp.

Lei Jinyun was the eldest son and was considered qualified in all aspects. No matter how one looked at it, he was the best choice for inheriting the throne in the future.

But unfortunately, he was forced to retreat again and again by a little girl. In recent years there had been numerous mistakes in his performance.

It was rare for a woman to take the throne, but that didn't mean it was without precedent. And the love that the City Lord felt for Lei Xiaoyu surpassed all reasonable imagination. One couldn't help but think of the possibilities.

"Young master, you must remember how precious your status is. You are the center of attention of all parties and everything you do will be magnified countless times over, becoming a certificate of your actions in the outside world. As long as you do well, the future will be yours. After all, it is difficult for a mere woman to obtain the approval of everyone! Moreover, you have chosen well in marriage. Your wife's family will be a great boost to you. They will not allow your status to be challenged."

With An Taiping's identity and standing, when he took a stance he always left room for himself. Today was the first time he had given such a straightforward analysis.

Lei Jinyun had a gratified expression. "Teacher, I understand. This disciple will closely follow your advice and will not disappoint you."

An Taiping shook his head, "Young master, you do not need to fear disappointing me. Rather, you should not disappoint the status that the heavens have granted you. It's fine as long as you do not make any mistakes. The throne shall surely be yours in the future."

An hour later, An Taiping bid his goodbyes and left. Lei Jinyun's tumbling heart finally managed to stabilize. Still, as he thought back to how his father had unexpectedly agreed to let an outsider use the Soul Casting Array Formation, he couldn't help but feel his heart twitch.

He was his father's genuine son and also the eldest son! How could he not compare to a woman? And he couldn't even compare to a boy she had found in the garbage!

Lei Jinyun couldn't imagine it!

When he returned to his room after dinner, Lei Jinyun waved his hand and dismissed the maids. He grabbed onto his wife and without another word, moved towards their bed.

The two fell down together.

As if knowing how angry he was, his normally conservative and reserved wife let loose her restraints, allowing Lei Jinyun to obtain the maximum satisfaction.

A long time later, when the clouds and rain disappeared, Lei Jinyun stroked the woman lying against his chest. He said in a quiet voice, "Thank you."

His wife pressed into his arm. She changed her posture and shook her head, "Since I married you, I'm yours."

After a pause, the woman said in a light voice, "I know you are angry, but we cannot violate your father's will."

Lei Jinyun was silent for a moment. "I understand."

"You don't." The wife lifted herself up, exposing her naked upper body. "The Soul Casting Array Formation is a treasure of the Lei Family. Besides their direct bloodline lineage, anyone else that enters needs a jade slip. We cannot violate your father's will, but if Qin Yu makes a mistake, we will have a chance."

Lei Jinyun furrowed his eyebrows together. "What are you saying?"

The wife lightly said, "Our Shi Family has always been friendly with the Blackpool Family. Several days ago, my father sent me a message. A Wu Family Elder will be passing through Roc City and you should step forward to entertain him. It should be within the next few days."

"Blackpool Wu Family?"

"Yes, this is a chance."

"But today, teacher warned me not to be reckless."

"Your teacher was correct. It is our best choice to adapt to the changes as they come. But you have to remember that you are the eldest son. Not only will you face your father's tests but there are also many people observing you in secret, determining if you are worthy. Qin Yu was allowed to use the Soul Casting Array Formation, but he is only Lei Xiaoyu's friend. In fact, we aren't the only ones who are unhappy about this.

"If you make your move now, you can prove your stance and also borrow the momentum of the situation. Even if your father knows, he won't say anything. Because with your status you have the qualifications to take a stand in some matters. If you make your voice known, that is good for all of us."

A cloudy expression covered his face for a long time. Then, Lei Jinyun hugged her into his arms and fiercely intruded into her body. "Since this is the order of my wife's father, I will agree to it. Winning over the support of my wife's family is also something I should do!"

...

Five days later, the Soul Casting Array Formation gradually quieted down. The shattered edges of space began to slowly reform.

Taking in the last wisp of the strange strength and absorbing it into his body and soul, Qin Yu opened his eyes and let out a foul breath.

Shua -

A sharp light flashed in his eyes.

Qin Yu stood up, his bones cracking and popping, the sounds linking into a single stretch. But now, even though his mortal body had received harvests, what he truly cared about was the growth to his soul.

Carefully examining himself, Qin Yu couldn't help but smile. This was indeed worthy of being the Soul Casting Array Formation; the effects were better than he expected.

At this current speed, he would at most need to borrow the array two more times before his soul absorption rate returned to normal.

Looking around at the array formation which had fallen silent, Qin Yu stepped out.

If he could, he would choose without hesitation to cultivate here for several months until he digested all the soul treasures he refined.

But what a pity, every time the Soul Casting Array Formation was used there was a necessary maintenance period afterwards to ensure that it could continue functioning at maximum output.

This was all recorded in the jade slip.

He smoothly passed through the long channel. When he reached the outside, a cool breeze blew past him. Right now, the stars were shining high in the skies.

He came to a sudden stop. In a little pavilion not too far away, there was a soft couch.

Lei Xiaoyu was lying on top of it. Her eyes were shut as if she had fallen into a deep sleep.

Two maids stood by her side. They had noticed when Qin Yu arrived and a look of hesitation crossed their faces.

Qin Yu raised a hand, preventing them from waking Lei Xiaoyu up. He said in a soft voice, "How long has she been here?"

A maid bowed, "Reporting to Sir Qin, since the same day you entered, the miss has been standing guard here and hasn't left."

Qin Yu was silent for a moment. He turned around and sat down, looking at the sleeping Lei Xiaoyu. She seemed to be experiencing a wonderful dream right now as a light smile hung on the edges of her lips.

The two maids glanced at each other before quietly leaving the pavilion, allowing space for the two of them.

Looking at the peacefully sleeping Lei Xiaoyu, Qin Yu closed his eyes. His thoughts traveled far into the distance.

A moment later, the little blue lamp's voice resounded in his mind. "I know what you are going to say but my answer will not change. Saving her is far too difficult. Even if you insist, I will refuse."

Qin Yu said in a low tone, "Is there no other way?"

"In truth, there are many methods to save her. But besides me taking action, the simplest way is to obtain the body of an Origin God. Do you want me to inform you of other ways to save her?"

"No need." Qin Yu lightly said. After ending the connection, he opened his eyes and looked at Lei Xiaoyu, suppressing the waves in his heart.

It wasn't that he didn't want to save her, but his abilities were limited.

Unconsciously, the night passed. When the rays of the sun started to shine down, Lei Xiaoyu opened her eyes. The moment she saw Qin Yu, a bright smile blossomed on her face.

"Big Brother Qin!"

Qin Yu smiled. "You seemed to be sleeping well last night so I didn't wake you up. The Soul Casting Array Formation needs to undergo maintenance for the next few days, so is there anywhere you would like to go?"

Lei Xiaoyu nodded. "Yes! But Big Brother Qin, don't you need to rest?"

Qin Yu said, "I already rested last night. If there's nothing else, let's head out."

The place Lei Xiaoyu wanted to visit was within a quiet and lonely bamboo grove. It was in a remote courtyard at the southwest corner of the City Lord Mansion.

This courtyard was called the Bamboo House. It was cleaned well but there was a sense of desolation. It was clear no one had lived here for a long time.

Qin Yu was puzzled. Why did Lei Xiaoyu want to come here? He swept his divine sense around. This courtyard was ordinary, without anything special about it.

"Alright, we're here. Big Brother Qin, come with me." Lei Xiaoyu smiled as she pushed open the door and walked in.

Then, they strolled through the courtyard. Lei Xiaoyu walked in front, guiding Qin Yu through the various places.

She opened every door. Even if she didn't go in, she wanted Qin Yu to take a look.

The courtyard wasn't large, but with all the stops and pauses, they used up an entire hour.

Qin Yu wasn't impatient. He could feel that Lei Xiaoyu was happy walking through here. That alone was enough.

The last place was the bamboo grove they saw before. Without caring for how dirty she got, she personally dug out a few fresh bamboo roots.

"Alright. Let's go. You're in luck today. My fried bamboo shoots are a top-class dish."

Qin Yu smiled, "Then I'll wait in anticipation."

After cleaning their hands, they put away the bamboo shoots. When the two arrived in front of the door Lei Xiaoyu suddenly stopped. She turned around and put her hands around her mouth, shouting, "Mother, I brought a friend to see you today, his name is Qin Yu! I hope that he can satisfy you."

As she finished speaking she didn't look at Qin Yu. She walked forward with a red face.

Qin Yu silently followed. He cupped his hands together and bowed at the courtyard doors.

Reality proved that Lei Xiaoyu hadn't been lying. Her cooking skills were unexpectedly good. In particular, the clear and fresh bamboo shoots caused Qin Yu to give them a thumbs up.

Across from him, Lei Xiaoyu gently smiled. She helped Qin Yu to another serving, poured some wine for him, and occasionally had some herself.

After finishing eating, without letting the maids intervene, she personally cleaned up and then put a plate of fruits on the table. She smiled and said, "Big Brother Qin, thank you for helping me fulfill another wish of mine. I didn't tell you this before, but this Bamboo House used to be where my mother lived. I was afraid you would be uncomfortable about it."

Qin Yu shook his head. He thought for a moment and asked, "Where is aunty?"

Lei Xiaoyu said, "She died. When I was five years old." She wiped her eyes and smiled. "After that, the Bamboo House was sealed up. It was only last year when I was an adult that I had this place cleaned up. So, when I introduced you before, that is only what I heard others say. The memories of my childhood are already blurry."

Qin Yu said, "My apologies...then was that doll left behind by aunty?"

Lei Xiaoyu nodded. "Yes. That was the only thing she gave me. But I accidentally lost it later. So I really appreciate Big Brother Qin for helping me find it."

Qin Yu changed the topic, "Is there anything else you want to do?"

Lei Xiaoyu tilted her head. "There is." Her face flushed red. "Tomorrow, my big brother is holding a banquet to receive an honored guest from far away. Many people will be invited...Big Brother Qin, you know that my father loves me, and since I've already reached this age...at every banquet, people will come to bother me...so if possible, I hope that you can attend together with me..."

"A shield, huh?" Qin Yu thought for a moment, picking up a grape and eating it. "Okay. I'll do the best I can so you aren't bothered in the future."