

CHAPTER 31

“Sir. Please come in,” Ye Kong greeted Zhang Wude politely and invited him into the room.

Zhang Wude had come to find out why Ye Kong wasn't attending classes. He hadn't expected to see Ye Kong practicing the Shadow Dance that had been lost for several years.

Chen Jiuniang and Lu Qin left after they greeted Zhang Wude. Ye Kong asked, “Sir, this martial arts came from the shadow jade. Is there some relation between the jade and the Shadow Dance?”

Zhang Wude smiled, “I know about it because I read too much. There are not many people who still know about it.”

“It's called the Shadow Dance but is otherwise known as Shadow Martial Arts. It is not only a profound martial art, but also a beautiful and moving dance. It was created by the extinct Shadow Clan. ”

“The Shadow Clan?” Ye Kong had heard from Lu Jun, but Lu Jun had not said any more about it.

“Yes! The Shadow Clan. It's said that all the people of the Shadow Clan were graceful, and all of them loved music and dancing. That was why their martial art also seemed like a touching dance.”

Ye Kong asked, “The people of the Shadow Clan must have lived the good life, but were they kind people?”

Zhang Wude nodded, “They were the kindest of people, but they were also hot-blooded and emotional. When they were happy, they sang and danced with their swords. When they were angry, they fought while dancing. They often fought on others behalf when they believed people were being treated unfairly.”

“Good, I admire that.” Ye Kong nodded, “I would do the same. We should all aspire to that.”

Zhang Wude shook his head and said, “No, this kind of character is doomed to be erased from this land. The Shadow Clan is the best example.

“The people from An are the An Clan, and my home country are the Wu Clan, but more than 100,000 years ago, we were all one clan, called the North Clan.”

“The North Clan? ”

“Yes, North Clan because we all come from the Northern Land!”

Ye Kong said, “Is there really a Northern Land?”

Zhang Wude nodded, "If there is a north, there is a south!" He recalled the records in the book, and said, "A hundred thousand years ago, the northern people lived in the Northern Land, and the Southern Land, now called Cangnan, was the land of the Shadow Clan. The two continents were connected with each other and very prosperous, but there was a disaster in Northern Land. According to the ancient books, the Northern Land was invaded by the Devil Sect. They were bloodthirsty and possessed amazing power. Although people had the power to fight against them, they were not a unified force. Everyone wanted to preserve their own strength, so they were defeated one by one.

"In order to avoid war, a large number of northern people moved south. At last, the whole Northern Land was occupied by the Devil sect. The other northern people lost their fighting spirit and came to the Southern Land, and they occupied a place to settle down. After the fall of the northern land, the flames of war burned towards the Southern Lands. The Shadow Clan decided to join the war and organized a large number of their soldiers to go north and fight against the Devil Sect invaders. After several fierce battles, the Devil Sect was blocked from crossing the North-South passage.

"In order to prevent the Devil Sect from crossing into the Southern lands, all the major sects decided to block the North-South passage. Countless ancient cultivators joined together to use their combined power to permanently isolate the Northern and Southern lands from each other. The two lands have been separated since, and the northern people settled here."

Ye Kong understood, "It turns out that the Shadow Clan were the indigenous people, and we are all immigrants. Why did the Shadow Clan die out?"

"It is speculated by later generations that the death and injuries from the war were too severe for the Shadow Clan, their population base was small, and their reproductive capacity was weak. After the war, they gradually withered and disappeared."

Ye Kong didn't believe it. "They controlled the whole continent; how could they disappear so quickly?"

Zhang Wude shook his head. "There are few ancient books left, and it's strange that all the ancient books about the extinction of the Shadow Clan are vague." Zhang Wude waved his sleeve and sighed, "It has become history. Who knows what happened back then?"

Ye Kong sighed, "In that era of catastrophe, the Shadow Clan sacrificed the most to fight when others chose to escape, but the result was the destruction of the entire Shadow Clan. No one even remembers them. It's not worth it!"

"But they also did it for themselves. If they didn't resist, the whole land would have fallen."

Ye Kong shook his head. "Sir, I don't think so. No matter who they fought for, they stood up and sacrificed their own people to protect others. They're real heroes. People should remember them."

"I'm glad that you think so." Zhang Wude nodded approvingly, "But this kind of character will suffer a lot of losses. All people want to protect themselves. They only want to live comfortably and don't care about others. You have begun to cultivate, you should keep on practicing and improving yourself. Don't follow in the footsteps of the Shadow Clan."

Ye Kong was surprised. He hadn't told Zhang Wude about his cultivation.

Zhang Wude smiled, "Only an immortal cultivator could learn the Shadow Martial Arts."

"Please keep it a secret, sir."

Zhang Wude said, "It's okay to keep this secret, but you should also keep a low profile. It's very dangerous to be a rogue cultivator, I have heard numerous tales of the killings of rogue cultivators."

Ye Kong didn't care and smiled, "I have no treasure or things of value to steal, so why would they waste the time?"

Zhang Wude grew angry, "You are wrong! I have heard of cultivators that will kill countless people to enhance their cultivation or practice their skills. You are an immortal cultivator, your cultivation itself is valuable. How could you be so careless!"

Ye Kong was shocked. Zhang Wude's words explained Fan Jiushe's actions clearly. He was fattening him up for slaughter.

"Sir, I was wrong!" Ye Kong made a very sincere salute to Zhang Wude.

Zhang Wude waved his hand and continued, "Keeping a low profile is necessary, but I hope you won't be too selfish and merciless. Although war is merciless and cruel, you should follow your heart. Even the immortal cultivators are still human beings."

Zhang Wude looked out the window. A gust of wind blew through his pale hair and after a moment he let out a long sigh. Ye Kong nodded while looking at Zhang Wude's expression. He thought of the conversation he had with Ye Wei about Zhang Wude last time.

Then he asked, "Sir, why are you so familiar with things regarding immortal cultivators?"

Zhang Wude opened his eyes and stared at Ye Kong, "Do you think I'm an immortal cultivator? I already said that even if I had the talent for it, I would not cultivate."

"I'm surprised that you have this kind of attitude towards cultivation. It seems that something happened between you and immortal cultivators?"

Zhang Wude waved his hand, "Don't ask about it. I don't want to talk about it. I just don't like the people who cultivate immortality. They are too merciless. Apart from advancing their

cultivation, there is nothing in the world that can move them. Even blood relationships are ignored.”

Ye Kong didn't know who Zhang Wude was talking about, but it must have something to do with the murder of his family.

“Sir, you just said that the Shadow Dance is the martial arts of the Shadow Clan. Did the Shadow Clan use martial arts to deal with the Devil Sect? The northern immortals couldn't deal with the devils but why did this set of martial arts work? “Ye Kong said quickly changing topics.

Zhang Wude laughed, “I'm not a cultivator or a martial arts expert. How would I know? It is recorded in the book that during the war, the Shadow Clan danced through the battlefields, so I guessed that the Shadow Clan was using their Shadow Dance to fight against the devils.”

“It seems that the power of the Shadow Dance is not inferior to the magical abilities of immortals, but why do I feel that the Shadow Dance wouldn't stand a chance against immortal cultivators?” Ye Kong said.

Zhang Wude thought for a moment and said, “It's said that the Shadow Clan's martial arts were always best accompanied with music.”

Ye Kong clapped his hands and said, “It was music. Since this form of martial arts is based on dance, it's bound to increase in strength with music!”

Zhang Wude stood up, “It's late. I'm going back now. I wanted you to show up to class more often, but now it seems that you'd be better off cultivating at home. When you have perfectly mastered the dance, call me so I can experience it myself.”

“Sir, I will definitely invite you to watch.”

Ye Kong couldn't wait to start practicing Shadow Dance with music. Although the music of the Shadow Clan was lost, Ye Kong replaced it with the music of the Earth, singing silently in his head and dancing to the music. Soon, he was immersed in music as he practiced the Shadow Dance.

“Ye Kong, you are doing the same actions each time, but it's like you are performing a different dance. I can't tell what the difference is,” Lu Qin said with a frown.

“It's because the music I am imagining when practicing is different each time.”

Ye Kong was happy. The Shadow Dance was a truly extraordinary martial art. With Zhang Wude's information, he found that the music used could cause changes to the Shadow Dance.

“Although this dance looks nice, you can’t make a living with it. You’d be better off learning poetry from Zhang Wude,” Chen Jiuniang said, while walking out with scissors in hand.

In Cangnan, singers and dancers we discriminated against. People who performed songs and dances for a living were highly looked down upon as nothing more than playthings. If one fell in love with singing or dancing, there wasn’t much of a future to be had. She didn’t want her son to waste all his time dancing.

“Mom, you don’t understand. It’s not only a dance, but also martial arts. It’s a very powerful martial art.”

Chen Jiuniang smiled, “I’m just reminding you that the general won’t agree with you disgracing the Ye Family by dancing for people. I’ll go sharpen my scissors now.”

CHAPTER 32

“Sister Qin, do you know any of the popular songs from Nandu? I mean songs people like to sing. You can sing it and I’ll dance.” Ye Kong asked since he wanted to find a piece of music that could push the Shadow Dance to its limits.

After thinking for a long time, Lu Qin said, “How about the cabbage song?”

Ye Kong almost fainted, “It was me who taught you the cabbage song. I want you to sing songs from Cangnan.”

Cangnan was extremely lacking in entertainment. It was impossible for the ordinary people to enjoy a luxury like music. Lu Qin was so stressed while thinking that she almost burst into tears.

After some time passed, she said, “Let me sing a laundry song for you. I heard it from some women while they were washing clothes by the well.”

“Clothes, clothes,

The girl is out with the laundry,

The boy is out making a living,

Go home and mend the crotch.”

“Go home and mend the crotch?” Ye Kong blurted out. “The laundry song is totally a dirty folk song. Those women are ridiculous.”

“I really don’t know any other songs. You taught me all the songs I know.

Ye Kong had no choice but to shake his head and give up. Cangnan was a tragic place if a poor fourteen-year-old girl couldn't even sing a song. While they were talking, the sound of his mom sharpening scissors filled the air, interrupting Ye Kong's thoughts.

"Forget it, Qin. I'll teach you how to paint talismans."

Ye Kong turned to go back to the house with Lu Qin, but he stopped suddenly. Something seemed to come to him as he listened to the sound of the scissors being sharpened. The sound seemed to create subtle changes in his Qihai. It seemed like he was about to break through to the next layer.

'I see! It's rhythm. It's rhythm that determines the effect of the Shadow Dance. Different rhythms will lead to different dances, and the exact same Shadow Dance has different results when following different rhythms. It's not important whether the Shadow Dance is powerful or weak. The most important factor is whether it can keep pace with the rhythm.'

"Mother, Sister Qin, I'm going back to my room. Don't disturb me no matter what happens!"

Ye Kong rushed back to his room and locked the door. He sat down on the bed with his legs crossed. He started meditating and guided the immortal Qi throughout his body.

The process of immortal cultivating was also the process of gaining enlightenment. Generally speaking, every cultivator relied on the absorption of Qi from the atmosphere, after circulating it through the body to refine it, it became immortal Qi. When enough immortal Qi was stored inside the Qihai, it would have a qualitative change and the cultivator would breakthrough to the next layer.

What Ye Kong experienced today was an epiphany. His sudden understanding of heaven's philosophy drove his immortal Qi to have qualitative change. It was an extremely slow process to cultivate by refining Qi according to the Five Elements to Immortality. If not for his sudden epiphany, it would be impossible for him to enter the second layer of Qi refining without cultivating for at least another two years.

Ye Kong had no idea how long it took him to wake up from his meditative state. To advance from the first layer to the second layer of Qi refining required him to refine a large amount of immortal Qi. He realized that it had been five days. With his advancement his Qihai had expanded and his speed of refining Qi had also increased.

"It took me two years to reach the second layer of Qi refining. Is that considered fast or slow?" Ye Kong said, opening his eyes. It was midnight. The moonlight shone on the table through the torn window lattice.

"Mother might be worried," Ye Kong got out of bed quickly, opened the door and quickly stepped into the next room.

Chen Jiuniang sat beside the bed. She had fallen asleep without taking off her shoes. The little oil lamp had almost burned out so only a green bean sized light was lingering.

“Why didn’t you go to bed? Were you that worried about me?”

Ye Kong’s heart ached. He guessed that Chen Jiuniang had been sleeping like this for the past five days. He suddenly knew why cultivators would go deep into the mountains or forests to do closed-door cultivation. Some were afraid of being disturbed, and the others were afraid of these kinds of unwarranted worries.

In the future, his cultivating and meditation time would be much longer. How would he comfort his mother then? How could he make her stop worrying about him? If he left home, who would take care of her?

“The heavens are truly cruel. No wonder it is said that when someone steps on the path of cultivation, all feelings must be cut off, so that one can concentrate on cultivation without being disturbed.”

Although Ye Kong understood this, he would rather practice slowly than leave his mother behind. He gently took off her shoes, laid her down on the bed, and covered her with a quilt. Ye Kong blew out the candle before grabbing several dried steamed buns and going back to his room.

Ye Kong ate the steamed buns with a blank stare. Although he would like to cultivate quickly, there were still the problems in front of him. First of all, the Qi in Nandu city was very thin. All the cultivation sects and families were located near famous mountains and rivers because there were Qi veins in abundance there.

The quantity and activity of Qi was directly related to the speed of cultivation. At present, as he was at the second layer of Qi refining, Nandu city was barely acceptable. When he entered the third and fourth level of Qi refining, he would have to leave home and find a better place to cultivate.

Another problem was that he couldn’t be disturbed while in meditation. Most cultivators liked to find a cave and live alone. Some of them even had to be protected by others when they were breaking through.

It was very dangerous to cultivate like Ye Kong. If anyone had bothered him during these five days, he would have failed to break through and he could also have been badly injured. The greater his strength became, the more serious the potential injury.

“It seems that I will have to leave here sooner or later.”

Ye Kong took a deep breath. He didn’t want to leave Chen Jiuniang, but he had to leave eventually. Although he decided to support the Lu brothers in gaining some power in Nandu city so they could take care of his mother, she would be very lonely after he left.

“It would be fine for Sister Qin to accompany my mother,” Ye Kong murmured.

He was not a little boy anymore. He had a lot of experience from chasing girls on Earth, so he knew that Lu Qin was fond of him. He thought he would be really selfish if he married Lu Qin just so she could accompany his mother. If he left, wasn't Lu Qin going to basically be a widow? Maybe for the people of Cangnan these problems weren't problems at all. They just lived a comfortable and carefree life without caring about what others thought.

“I'm not a native of Cangnan after all.”

After eating the steamed buns, Ye Kong sighed. He sat on the quilt with his legs crossed again. At least, he had successfully broken through to the second layer of Qi refining. Would the Collection of Spells open a new page?

He was a little excited and also a little nervous. After reaching the first layer of Qi refining, he had opened all the pages related to paper talismans. If he could open the spiritual talismans this time, that would be great. Spiritual talismans were the most effective weapons in Cangnan. Ye Kong couldn't use a single magic technique, but that wouldn't be a problem at all if he had spiritual talismans.

‘Spiritual talismans! They're open!’

Looking at the first three spiritual talismans, a thrill surged through him. He could barely stop himself from laughing, “I will never fear anyone again.”

The fireball talisman: casts a low level fireball spell which will unleash a fist-sized fireball with a long lasting flame.

The earth spear talisman: releases a low level earth spear spell which will create sharp earth spear from the ground. It's powerful and hard to evade.

The golden light talisman: a low level golden light talisman can be used for defense. As long as the talisman is active, the user's body will be covered by the golden light spell and can defend against attacks from swords and spears. Other spells at the same level can't break the defense of this spell, and the duration is determined by the power of the user.

“Shit! They're fantastic!”

Ye Kong was not happy for long because he soon found that spiritual talismans were not so easy to make.

Spiritual talismans are written with immortal Qi and can be divided into low grade, middle grade, upper grade and top grade, and each grade can be divided into low, mid and high level.

Spiritual talismans are classified by effect. The different types were defense, attack and auxiliary talismans. The power of an attack talisman is fixed, regardless of the strength of the user. When using a defensive talisman, the defensive effect is also fixed, but the duration is related to the power of the user. It was advised to always use a combination of attack and defense talismans. The auxiliary type, mainly includes all kinds of evasion and acceleration talismans, or any with other special effects...

The level of the spiritual talismans must be matched by the corresponding talisman paper, which means the low level spiritual talismans need the low level talisman paper while the upper level talisman paper can make the upper level spiritual talismans. To make the low level low grade spiritual talismans, take a piece of corresponding talisman paper and unfold it. Using a spiritual talisman brush and the juice of a low level low grade spiritual plant (or the blood of a low level low grade spiritual beast), release the corresponding type of immortal Qi depending on the type of talisman. Use the immortal Qi to paint as shown in the figure.

When making the talisman, the mind needs to be free of distractions, and the immortal Qi must be infused stably and evenly.

Ye Kong couldn't stand to read any more. Where could he find the low level spiritual talisman paper, the spiritual talisman brush and the blood of the low level low grade spiritual beasts?

Liu Changqing suffered a lot when they fought a wounded iron bull, and it was only an unlevelled spiritual beast. If he tried to kill a low level low grade spiritual beast, it was almost the same as committing suicide.

"It seems that I can't make any spiritual talismans for the time being. Maybe I can buy these materials when I go to the cultivator market later."

Since it was impossible to make a spiritual talisman for the time being, it was better to get familiar with the pattern of spiritual talismans first. It would be good for the success rate of spiritual talisman making later.

Ye Kong looked at the three kinds of spiritual talismans and couldn't help but marvel. The drawing method of spiritual talismans was totally different from that of paper talismans. Even their structure was totally different.

The spiritual talisman was simply a square, without any head, heart or foot. The complicated square was connected by numerous strokes and lines. He couldn't make out what kind of figures they were, and they had nothing to do with words.

Ye Kong thought that comparing them to a circuit board was very accurate since some strokes were like paths, and some strokes were like closed circuits. It was very complex and cumbersome. Immortal Qi flowed through them like electric currents, which would inevitably produce powerful effects when it was used.

It seemed that the spiritual talismans could not be changed at will because they contained profound and complex laws. They must have been created by a cultivation civilization far more advanced than that of Earth and Cangnan.

CHAPTER 33

“Brother Ye Kong, you’re awake! It was scary to think that you were sleeping for five days,” Lu Qin said. She had come at dawn because she was worried.

“Don’t worry, I was just practicing. Maybe I’ll meditate for even longer in the future, so don’t worry about it.”

Ye Kong sat at the table. He wasn’t sure what to do, only five days had made them so worried. What if he meditated for a month? They would go crazy.

“Yes, but how can you meditate without eating or drinking for five days? You will starve. Remember not to do this again. It’s scary,” Chen Jiuniang said while doing embroidery work.

Ye Kong smiled wryly, “Mum, Sister Qin, you don’t understand. I’m cultivating by absorbing the spirit of heaven and earth. It doesn’t matter if I don’t eat or drink for a few days. When I reach the next realm, I can practice inedia. Do you know about inedia?”

“Don’t talk nonsense,” Chen Jiuniang said and rolled her eyes.

Ye Kong sighed, “Inedia literally means one needn’t eat or drink.”

“Isn’t that the ability of an immortal?”

“I’m an immortal cultivator, so what’s strange about it? Just don’t tell others, or I’ll be in danger.”

Ye Kong had no choice but to try to explain everything to them. He had to let Chen Jiuniang know that he was cultivating, so she would at least not worry about him anymore. She also needed to understand to take precautions.

“But Immortal Wan Xuan said that you had such poor talent? How can you cultivate?” Chen Jiuniang asked.

Ye Kong explained it to her. When he went back to his room, Lu Qin came in with her head down. She looked like she wanted to say something but couldn’t say it.

After a while, she finally said, “Brother Ye Kong, can I cultivate? ”

Ye Kong looked at her and shook his head slowly, "Sister Qin, you've heard that cultivating requires talent. If you can't sense Qi, how can you cultivate?"

Lu Qin bowed her head in dismay while biting the beauty mark on her lip. Ye Kong couldn't bear to look at her acting so pitiful.

He said with a smile, "It doesn't matter if you don't cultivate. You can practice the Shadow Dance. You will be able to punish evil and protect your family using the Shadow Dance. I can also teach you how to make talismans, which is similar to immortal methods."

Ye Kong thought that since normal paper talismans didn't need immortal Qi at all, then maybe mortals could learn them. Since mortals on the earth could make and use talismans, so could mortals in Cangnan. If Lu Qin learned how to draw talismans, she could protect his mother when he went out to practice.

Lu Qin's eyes brightened, "Creating talismans? Is that what you used to help cure my mother's disease?"

"Yes, it's called an Improving Eyesight talisman. There are many kinds of talismans, such as Heart-Fire Removal talisman and Birth Protection talisman. You can cure and protect people if you learn them."

"Birth Protection talisman?" She said.

Ye Kong said, "It's the talisman to use when the woman is delivering her baby."

"Brother Ye Kong! You always say such embarrassing words!" Lu Qin said with a red face.

"I'm sorry. Come on, you can start learning now."

Ye Kong had Lu Qin stand in front of the table then he stood behind her. He held Lu Qin's small hand with his hand and began teaching her the art of drawing talismans step by step.

"You see, like this, the tip of the brush can't stop. Write down one stroke. Don't force your arm or wrist. When making talismans, you should have no distractions."

Holding Lu Qin's soft hand, Ye Kong talked and wrote, but he noticed the little girl's face was bright red. His own heart wasn't much better either. It was a summer morning, the sun hadn't risen up and a breeze was quietly blowing in from the window lattice.

The fragrance of a young girl is hard to ignore. Her black hair caressed his cheek, and her beautiful blushing cheeks were exquisite. How could a young boy's heart remain calm when so close to a young beauty?

A beautiful girl was in his arms. Ye Kong's breathing was a little irregular and so was Lu Qin's. She felt Ye Kong's mood change and held her breath as if she was waiting and hoping for something to happen. The Qi of the talisman became confused, and the paper talisman being drawn burst into flame and burned away in an instant.

"Look, this is the result of a disordered mind. It is said in the book that one needs to bathe and burn incense and kneel down before drawing talismans. This gives the painter time to adjust his mood," Ye Kong said slowly.

He took a breath and eliminated all of his miscellaneous thoughts. How could he let this continue? A girl like Lu Qin was tough outside but soft inside. She wouldn't look for a new lover as easily as a girl on Earth in the 21st century. She would probably wait for her whole life if necessary.

He didn't want this girl to be a white-haired old lady waiting for his return. He didn't want to think about a woman when he was cultivating in the wilderness, so he had to let her go. Giving up kinship, friendship and lovers, maybe this was the price that immortal cultivators had to pay.

"Now is not the time to draw talismans! It will only lead to another one burning. You can just trace my examples for now!" Ye Kong scolded.

He wanted to cover up the feeling in his heart. He let go of her hand and looked at Lu Qin's slim back. He scolded himself for suddenly becoming such a loser. In his past life, he would rather tease a thousand girls than let a beauty go.

'Do you want to think about a woman slowly aging and waiting for your return in the future?'

Ye Kong's mind quickly bounced back. He was not a merciless person. He was not a playboy. The only thing he could do was cut off his love early in order to concentrate on cultivation.

"Oh, Brother Ye Kong, my brother said that the Fan brothers invited you to drink at Appreciating Spring Tower," Lu Qin said, suddenly interrupting Ye Kong's thoughts.

"Really? The Fan brothers are not good people. It isn't a simple feast," Ye Kong said.

In the past six months, the Fan brothers had invited him several times. He refused every time because of Fan Jiushe's bad intentions.

"But the one who came to deliver the message said that Fan Jiushe said it would be of great help to you. They asked you to go, or they would come to the Ye manor to invite you in person."

"Damn it! They dared to threaten me!" Ye Kong said angrily.

In the evening, there were lots of people passing in front of Appreciating Spring Tower. It seemed that there were many rich people in Nandu city. The masters and young masters were coming in and out in luxurious clothes. There were women flirting at the door, but the real rich customers wouldn't pay attention to these women. The most beautiful girls would not stand outside the door to entertain customers.

"Young master, let me entertain you. My name's Li Lian. I was once one of the most popular girls in the Appreciating Spring Tower," said a woman with heavy makeup as she pounced on Ye Kong.

Although Ye Kong's clothes were clean and tidy, they weren't expensive. He obviously wasn't very rich, so he became the focus of these second and third tier women.

Noticing Ye Kong's silence, the woman hurriedly said, "Young master, you don't look familiar. You don't know the price of those girls who are currently popular. I'm cheaper, and I'll give you a discount. Just five Liang of silver for a wonderful night."

Ye Kong laughed. The escort girls in Cangnan were as direct as those on the earth. She talked about the price when she came up and wanted to go to bed directly after dealing. Maybe she could make several deals in one night. However, he didn't come here to have fun today and these women were too frail.

He quickly shook off the women's hands and said with a smile, "Big sister, I'm not an adult. I don't have any money in my pocket either, so don't waste your time."

Ye Kong's figure moved quickly after getting rid of the woman and walked into the Appreciating Spring Tower, leaving that woman outside to scold him, "Little pauper, wanting to play with popular girls without money. They will just rob you of what you have and leave you in the dust!"

The helper of the Dragon and Snake Gang rushed up to greet Ye Kong as he entered, "Eighth Young Master, the two leaders have been waiting for a long time. Please follow me."

"Thank you," Ye Kong said, waving his hand lightly. He followed the young boy up to the third floor.

As soon as Ye Kong walked into the private room of the Fan brothers, Fan Jiushe hurriedly came over and said with a smile, "It's a pleasure to have fellow cultivator Ye come here. We haven't seen you for half a year, and you have broken through again. Ha ha, please sit."

In the past half a year, the Fan brothers had been waiting patiently because they were afraid that Ye Kong's cultivation was too weak. Even if they absorbed his cultivation, it would be

hard to make a breakthrough. A few days ago, their informant in the Ye family, told them Ye Kong stayed alone in the house for a few days and didn't come out.

Fan Jiushe guessed that Ye Kong was about to have a breakthrough, so he thought of an excuse to ask Ye Kong out to check. Ye Kong had really broken through to the second layer of Qi refining. Fan Jiushe was very happy. If he absorbed Ye Kong's cultivation and broke through to the fourth layer of Qi refining, then he could control magic tools.

Having a magic tool was very important for immortal cultivators because it was hard to kill others with magic techniques alone. If they used magic tools, their attack power would reach a different level. It would not be hard to kill the immortal cultivators in the early stage of Qi refining. Even if he met the immortal cultivators at the same level, he would still have a big advantage.

If the magic tool was extremely powerful, it could also make up for his shortcomings. He wouldn't even lose to those who had reached a higher layer than him. If Fan Jiushe succeeded this time, he would have a smooth cultivation journey. Killing and robbing to improve his cultivation and allowing him to live forever, it would be easy with a magic tool! After gesturing to Ye Kong to eat and drink, he kept peeping at Ye Kong. The more he looked, the happier he was, as if he was looking at some peerless treasure.

"Taste this flying silverfish. It's rare and very delicious. It's said that the fisherman killed his own son in his attempt to capture just a few of them," Fan Jiulong said enthusiastically, his greedy eyes watching Ye Kong.

Fan Jiulong was also excited. When his young brother had greater abilities, he could find himself a cauldron to cultivate. At that time, he could also enjoy a long life and fly through the skies.

Ye Kong felt extremely uncomfortable being watched by these two. Although he didn't know what they were trying to do, he knew that they wanted to do something bad to him. These two guys were so polite this time. They clearly didn't have any good intentions.

"A person would kill his son for a flying silverfish? That fisherman must be insane," Ye Kong took a bite of the fish and shook his head.

Fan Jiulong, chuckled and said, "It's probably just a coincidence. If he had known that there was a flying silverfish there, he would have probably chosen another waterway."

Ye Kong smiled, "Probably not, profit can blind even the wisest of people. A lot of people only focus on their own interests. Under the temptation of the desire, they forget the danger that might be lurking. It was already too late to regret once the net was broken and the son was dead."

Ye Kong's words were meant to remind them that it was dangerous for them to attempt something against him recklessly.

Fan Jiushe knew that Ye Kong was the most appropriate cauldron and was a rare find. He was the key to determining whether he could go any further in his cultivation. How could he let him go?

Then he said with a smile, "What Immortal Ye said is true, but how can we make a fortune without taking risks? If everyone does what Immortal Ye said, how would we ever eat such delicious food?"

Ye Kong's heart jumped and he was on guard. Were these two planning to harm him already?

CHAPTER 34

"I heard that you were looking for me, there must be something on your mind. Please tell me."

Ye Kong was alert. His left hand was on the talisman in his sleeve. If something went wrong, he would deal with Fan Jiulong first. With a hostage in hand, he would be safer.

Fan Jiushe replied with a smile, "It's really a good thing. You'll be happy when you hear it."

"Oh?" Ye Kong pretended to listen attentively as he put down his chopsticks.

Fan Jiushe asked with a smile, "I wonder if you have ever been to The Market? It's a place where immortal cultivators communicate and trade with each other."

"Oh? Where is it?" Ye Kong asked.

He was definitely interested. It was impossible for him not to go. He had opened the spiritual talismans and was eager to go to The Market to buy materials. Since Fan Jiushe had mentioned it, of course, he was excited, but Fan Jiushe wasn't in a rush to tell him where The Market was.

Seeing how interested Ye Kong was he stirred up his feelings some more, "I have been to The Market once. There are all kinds of talismans, elixirs, magic treasures and materials for cultivation, more than you can ever dream of. It's really eye-opening. There are also all kinds of cultivation skills and magic formulas."

Ye Kong asked again, "Will you tell me where it is?"

Fan Jiushe knew that Ye Kong had taken the bait, so he thought for a while before he said, "Oh, it's really hard to tell the location. The Market opens once every three months. It's time to open The Market again in a few days. How about we go there together?"

Although Ye Kong wanted to go to The Market, he was still wary of Fan Jiushe. He didn't want to go with him, but if he didn't he'd never know where The Market was located. He would always regret it if he didn't go. Besides, maybe Fan Jiushe was not trying to harm him. As Ye Kong thought the offer through, Fan Jiushe gave Fan Jiulong a quiet wink.

"The world of cultivation is survival of the fittest. It's not uncommon for people to kill and rob, especially around The Market. They know that those who come to The Market will have treasures or spirit stones, so there are a lot of looters waiting to ambush. They will attack low-level rogue cultivators who are alone," Fan Jiushe said.

Fan Jiulong also chimed in, "It's better for you two to go together so that you can take care of each other. Those who loot treasures will likely try to avoid angering groups and organizations, so they will be less likely to attack if there are two of you."

He clapped his hands as if realizing something, "We ate for a while but forgot to order girls. Ha ha, wait a moment, eighth young master. I'll make arrangements."

Fan Jiulong left with a smile. Ye Kong had planned to take him as a hostage at the critical moment, but that plan would fail. Although Ye Kong was suspicious, he said he was going to arrange girls. He couldn't take any action yet.

"But I have just been cultivating. I have neither spirit stones nor treasure in my hand. I would be going to The Market for nothing," Ye Kong said.

"Ah, your words are incorrect. Even if you don't buy goods, it's very helpful to make new contacts. Besides, if you know the place, you can go there when your cultivation increases at a later date."

Fan Jiushe was right, but Ye Kong dared not agree. This guy had tried so hard to persuade him. Nothing good was waiting for him. In addition, the way the two brothers looked at him was greedy, excited and covetous. Ye Kong intended to refuse, but he found that he had been surrounded. Although his divine sense was not active, his keen hearing allowed him to hear the lowered breathing of countless men who were surrounding him.

Ye Kong was shocked. It was indeed a dangerous banquet. When had all these men shown up to surround him! It was obvious that the Fan brothers came prepared. His own trump card and the invisible talisman had no effect on Fan Jiushe. It seemed that he had to accept; otherwise, he would not be able to walk out of here today.

“In that case, we should go there together.” Ye Kong pretended to have no other intentions, and smiled, “In fact, I also want to go. I am just afraid that we will not be strong enough to fend off the looters.”

Fan Jiushe waved his hand and said, “It doesn’t matter. Those who loot treasures are not very advanced in cultivation. As long as we are careful, with the two of us, there should be no danger.”

“Then I will rely on Brother Fan, ha ha,” Ye Kong said.

Fan Jiushe didn’t give a sign to take action since Ye Kong had agreed. Later, Fan Jiulong came in with some pretty girls. Since they didn’t use force, Ye Kong pretended that he didn’t notice that they had set up an ambush. The three chatted casually, as if they were really good brothers.

Ye Kong was not polite. He held the pretty girl named Xiao Ying and touched her from head to toe, making up for the last two years of celibacy. He applied techniques from Earth, so that Xiao Ying stuck to him like glue.

“Ha ha, I didn’t expect that Brother Ye would be a master with women. Just stay at the Appreciating Spring Tower after eating,” Fan Jiushe pointed to Xiao Ying and said with a smile, “Xiao Ying does not sell her body, but you’ve made her like this. Why don’t you take her virginity today?”

‘Is this a part of your ambush? I would be too nervous. What if you changed your mind and took action when I was enjoying myself?’

“I must keep my body pure for cultivation, so before reaching golden core, I am afraid that I can only satisfy my hands and eyes,” Ye Kong said letting go of Xiao Ying.

Fan Jiushe could not say anything to such a good excuse so he had to smile, “I’ll see you in three days. Don’t be late then, Brother Ye.”

“Don’t worry, I won’t. I’ll take advantage of these three days to think about what can be exchanged at The Market.”

Ye Kong left with a smile. As soon as Ye Kong left, the Fan brother’s faces turned cold. Fan Jiulong waved the women out.

Fan Jiulong asked in a low voice, “Brother, why didn’t you attack then? It was a good opportunity!”

Fan Jiushe shook his head, “Try not to lay hands on him today. There are many informants in the Appreciating Spring Tower. If I fight with him, we will be noticed by others. Ye Haoran knows my secret, so it is not a big deal, but letting outsiders know that I am an immortal cultivator could bring unnecessary trouble. Now that he has promised to go to The Market, why not take action that way, so it’s easier to hide our secrets?”

A fierce light flashed in Fan Jiushe’s eyes. He took out the magic tool again and enjoyed looking at it for a long time.

Fan Jiulong was anxious, "That kid is young, but he is very cunning and shrewd. He may have found out about our ambush! What if he doesn't come back?"

Fan Jiushe said in a cold voice, "If he doesn't come, he can't blame us. We'll catch the Lu family and use them as hostages. We can also catch his ghost-like mother!"

Fan Jiulong nodded, "We'll let him live three more days!"

'You want to catch me! If you push me too far, I will struggle with you to the death!'

When Ye Kong came out the door of Appreciating Spring Tower, a cool breeze came from the summer night. Ye Kong didn't go back to the Ye manor, but wandered back and forth. He went to an empty place and applied an invisibility talisman. As expected, he saw two thieves following him.

“Where is he? I just saw him come in. ”

“Let’s look for him separately.”

Ye Kong had snuck into the crowd and went straight to the Lu family’s house. The strengthening of Lu Jun and Lu Yi’s forces in the past half a year coupled with the 21st century social means of wealth collection that Ye Kong had taught them — controlling pornography, gambling dens, drugs, and interfering in monopolies— the Lu brothers were quite wealthy.

With money in hand, the collapsed loess house was no longer suitable. Now, the Lu family was in a good house near the street in the north of the city. Although it was not comparable to Ye manor, it also had a big courtyard. The Lu brothers, the old woman and Lu Qin all had their own rooms. They also hired several servant girls. They looked like any other rich family from the outside.

Ye Kong didn’t remove the invisibility talisman. He went around the Lu’s house to see if someone was monitoring the Lu brothers. Fan Jiulong didn’t seem to be paying any attention to them. In his opinion, the two brothers’ martial arts were not worth mentioning. They relied on Ye Kong to support them. If Ye Kong was killed, the Lu brothers would be crushed like ants.

Ye Kong took out a Moving Wall talisman and pasted it on the wall of Lu's house. When Ye Kong passed through the wall, a faint fire on the outer wall burned away the talisman paper. The Moving Wall talisman was also one of the common talismans. Although these paper talismans couldn't compete with spiritual talismans, they have many functions so Ye Kong dared not spread them around. He would not teach anyone else except Lu Qin.

If evil people learned them, it would help them become tyrants. With these talismans, one could enter other people's houses, kill people, set fires, and bully women at will without leaving any traces. Ye Kong didn't have those sorts of hobbies. Although he was a rogue, he was not abnormal. He didn't need to kill people if they didn't provoke him. As for women, it was only interesting if they cooperated.

However, he would not let go of an opportunity. After all, he was not a good man, and it was in his nature to act indecently.

'Wow, Sister Qin is taking a bath. I should go have a look first!'

CHAPTER 35

Ye Kong secretly looked at Lu Qin in the wooden bathtub and felt himself become excited.

'Wow, she is so white and beautiful. I didn't expect that skinny little girl two years ago to have such a good figure now. In another two years, she will be an outstanding beauty.'

Lu Qin didn't know that there was a boy in the room looking at her with a wolf like stare as she enjoyed the hot water.

She closed her beautiful eyes and sighed happily, "It's so comfortable."

The little girl's oval face was very beautiful and slightly flushed because of the heat. Her big eyes were closed and her long eyelashes shivered with dew. The most attractive part of her face was the small beauty spot next to her thin lower lip.

The bathtub was deep enough for her to sit in, so Ye Kong couldn't entirely see her from afar. He tiptoed to the bathtub. Ye Kong looked at the young girl in the water and gulped.

"Wow!"

Lu Qin was shocked by this sound and suddenly opened her eyes.

"Who's there?"

Ye Kong didn't dare to answer. He ran away in a panic and scolded himself as he ran. He had seen a world of different women, but gulped at the sight of a little girl like a hungry wolf. He hadn't gulped even when he had watched certain Japanese adult movies!

He slipped out of Lu Qin's room and came to the main hall. Lu Jun and Lu Yi were both there. Ye Kong took off the invisible talisman on his forehead and appeared.

Although the two Brother of the Lu Clan knew that Ye Kong was able to be invisible, they were scared when he appeared out of nowhere. They hurried to greet him.

"The eighth young master is superior in ability. You can do anything in heaven and earth. We admire you."

"The eighth young master will live a long life of ten thousand years and enjoy immortal happiness forever."

Ye Kong opened his hands as the invisibility talisman burst into a flame, he clapped away the ash and sat down. Then he said, "You two have learnt to flatter with this kind of nonsense now, but you need to pick something I'd enjoy hearing. You said that I could do everything in heaven and earth. Do you think my ability is enough to fly? And you, only turtles can live for ten thousand years. So were you calling me a turtle?"

Lu Jun and Lu Yi were used to getting scolded by him. They laughed, sat down and continued, "The eighth young master is high and reasonable. Even when you scold people, you scold so well."

"Yes, yes, we need to grow up in the scolding of you like a cauliflower. The scolding of the eighth young master is our soil, our water..."

"Well, that's enough. Soil and water? I'm afraid if you continue I will end up being compared to the horse shit you use as fertilizer. "Ye Kong derided and taunted, then he whispered, "I am here to discuss serious matters with you both."

After discussing everything, Lu Yi looked up and said, "It's a trap. Don't go."

Lu Jun pondered for a while and said, "I also think Fan Jiushe is harboring evil intentions, but they dare to do it in Appreciating Spring Tower. It seems that even if you don't go, they won't give up."

“What can I do? What about launching the fight before they do?”

Lu Jun and Lu Yi completely stood on Ye Kong’s side. Ye Kong had given them all their wealth. If Ye Kong fell, they would follow soon after.

“Fight with them? No, that’s also impossible,” Lu Jun shook his head and said, “Fan Jiulong is a martial arts expert, that’s not even considering Fan Jiushe. They have more men than us. Moreover, I’m afraid that they are currently prepared for a fight. If we fight with them, we are just attempting to beat a rock using an egg.”

“Are we going to sit at home and wait to be killed?” Lu Yi got up in a hurry and started pacing.

“Lu Jun, you have a good reasoning skills,” Ye Kong patted Lu Jun with approval. It seemed weird because of their age, but no one in the hall felt that it was inappropriate. Ye Kong’s identity, wisdom and ability were far superior to them. Lu Yi even felt uncomfortable because he hadn’t received any praise.

“Since you came today, you must have had an idea,” Lu Yi said.

“Ha ha, Lu Yi you are not bad either.”

Ye Kong smiled, straightened his waist and bowed his head to whisper. The three heads leaned together again. Ye Kong said something and the Lu brothers' expressions immediately turned to shock and happiness.

“What a wonderful plan! The Fan brothers will be taken care of in a single swoop, and from then on, the southern capital is ours!” Lu Yi said with flames in his eyes.

Lu Jun thought for a while and frowned, “If so, do you still want to go to the appointment and meet Fan Jiushe. What if Fan Jiushe does something crazy when cornered, won't you be in danger?”

“Yes, please come up with a way to solve it. Don’t take any unnecessary risks,” Lu Yi said.

Ye Kong sneered, “As they said; no risk, no reward. If Fan Jiushe wants to fight, I can only fight!”

Fan Jiushe was in the third layer of Qi refining, while Ye Kong was only in the second layer. Although he was one layer lower, it was written in the Five Elements to Immortality that cultivating with this basic skill would create a firm foundation, it could even allow someone to resist someone five layers higher. Ye Kong obviously didn’t believe it was so miraculous, but he still needed to test his strength against another cultivator.

When three people were talking, Lu Qin came out after the bath. Her face was flushed and looked even more attractive. Seeing Ye Kong, the little girl was overjoyed.

“Brother Ye Kong is here too.”

Lu Jun and Lu Yi knew their sister's thoughts, so they quickly smiled and said, "The moon is so bright today. It's a good time to enjoy the beauty of the moon in the cool night air. You two talk here. We will go out to gaze at the moon and recite poems."

Ye Kong said with a smile, "Are you kidding me? You two uncouth fellows want to gaze at the moon and recite poems? I'm afraid your faces will scare the shit out of the moon."

Lu Yi was astonished, "Eighth Young Master, although you tell us all day to study, it seems you are the one who lacks knowledge!"

Lu Qin looked at them bickering and smiled. When the two brothers closed their eyes and escaped, her little face was more flushed and she had to lower her head.

Although Ye Kong had been able to peek at her bathing, he was afraid to start a romance with her. The road of cultivating was dangerous and lonely, and there should be no distractions. Moreover, immortal cultivators could live much longer than ordinary people, so there was no good reason for immortals to fall in love with ordinary people.

It would not matter if an immortal's road of cultivation had ended, and he knew that it was hopeless to break through like Immortal Wan Xuan. It was not a problem for him to marry some mortal women and have some children. Immortal Wan Xuan didn't need spend time cultivating.

But Ye Kong had just started. How could he set up obstacles for himself?

Thinking of this, Ye Kong straightened his face and said, "Little Qin, since you come, today I will teach you the Invisible Talisman and the Moving Wall talisman. If you study hard, you will be able to use them within three days. Your two elder brothers' and my life will depend on you."

The most difficult thing about paper talismans was drawing them. It was not very difficult to use them as long as someone knew the spells. Lu Qin had learned them after a short while.

"Am I invisible? Can you see me? But I can still see myself," Lu Qin asked excitedly.

Ye Kong nodded contentedly, "You are invisible, and I can't see you either. Unless the Deva eye skill is used, you won't be seen. If you don't believe it, go and look at yourself in the mirror."

But the little girl didn't talk for a long time. Ye Kong didn't know if she had left. When he was about to ask, she asked behind his back suddenly, "Did you come to our house invisibly?"

Ye Kong nodded, "Yes..."

He knew it was wrong as soon as he answered. Lu Qin beat him with her small fist, "Rascal!"

Ye Kong didn't move and smiled. "Your brothers are rascals. I'm a gangster. I'm much better than them."

“You are shameless anyway! Obscene! Your eyes will fall out from peeping! “Lu Qin was ashamed to death. This guy was too shameless. He had peeked on her naked. She would be too ashamed to face anyone in the future.

But in her heart, there was a kind of secret joy. If he really didn't want to see her or deal with her, it would break her heart.

After a while, ye Kong took her small hand and said, “I'd better hold onto you, or I won't know where you are.” After a pause, he took out another paper talisman and said, “This is the Moving Wall talisman. Come on, I'll teach you how to use it.”

Lu Qin was a smart girl. After a while, she could launch several kinds of spells skillfully. Ye Kong had drawn a lot of talismans in this half a year. Now his success rate was much higher, so he let her be a little wasteful.

“Wait here for a moment, and I'll come back soon.” Ye Kong took Lu Qin to the backyard then left with an invisibility talisman on himself. Ye Kong walked back through the wall with a dog fifteen minutes later.

Ye Kong tied the dog to the poplar tree and ordered Lu Qin, "Use the invisibility talisman."

"Okay."

"Use the Soul Isolation talisman," Ye Kong said.

Lu Qin recited the spell then pasted the talisman on the dog's head.

The dog overturned on the grass without any sound, and only a breeze blowing through its brown fur showed it wasn't a statue.

Ye Kong's figure appeared. He grabbed a sharp dagger in his hand, "Kill it with this dagger!"

Lu Qin hadn't expected Ye Kong to give this order, so she couldn't move. Ye Kong shouted, "Look, you are the most important part of the plan in three days. It is likely you will have to kill people, let alone a dog!"

Lu Qin reached for the dagger and took it, but she still didn't do it. Ye Kong said angrily, "Kill it! If you don't kill it, it will kill you! "

"If you don't kill it, Lu Jun and Lu Yi will be killed!"

"If you don't kill it, your Brother Ye Kong will die!"

After this roar, Lu Qin finally jumped up and stabbed the dog in the neck. The blood gushed out along the dagger.

Later, Lu Qin stroked her rising and falling chest, stood up, and looked at the dog in the pool of blood. Her little hand couldn't help shaking, but there was a voice in her heart saying, "Brother Ye Kong, for you, I dare to do anything!"

CHAPTER 36

Three days later at the South Gate of Nandu City...

Because the relationship between the An Country and the Barbarians was getting tense, the inspection of going in and out of the city through the South Gate was also very strict. The soldiers with red-tasseled spears were divided into several groups to check the luggage of the people going in and out of the city. On the top of the city wall, a row of bows and arrows were pointing at the people below without remorse. If there was any sign of disturbance, they would shoot.

In a tea house near the city gate, a fat middle-aged man with small eyes like beans sat at a wooden table, looking down the long stone street.

Not far away, a few passing merchants were whispering, "That's Fan Jiushe, the second leader of the Dragon and Snake Gang. He's so fat. It's said that he has excellent martial arts. Is that true?"

"Who knows? But his art in the bedroom must be lacking. I heard that fat people have a smaller manhood and in Appreciating Spring Tower that both brothers played with Xiao Taohong together so as to barely satisfy her. Ha ha."

"Are you asking for death? Fan Jiushe is a bully in Nandu City. Let's go."

After the traders left, an angry look flashed on Fan Jiushe's face. He was a third layer Qi refiner. Although his soul was still not able to separate from his flesh, he could see and hear well and hadn't missed a word when the traders were talking.

“Go, follow them and write down their address. Don’t rush to punish them. When I come back, I will show their wives and concubines whether I am lacking in the bedroom!” Fan Jiushe said to his henchmen.

“Shall we both go?” Asked one henchman.

“Yes, go.” Fan Jiushe urged impatiently, “Go back to the gang after it is done and tell my brother that he should rest assured and wait for the good news at home.”

“Yes.” The two henchmen cupped their fists over their chest and ran away.

A short while later, Fan Jiushe saw a horse slowly coming down the stone road. On the horse, there was a young man in a blue cloth shirt. A bamboo hat sheltered his head from sun, revealing only part of the young man’s handsome face.

“The eighth young master is really a man of his word. You’re so punctual,” Fan Jiushe put down the tea bowl and hurried out.

This surprised passer-by, and they looked at the young man at once. Who was this? The second leader of the Dragon and Snake gang came out to meet him personally.

“Oh, Brother Fan is already here. I thought it was still early. I’m sorry,” Ye Kong smiled politely and clapped his horse to speed up.

“To arrive early isn’t any better than arriving on time. Don’t dismount. Let’s get leave town right away.”

Despite Fan Jiushe’s fat appearance, his smooth and clean movement when he got on the horse showed that his mobility was extraordinary.

“Yes, please, Brother Fan.” Two horses walked to the gate side by side. The gatekeeper dared not offend Fan Jiushe. When the gatekeeper heard that this young man was Ye Haoran’s eighth son, he did not dare to stop them for inspection. He opened the gate and let them leave city.

“Brother Ye, I don’t know about your riding skills. Time is limited. Why don’t we hurry on our way while the air is still cool?”

As soon as they left the city, Fan Jiushe urged.

After twenty years of waiting, he couldn’t wait to absorb Ye Kong’s cultivation and break through to the fourth level of Qi refining. Then, he would be able to use magical tools.

‘Will it be powerful? Can I use it to fly? Can it change shape? How many people it kill at once?’ Fan Jiushe thought anxiously.

Ye Kong smiled, "Brother Fan, I seldom go out, and it is my first time to ride a horse. I cannot quicken my pace."

"Damn it, you can't even ride fast. You might as well just die!" Fan Jiushe scolded in his heart, but he couldn't do anything about it.

They continued to ride on their horses slowly.

It was the first time for Ye Kong leaving Nandu city. In front of them, there was a green plain and a yellow-brown earth road sprawling to the distance. At the end of sight, there were mountains towering into the hazy sky.

"Wow, those mountains are so high. What mountains are they?" Ye Kong asked.

"They're the One-Hundred-Thousand Mountains. They look close to us, but in fact, they're very far away. The barbarians live in the mountains. Beyond the One-Hundred-Thousand Mountains, there is the endless wilderness." Fan Jiushe replied feebly.

“Wow! How strange the grass on the grassland is!” Before Fan Jiushe finished speaking, Ye Kong was surprised again.

“What’s unique? It is soap grass for washing clothes. Many people buy it in the market. In fact, you can pick it casually outside the city. The candle grass is farther away. There is also the star grass over there which looks like a star in the night sky...”

“Wow! Brother Fan, what animal is that ahead? It’s so powerful! Wow! The big tree looks like a flame. Wow!”

Fan Jiushe was going crazy, ‘This kid was acting like a bumpkin. Isn’t this all common knowledge? His mouth opens in shock like a frog at everything. I’m so tired of this already. I just need to get to the place and deal with this guy.’

Ye Kong was amazed. He had thought that Cangnan was almost the same environment as ancient Earth. Now he knew that he had been mistaken.

The scenery of Cangnan was even more relaxing. If it were not for Fan Jiushe, Ye Kong would have acted even more like a tourist.

After riding south for more than half an hour, Fan Jiushe pulled the reins and ordered the horse to leave the official road.

“Is The Market in this direction?” Ye Kong asked.

“It’s still far away. We can’t get there today at such a pace. I’m taking you on a shortcut. You can have a rest if we arrive early,” Fan Jiushe said with a smile.

“Oh, Brother Fan is really warm-hearted. I was so blind before when I tried to assassinate you. Please don’t blame me for my past grievances.”

Fan Jiushe laughed three times and said, "Brother Ye, there will be more unexpected benefits if you follow me."

After a while, they passed through the grassland, and they started to see even less people on the journey. Fan Jiushe pulled the reins again. Then, he pressed his knees to the horse and rushed into the red mangrove forest first.

Ye Kong didn't ask much and then followed him closely. He asked again, "Brother Fan, what is that around your waist?"

Fan Jiushe patted the black and gray storage bag hanging on his waist and said with a smile, "Don't you know? This is a storage bag. Although it looks small, there's a lot of space in it. It's more than enough to even put a horse inside. It's a must-have for every cultivator. Those rich cultivators also have storage bracelets with a much bigger space! It's said that there is also a magic item called a storage ring, and you can store an entire mountain inside!"

Ye Kong was surprised. "How incredible! It must be very rare? "

Fan Jiushe said proudly, "Of course, it would be fatal for low-level cultivators to own a storage ring!"

"I see. I really learned a lot from Brother Fan," Ye Kong nodded busily.

Fan Jiushe smiled sarcastically and asked, "Didn't your master, Immortal Wan Xuan, tell you that? Why do you seem so ignorant?"

Ye Kong's face suddenly flushed and he said, "Brother Fan, don't blame me for hiding this from you previously, but Immortal Wan Xuan actually refused to accept me as a disciple. I luckily happened to get a set of low-level immortal cultivation skills, and then I practiced them by myself. Please help to guide me with my cultivation in the future, Brother Fan."

"Ha ha, no problem." Fan Jiushe was relieved to hear that. In fact, he had made a clear investigation of the real situation. Now Ye Kong said it himself. With his trust, it would be easier when he launched the sneak attack. Fan Jiushe had been worried about the kid's shrewdness and cleverness. Now it seemed that it was very easy to coax him.

“Let’s hurry up. We’re going through the woods at noon. There may be robbers in the woods. It’s safer in the plain ahead.”

Ye Kong nodded, and the two horses headed for the depths of the forest.

Fan Jiushe had said that the plain was ahead, but the deeper they went, the darker the forest got until it looked like night. The red trees disappeared. Instead, there were many huge trees. Their crowns were towering into the clouds. There were not many such trees on the Earth, but there were countless in Cangnan.

There were no watches on Cangnan, so Ye Kong didn’t know how long they had been riding in the dark woods.

“Brother Fan, are we there yet?” Ye Kong asked with faked fear in his voice.

“We’ll be in the plain in a minute.” Fan Jiushe was even more proud. Ye Kong was just a kid and he had been overestimating him before this.

They rode for a long time. Finally, a ray of light was seen in the distance of the forest. Fan Jiushe said that it was just there, and they should go there to have a rest. Then, he patted the horse and rushed ahead.

Ye Kong followed him and found that it was a small flat land surrounded by woods. It was not a plain at all but a clearing in the woods.

This place was full of weeds that reached up to the horses tail. In the middle of the field, there was a collapsed stone pavilion.

They tied their horses to a small tree. Then, they went to the collapsed stone pavilion and found a clean stone to sit down, they then began taking out food and water.

“Brother Ye, this is the place where I learned my cultivation technique! It was more than 20 years ago!” Fan Jiushe ripped apart the dried meat and said with great emotion, “It was before your father came here with the army and before Nandu City was built. This place was previously under the rule of the barbarians. My brother and I were both slaves of the barbarians.

“There was no moon that night, it was so dark you could hardly see. That’s when I took my chance to escape. They noticed I was gone and quickly chased after me and I ran here. The pursuers were starting to catch up to me. I was tired, hungry, and there was no place to escape.

“Fortunately, in my panic I managed to find a cave under the stone pavilion, so I hurriedly hid inside.” Fan Jiushe said with a smile, “Who could have known I would find the remains of a cultivator of the barbarians here!”

Fan Jiushe smiled, “Do you want to see the place where I stepped onto the road of cultivation?”

Ye Kong probably understood why Fan Jiushe had brought them so far. Part of the reason was that there was a cave here. If Fan Jiushe killed him, he could just go into the cave to refine him. No one would disturb him, and no one would find him. It was a good place for robbing and killing people.

Ye Kong pretended to be timid and said, "Brother Fan, I'm timid. It's dark in the cave. I think it's better than you go by yourself."

Fan Jiushe didn't force it and smiled, "Let's have a rest after eating so that we can resume our journey. I'll go pee now."

"Okay," Ye Kong nodded.

Fan Jiushe got up and went behind Ye Kong. When he looked back, the kid was eating steamed buns completely unguarded. Fan Jiushe decided that he needed to act.

CHAPTER 37

Fan Jiushe didn't want to kill Ye Kong with a single blow. His purpose was to absorb Ye Kong's immortal Qi. As soon as he died, the Qi in his Qihai would start to dissipate.

Fan Jiushe didn't want to take the risk without any advantage for himself. He had already figured out a good strategy. He stood in the grass, his thick lips turned and silently recited the formula for the quicksand skill as he gestured and pointed to Ye Kong. If he was successful, it would trap Ye Kong.

At the critical moment, the fat sheep in front of him suddenly dropped the dried meat and turned back to laugh at him with a look as if he had already seen through everything.

'Ignore him! I will end this quickly, only one more sentence to finish my magic incantation.'

Ye Kong acted immediately, leaving Fan Jiushe no time to react. He grabbed a large number of talismans from his sleeve and threw them. He didn't know whether the paper talismans would work on immortals, but it was Ye Kong's only attack method at present.

Dozens of talismans, such as blind talismans, bleeding talismans, calming talismans, and even abortion talismans were burning in the air as they rushed at Fan Jiushe. Ye Kong had no idea whether it worked or not, but the speed and number of them was frightening to behold.

Fan Jiushe didn't know what kind of magic techniques would be unleashed, but he was shocked by the sheer number. Even if these were only the most basic of fire spells, this many could burn him to ashes.

He had one sentence left, but Fan Jiushe would not be so stupid to exchange his life to kill his opponent. He gave up casting his technique and dodged.

His Qi backfired and a mouthful of blood gushed out from his mouth.

“Good boy, you have been playing the pig to eat the tiger!” Fan Jiushe’s small eyes looked at Ye Kong maliciously, as he gnashed his blood covered teeth.

Ye Kong sneered and said, “I tricked you, but you also tricked me. So that makes us even.”

Ye Kong didn’t want to fight. He then said, “Fan Jiushe, we don’t have such a large grudge. Why don’t we keep the peace? I have no reason to kill you, and you have no reason to kill me. It’s better to shake hands and make peace. ”

“Ha ha, you think too wishfully,” Fan Jiushe laughed and said ferociously, “Let me tell you, the immortal cultivation skill that I practice is to steal the cultivation of others. If I let you go, how can I advance my cultivation?”

“Are you sure you can kill me?” Ye Kong asked, and then he said, “Oh, Brother Fan, I forgot to tell you that when I went out, I asked the brothers from the Lu family to catch your brother, your wife, your son, and your father. It’s been a long time since we left, I think they should’ve got them by now, right?”

Ye Kong continued softly, his tone was cold as he spoke, "I will take good care of them, if I don't return at night, they will be killed. Starting from the young to the old. What do you think Brother Fan?"

"You are too cruel!"

He didn't expect this teenager to be so cruel and scheming.

Ye Kong laughed and said, "I am a rogue. Maybe you don't understand how arrogant and evil those who share my bloodline were to me in the past. But now, when they see me, who would dare not bow and politely call me Eighth Young Master? I don't think you know me well. Many people are thankful that I don't go around provoking others without reason, but you decided to provoke me. Let's stop this already and go back to the city, we can still act as if nothing happened. "

Fan Jiushe's eyes filled with anger. He had intimidated others with this same move, but he didn't expect that the same method would be used against him.

Fan Jiushe suddenly raised his head and laughed, "Stupid boy. Do you think I'm so gullible? Is the Dragon and Snake Gang that easy to be broken through? With only several gangsters from the Lu brothers?"

"No, no, of course not only the forces from the Lu Brothers!" Ye Kong shook his fingers. "There is also my Ye family soldiers, and someone who can turn invisible. Do you think that's enough?"

Fan Jiushe glared at Ye Kong. He didn't expect to be cheated by a child at his mature age.

"You don't have to think too much, do you? Have you thought it through?" Ye Kong asked.

Fan Jiushe relaxed and he smiled bitterly. "My parents, brother, wife and children are all in your hands. What else can I do?"

“Ha ha, let’s go back to the city then.” Ye Kong came over laughing.

“Ha ha, let’s go.” Fan Jiushe also moved towards Ye Kong.

Both of them showed harmless smiles, but they attacked at the same time.

Ye Kong once again threw out a large number of talismans, while Fan Jiushe threw out a fireball from each of his hands.

With the Shadow Dance, Ye Kong easily dodged past the two fireballs and sneered, “You don’t care about your family’s life at all.”

Fan Jiushe laughed, "In fact, you are not going to let them live even if we return."

"Fine, then take some more talismans!"

Fan Jiushe laughed. He accidentally got hit with two talismans in the previous exchange. He found that they were useless spells and he only needed to circulate his Qi to quickly counteract the effects.

"I can take it, it's just some insignificant skill."

After Fan Jiushe said that, his short and fat body became as motionless as a mountain. When the talismans landed on his body, they burst into flames and turned to ashes.

"Do you want to fight me with only this?" Fan Jiushe laughed happily, but suddenly, he felt a stabbing pain in his chest.

Looking down, a dagger reflecting a blue cold light had been stabbed into his chest. Black blood oozed out from the wound, dyeing his clothes black.

“How do my five poisonous herbs taste?” Ye Kong sneered. Just now, when he threw the talismans, he also threw a poisonous hidden dagger with it.

“I’ve been duped again!” Fan Jiushe removed the dagger with gnashing teeth, opened his storage bag and threw something in his mouth.

Fan Jiushe only wanted to catch Ye Kong alive at first, but now he wanted to kill him. Even if he could not absorb his Qi, he would still kill him. This trick and ruthlessness made Fan Jiushe afraid that he had picked an enemy he shouldn’t have, so he couldn’t let him live.

“Enjoy the power of a low-level middle grade Firebird talisman!”

Fan Jiushe's eyes were red as he threw out his secret weapon. He bought the Firebird talisman many years ago at The Market. He spent 20 spirit stones and was reluctant to use it unless he absolutely needed to kill his opponent.

This low level middle grade talisman was extremely powerful. 108 Firebirds made entirely of fire Qi suddenly appeared from the sky. They looked like ferocious birds that had just been released from their cage. They spread all over the sky as they rushed towards Ye Kong.

"Run!" Ye Kong was surprised. He didn't expect Fan Jiushe to have such a powerful talisman.

He dodged quickly, but the Firebirds had been turned into flames and followed him.

'Damn it, it even has tracking and positioning!'

Ye Kong knew that he was in danger. If only one of the 108 Firebirds got him, he would be burned inside the fire Qi until only his bones remained.

Ye Kong rushed to the forest quickly, hoping to be covered by the trees and trick some of the Firebirds into colliding with the trees.

But like shooting stars, their speed was extraordinary. Ye Kong could hear the sounds behind him getting closer and closer. The Firebirds would catch up with him before he could reach the forest.

“Damn it. Go to hell!” Ye Kong knew that he couldn’t run away. He closed his eyes and waited.

As soon as he closed his eyes, the call of the Firebirds became clear in his mind. It seemed to be orderly and disordered at the same time. The calls of the 108 Firebirds came together, like a very choir. One after another, their screeches were almost in a perfect harmony.

'Rhythm!'

Yes, the calls of these Firebirds had a certain rhythm. Rhythm would always have gaps between the sound waves, no matter how dense the frequency was.

Ye Kong could understand the rhythm of the firebirds. Suddenly, he was like a fish jumping out of the sea and soaring into the sky as a dragon. In his mind, there was only the rhythm of the Firebirds. He turned and jumped towards the Firebirds using the Shadow Dance

Ye Kong had forgotten everything except the rhythm, he didn't even remember he was a person. He felt like a feather in the wind, without weight or direction, only drifting in the breeze. He was like a boat drifting on the waves of a raging tide, no matter how fierce the waves were, the boat would always remain afloat.

Fan Jiushe saw the Firebirds had reached Ye Kong, but he suddenly saw Ye Kong jump up and start dancing back and forth among the Firebirds. They flew around, attempting to attack him, but they were unable to reach him.

The power of the Firebird talisman started to dissipate with a loud hiss. In an instant, all of the firebirds turned into smoke and the fire Qi dispersed.

Ye Kong remained unharmed as he stood motionless in the middle of the grassy field.

'Even the Firebird talisman could not hurt him!' It was as if he had seen ghost, Fan Jiushe fled towards his horse which was still tied to a tree in the forest.

"Now you want to escape? No way!" Ye Kong roared and rushed towards him like a gale while throwing a punch that tore through the air.

With a loud smack, he punched Fan Jiushe flying. Fan Jiushe was unharmed, instead Ye Kong grit his teeth in pain as he looked at his bloody fist.

When he turned to Fan Jiushe again, he saw that his whole body was shining with golden light. The light was like thin mist that covered his entire body, even his face was covered in the thin mist.

Fan Jiushe got up from the ground and said, "Ha ha, you can't kill me, so let's make peace. Let's go with what you said previously."

Ye Kong put a talisman on himself to stop the bleeding and looked at Fan Jiushe coldly, "Hell no, now you've pissed me off! "

"What do you want to do? Do you have the ability to break the protection from my golden light spell, no chance!" Fan Jiushe sneered.

"I can't break it, but..."After a pause, Ye Kong said, "I can keep you here and see how long you can maintain your golden light body!"

He continued with an evil smile, "At least until tonight when your whole family dies!"

Fan Jiushe suddenly remembered a key issue, and roared, "Go to hell!"

He then rushed and punched Ye Kong with the golden light protecting his body.

Ye Kong didn't pay attention to him and nimbly dodged the punch.

Fan Jiushe's fist was ineffective. He turned around and walked away, but Ye Kong followed behind him. Ye Kong began picking up rocks he found on the ground and hurling them at Fan Jiushe.

Fan Jiushe was crying on the inside. He was only in the third layer. The protection of the Golden Light spell relied on his Qi to sustain it, so it wouldn't last long. When he was

repeatedly hit with rocks, he felt his Qi crazily starting to deplete. If he ignored it, he would not be able to hold on.

“Fuck you,” Fan Jiushe split part of his Qi to activate his fireball skill.

The fireball forced Ye Kong back and allowed Fan Jiushe to jump onto his horse. Ye Kong murmured, took out a talisman, and threw it onto the horse’s forehead.

“Boom!”

The horse fell down taking Fan Jiushe crashing into the ground with it. He didn’t know he could simply take the talisman off the horse to remove its effects. He thought the horse was dead. So he then rushed towards Ye Kong’s horse.

Ye Kong had expected as much, so he had already thrown another talisman causing the horse to collapse.

“Why do you have to pursue me like this? You need to know when to back off or you will eventually cause your own demise!”, Shouted Fan Jiushe as he continued to run away, but he had lost all hope of saving his family.

Ye Kong sneered, “Why didn’t you spare me and back off previously? I told you we could leave each other alone, but you didn’t want that. I believe that if you are going to do something, then go all the way! It’s either me or you!”

“Then wait there for me!” Fan Jiushe snorted angrily. He swung his sleeves and sat with legs crossed on the grass. With the other hand, he took out dozens of colorful spirit stones from the storage bag to replenish his Qi.

CHAPTER 38

It was not easy for Fan Jiushe to collect these 20 spirit stones because spirit stones could not be not easily bought.

As a mortal, no matter how rich you were, it was not easy to buy a spirit stone from cultivators because they didn't care much about money and they wouldn't just hand over their cultivation resources.

Fan Jiushe got these from the talentless black sheep of an immortal cultivator family who was a bad gambler and owed a huge debt.

When Fan Jiulong found out about it, he gave him a large amount of money. In return, the black sheep stole dozens of spirit stones from his family. Ever since getting his hands on them, Fan Jiushe was reluctant to use them. Today, when his life was at stake, he used them without care.

Spirit stones had many functions. First of all, they were the currency of the immortal cultivators. Generally speaking, spirit stones referred to the inferior spirit stones in Fan Jiushe's hand. A hundred inferior spirit stones could be exchanged for a middle-grade spirit stone, and a hundred middle-grade spirit stones equaled a superior grade spirit stone in theory.

Superior grade spirit stones were very rare. It was unlikely that anyone would take hundred middle-grade spirit stones in exchange for a superior grade spirit stone. Superior grade spirit

stones were extremely rare and only appeared in magical places, many of which had almost disappeared and hadn't been seen for thousands of years.

The second use of spirit stones was for the arrays which needed spirit stones as the eye of the array to provide it with energy.

The third use of spirit stones was to absorb the Qi inside them for cultivation. The Qi contained in the spirit stones was very pure, far better than what could be absorbed from the atmosphere. Even if there was abundant Qi in your surroundings, it was no match for the pure Qi provided by the spirit stone.

Fan Jiushe took out the spirit stone for the third purpose: to power the golden light spell to fight Ye Kong to the death.

Seeing that Fan Jiushe had no choice but to take out the spirit stones, Ye Kong chuckled and said, "Brother Fan, wow, you have many spirit stones. I'd like to see how long you can last"

Fan Jiushe ignored him and sat with legs crossed in the grass, holding a stone in one hand, as if he was sleeping.

Although this golden light was constantly draining his Qi reserves, if he was not attacked, the cost of maintaining it was limited.

Ye Kong certainly wouldn't let him meditate so comfortably. He went to look for rocks and started throwing them at Fan Jiushe. The golden light was distorted from the impact of the rocks, but there was no sign of it breaking.

After hitting it for such a long time, Ye Kong was starting to get bored of throwing rocks. He didn't want to continue to expend his Qi doing this if it had such little effect. He simply moved a large rock and sat opposite to Fan Jiushe.

"You want to waste time? Okay, there is plenty of time to waste. Anyway, the people about to die are not my relatives," Ye Kong laughs.

The sky had become dark, and the sun could no longer be seen. Almost all of the light had disappeared other than the bright rays of light in Fan Jiushe's hand as he consumed the spirit stones.

Ye Kong was also feeling exhausted but he would not dare to cultivate in front of the enemy. He looked up at the sky and said lightly, "Fan Jiushe, it's almost night. Let's have a discussion."

Fan Jiushe opened his eyes as Ye Kong continued, "This incident is purely due to your bad intentions. As long as you cripple your cultivation and hand over your cultivation method, I will protect your life and your family."

Fan Jiushe listened, snorted, and smiled, "The man who cultivates immortality is most afraid of familial affection. It's better for me if you kill my family now, then I don't have to worry about someone else killing them in the future. In that case, maybe I will be able to cultivate faster in the future with less things to worry about."

Ye Kong shook his head, "You are ruthless, even if they die, do you think you can escape death?"

Fan Jiushe smiled mysteriously, "It's hard to tell."

At the end of his smile, Ye Kong suddenly felt an ominous feeling, but before he could act, he was shocked by what he saw.

At the edge of the large rock where he sat, four blue pillars that were as thick as a human thighs suddenly stretched out from the ground. The pillars were mottled and rough, as if they were trees that had suddenly grown in a matter of seconds.

The ground between the pillars was covered in countless vines that grew wildly and soon surrounded Ye Kong.

Ye Kong was shocked. He didn't know what was happening. He raised his hand and took out a dagger from his sleeve and slashed at the vine, only taking off the skin.

From the wound on the vine, several more rattans as thick as thumbs sprouted.

“Ha ha, don’t waste your time!” The roar of Fan Jiushe’s wild laughter rang out, “This is the low-level mid-grade spiritual plant – Cage Grass. Although it isn’t lethal, it’s perfect for trapping people. Even more cultivators more powerful than us would struggle to break free!

“Do you think I was only cultivating just now? You’re wrong. I’ve been using most of the Qi to nourish the seeds of this grass. You fell for it. Little fox, you are no match for an old experienced hunter after all! ”

Fan Jiushe laughed crazily, and looked at the green square cage in front of him. He was very happy.

“Damn it! Fan Jiushe, let me out of here!” Ye Kong gave up cutting vines and stood in this square cage and scolded, “Fan Jiushe, you coward! Is this all your ability amounts to? Come on, don’t you even have the guts to kill me?”

“Haha, of course I am going to kill you! Even if I can’t kill you, I can just starve you to death! ”

“Then, your family will die! Come on, fight me! ”

“I don’t care. Let them die. I’ll avenge them once you are dead.” Fan Jiushe smiled, “This cage grass seed is a relic from ancient cultivators I found with the cultivators remains. Even when I was hunted and almost killed in the past, I was reluctant to use it. This time I have used it on you. How can I not get any benefits?”

The Cage grass had been dormant for thousands of years inside the storage bag. Fan Jiushe really cherished it as one of his most important trump cards. If it were not for a threat to his life, it would not have been used.

Since it was used, he had absorb Ye Kong’s Qi. As for his parents, wife and children, he didn’t care about them at all. Besides, it was too late to go back now, so it was better to absorb Ye Kong’s Qi here to break through to the forth level of Qi refining.

Once the cage grass grew into a square green cage, it would no longer change shape and would become harder than iron. The roots were closely intertwined with each other, just like the walls, and even the ceiling was covered with vines.

'Damn it, I didn't think he would have this kind of hateful grass!' Ye Kong cut, punched and kicked trying to break out, but nothing seemed to work.

"Do you dare to come in and kill me!" Ye Kong scolded.

"Ha ha, you think I lied to you? I really have a way. Once I dig a hole in the rattan wall, you will be dead!"

Fan Jiushe smiled smugly as he tapped the storage bag, then he took out a gray dagger and started to cut the vines.

A vine as thick as a finger was cut off from the huge cage, it didn't grow back and white juice started to flow from the cut.

“Sure enough, the cage grass is no match against a magic weapon.”

Fan Jiushe was very happy with the success of his experiment.

He planned to dig a fist sized hole, then throw ice balls into the cage, and freeze him, then he would be able to catch him alive!

Ye Kong inside was not idle. He could not cut the vines, but he could try to dig his way out!

Unfortunately, he was disappointed again. As expected, the cage grass was a first-class trap. The roots were even tougher than the surrounding wall. The wall around him was thick and as hard as iron. When the dagger tried to cut it, it only created sparks.

'Damn it, am I waiting to die here?'

He heard that Fan was digging a hole, Ye Kong despaired again, he roared, "Fan Jiushe! Don't you want to absorb my Qi? If you push me, I'll kill myself!"

"Ha ha, you won't do that!" Fan Jiushe laughed loudly and said, "You have the same type of person as me. You will never give up until the last moment! This kind of person will never commit suicide!"

Ye Kong snorted, "Damn it, you know me. It is true that your enemy knows you best."

The sky was completely dark, and the moon still hadn't risen into the sky. This was the darkest time of night. The sky was dark and the gloomy forest almost looked like the shadow of a giant monster.

The cage grass' walls were much thicker than a cage made from metal and although the small sword could cut through the wall, it did not do so quickly. Fan Jiushe didn't waste time by lighting a fire, he was rushing and continued to crazily chip away at the cage in the dark.

However, inch by inch, the thick vine wall was finally hollowed out, and with a final stab, the tip of Fan Jiushe's sword burst through the cage.

"Yes!" Fan Jiushe was so excited that his fingers trembled with excitement.

He shouted, "You're not going to live much longer, boy! I will use your Qi to break through to the fourth layer of Qi refining! Then I can use magic weapons. Ha ha, I will tell you in advance that the first person I will kill with my magic weapon is your ugly whore of a mother! Then the entire Lu family!"

It seemed that Ye Kong could do nothing but wait to die, but at this critical moment when Fan Jiushe was gloating, he suddenly slapped his forehead, "I am so stupid, why I didn't think of it sooner?"

CHAPTER 39

"Boy! There won't be much longer to wait until your death!" Fan Jiushe laughed wildly as he threw ice balls through the hole.

The light blue ball danced into the cage like a firefly and then exploded into a patch of ice as it hit the wall. The temperature in the cage was dropping more with each ice ball that exploded inside the cage.

Ye Kong raised his hand, and a yellow paper talisman appeared.

"Ha ha, there are four stages of Qi refining. I'm finally going to enter the middle stage!" Fan Jiushe was still daydreaming as he continued throwing ice balls into the holes crazily.

Suddenly, a cold voice came from nearby, "Then I would like to congratulate Brother Fan in advance."

He turned around, the moon had just risen in the sky just enough to illuminate the forest in a pale white light, a young man in coarse clothes stood there proudly with a face full of mockery.

"You...!" Fan Jiushe's eyes widened, he couldn't believe it, he must be seeing a ghost! He said, "How did you get out?"

Ye Kong had no plan to respond, he had already seized the opportunity of Fan Jiushe turning around to stab his dagger directly towards Fan Jiushe's throat. Fan Jiushe was not prepared for this sudden attack and didn't have time to activate his golden light spell. In his final moments, Fan Jiushe's eyes filled with despair, unwillingness and doubt.

“There is a kind of talisman called the Moving Wall talisman. As long as there is a solid wall of any kind, it can be used...”

Ye Kong was afraid that the Fan Jiushe might still be alive, so used the dagger to stab him in the throat again and again. In the moonlight, the blood glistened a dark shade of red. There was only the sound of a gentle night breeze and the sound of a dagger repeatedly piercing human flesh, over and over.

Ye Kong had no idea how many times he had stabbed Fan Jiushe in the throat and it was only when Fan Jiushe’s head rolled off his body that Ye Kong finally relaxed.

He gasped and looked at the storage bag hanging on Fan Jiushe’s waist.

“I’m not skilled enough at killing and robbing yet,” Ye Kong rushed over and pulled the storage bag.

There were not many things in the storage bag, but Ye Kong was overjoyed, because they were all things that he needed.

First of all, the most striking thing was the small sword artifact used to dig through the cage. It was a medium-sized magic weapon. It was also the first time Ye Kong had encountered a magic weapon and he couldn't stop admiring it in his hands. At the moment when he held the small sword, he had the same ambition as Fan Jiushe, "When I advance to the fourth level of Qi refining, this will be my weapon!"

Then, what attracted Ye Kong's eyes was the rest of the spirit stones that hadn't been wasted. There were only four of them left inside a small black cloth bag.

He looked at one curiously. It was a black colored spirit stone which meant it was filled with water Qi. It was about the size of a fresh date and was shaped like a very large chunk of sugar.

Ye Kong clenched the spirit stone and absorbed a wisp of Qi into his eight meridians. This water Qi was much purer than the Qi he normally absorbed from his surroundings.

Ye Kong did not dare to take more than a wisp of Qi. He quickly put the spirit stones back into the storage bag. What attracted his attention were the two small jades the size of mahjong pieces.

Ye Kong guessed that this was a magic tool used for storing magic formulas or information. He quickly took one, pinched it in his hand, and probed it with his divine sense.

The barbaric cultivation method skill that Fan Jiushe got from the remains of the ancient barbarian was inside. Ye Kong found that it was of little use to him. It was impossible for him to abandon the basics of the Five Elements to Immortality he has cultivated. Moreover, the method was too cruel and an immortal cultivator was hard to find and even harder to kill. Ye Kong roughly went through it and put it back in the storage bag.

Looking at the contents of the other note, he found what he most needed: the formulas of several low-level spells, including fireball skill, ice ball skill, quicksand skill etc.

“From now on, I am no longer an immortal cultivator who can’t use spells!” Ye Kong was very excited. These spells were the best harvest and set him firmly on the path of cultivation.

Ye Kong took the jade and put it back inside the bag. He went through what remained in storage bag and found that there was a talisman inside.

This talisman was totally different from the paper talismans he had. It was a type of spiritual talisman. It was the same width as the paper talisman, but shorter in length. The whole talisman was jade white. He didn't even know what the material the talisman was made from.

Luckily the talisman was named: 'Spiritual Cultivation Array'.

"This is an array talisman!" Ye Kong was surprised. This was one of the things he needed. Judging from its name, it was an array used in cultivation so it would definitely protect him from interruptions when cultivating.

"No wonder everyone on this continent likes killing and robbing. Everything he had was so valuable."

Ye Kong smiled and continued to look, but he found nothing else. There was a lot of money piled up in the corner of the bag, about two thousand Liang of silver.

Although there was a lot of money, Ye Kong didn't care about it at all. He stored the array talisman back into the storage bag, and he couldn't wait any longer to learn the fireball skill. It wasn't too hard for him to learn initially and in a short time, he was able to send out a small fireball smoothly.

He threw several fireballs at Fan Jiushe's body until only ash remained.

When Ye Kong finished cleaning the battlefield, he suddenly saw the cage grass still standing in the middle of the clearing and had an idea.

“Since it's a low-level spirit grass, then couldn't its juice be used to make a talisman?”

With this idea in mind, Ye Kong took out the small sword again to cut through the plant and pulled up as much as he could manage.

After cutting for what seemed like forever, the wall on one side of the cage grass was cut down and divided into three pieces, so it could be put into the storage bag.

After all this, the moon was already high in the sky. Ye Kong was worried about what had happened in the city of Nandu and dared not delay any further.

At night, the forest was dark, and there was no way to tell which direction you are travelling, so it was easy to lose your way. Fortunately, Fan Jiushe's horse had travelled this route previously and knew the path back. He didn't know how long it took before he finally saw the red mangrove forest. He was completely relieved.

Cangnan was different from the earth. The plants did not all grow from photosynthesis. The mangrove trees grew by absorbing Qi. The tree was completely red. At night, it emitted a dark red light, which made the whole forest look like it was on fire. If you saw it for the first time, it looked both majestic and beautiful.

“Looking at the color of the Qi, it must be fire Qi. I wonder if the plants Qi can be absorbed by immortal cultivators?” Ye Kong broke a red branch and found that he could not absorb the Qi. Moreover, after the branch was broken, it immediately started to dim as the fire Qi dispersed.

“Guess not. Otherwise, the immortal cultivators would have cut down all these trees.”

The forest was covered a large area. It took two hours to get to the clearing earlier and almost the same time to get back. He continued until the moon left the sky and the sun started to rise above the red mangrove forest.

Before he left the boundary of the forest, he noticed many people slowly walking through the forest. At a glance, Ye Kong found they were all private soldiers of Ye family.

“Liu Changqing!” Ye Kong shouted and hurried his horse towards them.

When those soldiers saw Ye Kong, they immediately cheered, "Eighth young master is back!" Waves of noise spread across the forest.

On the prairie, standing in the middle of thousands of candlelight grass, the girl heard the cheers and immediately shouted "Brother Ye Kong!" while running towards the direction of the sound.

Ye Kong got off his horse and walked out side by side with Liu Changqing, listening to him report the current situation of Nandu city.

In the morning, once Ye Kong and Fan Jiushe left the city, someone reported to the Ye Family immediately. The Lu brothers joined Liu Changqing's soldiers and immediately surrounded the Fan residence. There were many martial arts masters in the Fan's yard, but they didn't attack directly to avoid causing unnecessary death or injury. Plus, as it was daytime, they may attract the intervention of the city guard.

Although Ye Haoran had the ear of a minister of Cangnan, they could not cross the line. The minister was not familiar with Ye Kong at all and might not help Ye Kong if he publicly caused trouble.

However, Ye Kong thought of this point previously, and let Lu Qin sneak in using the invisible talisman, she then open the back door of the Fan mansion, and assassinated the guards on watch.

Lu Qin also showed incredible courage. She took advantage of the invisible talisman and the Moving Wall talisman to enter the hall where Fan Jiulong was to try and kidnap him. However, since Fan Jiulong had nearly been assassinated by Ye Kong, he became more cautious. He had set up a few mechanisms behind his seat. As soon as someone triggered them, a weighted net would fall from the ceiling and trap the person.

Lu Qin didn't notice it and activated the trap. Fortunately, she had been practising the Shadow Dance and managed to barely dodge the net as it fell.

Fan Jiulong was already lying in wait. He barged into the room while slashing with his sword, almost injuring Lu Qin. But in the end, she managed to hit him with a Soul Isolation talisman and successfully ended the fight.

“Very capable,” Ye Kong said with a smile.

“Yes, this young lady has made a great contribution this time.” Liu Changqing also nodded and said, then asked Ye Kong in a low voice, “Eighth young master, her talismans are really magical. Is she an immortal? Can you ask her to be my teacher?”

“Her?” Ye Kong laughed, looked up and found Lu Qin was running toward him like a fawn. He laughed and said, “You can ask her yourself.”

“Greetings to these friends of brother Ye Kong,” Lu Qin had worried all night. Seeing Ye Kong now, she was so excited that she rushed to Ye Kong’s side in spite of the shyness she normally felt. Suddenly, she found Liu Chongqing and others were standing nearby, so she immediately stopped herself.

Looking at the pretty face of the young girl and the tears of excitement hanging on her face, even Ye Kong who was determined not to form a romantic relationship with her, couldn’t help feeling his heart soften.

“Liu Changqing! Return!” Ye Kong said.

Liu Changqing smiled, “Reporting to the general, this enemy is too fierce. We will leave her for the general to handle. We’ll head back now.”

“Go!”

“Ha ha, brothers, go to Appreciating Spring Tower, the Eighth Young Master said he will treat us.”

When the soldiers heard they were being treated to the Appreciating Spring Tower, they quickly disappeared from sight. Ye Kong opened his arms for Lu Qin.

The little girl blushed and hesitated for a while. Finally, she could not resist the temptation of her sweetheart's chest. She stepped forward and gently hugged Ye Kong.

“Alas, I have sinned. Before I realized, I was already falling love.”

CHAPTER 40

In the morning, the air over the grassland was very fresh. At a glance, it looked like a beautiful scenic painting. In the distance, the green mountains were indistinct. There was a smoke rising and shepherd children drove a few small animals out to pasture to graze on the grass. How peaceful a scene it was!

A pair of youths were lying on the grass. Ye Kong touched Lu Qin's back and asked, “I heard that you have made great contributions?”

Lu Qin was embarrassed, “They did the hard work, I made a mistake and was almost caught.”

“That’s what I want to say. It was too dangerous and you’re too bold. When you entered there, you didn’t know the situation clearly and didn’t observe the environment. If something happened, what would you have done?”

Lu Qin did not refute Ye Kong’s criticism, she quietly listened with a faint smile.

“You are not allowed to put yourself at risk in the future!” Ye Kong said.

“I see.” Lu Qin replied crisply, but she thought it was worth it for Ye Kong.

Ye Kong sighed. It was fortunate that nothing happened to Lu Qin. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have forgiven himself.

“What about the Fan Family?” Ye Kong asked again.

“They were all killed.” Lu Qin shuddered at the thought of all the killing. She snuggled into Ye Kong’s arms and said, “We didn’t kill them at first. We just took them to an old house outside the city. Then, my brother took people to take over the challenge arena of the Dragon and Snake gang. The members of the Dragon and Snake gang were already dissatisfied with the Fan brothers. They all surrendered when they heard that the Fan brothers had been captured.

“We were all busy till the sky was already dark. My brother and Centurion Liu were worried when we found you hadn’t returned. According to your arrangement, we chopped off their heads one by one when the incense was finished burning, and Fan Jiulong was also killed.”

Ye Kong sighed. It was common knowledge that the people were cruel and merciless in Cangnan. It was normal to kill people. He had already killed an entire family in the two years since he arrived.

Ye Kong was not cruel, especially when it came to killing innocent children and elders. He didn’t enjoy doing something like that, but he wouldn’t let kindness be a weakness either. If

you spared someone today, they could come looking for revenge tomorrow, so the Fan family had to be pulled out by the roots.

Lu Qin thought about the killing and grimaced before continuing, "You didn't come back even long after we killed all the people, so everyone started to get anxious. They wanted to start searching for you at midnight, but the grassland is too large, and they were afraid of getting lost inside the forest at night. Then Centurion Liu said that they would leave to find you at dawn."

Thinking that everyone had been waiting all night for him to return, Ye Kong was touched. Although the people were indifferent and cruel here, some people still worried and cared about him.

He said in a soft voice, "You didn't sleep at all last night?"

Lu Qin replied, "Of course, I was worried since you didn't return." She felt a little embarrassed after she said that and lowered her head.

Ye Kong was moved by her coquettish attitude. He forgot all the difficulties and indifference of cultivation. He embraced Lu Qin and gently kissed her red cherry lips.

Her face flushed a rosy shade of red.

She didn't dare to look up, so she quickly asked, "So what happened with you?"

"Well, I almost couldn't come back," Ye Kong took a deep breath of the fresh air and pushed the desire he had restrained for many years down again.

When Ye Kong was on the Earth, he had sex, but he was a gangster, so he never had a relationship with a good girl. They were all females involved in the underworld or criminal activity. Although Ye Kong didn't lack women, he never had love. His restraint weakened when he started to kiss Lu Qin, but he stopped himself when he thought about the future.

Ye Kong told her about everything that had happened to him through the night. Lu Qin was excited hearing the story and didn't want to miss a single detail.

“But I picked up some magic tools, spirit stones and the magic skills I need.”

Ye Kong took out the spirit stones from the storage bag for Lu Qin to see.

“It looks so pretty.” She couldn't help but to stare.

“They're not just pretty. They're spirit stones. They are for cultivators,” Ye Kong said with a smile.

After playing with the spirit stones for a while, Lu Qin asked again, “Is that all?”

“Well, there are also some vines of cage grass, but nothing else.”

“You’re a liar. There must be something hidden in your pocket.”

Ye Kong was puzzled. “It’s all here.”

“Hum!” Lu Qin reached down and grasped a part of Ye Kong’s clothes, said, “You are still lying. I can feel what you’re trying to hide!”

Ye Kong didn’t expect his private parts to be grabbed by her so casually, he took a deep breath and suppressed his excitement, while quickly pulling Lu Qin’s hand away, “I’ve been practicing the stick pummels the peach technique of the Beggar Sect recently. But before I master it to great success, this stick can’t be seen by others.”

Lu Qin was an obedient girl. She relaxed her hands and said childishly, "You promise me that you will teach it to me after you finish the cultivation."

Ye Kong choked, "Okay, wait for me to succeed."

Lu Qin was too innocent to understand what had just happened. She nodded solemnly and said, "It sounds powerful. Remember to show me."

"I will." Ye Kong hurriedly stood up and said, "Let's head back quickly, my mother must be worried."

He didn't expect to hear Lu Qin's muttering, "It is such a strange skill. A weapon that feels hot and can move by itself."

Ye Kong's face was red. He jumped on the horse and said, "Quickly, jump on!"

They rode back to Nandu City together. The sky was so clear, and the few white clouds in the sky only added to its beauty. They were both basking in the wonderful feeling of their first love blossoming.

However, the good mood didn't last for a long time. When they rode into the city, a messenger of the Lu brothers rushed to them, "Young master, there is a conflict between us and the law enforcement department."

Ye Kong frowned and thought something was wrong.

"Where is it? What happened?"

As soon as he heard the report, Ye Kong knew that everyone had worked hard last night. The Lu brothers had gotten a lot of silver from the Fan family. Under Liu Changqing's lead, a large group of soldiers and bandits went to Appreciating Spring Tower to celebrate.

Unfortunately, it was just dawn, so the young ladies were sleeping and Appreciating Spring Tower was not open.

Those soldiers and bandits seldom had a chance to go. They were afraid that the big boss would be reluctant to give them another chance, so they forced the Appreciating Spring Tower to open the door. The Appreciating Spring Tower thought that they were making trouble, so the conflict started.

Liu Changqing came out to talk and found that it was a misunderstanding, but there was an unexpected party involved.

The city lord showed up with a group from the law enforcement department, led by an adjutant. They said the Lu brothers disturbed public order, and they wanted to arrest them, but the Lu brothers rejected the charges and a conflict occurred.

Ye Kong frowned, 'With such a line-up, it's obvious that these people were planning to find guilt first and gather evidence later. Moreover, when they saw Liu Changqing and the soldiers of Ye family, they dared to act so brazenly. Obviously, they came with ulterior motives.'

"Lu Qin, go back get some rest. I'll go and see what's going on." Ye Kong sent Lu Qin away and rushed to Appreciating Spring Tower.

Ye Kong arrived not long after. He saw there were many people crowding around, and several soldiers stood outside the building. He didn't know what was going on inside, but it didn't sound like there was any fighting.

Ye Kong felt at ease and asked the messenger to lead his horse. He snuck into the crowd and listened to the merchants and residents talking.

“That is Chen Qingtian, the new city lord, he is beginning his official move to take control of the local gangsters.”

“I heard that the new city lord is very powerful!”

Ye Kong nodded. However, he was causing trouble with the Ye Family. The emperor must have sent such a person to Nandu City to deal with Ye Haoran. It looks like the Ye Family did not have a good future in store.

Ye Kong pushed the crowd away and entered the building. The soldiers on each side let him enter.

“Come in please.”

There were two groups of people. On the left were the soldiers and the gangsters. On the right were the members of the city law enforcement in black uniforms. In the middle stood the madam of the tower who was in a dilemma. She dared not offend either group.

“Young master, these government lackies are trying to bully us soldiers. If we didn’t fight back the barbarians, they would already be enslaved!” Liu Changqing said.

“It’s all right.” Ye Kong pushed Liu Changqing aside and went towards the law enforcement officers. He laughed and said, “The one the city lord wants to take back is me, right?”