On Chen Hao's end, there was a bright beam of light too. This change surprised even Chen Pingan, because even though he knew that Chen Hao's jade was incredibly powerful, he had no idea what kind of terrifying power it contained to be able to achieve such a feat, not to mention that it was ridiculously compatible with Chen Hao's energy.

Under Chen Hao's guidance using his Heaven Abstruse Skills, the jade's light shot high into the air like a great pillar, connecting heaven and earth as the wind howled around them and sent dust flying everywhere.

"What immense power!" Li Ba exclaimed, completely overwhelmed by what he was seeing. Before long, the white light started shrinking and eventually returned to the courtyard.

At this moment, Chen Hao was completely exhausted with his forehead covered in cold sweat. When he stood up to look at the calm Su Ruoxi, he shook his head. "Li Ba, I've already done my best to communicate using the jade and my Heaven Abstruse Skills, but it seems like nothing's working?" he said, staring at the

crowd in resignation.

If it had gone well, Su Ruoxi should be responding by now. But when Chen Hao looked up at everyone, he realized their gazes were directed behind him in shock, including the usually composed Uncle, who had put on a strange look in his widened eyes.

"What is it?" Chen Hao asked.

"Young Master Chen, it worked! It worked! She's right behind you! She's really the Goddess!" Li Ba said, shaken.

Instinctively, Chen Hao turned around and his eyes widened at the sight before him—a lady in white was levitating in front of him, with an aloof but no less heartstopping, beautiful face.

She may look almost identical to Yun Qing when she was in the coffin but for some reason, the real lady in white looked so ethereal.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao's head-turning made the lady in white give him a rare smile, one that felt like a life-giving spring breeze; it was a smile that she would only show in

front of Chen Hao, or God himself.

"After several dozen millennia, I never thought we'd finally meet again like this!" She smiled, then floated to him and caressed his face.

Chen Hao gulped. "White lady, I-I'm not your husband, I'm Chen Hao. I'm only 25!"

"You'll understand when you remember your past!" the lady in white said. "I'm Ziyan, but I know you don't remember my name anymore," she continued softly.

"Mm hmm." Chen Hao instinctively nodded.

Meanwhile, Chen Pingan stared at Luo Ziyan with both reverence and admiration from meeting her in the flesh; he couldn't understand how Chen Hao won the favor of this goddess, since she and the Celestial War God were a legendary couple and they were incredibly high-ranking beings in the Border Realm.

Fang Jiannan felt an inexplicable grief in her heart when she saw the lady, because she was so very beautiful that even she felt jealous.

"Ziyan, you're still technically a frail apparition, but I've found you a suitable vessel to temporarily possess!" said Chen Hao as he recomposed himself.

"Alright, but I only need her for one night to recuperate. After that, I'll be staying in the Dragon Blood Jade!" Luo Ziyan smiled.

"The jade?" Chen Hao took out his jade.

"Mm hmm. Since you made such an effort to find me, I think someone must have told you something to let you reunite my body with the Celestial War God's body? Actually, the Dragon Blood Jade is a natural vessel that allows me to meditate inside!" Luo Ziyan explained.

"Then do you know who the mystery man is, Ziyan?"

Luo Ziyan replied, "I can guess, but I can't say for certain. I'll work out the specifics when I find the Celestial War God, and help you all complete the merging process. By then, it'll be easy to use the Dragon Blood Jade in restoring one of your peaks!"

"Restoring one of my peaks?" Chen Hao was a little confused but he got the gist of

it. Did she want him to regain the Celestial War God's former self? Was he really that God's reincarnation?

Chen Hao got more and more nervous. He still couldn't accept it even after coming this far—would he still be himself if he'd actually regained everything?

"Of course, you two have been apart for way too long, so much so that the only thing I can do is to restore his life essence to the original body. I think you've recovered a tiny bit of his memories, but full restoration is impossible!"

"So, even if his essence was returned to my body, I'd still be me?" Chen Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

"You can say that. Why? Do you like the current you and don't want to become the Celestial like you used to be?" Luo Ziyan asked curiously.

"Yes, I quite like who I am now. After going through so much, I actually prefer being a poor student in the past, and I'd rather be a commoner than a War God!" Chen Hao smiled bitterly, voicing out his true thoughts.

"But for some things, resistance is futile! And if you can't change it, you must face it since it's happened!" Ziyan said.

"I know I've passed the point of no return. The only thing I can do is to do my best!"

Ziyan smiled with relief, then twisted her body as a white light enveloped her and flooded into the top of Su Ruoxi's head. After a while, she opened her eyes, but in contrast to the usual Su Ruoxi, the look in her eyes was completely different. That was how Chen Hao knew that Luo Ziyan's possession was successful.

"Shall I call you Chen Hao before you regain your past self?" Luo Ziyan spoke, then looked to the others. Uncle and Li Ba were wearing expressions of reverence, but the few pretty girls there were completely shocked.

Luo Ziyan smiled. "I couldn't have returned without everyone's help, so we're all friends from now on. I, Luo Ziyan, humbly thank you all."

"You're welcome, Goddess. This is our duty, and to serve you and the War God is my greatest honor!" Li Ba smiled bashfully.

"But this is not a safe place for us to stay.
The King of Nine Doors already knows
Chen Hao had rescued me, and judging by
his smarts, he would quickly figure out
what's going on and track us down here,
so we can't stay long!" Luo Ziyan said.

"I've thought about this too, so I got Li Ba and Mu Mu to relocate the entire village this morning, and let them stay in new neighborhoods because I was worried someone might follow us here!" Chen Hao said.

"Mm hmm, so we must leave now!" Luo Ziyan said. Then, she added as if she'd just remembered something, "Oh, Chen Hao! I have something else to tell you!"



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"What's the matter?" asked Chen Hao.

"I was sealed by the King of Nine Doors in the secret room of the Gu Family. Although I was sealed, I know everything that was happening around the Gu Family. I know two of your friends were taken by the Gu Family. One of them has a surname Tie whereas the other is Bai. They were locked in an underground secret room of the Gu Family."

"No wonder. Chen Hao asked me to find out Tie Cheng's whereabouts a few days ago, but I can't locate him no matter how hard I tried. So it turns out that he was taken by the Gu Family," Chen Pingan said while shaking his head.

The thing that Chen Hao worried the most happened still. That night, he almost fell into the trap set by the Gu Family and almost got himself killed by General Black. On the other hand, the Gu Family must have had two strings to their bow and they got Tie Cheng as well when he was waiting for him at the hotel. Also, his friend, Bai Xiaofei, was undergoing training at the Gu Family. Judging from the Gu Family's method of doing things, Bai Xiaofei could not have possibly escaped from them too.

"Ziyan, Uncle, maybe you guys should leave first. I have to stay back. Now that Jiannan was saved, I can't let anything bad happen to my friends as well. I have to stay and rescue them!" Chen Hao said.

"Chen Hao, you alone? You are no match for King of Nine Doors!" Chen Pingan said worriedly.

Luo Ziyan also looked at Chen Hao with a concerned face.

"Of course I know I'm not a match for King of Nine Doors, so I won't engage in a head-on fight with him. I have an idea that will allow me to save them and escape from the Gu Family at the same time. So, you guys don't have to worry about me!" Chen Hao reassured with a smile.

In fact, Chen Hao had planned to sneak into the Gu Family to find out about their secrets. And now, he just needed to apply and modify his original plan into saving his friends; it would work out perfectly.

Everyone noticed Chen Hao's determination, so they had no choice but to respect his decision and stopped advising him against it. Like everyone else,

Luo Ziyan had utmost faith in Chen Hao too.

"We'll move toward the Northwest Desert and wait for you there. Since the King of Nine Doors doesn't know where the Celestial War God is, that place will be temporarily safe for us now," Luo Ziyan explained.

"That's exactly what I think! I'll meet up with you guys as soon as possible. For safety purposes, I think maybe everyone should stick together for the time being?" Chen Hao suggested.

Everyone nodded in agreement. Now, since the King of Nine Doors should be on his way here and would probably reach any moment, without wasting any time, everyone began their journey immediately. Chen Hao, on the other hand, grabbed the disabled Gu Feng and parted with everyone. He took Gu Feng and went into the woods. Instantly, the shanty town became deserted and dark without any lights on.

Swish! Swish! Not long after that, a large group of martial arts experts leaped across the woods and arrived at the dark shanty town. The lead

er of the group was in the form of a dark shadow. Finally, the whole group gathered around at the courtyard of the shanty town. The dark shadow turned into a distinct human form. He glanced across at the empty courtyard with his cold eyes, then looked at the conjuring altar located in the middle of the courtyard.

"Master, the whole shanty town is empty!" General Black walked over and reported.

"They left not long ago!" The person who talked was the King of Nine Doors.
Suddenly, his eyes turned crimson red like a demon lurking in the dark.

"I'll order my men to search separately in different directions immediately!" General Black said.

"There's no need to search in different directions. General Black, get your men to search in the southern side of the woods. I think, within such a short period of time, all they can do is to enter the woods and hide inside to evade my search." An unusual light flashed through the King of Nine Doors' eyes.

The group reassembled immediately and

disappeared into the woods to pursue their victims.

King of Nine Doors took a deep breath and clenched his fists tightly. "I've waited over tens of thousands of years for this day! Celestial War God, Luo Ziyan, you will not escape this time! I, King of Nine Doors, will obtain the Essence of Nine Cycles and conquer all the three worlds!" King of Nine Doors clenched his fists so tight that his nails turned pale; the huge, malevolent aura that was being emitted from him could not be concealed.

The entire members of the Nine Doors went into the woods, searching high and low for Chen Hao and his gang. To ensure that no places were overlooked, King of Nine Doors joined forces with the Gu Family to search inside and outside of the city thoroughly. They wanted to make sure that Chen Hao and his gang could not escape from them easily. However, unbeknown to the Nine Doors and the Gu Family, Chen Hao and his gang had left Thai City immediately for the Northwest Desert long before they initiated the search.

Soon, it was dawn. General Black led his

team of four to five men, and was searching in the woods.

"General Black, there's someone in front!" one of his men shouted.

The men moved rapidly forward and soon they appeared before the man. They saw that the man was cladded in dirty torn clothes and his body was full of scars and injuries. The man was crawling with difficulty on the ground.

"Eh? Young Master Gu?" General Black goggled at the man in surprise.

He heard that Young Master Gu led his men to search for Chen Hao in the woods a few days ago, but he later lost contact with the Gu Family. Gu Yuehong knew something was wrong after a few days and so she sent some men to search for Young Master Gu in the woods, but to no avail. As expected, something bad happened to Young Master Gu.

"General Black, I'm so glad to see you! Please, save me! Quickly!" Gu Feng almost cried tears of joy when he saw General Black.

"Young Master Gu, don't worry. You have me around, so nothing will happen to you! Who did this to you?" General Black asked.

"It's Chen Hao. I found him in the shanty town a few days ago. Somehow, he managed to hire a skilled martial arts expert and I was heavily beaten up by the guy. So, Chen Hao captured me, poisoned me with Gu poison and tortured me in every possible means. Last night, I saw him conjure up the spirit of the lady in white with necromancy. Then, he took me into the woods, though I'm not sure why he did that. I just escaped when he was not looking!" Gu Feng explained.

"Indeed, the Master was right. Chen Hao really escaped into the woods. No wonder the Gu Family failed to locate you when they were searching for you in the woods. It turns out that you were locked up in the shanty town all along!"

General Black turned to order his men by saying, "You guys, give my order to the others to widen the search around the woods! Chen Hao is still in the woods, so don't ever let him escape!"

"Yes!"

"Young Master Gu, I'll send my men to escort you back to the Gu Family!"

"Thanks!" Gu Feng nodded.

"Young Master Feng is back! Madam Gu, Young Master Feng is back!"

At the Gu Family, a servant was running to deliver a message.

"What? Feng is back?" Gu Yuehong was surprised and happy at the same time.

She could not help but have bad feelings about Gu Feng these days, as if he was in danger or something, because her eyelid would not stop twitching lately.

"But Young Master Feng is heavily injured and he's in a coma now!" the servant stated.

"What? Quick! Take me to him!" Gu Yuehong rushed outside.

As she expected, when she went outside, she saw Gu Feng laid down on a stretcher, looking heavily tortured with all the gruesome injuries on his body. Gu Yuehong was deeply saddened by his

awful condition.

Gu Yuxiao followed Gu Yuehong outside too when she heard the commotion.

"Feng, how did you become like this? Who did this to you?" Gu Yuehong asked heartbrokenly.

"We found Young Master Feng in the woods. He was heavily injured by Chen Hao and his men. And Chen Hao poisoned him with a special kind of Gu poison. He almost died when we saved him. Chen Hao had escaped into the woods now!"

"What? Chen Hao!" Gu Yuehong's eyes turned red, burning in rage and hatred. But soon, she moved to Gu Feng's side and looked at him tenderly.

"Feng, can you still hear me? Don't worry, I'll get Chen Hao and skin him alive!" Gu Yuehong said while touching Gu Feng's face.

As soon as she touched Gu Feng, the latter suddenly opened his eyes, raised his leg and landed a heavy kick on Gu Yuehong's stomach. Since Gu Yuehong was hit off guard, she did not manage to block the

attack by shielding herself with Qi in time. As a result, the kick sent her flying across the air and hit the ground heavily, landing in a crash.

"Ah! Grandmother!" Gu Yuxiao was shocked.

"Don't come here! Don't come near me!" Gu Feng yelled hysterically.

"I-I'm fine! Quick, have a look at Feng's injuries! He's been tortured. He must have suffered a lot!" Gu Yuehong said as blood oozed out from the corner of her mouth.



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Gu Yuehong knew her grandson became hysterical due to the cruel tortures he suffered in the hands of Chen Hao. So, thinking she was Chen Hao, Gu Feng proceeded to attack her when he woke up suddenly. OhFeng, look what you've become after getting tortured? Curse that bastard Chen Hao! I'll flay him alive and cut him into pieces myself to avenge you! Gu Yuehong thought to herself viciously; an intense murderous look flashed through her eyes.

Nonetheless, since Gu Feng was back, it was delightful news for the Gu Family. During this period of time, due to the appearance of Chen Hao around the city, the Nine Doors and the Gu Family had mobilized all their resources to capture him. As such, Gu Yuehong could put everything aside and focus all her attention in searching for Chen Hao by joining forces with the Nine Doors.

On the afternoon of the very same day, when Gu Feng was recovering from his injuries at the Gu Family, the whole house seemed quiet and rather empty. So, Gu Feng got out of the bed in his room.

The underground cell where Xiaofei and Tie Cheng were locked up must be in one of the

secret rooms of the Gu Family. Even those servants who always serve Gu Feng and stay with him all the time don't know about the exact location of the secret room. It seems Gu Yuehong that old hag is very smart after all for being able to hide those secret rooms from the servants completely.

In fact, although this man looked like Gu Feng, he was not Gu Feng himself—he was Chen Hao, who disguised himself as Gu Feng.

This was all part of Chen Hao's plan. Initially, he came up with this idea of using Gu Feng's identity to sneak into the Gu Family and mess up their plans. At the same time, he could use the opportunity to learn about their family's secrets. Even though some part of his plan had changed, he could still use Gu Feng's identity to rescue his friends easily.

Chen Hao had been looking for the entrance of the Gu Family's underground cell since noon. He tried asking the servants about it but none of them seemed to know where it was, much to Chen Hao's dismay.

Knock! Knock! Knock!Suddenly, someone knocked on the door.

"Come in!" Chen Hao said.

The door was pushed open and a beautiful girl entered the room; she was none other than Gu Yuxiao.

"You can still get out of bed and walk around the room after suffering from such serious injuries?" Gu Yuxiao glanced at Gu Feng coldly; apparently, they did not get along very well.

It's Gu Yuxiao! Finally, someone who knows where the Gu Family's underground cell is!
Chen Hao thought to himself happily.

He coughed and said, "Although Chen Hao is very scary and powerful, he didn't manage to kill me. So, of course I can still walk around. You got a problem with that?"

"Hmph! It's unbelievable that the always arrogant Gu Feng can think so highly of others." For some unexplained reasons, Gu Yuxiao was pleased to hear Gu Feng praising Chen Hao.

"What brings you here?" Gu Feng asked dully.

"Nothing actually. I just want to ask you something. You saw Chen Hao, right? Is he really that incredible just like you said? Did he undergo a huge change?" Gu Yuxiao wondered curiously.

"Of course he is! He is way scarier than you and I can possibly imagine!" Gu Feng reassured, as if everything about Chen Hao was real.

"Really? Do you think grandmother will be able to catch him, considering his ability now?" Gu Yuxiao asked anxiously.

"With some difficulty. He is no longer like his old self anymore. Even if that old hag..."

"Eh?"

"Uh, I mean even if grandmother cooperates with the King of Nine Doors, I guess it will still be difficult to capture him!" Gu Feng quickly rephrased himself.

Although he had become closer with Gu Yuxiao, Chen Hao decided to maintain some distance away from her for fear that she might know about his secret; he needed to be extremely cautious here to keep his plan from going awry.

"Oh yeah, Gu Yuxiao, take me to the underground cell. There's something I need to do!" Gu Feng said.

Gu Yuxiao frowned; she thought that Gu Feng sounded a bit strange today. However, since she was busy thinking about Chen Hao and his changes, she overlooked certain details on Gu Feng. Still, she asked, "Why do you want to go to the underground cell? Besides, why can't you go there by yourself?"

"I was left with nothing except the Gu Family's magic tool when I came back. So, you must take me there!" Gu Feng explained.

"Oh, I know why you want to go there. Grandmother captured Chen Hao's friends and locked them there. You want to torture them and take your anger out on them, right?" Gu Yuxiao suddenly realized Gu Feng's intention as she knew him very well.

"Why would I do that? I want to save them and take them to a safe place," Gu Feng explained.

"Why?"

"Why? Because Chen Hao poisoned me with a diabolical Gu poison! If I don't release them, I'll succumb to the poison and die! That's why!" Gu Feng said with a fearful look on his face.

"Oh, I see. I wonder why you've changed so much after you came back this time. Okay, since only grandmother and us have the key to the underground cell, I'll take you there!" Gu Yuxiao agreed to help when she heard it because she, too, wanted to release Chen Hao's friends with any opportunity available.

Gu Yuxiao led Gu Feng into the Gu Family's underground cell; the cell looked crowded with lots of prisoners locked inside.

Gu Yuxiao and Gu Feng stood at the entrance of the last cell. They could hear Bai Xiaofei's curses from there; he cursed and scolded with every single nasty word he knew, which made Gu Yuxiao feel embarrassed. "Son of a b*tch! You bastard! Crazy old hag! I curse all of your family! You better let us out!"

At that moment, the cell door opened. Bai Xiaofei and Tie Cheng were chained up and there was a shiny blue bead hanging in front of their chests.

"What do you want? Just kill me if you have the guts! I was a fool for thinking that the Gu Family is so great that I would want to have my training in your family! F*ck it!" Bai Xiaofei cursed, "They still provide us with three meals a day when we were first locked up here. Then, it was gradually reduced to two meals and a meal in the following days. Finally, we're left without any meal for the last two days. Damn you all! If you want to kill us, just do it! Chen Hao will avenge us!"

"Stop it! It's my mistake. If I knew about that, I would've sent you guys something to eat. I forgot about it because something unexpected happened for the past few days, so you guys are left without any meal. I'm sorry that you guys have to starve for two days!" Although Gu Yuxiao disliked Bai Xiaofei's curses, she tried to explain the situation as she felt slightly sorry for them.

"That's enough! Both of you stop yelling! We've come here today to release you! You can eat as much as you like once you're out of here. Leave this place immediately and never come back to Thai City again!"

Gu Feng said.

Gu Yuxiao looked at Bai Xiaofei and Tie Cheng while nodding her head seriously.

"Eh? Young Master Gu? Release them? You can't do that!" A servant who was standing at the side shook his head repeatedly.

Slap!Gu Feng raised his hand and slapped the servant across his face. "Damn it! Who's the young master here? You or me?"

The slap made the servant feel dizzy and he kneeled down immediately. "Of course it's you, Young Master Gu. I mean these two persons are very important and useful in capturing Chen Hao. That was why Madam Gu put a special magic tool on them. Once the magic tool is removed from their bodies, their internal organs will explode and they will die a gruesome death instantly!"

"Eh? Magic tool?" Chen Hao then carefully inspected the blue shiny thing hanging in front of their chests. It turns out that this little thing has some kind of spells on it. What a wicked and cruel old hag!

"What kind of magic tool is this? How to remove it?" Gu Yuxiao asked immediately.

"I don't know about that. I only know the key which can open and remove the magic tool is kept in Madam Gu's room. Her room is a forbidden place where we are not allowed to enter. And I don't have the key to her room either," the servant said pitifully.

"Perhaps the key is there?" Gu Yuxiao said as an idea crossed her mind.

"Where?"

"I think I know where the key that can remove the magic tool is. I think I can find it in my grandmother's room. But she ordered that no one can enter her room without her permission or else that person would have to face the family's disciplinary punishment. Do you still dare to go in there?" Gu Yuxiao warned.

"What's there to be afraid of? If she wants to kill someone, let her kill Gu Feng then! Don't worry about that!"

Gu Yuxiao did not expect Chen Hao to be so smart that he could turn the

insufferably arrogant Gu Feng to behave like this within such a short period of time; her admiration for Chen Hao increased considerably.

As they talked, they were getting ready to leave the cell and go into Gu Yuehong's room. But when they reached the entrance of the cell, Gu Feng suddenly stopped in his tracks. He turned his head around slightly and blinked at Bai Xiaofei twice.

Bai Xiaofei started. Damn! The look... He seemed to realize something as a grin lifted the edge of his lips. "Tie Cheng, maybe we can get out of here. Chen Hao is here!"



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"Chen Hao is here?" Tie Cheng was still oblivious of the whole situation.

"Hahaha! We can get out of here soon.

Damn it! Just wait and see, you Gu Family!

I will set this whole place on fire when
we're out of here!" Bai Xiaofei barked out
of fury.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao and Gu Yuxiao were currently in Gu Yuehong's room. The arrangement of furniture in her room was rather simple; there was a table located at one side of the room and behind the table was a bookshelf.

"This is where the secret room is located?" Gu Feng asked.

"Yeah. Grandmother has two secret rooms in total but I'm not sure whether you know about it. Last time, grandmother had a hidden secret room located in her private study. That's the place where she locked up the lady in white. I saw grandmother come out of there before when I was little. So, I think the way of opening its entrance should be the same as the secret room in her study," Gu Yuxiao explained.

As she spoke, Gu Yuxiao walked over to

the side of the table and carefully turned a penholder on it. As expected, a series of clicking noise was heard while rotating the penholder. Following the noise, the bookshelf shook as it slid across to one side, revealing a dark passage heading down the basement in front of the duo.

"Is it your first time to see this secret room?" Gu Feng asked when he saw Gu Yuxiao staring at the entrance in surprise.

"Yeah. This one is totally different from the other secret room. And I suppose you can feel it too. There's this creepy and eerie atmosphere at the entrance, right?" Gu Yuxiao asked in confusion and shock.

"Let's go in and have a look first. Stay behind me!"

Indeed, Chen Hao felt the eeriness at the entrance too. Besides, he could feel an unusual aura being emitted from the inside of the passage, which made Chen Hao shudder greatly.

Both of them were currently walking into the passage. It was a long passage with lots of hidden grids embedded in the walls; different objects were placed in the grids. Gu Yuxiao lit an oil lamp inside the passage and looked around.

"Found it!" She was delighted as she took a blue colored jade amulet.

"Its surrounding aura is almost the same as those magic tools on Bai Xiaofei and Tie Cheng. This must be it! Come one, let's get out of here quickly!" Chen Hao suggested. He was a little concerned as he felt the strange aura in the passage growing stronger and stronger.

"Okay!"

But as soon as they turned around, a loud deafening sound was heard and the entrance was blocked by a huge rock. All of a sudden, the entire passage was dead silent.

"Ah!" Gu Yuxiao, who was about to step forward and have a look, suddenly got sucked deeper into the passage by a huge suction force. She let out a wail.

Chen Hao could feel the strong suction force too. So, he attempted to block it by using his Heaven Abstruse Skills. However, as the suction force increased, Chen Hao

could no longer withstand the force.
Losing his focus, he was being sucked into the dark hole too.

Thump! Thump! With two loud thuds, both Chen Hao and Gu Yuxiao hit the ground. They were in an attached stone room. The surrounding light was lit, which illuminated the room brightly, when they fell into the room. An apparition-like dark shadow was seen floating and circling around the room.

"Haha! I've waited so long. Finally, there's someone other than Gu Yuehong who's willing to come in here. Perhaps both of you are the descendants of the Gu Family?" An old but loud voice was heard coming from the dark shadow; the voice was deafening and frightening.

"Who are you? How did you get into our house?" Gu Yuxiao asked in surprise.

"Hahaha! Your house? This... is my house! It is I who established the entire Gu Family by my own hands! You two little kids are merely my descendants!" As the dark shadow spoke, it slowly shapeshifted and finally changed into a form of an elderly man in front of the duo. The man's disheveled hair was white and his long

beard was left hanging in front of his chest. He looked like an old Daoist who had achieved enlightenment.

"What did you say?" Gu Yuxiao was startled.

Chen Hao also glanced at the elderly man in surprise. He noticed that the man's form of existence was almost the same as the spirit of the lady in white, but there were some differences between them. One of the differences was his malevolence. Another one was the amount of energy he could release was much stronger than the lady in white. The current lady in white was just a normal spirit before fusion and this was exactly what distinguished her from the elderly man. The man could actually materialize his energy, which was quite strong. It was unimaginable that if he was not in a spirit form but in a true human form, then his cultivation base must be so strong to the point that it was terrifying.

"As I said, you two are merely my descendants. What's the matter? You kids didn't hear any stories about the Great Ancestor of Gu Family from Gu Yuehong?" the elderly man said with a smirk.

Chen Hao shook his head automatically whereas Gu Yuxiao nodded. "I've heard the story before. Grandmother used to tell us stories about the Gu Family's Great Ancestor many times when we were little. She said the Great Ancestor of Gu Family discovered lost relics from the ancient Cultivation Civilization about thousands of years ago. As a result, he obtained great magical powers and founded the Gu Family. He waited until the Gu Family became stable before going on a quest to find more mystical relics left behind by the Cultivation Civilization. Since then, he vanished and never appeared again. A-Are you really the Great Ancestor of the Gu Family? But that's impossible! If you're really the Great Ancestor, then why did my grandmother lock you up here?" Gu Yuxiao asked.

"Hahaha!" Suddenly, the Great Ancestor of Gu Family burst into laughter.

"What are you laughing about?" Gu Yuxiao asked.

"He's not being locked up in here. He just can't show himself in public for some reasons and has to stay in the secret room. Of course, although he can't go out, he can remotely control all the former heads of the Gu Family from within here," Chen Hao said while glancing at the old man.

"Eh?" The Great Ancestor of Gu Family studied Chen Hao carefully in surprise. He then nodded his head and said, "It's unbelievable. I can't believe the Gu Family have some capable descendants like you. You're very smart indeed. You're right, I am the one who control all the former heads of the Gu Family!"

Gu Yuxiao goggled at the elderly man in shock with her jaw dropped. Chen Hao was surprised by the discovery too. No wonder Ziyan told him that the Gu Family was strange. He used to wonder why the Gu Family got involved with the Nine Doors, but now he finally realized the truth. The real mastermind behind every evil was here—a man who had continued to exist for over tens of thousands of years.

"You are really our Great Ancestor?" Gu Yuxiao only began to believe the old man's words. "But if you're our Great Ancestor, why would you allow yourself to be trapped in here instead of going out? Besides, weren't you supposed to be out there looking for the mystical relics?"

"Now that's a long story. I was indeed looking for the mystical relics. But unfortunately, all those relics are often protected by the Divine Energy. I failed to avoid the destructive power of the Divine Energy. As a result, my body was completely destroyed by the energy. Finally, I managed to escape and come back here with only my spirit left. At that time, there were still many powerful enemies of the Gu Family around, so in order to protect the family from destruction, I had to remotely control all the family's operations by myself. All these years, the Gu Family had been searching everywhere for talented experts born with exceptional spiritual energy. They were sent to me for absorbing their energy. With their energy, my spirit was thus being able to be preserved until now," the Great Ancestor explained.

"What you mean is that the purpose for the annual organization of Gu Family's Training Conference is for you to absorb their spiritual energy?" Suddenly, Gu Yuxiao realized the truth.

"Haha! You're right! But unfortunately, even

though those people possess spiritual energy, their body types are still not up to my standard. Until now, the chance I've waited for so long is here at last. If I can get my hands on that person's body and use it, then my dream to reborn myself can finally come true!" The Great Ancestor of Gu Family laughed out loudly.

"I know. The person you're referring to is Chen Hao, whom grandmother wants to capture by cooperating with the Nine Doors! Because he has the Essence of Nine Cycles within his body, so his body type is special, right?" Gu Yuxiao exclaimed in shock.

"That's right! You're smart too!" The Great Ancestor of the Gu Family laughed.

Meanwhile, Gu Feng, who stood beside—
no, he was Chen Hao—listened to their
conversation in bewilderment. Essence of
Nine Cycles? What's the situation right now?
But I am right with one thing though. Since
these people were willing to spend so much
energy and time trying to find me, it seems
there's some kind of hidden secret within
me which they desperately need...

Chapter 698 The Great Ancestor of the Gu Family



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"As long as we are able to obtain Chen Hao's body, then I will be able to get back to the peak. The Gu Family will then be moved to the Border Realm, which is an exciting world. With that, the Gu Family will finally become real masters of the world as we gain our strong ground between the Heavens and the Earth!" The Great Ancestor laughed as he exclaimed.

"Hahaha, good question. Of course, that is not the main reason. Even though Chen Hao's body is the best selection, Gu Yuehong and the others are too foolish. They have made me restless while waiting for them and yet they still did not manage to deliver Chen Hao to me. Moreover, I am worried that Gu Yuehong might harm my future body, so I have no other choice but to emerge again in advance. And for that, I will be needing a suitable body to be my vessel!" the Great Ancestor said.

"But the two of you barged in right at this moment. Both of you possess enough spiritual energy, especially the son beside you. There will be no one as suitable as him in my opinion!" the Great Ancestor exclaimed as he stared at Chen Hao.

"What? He is your grandson, and yet you

aren't willing to spare him?" Gu Yuxiao said with much surprise.

To be perfectly honest, Gu Yuxiao would feel no regrets if they were to sacrifice Gu Feng.

Since he was a vicious murderer who would kill people without mercy, like a ruthless demon, it would be better if he were to be killed.

But when she knew that the person who would be decimating Gu Feng was the Great Ancestor of the Gu Family that the whole family revered, Gu Yuxiao felt somewhat uncomfortable!

"I have no other choice. But come to think of it, the Gu Family had been scattered out too much since a long time ago. It would be worth it for you to sacrifice yourself for the sake of the Gu family's future!" The Great Ancestor smiled bitterly.

Astonishment flashed through Chen Hao's eyes!

No wonder he could feel a sudden rush of danger when he came in; he never would have guessed that an old man like him

would be so malicious.

There was even a saying that went, 'even a vicious tiger would not eat his cub', for no one was capable of hurting their own children!

But he would not even spare his own descendants!

Unconsciously, Chen Hao took a few steps backward.

"Do not be afraid. Haha! I will not let you feel a single bit of pain!" The Great Ancestor laughed coldly as he said that and rushed immediately toward Chen Hao!

Chen Hao reflexively surrounded his whole being with his Celestial Vital Energy to block his advance as the spirit soon reached his immediate front!

Boom!

His soul was still shook when he rushed toward him even though he had put up his defenses with his Celestial Vital Energy.

Despite him withstanding the Great Ancestor's advance, it still made Chen

Hao's whole body tremble as he felt a sharp sensation in the back of his throat; immediately after that, he spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Do not fight back or you will feel even worse!" The Great Ancestor laughed menacingly.

But his laughter soon froze on his face and he was immediately filled with disbelief!

"I have mastered the Soul Manipulation Technique completely. I am perfectly familiar with its workings, so there should not have been any problem! But why is it when I touch your soul, there would be a big surge of energy pushing me away!" The Great Ancestor gave up on his attacks and instantly stepped back; he distanced himself from Chen Hao approximately thirty feet away.

He looked at Chen Hao in surprise and confusion.

No matter how powerful and capable one's soul was, it would still be impossible for him to not be able to absorb it according to his abilities, especially when it came to the disciples of the Gu family, for nobody

would be able to possess such spiritual power.

But now, he was unable to even approach this young man's soul, let alone attack it; he nearly ended up having his own soul disintegrated when he attempted the attack just now.

How could this be?

"Y-You're not one of the Gu Family's descendants? Who exactly are you?" The Great Ancestor was extremely clever; he immediately realized that something was wrong with the current situation.

This young man's strength just now was exceptionally strong, so very strong to the extent that it felt like he would have been able to destroy everything within the Heavens and Earth; he was lucky that he managed to back off in time.

"Great Ancestor, his name is Gu Feng. How could he not be one of the Gu Family's descendants?" Gu Yuxiao explained.

"I know Gu Feng. Gu Yuehong has always trained him to be the next heir. I know everything regarding his strengths and

capabilities. But the spiritual power of this person here is so strong that it is terrifying. He definitely is not Gu Feng!" the Great Ancestor said warily.

Gu Yuxiao was also looking at Gu Feng in shock.

In fact, she did feel that things were a little bit strange.

The look in Gu Feng's eyes was never like this before.

"What you said was right. I am definitely not Gu Feng." Chen Hao smiled slightly.

He also could not figure out why he felt as if everything was spinning around when the Great Ancestor's soul collided with his, but right after the collision, he immediately felt a sudden rush of vital energy surrounding his whole body.

The huge amount of vital energy that was gushing out from his body felt like how water gushed out from a broken dam, like when the water god, Gonggong, crashed into the Buzhou Mountains that supported the heavens; the huge outflow of vital energy made Chen Hao feel an upsurge of

strength.

The power he possessed was so terrifying, as it seemed to contain the potency to destroy everything that had ever existed; this made Chen Hao suddenly think that he no longer needed to be afraid of the old man in front of him.

"Huh? Y-You're not Gu Feng? Then who are you?" Gu Yuxiao asked in disbelief.

"I am the one who killed Gu Feng!" Chen Hao said nonchalantly.

"What? You killed Gu Feng?" Gu Yuxiao took a few steps backward. Moments later, she finally had an idea of who this person right in front of her really was. Could it be him?

The Great Ancestor was already enraged. "You bastard. Not only did you kill my descendant, you even disguised as him and infiltrated the secret room. No wonder your Qi felt so different from the Qi of the Gu Family's descendants!" He stepped forward again as he attempted to make a move again, but he instantly stopped in his tracks, because he noticed that there was a golden glow that seemed to be covering

the whole of Chen Hao's body; it was the golden glow that injured him.

"What is this? Why is your spiritual energy getting more and more powerful? It was just a few moments ago, but now I can already feel that your energy has risen up more?" said the Great Ancestor in disbelief as he widened his eyes.

"I'm also puzzled. I felt my spirit shudder with great shock when you knocked into me just now. It felt as if something that was being held back within me has broken through its confinement and is releasing intense strength toward my whole body!" said Chen Hao. He was curious too as he spoke nonchalantly.

"Filled with energy?" the Great Ancestor asked in surprise.

"Exactly. It felt like an energy that is even able to destroy the whole world. To be honest, Great Ancestor, I think I can take you out instantly right now. I wonder how you were able to do that?" Chen Hao said in surprise. "I think this all originated from that collision from you just now. Why don't you try colliding into me once again?" Chen Hao smirked.

"This..." The Great Ancestor was panting heavily. The golden glow around Chen Hao was making a circle that enclosed him; it seemed to have fully materialized in the real world and was emitting a terrifying energy.

He took a few steps back unknowingly when he heard what Chen Hao said.

"The first cycle of the Essence of Nine Cycles. T-This looks like the energy release from the first cycle of the Essence of Nine Cycles!" The Great Ancestor stared at Chen Hao, as if he finally understood something.

At that moment, he looked at the young man right in front of him with much shock. Immediately, his eyes widened so much that they were almost falling out of their sockets as he exclaimed, "Y-You're Chen Hao!!!"



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"Chen Hao?" Gu Yuxiao also looked at him in surprise.

Chen Hao nodded. "I don't understand what you're saying about this Essence of Nine Cycles, but Ziyan had briefly mentioned it to me yesterday without going into the details. So this is what you guys were saying about the secrets buried within my body? The King of Nine Doors and you were all after this secret?"

"You really are Chen Hao!" The Great Ancestor's eyes brightened up. He was excited, but also disheartened at the same time; he was excited since he had finally found Chen Hao, who was right in front of him, but he was disheartened because of Chen Hao's immense abilities that were absolutely terrifying. The Great Ancestor was so terrified that if he made the slightest mistake to anger Chen Hao, the whole situation might end up getting turned against him with the Gu Family being entirely destroyed. Hence, he needed to be even more careful with how he proceeded.

However, he didn't expect himself to be the one who activated the first cycle of Chen Hao's Essence of Nine Cycles.

Furthermore, he had only triggered the first cycle of his powers without having fully recovered his full potentials, and yet it was already this terrifying. Should he reach the ninth cycle, then he would truly obtain a devastatingly destructive power that was enough to penetrate the three worlds with a single hit! Such was the level of horror of his powers!

"You have yet to answer my question.
What is the Essence of Nine Cycles?" Chen
Hao asked.

"It is the power inside your body. Once it's released, one would be able to control the three realms with its powers. Such an ability was so coveted that it would drive all Cultivators crazy to possess it!" the Great Ancestor slowly explained.

At the same time—without Chen Hao noticing—he was slowly working his Vital Energy in his hands.

"This ability is inside me?" Chen Hao asked.

"Yes. Do you know who you really are?"
The Great Ancestor swallowed his saliva
and lowered his voice as he asked that

question.

"Who I really am?" Chen Hao asked.

Suddenly, the Great Ancestor's eyes lit up and he used all of his power to sneak an attack at Chen Hao.

Since the thing that he did not wish for had happened, then he would not let Chen Hao grow even further.

If not, then his tens of thousands of years of effort would be naught.

So he had no choice but to give his all against Chen Hao!

Boom!

However, when the Great Ancestor hit on Chen Hao's chest with all his might, a bright golden light glowed on the latter's chest all of a sudden. Then, the Great Ancestor's soul shuddered before being blasted away from Chen Hao. Moreover, half of the darkness that surrounded him vanished.

"Ah!" The Great Ancestor's spirit became unstable, which made him suffer immense

pain.

He looked at Chen Hao in horror as he said, "Goodness, this was only the first cycle and you've already pierced through my spirit. How could this be possible?" The Great Ancestor had already given up hope as he watched his own spirit slowly disintegrating.

He was in pain as he wailed hysterically, for he was so utterly unwilling to see himself being vanquished in such a pitiful manner.

Then, he turned his cold gaze toward Gu Yuxiao, who was rooted to the spot as she was shocked by Chen Hao.

He was unable to touch Chen Hao's soul, but he could take over Gu Yuxiao's body; then, he would still have a narrow chance to survive.

He moved toward Gu Yuxiao in an attempt to attack her.

"Be careful!" Chen Hao immediately pointed his finger and placed a seal at the spot between Gu Yuxiao's eyebrows; she was not able to withstand the might of

Chen Hao's power from his finger and thus immediately fainted.

Chen Hao was taught by Li Ba a few things about vessels, so he knew what he should do to prevent other souls from invading one's body.

As expected, despite how powerful the Great Ancestor was, he was unable to do anything to possess her body.

"You are no longer the Great Ancestor of the Gu family. In my opinion, you are just an old demon that has existed for tens of millenia! I think it's about time you vanish!" Chen Hao threatened.

"Don't do it. No!"

Chen Hao ignored his pleas; he knew that the Great Ancestor wasn't afraid of his vital energy nor his abilities, but the Great Ancestor was more afraid of his soul, for Chen Hao's soul was stronger than the latter's by so many times that Chen Hao would be able to completely destroy the Great Ancestor's soul in an instant.

"Perish!"

Chen Hao exclaimed and directed the powerful willpower of his soul against the Great Ancestor.

Pow! The golden glow shone brightly and hit on his darkness, which was instantly dissipated and the Great Ancestor vanished into nothingness. Such was the power of Chen Hao.

Chen Hao thought to himself, It seems like my inner ability, the Essence of Nine Cycles, have been awakened. I am already like this just by awakening the first cycle, so would I be able to destroy the whole world if I reached the ninth cycle? He was astonished himself as he pondered on the thought.

Chen Hao picked up the unconscious Gu Yuxiao, then tore off the mask on his face to reveal his original look.

As he prepared to take her away, he noticed a weird apparatus in the center of the secret room. It looked like a small pond with a blue lamp on top of it that was glowing with blue light; there was a lot of blue liquid flowing out from the lamp like an aesthetic artificial fountain.

Chen Hao guessed as he thought, This must be the thing that Gu Feng

told me aboutans had used to improve their Inner Energy. It must be the source of the Mystique Clan's strength!ce I already got here. I will especially leave you a cultivation method as my gratitude for your help, Gu Yuxiao. Hmm, I guess we are bound to go against each other! bitterly.

Then, he mediated the strength in his palm and aimed toward the cornerstone.

Crash!

The cornerstone instantly shattered into pieces and the liquid in the pond that contained some sort of energy splashed all over the floor, while the blue crystal-like sphere fell to the floor and rolled over to a corner.

"We'll see how you pricks wreak havoc next time now that I haven taken away your assets!" Chen Hao took the sphere in his hand, then immediately vanished from the spot.

"Oh no!" At that same moment, in the big forest, Gu Yuehong, who was also one of the participants of the team for the capture of Chen Hao, suddenly felt restless and her whole body shuddered as

she felt an unidentifiable fear that gripped her heart.

"What is wrong, Madam Gu?" a subordinate asked.

"Something happened back in the mansion. The cornerstone was being disturbed by someone!" Gu Yuehong furrowed her brows; she was extremely puzzled as the place of the cornerstone was extremely hidden. Moreover it was protected by that person, so how could it be disturbed?

Should the Gu Family lose the cornerstone, then it would simply mean that they would eventually lose all their power and they could no longer improve on their cultivation base; even after many years, the Gu Family would no longer have any new members capable of practicing the magical arts.

At that moment, a subordinate could be heard rushing over toward her, all the while yelling, "Madam Gu, we found it! We've found it!" The subordinate had a look of panic on his face.

Gu Yuehong's eyes lit up and she looked

far away; it seemed like some of the Gu Family's disciples were carrying a person and rushing over to her spot. "Did you find Chen Hao? Why are you so panicky?" She tried hard to suppress her excitement.

The subordinate gulped audibly as he cried out loud, "No, Madam Gu... It wasn't Chen Hao. It was Young Master Gu Feng's dead body!"

"What? Feng's dead body?" Gu Yuehong felt a sudden ache in her chest and her head hurt to the point that she almost fainted.

When the subordinates brought over the dead body, Gu Yuehong already lost all of her energy and needed to be supported by the others as she examined the body closely and recognized that it was indeed her grandson, Gu Feng.

How could it be? Didn't Gu Feng go back home? Why would he be dead here? Then who is the person back at home now? A number of questions popped up in Gu Yuehong's mind until she finally linked the situation with the matter of the cornerstone.

She lifted her head suddenly, her face full of disbelief as she said, "Oh no, everyone, quickly return to the Gu house with me!"



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Gu Yuehong and her men saw flames that burned tall into the sky when they got back to the Gu house.

The whole Gu house was in flames, seeming that it would soon be turned into ash.

Gu Yuehong's eyes were red shot; feelings of anger and grief were all mixed up within her at the moment as she screamed hysterically, "The foundation of the Gu Family that lasted tens of thousands of years is now ruined by Chen Hao. I swear in the name of my family that I will get my revenge back on you, Chen Hao!"

Gu Yuehong finally realized that the person who pretended to be Gu Feng was none other than Chen Hao.

He actually told the truth when he said that Gu Feng was within his grasp, but Gu Feng wasn't able to escape; he was brutally murdered in the forest by Chen Hao instead.

Chen Hao then sneaked inside the Gu Family's house and destroyed the foundations of the family with a burning flame. Gu Yuehong was filled with hatred, so much so that her whole body trembled as she gritted her teeth.

"Gather all our manpower and search everywhere for Chen Hao's whereabouts. Even if he escaped to the edge of the earth, make sure you still capture him and bring him back. I will personally tear him into pieces!"

Gu Yuehong felt an indescribable anxiety; surely the cornerstone of the Gu Family was not taken by Chen Hao? She felt the cornerstone being moved, but it was quite impossible since the Great Ancestor was personally there to guard it.

Without giving much thought for her own safety, Gu Yuehong rushed straight into the flames, directly toward her own secret room.

Three days later, Chen Hao nearly reached a town in the North Desert. "Even though I have yet to properly understand the Essence of Nine Cycles, but the changes that had been brought upon me by the first cycle were way too much!" said Chen Hao as he dashed out from a forest nearby; the town in the North Desert was getting near

in sight.

Thinking back on the changes that happened upon himself within the short period of three days, Chen Hao could barely suppress his surprise and joy.

Crossing the Thai Mountains from Thai City on foot to reach the small town in the North Desert in a day would probably be easy for Chen Hao, considering his original cultivation base.

But for the past three days, Chen Hao had felt immense changes in his body.

When Uncle Qin used to use herbs for him to take baths in, the changes in his body were so large that it felt as if every single cell in his body had expanded, intensely absorbing all spiritual energy from his surroundings. This caused his physique, as well as his abilities, to continuously grow stronger.

But now, after the awakening of the first cycle, he felt as if his whole body no longer belonged to him anymore; it was as if a new channel between him and the surroundings had been opened. Previously, absorbing spiritual energy would mean

nourishment for his body, but now, he felt like he was one with the spiritual energy of the Heavens and the Earth; it was as if a separation between him and the surroundings had been completely removed, fusing him with the elements of the surroundings into one.

Furthermore, by utilizing his Heaven Abstruse Skills, he managed to improve his cultivation base on an exponential level.

Now, in merely three days, he had managed to cross the intermediate level of his Perfection Stage and proceeded straight into the final level, or maybe even into the later stages of the final level. Nonetheless, Chen Hao was unable to explain the situation accurately himself.

All in all, even Chen Hao himself felt that he was extremely powerful.

Three days ago, he was at a stage where his spiritual powers were strong but not enough to collide head-to-head with the Gu Family and the King of Nine Doors, which was why he didn't stay back in Thai City. But now, even if Chen Hao was to go directly against Gu Yuehong or Yun Qing,

he would be able to defeat them.

This was Chen Hao's confidence, which originated completely from the power he possessed.

But right now, his top priorities were to help Ziyan to find the dead body of the Celestial War God to let them be together again, and then proceed with the Holy Water Ritual. Thus, he had been attempting cultivation in the woods as he traveled, which was why it took him three days to finally reach the place.

They had promised to gather at the inn that Chen Hao had been to before.

But Chen Hao finally knew after he had arrived at the town that Ziyan, Uncle, and the others did stay at the inn, but they had left on the previous morning after they were escorted away by somebody. Since then, they have yet to return.

How could this be? Could it be that Uncle has an acquaintance here as well? Chen Hao thought. He was puzzled.

"Do you know who were the ones who took them away?" Chen Hao asked.

"I don't know about that. Recently there have been a lot of people coming over. They were all wearing Western suits with a special emblem on their chest. I saw them being escorted away by those people!" the inn owner answered.

Chen Hao nodded.

Uncle did not leave him any message that would enable him to go looking for them.

It looked like they had no intention to stay there for long after they had left, but something must have happened for them to not return.

"Hey young fella, did you see those people outside? They're the people with the same outfit. It looks like they might be the ones who took your friends away?" the owner said as he looked outside and pointed at a group of at least a dozen people.

Chen Hao followed the inn owner's gaze and saw a tall lady in sportswear leading the group. The lady was tall, with a lean physique that suggested she was a practitioner of the martial arts. She had naturally wavy long hair that reached to her shoulders and her appearance was

extremely beautiful and ethereal; one look was enough to tell that she was not a local.

She was having a walk on the street with a dozen suited bodyguards following closely behind her; just as the inn owner had mentioned, all those bodyguards wore a circular symbol on their chests.

"It was them?" Chen Hao could not help but frown as he walked up to her with the intention of asking them a few questions.

"Please go back, Miss. We were the ones who were originally in charge of this. Moreover, Tiger Lei is an extremely cunning person. I'm afraid that something might go wrong and you will be put in danger!" said a middle-aged man behind her.

The middle-aged man had sharp eyebrows and a pair of handsome eyes; his palms could be seen to be full of calluses, and judging from the imposing aura that emanated from him, he seemed to be also an expert in the martial arts. He was following the lady from behind and was trying his best to convince her.

"Hmph, so what? I am going to give my family a piece of my mind and make them realize that I, Du Yining, am as good compared to them when I am handling my affairs. I can settle the things that my father was not able to. As for the person that my father was not able to defeat, hmph, I will defeat them! Enough of this. I will only be meeting them in a while, so stop bothering me during my walk. Just follow me from far behind!"

Du Yining looked like she was in her midtwenties; she might be exceptionally beautiful, but everyone around her knew that she was a dangerous woman, someone who was extremely difficult to deal with. So, her subordinates stopped trying to persuade her but merely followed her slowly from behind.

"Hello miss, I have something I would like to ask." Chen Hao stood there watching them for a moment before he approached Du Yining, standing in front of her.

"Who are you?" Du Yining was eyeing him from head to toe.

His outfit was simple and he looked quite handsome, but not enough for Du Yining to

set her eyes on someone like him. So, she just looked at him with disdain.

"I would like to ask you guys about something. I have six of my friends, two men and four women, and they have stayed at this inn. I heard the owner say that they were escorted away by someone in the early hours yesterday. Was it your people?" Chen Hao smiled politely; he decided to just act as a normal person around them.

"What the hell? Who do you think you are? Go ask the person who took them away! Why are you even asking me about this? I've seen the likes of you many times. Cut it out with your lame pickup lines. Why don't you take a look at yourself in the mirror? You're not even worth my time!" said Du Yining with much contempt.

The bodyguards behind her stepped forward as she was saying those words; they all gave a cold glare toward Chen Hao, trying to scare this creep away from their Miss...

Chapter 701 Heading to the North Desert



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Chapter 702 Treason

Chen Hao could not help but to laugh bitterly as he shook at his head looking at these people.

Things had changed drastically; when he thought back to a year ago, no matter how calm and composed he usually was, he would still feel nervous if he encountered so many bodyguards surrounding him.

But now, Chen Hao could just kill the dozen people easily with a flick of a finger; those people wouldn't even know what killed them.

So obviously, when a person obtained powers beyond the imagination of common people, that person would naturally be unbothered by small threats like this; Chen Hao was completely not taking the situation seriously at the moment.

Currently, Tie Cheng and Bai Xiaofei had gone back to Jin Ling for treatment.

Now that Ziyan was missing, Chen Hao had no other choice but to ask for information from these people.

"Wait!" Du Yining suddenly called out at

Chapter 702 Treason

this moment.

"What is it, Miss?" the middle-aged man asked.

"Li Da, don't you think he looks like someone familiar?" asked Du Yining as she stared at Chen Hao with her arms crossed.

"Looks like someone? Who?" Li Da asked.

"Don't you think that he looked like the servant, Jun, that I had beaten to death?" Du Yining looked like she was excited; she circled around Chen Hao and kept on staring at him.

The more she looked at him, the more similar she thought they were.

"Now that you mention it, Miss, he looked exactly like Jun!" Li Da nodded and agreed.

"Hahaha, I thought that the man's face looked so familiar. Hmm, I am still very regretful that I had beaten Jun to death back then. What if I just take him in as my subordinate? It seems like he could not even manage to feed himself properly. Fine, I'll offer him a job then!" Du Yining

said.

It was true that Chen Hao was looking rugged as he had spent his three days training in the wild, but he could not help but laugh bitterly when he heard Du Yining's words.

As far as he remembered, no one had the guts to talk to him like this ever since he became Young Master Chen.

"Miss, I just wanted to look for my friends who were taken away by you. If you know where they are, then please take me to them!" Chen Hao smiled lightly.

"How ballsy of you. Our Mistress wanted to make you her servant because she thought highly of you. You should be grateful to her!" Li Da's gaze was cold.

"Back off, Li Da. You said that you wanted to find your friends, right? Sure, I promise that I will bring you to your friends, as long as you come with me until I am done with settling the matter at hand!" Du Yining threw Li Da a glance, signaling him that she was up to something as the edge of her lips lifted slightly.

Chapter 702 Treason

Of course, such small tricks would never escape Chen Hao's attention.

Chen Hao could roughly predict Du Yining's thoughts, but he might need to comply with her since she was his biggest clue in finding Ziyan, Uncle and the others.

But of course, Chen Hao also had another choice—he could just beat them up and make them tell him the truth.

But if these people couldn't handle even a light hit from him and he ended up killing them by mistake, that wouldn't be great if these people were really Uncle's friends. After thinking through for a while, Chen Hao decided to go along with her and make further decisions once he was sure of her true purpose.

"I will go with you if I can meet my friends!" Chen Hao answered.

Du Yining snickered. "Hahaha, that's settled. Oh yeah, what's your name?"

"Chen Hao!"

"Such a girly name. It wouldn't do me good to call you Hao. How about me calling you

Chapter 702 Treason

Chen? From now onward you will be my follower and I will give you the same treatment as Jun, but without the beating. Hahaha!" said Du Yining as she laughed.

She seemed to have come out on this day to settle some business, for before long, she gathered a number of people and all of them headed to a manor out in the northern side of the town.

Chen Hao was also able to roughly grasp the situation when they were on their way there.

Strange happenings seemed to be happening in the North Desert since a month ago.

Many clans had come and gathered here one after another; the Du Family was simply one of them.

Du Yining was representing the Du Family to negotiate with Tiger Lei, but as for the contents of the negotiation, he still had no idea of it; Chen Hao was disinterested in their matters after all.

Soon, Du Yining's car entourage arrived at the Lei Family's manor.

Outside the manor stood rows of their bodyguards. Tiger Lei was the leader of the local tyrants in the area who had his position firmly secured; he was a middleaged man who was slightly chubby and his eyes were so narrow that they appeared to be straight lines on his face.

"Miss Du, I thought the Du Family would just ignore this meeting. I had no idea that you would be the one to come here yourself. How very bold of you. You are definitely a strong woman!" Tiger Lei was looking all over Du Yining's body with a lecherous look on his face.

"Stop talking nonsense Tiger Lei. We'll just go straight to the point. I wanted to ask you this—the original agreement was to have the Four Great Families cooperate together and to equally share our resources and ideas to seek out the ancient ruins, but why did you suddenly change your mind by changing the share for our family to the smallest portion? What do you mean by this?" Du Yining said, sounding very domineering.

"Hehe, you're very frank, Miss Du. You're right, we did agree to share the historical ruins equally. But the Xu Family had given

the most manpower and was the first one to find the ruins. The Du Family on the other hand, barely made any contributions at all. So to be more fair, the other two families have come to an agreement to let the Xu Family have the largest share!" Tiger Lei smiled.

"Don't bullsh*t me, Tiger Lei. Don't you forget that the Du Family was the one who opened the gates to the ruins. If it wasn't for the Du Family, the other three families might still be suffering out there under the sun!" Du Yining retorted.

Despite not having a full grasp on the situation, Chen Hao managed to get a rough idea of what they were talking about —ancient ruins.

Chen Hao was wondering that maybe the clans had found a tomb and decided to work together to equally split their share for the things they had found, but it seemed like one of them had decided to turn their backs against the other families by using some dirty tricks!

"Tiger Lei, don't forget who was the one to have saved your life, you ungrateful dog!" Du Yining roared.

"Hmph, Du Yining, I was being nice to you for old time's sake. Stop trampling on other people, you b*tch. It seems like I have no choice but to teach you a lesson so that you can understand your current situation! I see that it's great that you came here on your own. You've saved me the trouble for going out to find you myself!"

At that moment, Tiger Lei waved his hand and a group of armed bodyguards came in, surrounding them completely.

"How dare you, Tiger Lei!" Di Yining yelled angrily.

Slap!

Tiger Lei stepped up and gave Du Yining a slap across her face instead.

"I have nothing to be afraid of, b*tch!"

Little did Du Yining expect that Tiger Lei would slap her. "Kill them, Li Da!" she immediately ordered in rage.

"Hahaha! Li Da is definitely a rare expert.
To be completely honest, I had my
reservations about getting into direct

conflict against the Du Family, all because of Li Da, since he is an Iron Palm user of the one hundred and eighth generation! Such terrifying skills!" Despite his words, Tiger Lei was smiling as he spoke calmly.

"What are you standing there for, Li Da? Kill them!" Du Yining yelled at Li Da who was still standing at the side.

Li Da sighed and said, "Miss, I have already advised you many times to just sit back home. The situation now is no longer one where you can act stubbornly the way you always do!" Li Da smiled bitterly as he shook his head. With the dozen bodyguards following behind him, he slowly walked to a place behind Tiger Lei and continued, "President Lei had already treated you kindly enough, Miss!" Li Da smiled and shook his head.

Treason!

Du Yining widened her eyes in disbelief; Li Da had actually taken the family's bodyguards with him and turned against her!

Even though Du Yining was also skilled to a certain level in the martial arts, she still

couldn't help but take a few steps back in fear as she looked around at the bodyguards of the Lei Family, who were all glaring intensely at her.



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She was no match for any of them, and she felt so afraid that both sides of her hands were full of sweat.

Li Da was the greatest support of the Du Family, yet he betrayed them now!

"What do you plan to do now, Miss Du? Li Da is an outstanding expert in the martial arts, but he was treated like a slave in the Du Family. However, things were different for him when he came here. Master Li Da will become the VIP of the Lei Family!" said Tiger Lei with a hideous smile.

"W-What are you trying to do?" Du Yining asked, swallowing a mouthful of saliva.

Tiger Lei shrugged. "Hahaha, I know that you're the only daughter in your family that your father loved dearly. If he knew that you're in my hands, I could get him to sign the papers easily by threatening to hurt you!"

"We haven't got into the deepest parts of the historical ruins, and we're not even sure that there are treasures in there. Aren't you and the Xu Family being a little too hurried to threaten us of the Du Family?" said Du Yining.

"Hahaha, what an adorably foolish woman. Do you think that we would put in such a huge amount of effort to do this if we haven't discovered anything? Since you're already in my hands, I might as well tell you that the Xu family had discovered some treasures there!" said Tiger Lei.

"I don't believe in you. The insides of the historical ruins are so abstruse. I don't believe that the Xu Family could discover all the secrets in just a few days." Du Yining shook her head.

However, she was doubtful at the situation; if the benefits weren't huge, the Xu Family wouldn't have let Tiger Lei betray them, and Tiger Lei wouldn't have the sufficient conditions to let Li Da follow suit.

After all, among the Four Great Families, two of them were on the Xu family's side, and the Du Family was indeed less cooperative.

"Alright then, I'll make sure that you're convinced. Have a look at this, Miss Du," said Tiger Lei as he took out an ancient-looking wooden box.

The entire wooden box was black in color, and it was approximately the size of an infant's palm.

Tiger Lei took the box out carefully and it got Chen Hao's attention; he stared at the box, frowning with curiosity.

It didn't seem like an ordinary wooden box at all; the wood seemed to be emitting a kind of spiritual energy.

Chen Hao's eyes were locked on the box.

At this moment, Tiger Lei opened the wooden box and immediately, an intense purple glow that engulfed the whole of Tiger Lei's being was being released; what followed was a huge spiritual energy flowing out of the box.

Chen Hao's eyelids twitched intensely.

This is not an ordinary box indeed! This is a spiritual item! Chen Hao thought, feeling surprised.

Originally, he thought that they were fighting over ownership of treasures in the ancient tomb, but he didn't expect that they would be looking for spiritual items

instead.

When they were in the Snake Cave, Yun Qing had mentioned that locations where spiritual objects were discovered were mostly historical remains of the ancient Cultivation Civilization.

One would be able to discover some ancient heritage, or even encounter some miraculous happenings in those places.

Could it be possible that this historical ruins was a magical site?

If that was indeed the case, then Chen Hao could roughly guess the reason why Ziyan was hanging around with these people; even Chen Hao would not let the opportunity pass if he discovered such a magical site, let alone Uncle and the others.

It seemed like this trip was worth it to him.

"W-What is this?"

Du Yining was frightened.

"Hahaha, this is a miraculous stone, a piece of priceless treasure. Do you get it

now, Miss Du?"

Tiger Lei chuckled.

Li Da shook his head with a wry smile.

Du Yining was extremely furious; this group of people were so good in making evil plans that even her own father was in the dark.

"You're alone now, Miss Du. It's best for you to give in and stop resisting any further if you don't want to go through any unnecessary sufferings!" Tiger Lei reminded her.

However, Tiger Lei just came to realize that there was another young man standing behind Du Yining; he was unsure if the young man was being intimidated by his overpowering air of dominance, for the young man's eyes were currently unfocused, as if he was thinking deeply about something and not paying a single trace of attention on Du Yining.

Is he scared silly because of me? Tiger Lei shook his head as he thought.

"Master Li Da, who is this? Is he Du

Yining's servant?" he asked.

"Yes, Master Lei. He is a servant taken in by Du Yining just now."

He nodded and said, "He's just a poor man with no money, and he was forced to be here because of Du Yining. Hehe, he doesn't even know that he was being sold out!"

Li Da gave a wry smile.

"He seemed to have overheard our conversation, Li Da. You should know what to do!" Tiger Lei laughed; he was happy that his plan was obviously a success.

"I know. I'll burn him alive later! He'll only have his own bad luck to blame!" Li Da answered, sounding experienced and familiar with how things worked.

"Ahh!" Du Yining was so scared that she swallowed a mouthful of saliva when she saw one of the servants bringing over a huge barrel full of gasoline; her legs started to tremble when she saw the scene.

Li Da was obviously trying to scare Du

Yining by killing Chen Hao—he wanted her to be obedient so that they could proceed with the next part of their plan.

"What's wrong, Miss Du? Are you scared?" Tiger Lei sneered.

"D-Don't kill me, please!" Du Yining's voice was trembling as she pleaded.

"Hahaha. What if I tell you that only one of you can survive between you and this man?" teased Tiger Lei.

Du Yining immediately took a few steps back. "Kill him, obviously. He's just a servant. Burn him, because I'm still useful alive!"

"Hahaha!" The crowd laughed hard when they saw Du Yining's actions.

"Stop laughing and start working. This is a great opportunity for Miss Du to witness such a bloody scene!" Tiger Lei waved his hands.

"Yes, Boss. The man probably is probably scared silly! He did not show any response at all until now but soon, his terrible cries would be heard!"

One of the subordinates walked toward Chen Hao with an evil smile.

The servant loosened up his neck muscles and said ferociously, "You're going to die soon, young man. Say your last words now!"

"Shh!" Chen Hao was still concentrating on his thoughts while he made a shushing gesture to signal him to keep quiet.

"What's this? What are you doing?" The servant was taken aback by Chen Hao's gesture.

"The ancient site that you people mentioned, is it the one located about seventy miles away in an underground hole in the desert?" Chen Hao asked.

Tiger Lei was dumbfounded. "What? How did you know that, young man?"

The location of the site was a big secret!

"You don't have to care about how I figured it out. Oh right, you were talking about taking this lady here with you? That wouldn't work, she needs to take me to my friends!"

Chen Hao was using his mental energy to search for a place nearby which was full of spiritual energy and he managed to identify one of the locations; judging from Tiger Lei's expression, it seemed like the location of the ruins was right.

"You bastard, are you touched in the head? You'll be dead soon. There are over seventy men in my manor and they could definitely kill you with minimal effort. How dare you negotiate with me? You're not being smart here, dumb*ss. Do you think you can threaten me by simply naming the exact location of the ruins?"

Tiger Lei shook his head, speechless. His men glanced at Chen Hao and sneered.

The edge of Chen Hao's lips lifted slightly as he said, "I'm not negotiating with you. I've expressed myself very clearly. My words are the law when it comes to you. If you refuse to listen... then I'll kill all of you!"



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"Hahaha, Boss! I'm sure that this guy is a madman, there is no question about it!"

Everyone rolled on the floor laughing.

Not just the bystanders, even Du Yining was staring at Chen Hao as if he were a fool.

There was really something wrong with this guy.

It would've been wise for him to just drop on his knees and beg for forgiveness, but instead, he was blurting out nonsense.

In the beginning, Du Yining had some sympathy for him since he was at death's door, but now, even she had no sympathy for him anymore.

This fool is courting death, she thought.

"Master Li Da, I've laughed enough. I only wanted to call him out because this is an extremely serious matter. I did not expect this guy to make a joke out of it. Fine, bring him out. Let Miss Du see him for herself!"

Tiger Lei shook his head, smiling bitterly.

The corners of Li Da's mouth lifted with a hint of mockery as he walked up to Chen Hao.

He grabbed Chen Hao by his shoulders, preparing to trip him up and toss him into the fuel tank.

However, he was soon taken by surprise.

He realized that no matter how much force he exerted on the young man in front of him, he would not budge at all.

He felt like he was hauling a huge mountain instead of a man.

His strength seemed so insignificant against this young man.

Was he hallucinating?

Li Da was astonished.

He was the expert of experts. His Iron Palm had already been perfected; he could decapitate a cow with a swipe of his hand.

How could he not handle a young man?

"Hahaha..." Chen Hao chuckled as he

looked at him.

The chuckle and the gaze in Chen Hao's eyes sent chills down Li Da's spine. "W-What are you laughing about?" asked Li Da, surprised.

"I'm laughing at the whole lot of you," said Chen Hao. "It's such a pity that you guys are so certain that you can kill me. What's more, you even let me in on such a big piece of news like this!" Chen Hao shook his head.

Then, with a slight shudder from his body, there was a loud bang.

Li Da's Hegu tore instantly, as he was greeted by a strong gust of Inner Energy.

Li Da slammed hard onto the ground.

His shirt shredded into pieces and he was in a very bad shape.

Bruises surfaced on his arm, swelling up in an instant.

He was crippled!

His entire arm had been crippled!

Li Da stared at the young man in front of him with disbelief, gulping frantically. Was he a human or a monster?

Tiger Lei's eyelids twitched violently as he took a few steps back.

He was clearly gobsmacked by the scene.

Du Yining also covered her mouth in shock.

She thought that he was merely a loser—a foolish loser.

She did not expect him to be this remarkable, as if she was in the presence of a god.

Everyone now looked at Chen Hao differently, because they could feel a strong killing intent slowly enveloping them.

"Don't you dare act foolishly!"

Tiger Lei shouted out, "Brothers, beat him, beat him up! Don't let him move a single muscle!"

He was hysterical.

Whoosh!

Every one of his men drew their weapons. However, with a slight swing of his hand, Chen Hao sent all the weapons flying out of their hands.

Everyone was astounded at this moment.

Tiger Lei had been in the underground world of martial arts for years. At this very moment, he knew fully well the capabilities of the young man standing in front of him.

He was like a demon who could take away everybody's life with a single flick of his hand.

"Don't move. Everyone, don't move. Stand back!"

Tiger Lei raised his hand, gesturing at them not to act recklessly.

He then slowly walked up to Chen Hao.

All of a sudden, he dropped to his knees.

"Boss, I-I was wrong!"

Tiger Lei immediately kowtowed with a

look of respect.

"Not bad, you're very smart. Talking to me in this manner is the smartest thing you've ever done in your life!"

Chen Hao had never been benevolent toward people like him.

Only genuine fear from within could make people like him yield.

"I-I was also wrong! Please spare my life. I am willing to serve you from now on!"

Seeing Tiger Lei kneel, Li Da saw it as an opportunity to escape this ordeal.

He quickly knelt and kowtowed to Chen Hao.

"Who are you to think that you're worthy to serve by my side? You're not even worthy to be a slave!"

Chen Hao shook his head.

"Please spare my life!"

Li Dao had kowtowed until his head started to bleed.

"This is a fuel tank. Didn't you say that you wanted to set me on fire? What a coincidence, I have never witnessed such a method of murdering people. I must see it for myself today!" exclaimed Chen Hao sarcastically.

As soon as he finished talking, Chen Hao raised his hand and Li Da was sent flying into the fuel tank.

With another flick of his fingers, a ball of flame shot into the barrel.

Bang!

A huge cloud of flames formed in an instant, along with Li Da's shriek that sounded like a pig being slaughtered.

"Ah!"

Du Yining held her hands over her head as she shouted out in terror.

Tiger Lei and the rest of the bodyguards swallowed their saliva frantically, cold sweat trickling down their backs profusely.

The person in front of them was a living monster.

Everyone dropped to their knees; nobody dared to look Chen Hao in the eyes.

Some of them even wetted their pants.

"That's right. You should've spared me the nonsense just now!" said Chen Hao with a smile on his face.

After that, he turned to Du Yining and asked, "Miss Du, I was not joking just now. If you really know where my friends are, please bring me to them!"

Du Yining gulped nervously. She was lying to him; she had no clue where his friends were at all.

She was scared that she would lose her life if she told the truth.

Then again, if she did not tell the truth, she would also end up dead.

After thinking about it for a moment, Du Yining decided to tell the whole truth. "I-I haven't seen your friends. I was lying to you. I'm sorry, please forgive me. I will never lie to you again!"

"Could they really be at the archaeological

site which you guys mentioned? I heard from the manager of the restaurant that the person who sent him off wore the same outfit as your men!" asked Chen Hao sternly.

"P-Perhaps it was Young Master Xu from the Xu Family who sent him off. The Xu Family and the Du Family have this marking on their chests!" answered Tiger Lei, hanging his head.

"Are you sure about that?" asked Chen Hao with a frown.

Tiger Lei nodded. "I'm sure of it. You can ask the Boss's friend if there were three women and two men."

"Fine!"

It had been three days; being a soul will, Ziyan should have exited Su Ruoxi's body already.

Chen Hao nodded.

"Then there's no mistake about it. Two days ago, Young Master Xu hired a few experts. They seemed quite skilful because they were the ones who helped

out at the archaeological site! I've met those people a couple of times before. They told me that they were waiting for several others. I was thinking, the people they were waiting for must surely be even more skilful!"

Tiger Lei gulped with the thought of this. "Could you be the person they were waiting for?"

"Yes, you will bring me to them!" said Chen Hao calmly, folding his hands.

Tiger Lei was trembling in fear as he nodded profusely.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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It was in the living room of the Xu Family's manor.

A middle-aged man and a younger man were seated on opposite sides of the sofa. There were seven other people dressed in black, discussing something in a serious manner.

"The archaeological site will be the most groundbreaking discovery of this generation. Thus, we must approach it warily. The seven of you have your own respective capabilities. I will need help from you guys for the days to come," said the middle-aged man with a smile, raising his tea cup.

The middle-aged man was Xu Wendong, the patriarch of the Xu Family who had the power of a wealthy family. He was an evil and cruel person, who had dedicated his life to theology, utilizing the help of different dark forces to gain power through the years.

Meanwhile, the young man was Young Master Xu—Xu Shuai. He had inherited Xu Wendong's traits, perhaps even surpassing his father. At such a tender age, he was already known for his ruthless character

despite his gentle appearance.

He was Xu Wendong's only son.

These seven people were the experts with capabilities of their own whom the fatherson duo had recently hired.

The group of seven consisted of six men and one woman.

Evil intent permeated from their bodies immensely.

The Xu Family thought that the archaeological site they discovered was a huge ancient tomb. However, opening the ancient tomb with the strength of the Xu Family alone was no mean feat.

Thus, they joined forces with the Du Family, the Xu Family and a few other families to open it together.

They would then share the treasures with each other when they managed to get their hands on it.

Of course, the Xu Family's father-son duo had their own plans. Distributing the wealth was out of the question, so they

had planned out their own means of disposing the other families afterward.

However, what took Xu Wendong by surprise was that it was not an ancient tomb at all; it was filled with magical treasures.

They had to keep these treasures to themselves because every item in there was priceless.

Their original plan had been going smoothly until some strangers from out of town decided to stop by a few days ago.

They were extremely curious about the tomb, and quickly discovered the secrets of this hidden within; they even helped the family enter this magical cave.

There were men and women in the group of strangers, but three of them in particular had caught the father and son's attention. There was the woman with a divine look, the middle-aged man with knife scars all over his face, and another middle-aged man who had been silent all those while.

The three of them looked like people

whom they should not provoke.

However, it was not wise of them to confront them directly.

Thus, they had no choice but to invite them to open the tomb together, and dispose of the three of them at one go.

This explained everything that was unfolding.

"President Xu's prestige is widely-known. You have spent so much money to hire us, the Tianshan's Seven Beasts. Have we reached the terrifying stage of disposing those people you instructed?" asked the head of the Seven Beasts calmly.

"That's right. If not, I wouldn't have troubled the seven of you!" replied Xu Wendong.

"Then, enlighten us about your plan, President Xu!" said the head of the Seven Beasts. He was an old man who squinted his eyes while smiling faintly.

"I do not know how this group of people managed to discover this magical cave, but they have already entered the place.

Nonetheless, what I'm asking from you is relatively easy. I know that you guys have a deadly poison called the Tianshan Silkworm Poison, which is a type of poison mist. There is no stopping this poison. I was thinking about releasing this poison in the magical cave. To ensure everything goes as planned, I will need all of you to enter the mist and kill every one of them. After that, bring the bodies out and I will share the treasure with the seven of you," suggested Xu Wendong smilingly.

The Seven Beasts did not fear poisons like this. After hearing Xu Wendong's proposition, they nodded, feeling that the plan would work.

At this moment, a servant walked in respectfully.

"Old Master, President Lei brought a young man to meet you!"

"Oh? Sure, invite them in!"

Xu Wendong let out a smile.

Meanwhile, the Seven Beasts had vanished from the sofa in the blink of an eye, as if they had never been there.

Xu Shuai's eyelids twitched after seeing this.

Chen Hao and Tiger Lei walked in. Du Yining soon followed suit.

"Who is this, President Lei?"

"This is Young Master Chen, Chen Hao!" introduced Tiger Lei respectfully.

"Young Master Chen is here because he is looking for the few experts whom you invited over a few days ago. They are friends of Young Master Chen. At the same time, he would like to visit the magical cave as well!"

Tiger Lei was so obedient, not daring to breathe heavily in front of Chen Hao.

However, Xu Wendong had some clue as to what was going on, especially after hearing that the people in the cave whom he was preparing to poison were Chen Hao's friends. He dreaded at the thought of that.

"Oh, so they are your friends!"

Xu Wendong put on a smile, reaching his

hands out to shake hands with Chen Hao.

"Spare me the nonsense. Bring me to them!"

After sweeping the room with a stern glance, Chen Hao turned his gaze toward Xu Wendong, whose eyes also had a cruel intent.

He then said calmly, "Know your place!"

Looking at Chen Hao's boastful manner, Xu Shuai was infuriated.

"Xu Shuai, mind your manners!"

However, Xu Wendong quickly intercepted. "Fine, since you'd like to have a look at the magical cave, I will ask my men to bring you there!"

Although he looked compliant on the outside, he had actually seen this coming.

He then asked his men to bring Chen Hao to the location.

A few moments after Chen Hao departed, Xu Shuai slammed the table furiously. "Dad, why did you stop me from me

arguing with that little brat?"

"You're being reckless. Don't you forget, those men are people with capabilities as well. Although that young man seemed like there was nothing out of the ordinary about him, did you not notice Du Yining and Tiger Lei staying silent in front of him? He is obviously a man of hidden abilities!"

These were the sort of things that Xu Wendong could figure out with a glance.

"What should we do then?" asked Xu Shuai. "Are we really going to bring him to the ancient tomb then?" he said with a frown.

"Of course not. To prevent any loose ends, I've hired seven masters to kill him during the journey. After that, they will poison those people in the tomb and our work is done. Humph, Tiger Lei and the Du Family will be useless by then!" said Xu Wendong with a smirk.

In the meantime, the Seven Beasts who vanished moments before had reappeared once again, each squinting their eyes while sitting in a composed manner.

This was something every expert had to cultivate. By shutting their eyes and conserving their energy, they were able to enter another remarkable state.

"The young man has superb talents. If it wasn't for you, President Xu, I would have taken him in as my disciple and given him some training. It's a pity that you want him dead!" said the elderly leader with his eyes closed.

"Thank you for your help!"

Xu Wendong was delighted. He raised his hot cup of tea, getting ready to raise a toast using tea instead of wine.

The old man swifty raised his hand, effectively turning Xu Wendong down. "There's no need for that. We will be back in no time. You can leave the tea here; it won't get cold!"

The old man put on a bitter smile.

Whoosh!

They disappeared into thin air.

There was only a teenager left on the sofa,

sitting with his legs crossed. He was the tail of the Seven Beasts.

"Why aren't you joining them, Mr. Yin Jun?" asked Xu Shuai curiously.

"The six of them will get the job done. I am responsible for staying behind to collect our rewards from you once the task has been accomplished," answered the young man—by the name of Yin Jun—with a smile.



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Chapter 706 The Underworld

Chen Hao was on the way to the location in a car which Xu Wendong had arranged for him.

However, the driver stopped halfway; he decided that he did not want to drive anymore.

He pulled the car over before lighting up a cigarette. Then, he glanced through the rear-view mirror and smiled.

"Why are we stopping? We're not even there yet!" asked Chen Hao calmly.

"I know we're not there yet. I just don't feel like driving anymore. I'm tired and I want to take a rest!" said the driver teasingly.

"You only drove for a while and now you're tired? I know you simply don't want to drive. Don't make me repeat myself, you better start driving. You can go wherever you want when we reach our destination. Don't look for trouble!"

Chen Hao shook his head.

Truth to be told, Chen Hao did not want to kill people unless he had to. After all, life was precious.

If not, Chen Hao would have killed his way here, saving his time instead of talking nonsense with all these people.

"Haha, do you really think you are someone of power?" the driver snickered.

He glanced at his rear-view mirror once again, and six people had appeared behind the car. They were like ghosts, appearing out of thin air.

"I get it now. Xu Wendong ordered you to kill me halfway. That's why you have such guts, am I right?"

Chen Hao chuckled as he shook his head.

"That's right. This is President Xu's plan. You're really unlucky, boy. Just get down from the car and accept your death!"

After the driver finished talking, he hopped out of the car before running to the side. He crossed his arms while watching the entire scene unfold with an evil smile.

"What should we do, Young Master Chen? There are six of them, and they look like ghosts!"

Tiger Lei, who was sitting beside Chen Hao, started to panic.

"What is there to be scared of? Even if they really are ghosts, I shall disguise myself as Zhong Kui!"

Chen Hao sniggered before stepping out of the car.

"Guys, was Xu Wendong the one who sent you to kill me? Are you going to kill my friends after killing me as well?" asked Chen Hao, smilingly.

"Indeed, I was right. You're a really smart young man. It's a pity that I have to kill you!"

The old man shook his head.

"I agree. Plus, you're so good-looking. Why don't you give me some pleasure first, before I kill you!" said the woman among the group of six, sticking her tongue out lustfully.

"Sister, stop fooling around. Let's get the job done as soon as possible," said the old man. "We will kill him first, and then we'll go to the magical cave to kill the rest of

them."

The old man looked at the woman in an irritated manner.

"Actually, there is something that has been bothering me for quite some time. I was wondering if you guys could help me figure it out?" asked Chen Hao curiously.

"Oh? You're a dead man anyway. There's no harm in helping you out with your confusion. However, you only have two minutes. After that, your life will come to an end!" said the old man.

"I have always been puzzled; I have met countless experts like you, but why is it that every one of them believes that they can kill me? They even feel extremely proud of their plan and intelligence," asked Chen Hao, as if he was seeking guidance from them.

"Allow me to answer this question. The people you have stumbled upon this time are President Xu and his son, who are very much skilled at trickery. Furthermore, you are in the presence of six of the world's most highly-skilled experts. Thus, they can decide whether you live or die, when and

where you'll die!" replied the driver with a faint smile.

"I agree, President Xu is a cunning man. I'm guessing he already made plans to kill the six, seven of you later on? That is, if they can successfully kill my friends!" asked Chen Hao.

"W-What are you talking about?" The color quickly drained from the driver's face.

Meanwhile, the six of them ignored Chen Hao's nonsense. They felt like their intelligence had just been insulted.

"That's enough. Your two minutes are up; it's time for you to die!" said the old man.

The old man raised his hand.

If everything went according to plan, this technique of his would emit a gust of wind which could penetrate Chen Hao's every organ.

However, he was astonished when he realized nothing happened after swaying his hand.

It was as if his Inner Energy had been

dispersed.

"H-How is this possible?"

His eyes went wide with a look of disbelief.

The other five people swiftly summoned their respective techniques after seeing this.

To their surprise, their techniques were just as futile as their leader's.

They could not inflict any damage onto Chen Hao.

"W-Who are you exactly?"

Staring at the sinister smile on Chen Hao's face, they took two steps back in fear.

"I told you so, you guys thought that you could kill me. However, you are just dust in my eyes. At this very moment, I simply cannot tolerate such dust!" Chen Hao shook his head.

As soon as he finished talking, he flicked his finger which sent a violent wave of air out.

Whoosh!

The wave of air was powerful and violent, eddying sand and dust in the air.

It split the air, making high-pitched whistling sounds as it headed toward the six of them.

The six of them tried to flee; they knew for a fact that this wave of wind would shatter their bones.

This person in front of them was not human at all!

However, they felt as if their bodies had been filled with lead; they could not move a single muscle.

With a howl of the wind, the six of them were left paralyzed.

Their eyes went wide as they watched their brains tumble onto the ground.

"What?"

The driver who was standing at the side was dumbfounded.

This person was so powerful!

"D-Don't come near me!"

The driver was trembling in fear.

"Didn't I ask you not to look for trouble?
Being alive is more important than
anything else. This is the reason I am so
puzzled. Why is it that no one ever listens
to my advice? You guys could have lived
happy lives, yet you are here flirting with
death himself."

Chen Hao shook his head, smiling bitterly.

Thump!

The driver immediately dropped to his knees. "Mister, please spare my life. It's my fault for not knowing what a powerful person you are!"

The driver swiftly kowtowed to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao lifted his leg, slowly stepping the back of the driver's head before wiping the dust off his shoe.

"It's too late!"

As soon as he finished talking, Chen Hao's foot gently exerted a little bit of force on the driver's head.

Crack!

The driver's head immediately split open.

It was no question that he was a dead body.

Tiger Lei's eyelids twitched uncontrollably at the sight of this, nearly wetting his pants.

"Drive, let's get on with our journey!" instructed Chen Hao with eyes closed as soon as he got into the car.

They were approaching the magical cave.

"Ziyan, is this the end of the magical cave? I wouldn't have believed it if I did not see it with my own eyes. How can such a magical place exist in this world!"

Chen Pingan and the rest of the group arrived at the humongous cave.

They were deeply astounded by everything they saw because the place looked like a

magical underworld.

There was a floating jungle, countless treasures levitating in the air, as well as a giant abyss right in the center of the cave. Nobody knew where it led to.

Meanwhile, there was a huge stage floating in the middle of the abyss.

Everything was just magical.

Chen Pingan had experienced and seen many things before, but this was the first time he had ever seen a place like this in his life.

It was apparent that Luo Ziyan was also astonished, but she was more composed than the rest.

"This is the place!"

Luo Ziyan nodded.

"What?"

Chen Pingan was confused.

"This is the place which houses what Chen Hao wants?" asked Chen Pingan curiously.

Luo Ziyan nodded but did not explain any further.

"Miss Goddess, when will Young Master Chen be arriving? If I had known earlier, I would've stayed at the hotel and come together with him!" said Li Ba.

"Soon, he will be here soon!" Luo Ziyan let out a faint smile.

Soon after, everyone could hear the Xu Family's men screaming in pain from outside of the cave.

"He's here!" said Luo Ziyan.



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The minute she stopped talking, she saw a shadow gradually closing in from the deep tunnel far ahead.

As soon as Chen Hao showed up in front of everyone, Li Ba's eyes lit up. He could not help himself but yell, "Young Master Chen, it really is you!"

Chen Pingan smiled faintly.

At the same time, his pupils contracted slightly after taking a good look at Chen Hao.

"Chen Hao, what happened to your cultivation base?"

Chen Pingan was shocked.

It had only been a few days since they last met, but the changes in Chen Hao had reached a petrifying stage, so much so that he felt suppressed just by standing in front of Chen Hao.

Could what Ziyan had said be true, that Chen Hao was no ordinary person?

"Uncle, Ziyan! I'd been asking around and finding my way. I've finally managed to

meet you guys," said Chen Hao, nodding and smiling.

At the same time, he raised his head to take in the misty world that was suspending in the air, only to be astonished by it.

"I've discovered a lot of magical tools along the way. I would have never thought that this space—which is like a whole new world—has so many hidden nooks in it. Ziyan, Uncle, how did the both of you come to discover this wonderful place?" Chen Hao asked.

"Ziyan was the one who discovered it first and she brought us here. She mentioned that you have some connections to this place," said Li Mumu while looking at Chen Hao.

Ziyan had been possessing Su Ruoxi's body. After a brief moment of recovery, she had left Su Ruoxi's body, becoming her own independent individual.

"I have connections to this place?" Chen Hao asked curiously after listening to what his uncle had said.

Ziyan hurried off that night, which was why he did not have the chance to clarify things with her, including everything about the Essence of Nine Cycles.

"Yes, Chen Hao. There are a lot of secrets concealed within you. As a matter of fact, The Celestial War God is just a part of you instead of the other way around," said Zi Yan, noddingly.

"What do you mean?" Chen Hao asked in shock.

"This has to do with a great secret which I discovered along with the Celestial War God tens of thousands of years ago. I've never told anyone about it, and this is the main reason why the Celestial War God and I have come to Earth," Zi Yan exclaimed.

"Is this secret related to me too?" Chen Hao asked subconsciously.

Ziyan nodded unexpectedly. "You're right, there is a direct link between you and this secret. To be exact, the Celestial God War and I are here to look for you. However, we neglected time complications back then, and we were caught in a turmoil halfway

during our journey, leading to our fate here."

"The Celestial War God sacrificed himself to save me and I retained a gleam of my soul will," Luo Ziyan said sorrowly.

"Why were you looking for me? Moreover, how did you know of my existence from that many years ago? I wasn't even born yet," exclaimed Chen Hao.

"I am not sure on how to explain it to you, but I can tell you this. You've never actually vanished in the first place. It is just that you'd existed in a different form of life during a certain period of time," explained Luo Ziyan.

"I had been to the Gu family to save my two brothers. When I was there, I came across something. I heard them talking about the Essence of Nine Cycles, and that I had awakened the potential of the first cycle at that moment! That is why my strength has advanced by leaps and bounds in three days, to a point which I would never have imagined," said Chen Hao.

Chen Pingan was listening by the side and

he was taken by surprise. "No wonder you seem like a totally different person in just a few days!" he exclaimed.

He was absolutely delighted.

"Yes, that's right. There are certain things which are useless for them to hide, because you will still find out in the end. Everything is fated, and The Celestial War God told me that no one is able to escape from fate. Even he himself, as the strongest being who dominates the realm, can never escape from his own fate!"

Luo Ziyan added, "The Essence of Nine Cycles is a power strong enough to destroy any limits!"

Uncle and Li Ba were both startled. "Destroy limits?"

"Yes, you heard me right. There will be no limits, and there will be no end to it. The strength of the power is unparalleled and there isn't any limit to its power. As a matter of fact, the Essence of Nine Cycles is rumoured to be able to perish the unreachable," said Ziyan.

Everyone was truly in shock.

Even Chen Hao himself was stunned.

"Is this the reason why the King of Nine Doors wanted to capture me so that he could obtain the Essence of Nine Cycles for himself?"

Chen Hao finally understood everything thoroughly.

"Yes. Actually, the King of Nine Doors is just an epitome. The number of people who want this miraculous power is more than you could ever imagine," Luo Ziyan explained.

"However, I've never met any people out of the ordinary or experienced any peculiar incidents since young," said Chen Hao after refreshing his memories.

"That's because these people have no understanding and no fear toward the power you possess. They are afraid that you will trigger your power and by then, a lot of people will lose their lives in your hands. You will begin to slaughter like a madman, which will be a total disaster," said Luo Ziyan.

"From what you've said, I gather that the

Celestial War God is not my pre-life?" Chen Hao asked tentatively.

"He could be in a way, but not exactly. Your existence is the reason why the Celestial War God was destined to perish.

Nonetheless, you and him are two independent individuals; the similar nature between the both of you is that the Celestial War God possessed the Essence of Eight Cycles, while you are a possessor of the Essence of Nine Cycles at the ultimate stage," Zi Yan explained.

"Ziyan, does that mean Chen Hao was created by the Essence of Nine Cycles?"

Chen Pingan was deep in thought.

"It is the complete opposite of that. It is Chen Hao who completed the Essence of Nine Cycles!"

Chen Pingan stared blankly. "According to what you have just said, does that mean that Chen Hao possesses a very strong power?"

"Yes, a power that will terrify countless people," Luo Ziyan said.

"But how did the Essence of Nine Cycles come about?"

Chen Hao exclaimed shockingly, "I have awoken the first cycle, but it isn't as strong as what you've described! Perhaps I seldom meet opponents who are at my level!"

Chen Hao forced a smile on his face.

"There are a lot of theories on the existence of the Essence of Nine Cycles. Some said that it evolved from a master's Invulnerable Body, but this claim was denied by the Celestial War God. After an investigation, we found out that there weren't any records on that!"

Luo Ziyan shook her head and continued, "However, we retrieved an important clue. If we are able to acquire the Stone of Fate and activate it, countless myths will be debunked. Besides waiting for your appearance after coming down to Earth, we were also searching for the Stone of Fate, seeking for answers. Unfortunately, a lot of things have not been accomplished!"

"As for what you were saying earlier, you might have awakened the first cycle of

your endowment, but have never experienced the terrifying power of the first cycle; you only felt your cultivation base growing exponentially. I'm afraid this may have something to do with your previous encounter. I realized that your Foundation was already ruined the first time we met. Someone has destroyed it before you had awakened it," said Luo Ziyan.

"Destroyed? How is that possible? I have never had contact with any mysterious master. Who could have destroyed my Foundation?"

Chen Hao was shocked.



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According to Ziyan's explanation, the Foundation was the main root of cultivation; much like the source of water, it was the very core of all foundations.

If one's Foundation was destroyed, that would mean that the person would only be able to rise to a certain limited height in terms of cultivation through hard work, but never be able to reach the peak.

As for the awakening of his Foundation, in simplified terms, it simply referred to the pure Yang energy that he would obtain from his awakening of the Way of Heaven, according to Master Ghost's words.

Ziyan had said that the Way of Heaven he had awakened, or in other words, his Foundation, was actually a destroyed Foundation instead.

This was the reason why his cultivation was still far from Ziyan's expectations, even though the first cycle of his powers did grant him great improvements.

"Then what should I do? Does it mean that I have already reached the ceiling of cultivation and I can't improve anymore?" Chen Hao asked curiously.

"There's always a solution! The Dragon Blood Jade and the Stone of Fate can help you restore your Foundation to how it was in the beginning," said Ziyan as she looked at Chen Hao with a gentle smile on her face.

"I have the Dragon Blood Jade; it is truly mystical. As for the Stone of Fate, where should we go searching for it?" asked Chen Hao, who was surprised.

"I had originally thought that we would be wasting a lot of time searching for the Stone of Fate, but things are different now as I do believe we have already gathered together two of the most mystical things in the world," said Ziyan.

"Ziyan, are you saying that you have the Stone of Fate?" Chen Hao couldn't help but break into a grin as he spoke.

"Of course not! But we can find the Stone of Fate in this place!"

"What?!"

Everyone was shocked.

"No wonder Miss Ziyan had said 'this is

the place' earlier. So it seems that you had already noticed that this is the place where the Stone of Fate is located!" exclaimed Chen Pingan.

"That's right. I was thinking, maybe we found this place without any hiccups because the Celestial War God was secretly extending his blessings from the shadows." There was a hint of relief in Ziyan's face as she spoke.

"In other words, the mystery that we've been cracking our heads on is about to be unraveled?" asked Chen Hao with intense concentration.

"That should be about it. We will need to wait until after we have activated the Stone of Fate to discuss further."

Ziyan pointed at the suspended platform in the air. "Hao, let's enter the platform and try to activate it together!"

With that said, she had already levitated herself up onto the platform.

Chen Hao followed suit and landed on the platform; he noticed that there were actually many fine lines spread out all over

this empty and spacious platform after he set foot on it.

It seemed to be a gigantic Feng Shui compass that was being suspended in the air.

"This is the magical array that summons the Stone of Fate. A really strong and unyielding force is needed to activate it. Neither you nor I can achieve it by ourselves, but we can activate this array by working together to control the force of the Dragon Blood Jade, and direct its power to the magical array!" Ziyan explained to Chen Hao.

In the past, Chen Hao had already noticed how extraordinary the Dragon Blood Jade was. Now it seemed that the method of using it was even more peculiar. It also seemed like he wasn't able to unleash the full potential of the Dragon Blood Jade and its many powerful abilities with his current abilities.

At that moment, they concentrated their energy together, and both of them were united in their power.

Soon, Chen Hao noticed how the Dragon

Blood Jade illuminated the entire array with its golden light; the originally obscure array immediately became blindingly bright. It radiated an azure glow that began moving toward the center and condensing there. Not long later, a blue crystal the size of an adult's fist appeared before them with a burst of energy.

"This is the Stone of Fate?" Chen Pingan could barely hide the amazement in his heart.

Chen Hao felt its energy from such a close distance; he was also deeply shaken.

The brilliance of the Stone of Fate gradually dimmed and as Chen Hao raised his hand, the stone slowly fell into his palm, emitting a gentle and warm energy.

"This thing is extraordinary even by just its outward appearance. I can clearly feel the great strength it possesses as I hold it in my hand! Ziyan, my family once owned the Sun Totem that could be used in divination. Does this Stone of Fate also have properties of divination?" exclaimed Chen Hao.

"Yes. However, its abilities are not only

limited to divination. Now, using the Dragon Blood Jade as a medium, try to communicate with the Stone of Fate and ask the question that your heart desperately seeks the answer to. I too want to ascertain whether this Stone of Fate is really just as mystical as the rumors say!" said Ziyan.

"Okay!"

Chen Hao did just as she had told him to.

At that moment, when he shut his eyes, a stream of light passed through the Dragon Blood Jade into the Stone of Fate. After that, Chen Hao opened his eyes once more.

Just like Ziyan, he quietly anticipated any changes in the Stone of Fate.

The stillness lasted for only a moment, then the Stone of Fate began to float in his hand and emitted a bright blue light.

This burst of light made both Chen Hao and Ziyan take an involuntary step back.

Then, the blue light began forming a curtain of light before their eyes. It seemed

to be some sort of screen; it was translucent, much like a mirage.

A vast ocean was being projected on the screen.

Thoroughly surprised, Chen Hao watched on silently.

The ocean was big and empty. With the tranquil night sky as its backdrop, its stillness aroused a certain wariness in people.

Some time later, a large passenger ship slowly sailed across the calm ocean under the night skies.

Two girls could clearly be seen engaged in conversation on the prestigious A Class deck of the ship as they observed the limitless night sky.

This scene was very idyllic indeed.

Yet tears clung onto the corners of Chen Hao's eyes; his heart was a delicate jumble of ups and downs.

It was on this passenger ship—and not any other random ship—where he had lost

Tongxin in a strange incident. The very Tongxin that he had lost, was one of those two girls standing on that A Class deck.

This was the night that Tongxin got involved in the peculiar incident!

Chen Hao felt an inexplicable sense of chaos in the depths of his heart.

Chen Hao knew that Tongxin was captured by the League of the Sun, but as for how they pulled it off, or how exactly did this shady League of the Sun come to existence in this world, these were things that Chen Hao didn't have the slightest clue about.

So at this moment, he gathered all of his attention and intently watched the scene unfold.

Very soon, changes to the scene could be observed.

A large whirlpool had formed at the front of the passenger ship amidst the continuously rolling waves.

This whirlpool was like a large mouth seeking to devour the passenger ship as it

pulled the ship closer and closer.

One could certainly see that at that time, Tongxin was extremely helpless. Her classmate who was standing by her side was pushed into a state of hysteria. Tongxin tugged on her classmate's hand, trying to coax her into calming down.

Splash!

A gigantic wave was being stirred up, then, an incomparably large bronze colored spaceship emerged from the depths of the abyssal ocean.

Chen Hao was already exceptionally familiar with this ship—it belonged to the League of the Sun.

They directly swallowed up the poor passenger ship, then promptly vanished to the bottom of the ocean once more!

Chen Hao couldn't hide his agitation. Right now, he held deep hatred for the fact that he couldn't just rush into the screen, and jump in to rescue the people, not even caring if he could actually succeed in saving the people.

The image gradually became distorted due to the extreme fluctuations in Chen Hao's emotions.

"Calm down, Hao, these things have already happened a long time ago!" Ziyan gently held onto Chen Hao's palm, allowing Chen Hao to slowly regain control of his unstable emotions.

The scene continued to change.

This time, a different location was displayed.

It had morphed into a picture of a desert island...



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It was truly a mystical place, being surrounded by mountains and a multitude of strange flowers.

Chen Hao recognized the place as soon as he set his sight on the island.

This was the Nameless Island.

It was where the Holy Water Ritual was being held.

I'm afraid that Grandfather and the rest have already entered this place.

Chen Hao was now quite familiar with how the Stone of Fate was supposed to be used.

First of all, it would search the depths of the user's heart; whatever was in the user's heart, or whatever things that the person dearly yearned for, they would all be automatically reflected on the screen one at a time.

As for the matters regarding Tongxin and his grandfather's Holy Water appointment, they were all starting to reveal themselves.

There was a dazzling statue of an upside-

down Lady in White on Nameless Island. This only served to make Chen Hao more certain of himself—this was most definitely the Nameless Island, where the Holy Water Ritual was located.

However, there was no sight of even a single person no matter how long Chen Hao waited.

Surely it couldn't be that Grandfather and the rest haven't made their way to their destination yet? Chen Hao was perplexed.

He focused his attention on the statue of the Lady in White for now.

"Ziyan, what does this stone statue have in relation with you? Or maybe I should say, why did you appear on this island?" Chen Hao took this opportunity to ask her that question.

"This island is a sealed location, not too far from the Sea Palace. As for me, I was pressed down by this statue beneath the Sea Palace!" said Ziyan as she looked at the image indifferently.

"Then what about the Holy Water Ritual? Rumor has it that this place had been

active since the early days. All those who were invited possessed the cultivation levels of a Grandmaster, instead of someone like those from the Gu Family of the Mystique Clans. To be honest, I've always had this idea on my mind, that even if there is some conspiracy regarding the League of the Sun, whoever it is that they were targeting should also be akin to those from the Mystique Clans like the Gu Family since there are certainly a lot of experts there!" exclaimed Chen Hao.

Ziyan patiently explained, "Hao, the Mystique Clans are unorthodox because they used external forces in order to alter their cultivation base. They aren't the same as those who rightfully trained their inner energy like a Grandmaster, who relied solely on cultivation! By comparison, the Grandmasters are much stronger!"

"The existence of the Holy Water Ritual is actually due to the holy pond on this island. It is one of the entrances to the Border Realm!" said Ziyan.

"The entrance to the Border Realm? The pond of holy water that could originally grant immortality was actually a place where one could enter another realm?"

Chen Hao nodded his head in understanding. "Doesn't that mean that those who went through the Holy Water Ritual may not have perished but were taken to another realm?" The realization suddenly dawned on Chen Hao.

"Yes! At every appointed time, the Border Realm would replenish itself by introducing new blood that was well-suited in order to maintain and expand the realm! Li Ba was one of those who were introduced!" Ziyan looked at Li Ba as she spoke.

"How did that place come to exist?" Chen Hao was even more curious now.

"I've told you before, this Border Realm is not some separate dimension. Similarly, it belongs to the Earth, and the people of the Border Realm are also humans. If you wanted to talk about the differences between the two, then you could also say that the Border Realm is the world within the earth, and here, is the world on the outside of the earth! Some tens of millions of years ago, many devastating catastrophes had occurred within the heavens and the earth. These catastrophes that occurred one after

another had ended one era after another—the Cultivation Civilization was just one of the many. After the Cultivation Civilization had undergone a few more catastrophes, the genuinely rare treasures and essence of the civilization had died out completely. In that era, also known as the final stages of the ancient civilization, the people back then managed to discover the land underneath the Earth solely due to their strong will to survive. That land underneath the earth was also known as the Border Realm!"

Ziyan continued, "They have been separated from the rest of the world since then. It was rumored that no more humans were seen on the Earth after that, because the Earth was inhabited by the strange beasts from the Cultivation Civilization. But in the end, even those strange beasts were unable to survive the heavenly tribulations. Of course, countless years later, when humanity finally resurfaced and exchanged some favors with the Border Realm, the realm specially supported a select few cultivators. Although they did not have the Foundation in their bodies, they were also able to attain a certain degree of cultivation!" Ziyan was very detailed in her explanation.

Chen Hao nodded his head. "Could the Mystique Clans possibly be traced back to this?"

Ziyan nodded her head with a smile. "Yes, correct! Actually, the Nine Doors is a chess piece that the King of Nine Doors had laid down since a very long time ago in order to prepare for your appearance!"

Chen Hao was deeply lost in his thoughts.

"Ah!" Li Mumu, Su Ruoxi and the other girls who were quietly watching the scenes on the other side suddenly let out a yell.

"Hao, look!"

Even Uncle appeared to be strangely tense as he gestured for Chen Hao to look at the unfolding scenario on the Nameless Island.

Traces of people had appeared on the Nameless Island.

Of course, this was not why they cried out; the real reason for their shout was because the people who appeared on Nameless Island were not living people but were a crowd of corpses who had all

died tragic deaths!

They were the Grandmasters from various lands that they were looking for when they first set out on this journey.

About a hundred of them formed a group of the dead; it was an extremely tragic sight to look at.

Chen Hao's eyelids were twitching madly.

Grandfather!He was really shaken because Grandfather was one of the people in this group.

Chen Hao observed carefully and noticed Mo Canglong's body amidst the crowd. Based on his appearance, he seemed to have been struck in his chest by a palm, leaving a gaping hole behind. Bizarrely, that mirror of his had actually appeared by his side once more.

Chen Hao had already entrusted this magical artifact to Grandfather, so how on earth could it have fallen back into Mo Canglong's hands?

However, the thing that really caught Chen Hao's attention was the fact that Mo

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Canglong's magical artifact was broken into pieces.

"They've all died!"

Uncle nimbly leapt up onto the platform; one could easily see that his current expression was extremely uneasy.

Without waiting for Chen Hao to finish his detailed scanning, the picture morphed once again.

This time, it depicted the Palace in the Sands; this was the place where God was buried.

Chen Hao was fairly familiar with this location as he had been here before.

Is the Stone of Fate trying to imply something?

It had gotten exceedingly quiet and a strange sensation grew from the silence.

What is it trying to tell me? I've already sealed off this place.

The scene did not stay on the screen for long this time, for it was quickly replaced

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by another picture.

"The Chen Family!" Without waiting for Chen Hao to speak, Uncle's eyes twitched as he exclaimed.

"Huh? Uncle, you know where our family's residence is located?"

"Yeah!" Uncle simply nodded his head and didn't say much about it.

However, his gaze slowly went out of focus, seeming to be in deep thought.

Chen Hao looked toward the Chen Family's residence. Right now, he could feel that same strange sensation that the tomb had previously brought him—it was also eerily silent.

Similarly, the usually lively Chen residence was devoid of all signs of life.

Soon, this image also disappeared. It was instead replaced by the infinitely vast starry skies. At its deepest point, Chen Hao could see that super huge spaceship of the League of the Sun slowly moving into his line of sight once more.

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Much like a ghost, it wandered aimlessly in the universe...



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The scene lingered for a while. When it faded, the Stone of Fate dimmed and slowly returned to Chen Hao's hand.

"Ziyan, what was the Stone of Fate trying to tell us with the scenes? Did something bad happen with the Holy Water Ritual?" asked Chen Hao, sounding anxious.

"Yes, I'm afraid so. The Stone showed us the Celestial War God's tomb and your Chen Family right after we saw those men struggling to complete the Holy Water Ritual. Perhaps it's telling us that something happened at the tomb and your family, and they might be in danger too," replied Luo Ziyan.

Sounding startled, Chen Hao exclaimed, "What? Then we must hurry there before it's too late!"

"You're right, Hao. Now that the Stone of Fate is in your hands, please keep it safe. It's the key to restoring your Foundation and your only hope to quickly strengthen yourself against powerful enemies," reminded Luo Ziyan.

"Sure, Ziyan. Anyway, let's hurry up and find out what's happened at the Celestial

War God's tomb and my home. Besides, I have to look for my grandpa at the Holy Water Ritual. I've searched hard but I couldn't find his body here," urged Chen Hao with a frown.

"Okay!" Luo Ziyan nodded.

Since Chen Hao was in a hurry, they did not stay any longer; he decided to seal the magical cave with a formation so that he could return later on to inspect the magical tools inside.

The sky had darkened by the time they had exited the tomb, and a thought crossed Chen Hao's mind as they were about to leave the cave.

"Oh yeah, Mumu, Jiannan, Ruoxi, it seems the few men from the Xu Family have spread a deadly poison outside the cave while you were inside. I've casted a formation to cut you off from it, but now that we're getting out of here, you'll be defenseless against the poison," said Chen Hao. Then, he sealed their acupoints with a poke to their shoulders.

He then led them out from the cave to find themselves besieged by nearly a hundred

armed men from the Xu Family, who had blocked up the cave entrance as expected.

Xu Wendong couldn't help but step back in disbelief upon watching them emerging from the cave alive as he stuttered, "H-How could you be still alive?"

Beside him stood a grim-looking young man in black who looked shocked as well; his brows were twitching upon seeing them emerging from the cave alive.

The young man in black narrowed his eyes as he spoke, "Well, well. President Xu seems to be telling the truth—you guys indeed are something else. I've never imagined you all to be able to walk out alive despite having taken in the poison from us, the Tianshan's Seven Beasts. You all shall die in my hands then!"

Luo Ziyan couldn't help but shake her head. "Do you really think that you can kill us?"

"It's useless talking to them, Ziyan. I'm rather used to their conceitedness and arrogance," said Chen Hao with a wry laugh. Then, he tried to persuade the young man, "I don't know you, Tianshan's

Seven Beasts, but your six ignorant brothers have died in my hands. I know it's hard to achieve your cultivation base at your young age, so why don't you turn over a new leaf and go back to cultivating in Tianshan? I would advise you against doing evil deeds like this to prevent yourself from ending up dying unnecessarily like those people!"

"Hahahaha!" Xu Shuai burst out laughing before putting on a sinister expression and said, "You must be nuts, lad. Open your eyes and see who're the ones that are going to meet a bad end!"

Just then, the rest of the men pointed their guns mercilessly at Chen Hao with the safety lock off, except Yin Jun, the young man in black, who raised his hand slightly while keeping his eyes still narrowed to slits as though they would never open. "So, you admit to killing my six brothers?" he asked.

"Yes, I did. I guess that suffices to say that I can kill you easily, so let's not fight a useless fight. I'm not in the mood to kill anyone, nor do I have the time, so leave now!"

With his mind in turmoil, Chen Hao couldn't care less about them.

"Leave? Hmph! You must have yet to hear of our prowess as Tianshan's Seven Beasts and that I, Yin Jun, am different from my brothers!" Yin Jun's lips curled into an evil sneer, sending chills down the spines of everyone who saw it; Li Mumu and the girls were so intimidated that they took a step back in fright.

Chen Hao frowned too; this man's cultivation base didn't seem to be that high, so he was certain that he could kill him in one blow, but his unwavering confidence made Chen Hao feel strangely uncertain. Could this man be a hidden master and the strongest among the Tianshan's Seven Beasts?

"In that case, I shall fight and get rid of you, lest we find ourselves in endless troubles after we get out of here!" said Chen Hao icily while curling his fingers.

He didn't use his inner energy as he chose to wait for this man to strike first so that he could see his moves but to his surprise, Yin Jun curled his fingers too, mimicking him.

Huh? Chen Hao was puzzled.

"Didn't I just say that I'm different from my brothers?" As soon as he spoke, Yin Jun instantly transformed himself into a man who looked like an exact copy of Chen Hao, except that the sneer that hung around the edge of his lips looked even more contemptuous.

"Interesting! Your Disguise Technique is unexpectedly swift and clean," Chen Hao commented with a smile.

"Interesting! Your Disguise Technique is unexpectedly swift and clean," Yin Jun mimicked Chen Hao's tone, his eyes still full of contempt.

"So that's your skill?" asked Chen Hao.

"So that's your skill?" said Yin Jun, again parroting Chen Hao.

"It's annoying of you to do that!" Chen Hao frowned.

"It's annoying of you to do that!" taunted Yin Jun, sounding like he was having fun mocking Chen Hao.

"Are you going to mimic each of my moves as well? Alright then, we shall see how far you can do that—and who's the stronger one between us!" Chen Hao shook his head and decided to quit fooling around with him.

"Are you going to mimic each of my moves as well? Alright then, we shall see how far you can do that—and who's the stronger one between us!" taunted Yin Jun again.

Without saying anything further, Chen Hao threw his punch right away with merely one-tenth of his strength; his speed was so fast that it seemed like he had sent countless shadow punches toward him. That attack was so strong that it caused the sandy ground beneath them to crack with the loud boom that ensued from the attack that was directed fiercely toward Yin Jun.

Yin Jun was about to throw his punch as Chen Hao did, but his smirk turned at once into a look of stupefaction upon watching this scene.

"He's so powerful!" he whispered to himself, horrified.

He could not ward off such a huge force at all! It was as if Chen Hao's shadow punches paralyzed him in an instant, rooting him to the spot and rendering him defenseless while endless shadow punches hit him all at once. "Aaaahh!" He was immediately stripped of his disguise as his whole body exploded under the multitude of punches, turning him into a mess of blood and flesh. He was sent flying away looking like a pile of minced meat, properly dead under the overwhelming attack of Chen Hao.

The instant before he died, he felt extremely regretful; he wished that he had known earlier of how strong the opponent in front of him truly was, but it was already too late for regret.

Chen Hao shook his head, speechless. "What's so different about you? All of you, the Tianshan's Seven Beasts, look the same to me!"

Xu Wendong and Xu Shuai were completely astounded by the scene.



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What an invincible being. This man's a monster!

Xu Wendong and Xu Shuai gulped in terror. They had expected Yin Jun to slay Chen Hao and the rest with his unique skill. Instead, he was turned to a bloody pulp with a single punch!

Sh*t! This could be the end of the Xu Family!

Xu Wendong fell to his knees with a thud at once. Being an experienced veteran in the martial arts world, of course he knew the consequences awaiting him and his son!

"Please spare our lives, sir!" he pleaded while dragging Xu Shuai to his knees. "Quick, Shuai! Kneel down to him and plead for mercy!"

These people aren't to be messed with!

"Very well." Chen Hao gave them a thin smile.

"Thank you... Thank you for sparing our lives, sir!" said Xu Wendong with snot and tears all over his face.

"Don't get me wrong—I'm not sparing you. I have given you the chance but unfortunately, you have decided to let it go. I have sworn that anyone who tries to kill me will receive retribution by having their whole families killed. I'm bound to keep my word as a cultivator, so you and your family are going to die as I promised!" said Chen Hao icily.

"What?" Xu Wendong instantly slumped to the ground, breaking out in a cold sweat. How he wished he had never messed with this angel of death, out of all people!

What happened next was simple, for getting rid of these men was as easy as pie for Chen Hao.

He sealed the Celestial War God's tomb with a formation back when he found his resting place as he still had many unsolved questions at the time. Now that most of the mysteries were solved, he came a huge step closer to discovering the secret behind the League of the Sun.

Moreover, the Stone of Fate was now in his hands. According to Ziyan, the Stone would have shown him more clues if it weren't for his Foundation being

destroyed.

Nevertheless, now he must hurry to the Celestial War God's tomb.

The Stone of Fate must have been trying to tell him something by repeatedly showing him the tomb and the Chen Family.

Worrying that the tomb might be in danger, they hurried there, wasting no time.

"I found this place and sealed it back when Mo Canglong was trying to kill me in this sandy valley. Had he not chased me into the Palace of Sands, I wouldn't have found where the Celestial War God is," explained Chen Hao to his Uncle and the rest when they soon arrived at the tomb.

However, as they came near the cave, Chen Hao's brows twitched; the cave which he had sealed with a giant rock had been broken into, leaving a mess behind.

"Oh no!" His heart skipped a beat as he dashed into the cave immediately.

His Uncle exchanged looks with Luo Ziyan, who quickly leaped into the cave to Chen

Hao's side, her feelings exceptionally complicated at the moment.

Chen Hao stood frozen while staring at the chaos inside the cave. The giant python that once lived for more than ten thousand years was now nothing left but a long python corpse; its head was being penetrated, which appeared to be the cause that killed it in one blow. As for the longevity coffin in the cave, it was nowhere to be seen.

"The Celestial War God's remains are stolen!"

Dignified as she was, Luo Ziyan's eyes reddened with tears too.

She had waited for more than ten thousand years to reunite with the Celestial War God, yet now she couldn't even see him for one last time, despite having been through so many obstacles; it was all because of the cruel thief.

It was indeed the last farewell because, according to Ziyan, the Celestial War God's soul had vanished completely over 20 years ago when Chen Hao was born, leaving behind only his remains.

But now, even his remains were gone.

"Who's behind this? This place is well hidden, plus I've sealed this place with the formation from the Dragon Blood Jade!" Chen Hao clenched his fists.

"I've checked from the outside. Your formation wasn't being destroyed by force. Instead, it was undone effortlessly by someone who seems to know this place very well, since he killed the giant python easily after he entered the cave," said a grim-faced Chen Pingan as he reentered the cave and walked toward Chen Hao, who was visibly upset.

Chen Hao could not forgive himself; the Celestial War God had indirectly saved his life, whereas Ziyan had helped him a lot during his journey, yet he failed to reunite them as promised and he even lost the Celestial War God's remains instead!

Glistening teardrops trickled down Luo Ziyan's face and fell onto the giant python's dead body at her feet, while Chen Hao stood silent next to her, blaming himself.

The teardrops fell onto the python's body

with a clear dripping sound.

Just then, something strange happened; the giant python's dead body began radiating green rays of light, which soon condensed into a glowing mass.

Luo Ziyan lifted her head in curiosity, followed by Chen Hao.

Buzz...

The green glowing mass started producing some strange sounds. Then, it actually spoke!

"You're back!" Its voice sounded awkward and fuzzy, but one could still make out the words it was saying.

"Are you the giant python?!" Chen Hao stared at the glowing mass in surprise. It looked very similar to the soul of the Great Ancestor of the Gu Family, whom he saw at the Gu Family the other day.

"Yes, it's me. Sorry for having to meet you in such a manner. I've been struggling to hold onto my soul from dissipating after I died, until I managed to piece them together with the bit of spiritual power that

I've gotten just now," replied the giant python sluggishly.

"What happened here? Don't worry. Since you're able to piece your soul together, I'll hurry to find a vessel that fits you and use my Heaven Abstruse Skills to help you reborn!" said Chen Hao.

He honestly pitied the giant python, who was made into a tomb guardian and was trapped for more than ten thousand years ever since it was little.

Now that it had accomplished its mission, Chen Hao had planned to acquire a piece of virgin forest for it to spend the rest of its life in freedom.

Although it was a beast, Chen Hao treated it as a respectable elder ever since it helped him in the tomb the other day.

"It's too late, Chen Hao. It's been over 20 days since I forced my soul together and used up all my soul energy while waiting for you. I'm now nothing left but a tiny fragment of my consciousness, which will vanish completely from this world as soon as I finish my words." The giant python let out a sigh of despair; Chen Hao could

clearly feel its desire and hopes for the outside world, as well as its sorrowful emotions at the moment.

"No, you won't! I'll save you with all my means!" said Chen Hao hastily.

"I was slain by a masked elder, who stole the Celestial War God's remains to get something from it. Beware of him if you come across him, because he's wicked and powerful, and he knows you very well!" said the giant python weakly.

"A masked elder?"

Chen Hao exchanged glances immediately with Luo Ziyan...



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"Why would you say that he knew Chen Hao well?" asked Luo Ziyan while looking at the giant python as she wiped her tears.

"That's because he knew this place very well. No ordinary mortal can break the formation formed by the Dragon Blood Jade that was given to Chen Hao, yet the elder undid it effortlessly. Also, he repeated Chen Hao's name and the word 'secret' while examining the Celestial War God's remains after he killed me, which to me was proof that he knew Chen Hao well," explained the giant python. "He then took the longevity coffin with him after he couldn't find what he wanted, but he overlooked my tremendous spiritual power as a beast who lived for more than ten thousand years. Even though my body has perished, my soul still remains, thus I saw everything!"

Chen Hao frowned in deep thought at its words. The formation was indeed from the Dragon Blood Jade, and no one else knew this place besides grandpa and Mo Canglong. Wait a minute, what about the mysterious man who hadn't shown himself but left a note to lead me to the longevity coffin?

There is no telling if his grandfather and the others are still alive or not due to the trouble at the Holy Water Ritual. As for Mo Canglong, he was long since dead, thus Chen Hao did not even consider him, which left the mysterious man as the sole suspect. Could he be the culprit then?

But this did not make sense, as the mysterious man seemed to have led him to the longevity coffin out of kindness. Chen Hao remembered very well that the mysterious man had given him numerous clues given by the man back when he struggled to solve the mysteries surrounding the League of Sun.

Chen Hao began piecing together the ins and outs of that day. He thought to himself, I found the longevity coffin thanks to the map he gave me in secret, which he insisted I open myself before seeking Grandpa's help. Because of that, I made a huge leap forward in my cultivation and defeated the Mo Family on behalf of my family. He gave me many hints about Ziyan as well. Did he lead me this far up until now to exploit me or put me in danger? This doesn't make any sense to me—at least for now!

"Hao, have you ever met such a hidden master?" asked Luo Ziyan while looking at Chen Hao.

Chen Hao nodded after a brief ponder.

"Yes, I had. Uncle Qin, my mentor whom I had mentioned before, is one such person."

After giving it some more thought, he continued, "He is very powerful, so powerful that I'm afraid that I won't even stand a chance against him even with my cultivation base now. To be honest, I've never seen his true prowess despite him showing me his abilities every day. I guess that summarizes his abilities pretty well."

His answer alarmed both Luo Ziyan and Chen Pingan, for no ordinary man would have the ability to make Chen Hao feel uneasy with the strength he had now.

"But it couldn't be Uncle Qin. He has always been kind to me, having saved my life and taught me his skills. Besides, why would he do that?"

Chen Hao was at his wit's end; he had even assumed Uncle Qin to be the mysterious man who had been helping

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him in secret, which made him feel very at ease as it had always been whenever Uncle Qin was by his side.

"It sounds odd to me then. Why would he hide from you now if what you're saying is true? Besides, if I'm not mistaken, the destruction of your Foundation was somewhat related to him!" said Luo Ziyan after some contemplation.

Chen Hao's heart ached at her words, and he shook his head. "No, there's no way Uncle Qin would do this to me. I wouldn't believe he's behind all this until I have enough proof to convince myself!"

Just then, Fang Jiannan walked up and pointed at the giant python as she called out, "Look, Chen Hao! The giant python's soul is fading away!"

Chen Hao looked over immediately and without delay, used his Heaven Abstruse Skills to try to save the glowing mass by wrapping his vital energy around it.

"It's too late, Hao. My time has come. Don't waste your vital energy for me! Remember what I've told you—be careful, and keep living!" said the giant python.

"No! I won't let you die like this!" said Chen Hao as he released more vital energy.

"Thank you, Hao. It was a pleasant thing to have met you, a friend in this world who is kind to me and keeps me in your mind..."

With that, the giant python's soul disintegrated into glittering dusts, shimmering like fireflies in the dark before scattering away into nothingness.

Chen Hao clenched his fists, recalling his vow to protect his friends and family from harm. The giant python had helped him the other day despite having met him only once, not to mention now that it had sacrificed its soul just for the sake of telling him that a wicked master had begun making his move; the giant python's sacrifice had ended sadly with its soul disintegrating into nothingness.

Chen Hao trusted the giant python as one of his own, yet he was helpless upon witnessing its death. Moreover, he was tricked into losing the Celestial War God's remains.

Unable to forgive himself, Chen Hao blamed himself so badly that he wished he

could give himself some slaps.

"I'm not blaming you, Hao. You have nothing to blame yourself since this is perhaps predestined. Besides, you have to calm down, for the Stone of Fate has reminded us of the Chen Family apart from the tomb. Since the tomb was broken into, I worry that your family might be ambushed as well. We must hurry to your family!"

Both Chen Hao and Chen Pingan's hearts skipped a beat upon hearing Luo Ziyan's words.

"The Stone of Fate showed the tomb covered in a layer of darkness with an eerie silence, and it was the same with the Chen Family!"

Upon hearing this, Chen Pingan's eyelids twitched.

"Hao, we must hurry back immediately!"

Chen Hao's heart was in his mouth upon hearing Luo Ziyan's reminder.

She was right; since this murderer knew him so well, he must have known his

family too. Could his family be ambushed as well?

The thought made Chen Hao panic instantly.

At Luo Ziyan's instructions, Li Ba stayed behind to bury the giant python's remains and to escort Fang Jiannan and the girls back to the Southern Region along the way.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao would go ahead and return to the Chen Family's residence with his Uncle and Ziyan.

Now with Chen Hao's ability, the return trip to the Chen Family's residence in the Southern Region would take just a few hours.

Miss Shen, Ziyue, and also Qin Ya, who was recuperating from sickness, should be in the Chen Family's residence now. Chen Hao wondered if they were alright.

Although the men from his grandpa's Soul Palace were guarding the Chen Family's residence, if the man, with such terrifying cultivation base that was enough to kill the giant python so easily, planned to do

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something terrible to the Chen Family, then Chen Hao was worried that no one else in the family could possibly stop him.

"That's the island ahead of us!" said Chen Hao as he dashed over with his Uncle and Luo Ziyan.

As his cultivation base was slightly higher than the other two, Chen Hao landed first on the island.

The Chen Family residence now seemed to have lost its usual liveliness; its atmosphere was filled with an eerie silence and there was not a soul in sight on the gigantic island.

Was the Chen Family really ambushed right after the Celestial War God's tomb, as shown by the Stone of Fate?

Chen Hao's heart began pounding heavily; each step forward took him a Herculean effort as he stepped slowly through the front entrance of the Chen Family's residence...

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The Chen Family's residence was dark and still when Chen Hao entered.

He almost stood still in fear, afraid of witnessing once again the previous scene in the tomb, which shook him up as never before.

Nonetheless, he walked in slowly to find the once-lively Chen Family's residence now empty, as if it was abandoned days ago.

Horrified at the scene, Chen Hao immediately used his spiritual sense to detect all signs of life, searching the residence up and down at lightning speed only to find nothing soon after.

He found the entire Chen Family's residence devoid of human presence; this was different from the scene at the Holy Water Ritual, which made him upset as well as relieved.

He was upset at his family's disappearance, yet the absence of dead bodies could not definitively prove that his family had all met their demise, which made him somewhat hopeful that his family was safe and sound.

Chen Pingan and Luo Ziyan could tell Chen Hao's emotions from his dejected appearance alone, especially Chen Pingan, who looked around the yard with mixed feelings.

"They're all missing. I've searched around using my spiritual sense but I couldn't find anyone nearby," muttered Chen Hao while clenching his fists.

"Don't worry, Hao. It seems the situation might be better than we'd thought, so perhaps your family is alright," said Luo Ziyan as she walked up to Chen Hao and tugged at his arm gently.

"But who's behind this? Could he be the same person who stole the Celestial War God's remains? Had my family gone missing because of him?" Chen Hao frowned in thought.

"Hmm?" Just then, both Chen Hao and Chen Pingan sensed something off and turned at once to look at the aged water well in the Chen Family's residence.

They were alerted by a sound coming from inside the well. Moving swiftly, Chen Pingan immediately dashed over, then

stretched his hand and grabbed a man out of the well.

The person was a middle-aged man that was chubby, who was drenched from soaking himself in the well. No wonder Chen Hao could not detect him hiding in the well with his spiritual sense just now, because he was obscured by the overflowing negative energy in the well.

"Who are you, and why are you hiding in my family's well?" asked Chen Hao with a frown.

This man looked unfamiliar; he couldn't be a member of the Chen Family.

But this man seemed to know Chen Hao and immediately knelt before him before crying in agitation, saying, "It's great to see you, Young Master Chen! I am Li Wen, one of the managers from the China Economic Zone."

"Li Wen, why would you hide in my family's well?" asked Chen Hao curiously.

"That's because an issue came up in the China Economic Zone, Young Master Chen, I had tried to set it aside since I

couldn't get in touch with the Chen
Family's headquarters, but the issue
became too alarming to ignore, and there
were rumors about the Chen Family in
danger. So I came to the Chen Family's
residence two days ago to report the issue
but I was startled to find no bodyguard at
the entrance, so I entered the residence
smoothly and saw—" Li Wen panted
heavily.

"Saw what?" asked Chen Hao immediately.

"I saw many dead bodies on the floor.

Most of them were the Chen Family's bodyguards, and heard screams at the back. I panicked and was desperate to find a place to hide when I unexpectedly slipped into the well—" said Li Wen while panting.

"Screams? And you saw many dead bodies on the floor?" asked Chen Pingan.

"Well, not too many—seven or eight of them, perhaps, but there were still screams from the backyard!" Li Wen was still badly shaken.

"So you slipped into the well and stayed there until now?" Chen Hao exchanged

looks with Chen Pingan.

Chen Hao believed Li Wen's story because he just read Li Wen's mind using his Divine Eyes and found him telling the truth.

"You're right, Young Master Chen. Soon after I slipped into the well, I heard someone running in my direction and thought I was going to die as well, so I quickly dived into the water and survived!" answered Li Wen.

"Who would that be?" Chen Hao took a deep breath, his blood boiling with murderous rage.

"I slowly poked my head out the well after that and heard someone dragging the dead bodies. That's all I know since I dared not expose myself until I heard your voice, Young Master Chen!" said Li Wen while crying in grief. "Young Master Chen, how could this be? Who would dare attack the powerful Chen Family?"

Just then, Chen Pingan asked in a grave tone, "You mentioned just now that someone knew in advance that the Chen Family was in danger. Who told you that?"

"It was the few district managers from the China district. They knew it first!"

"What was the issue you wanted to report to my family?"

"I found several area managers transferring the Chen Family's assets in secret. I wanted to report that but I couldn't find anyone, nor did I suspect that the Chen Family was in actual danger!" Li Wen fell to his knees and wailed.

"Those men seem to know some secrets about this," said Chen Pingan.

Chen Hao nodded. "I'm going to nab and question them now!"

"Don't you do that, Hao, or you'll alert them before we could get to the bottom of this. They must be secretly transferring the Chen Family's assets for a reason, but here's the thing—the position of the Chen Family's district managers had always been passed on from father to son. The district managers have been loyal to the Chen Family for generations. They would never betray the Chen Family, even more so when the Chen Family is in danger, so do not be rash until we find out the truth,

Hao!" said Chen Pingan after contemplating for a while.

Chen Hao nodded while staring at Chen Pingan, looking curious. "You seem to know about the Chen Family very well, Uncle."

Chen Hao was very curious since he had this feeling a number of times. He asked, "Uncle, did you know me for a long time? Or perhaps have you known me since I was little?"

Chen Pingan shook his head with a smile. "You're half-right about that, Hao. I've known you for a long time, but not since you were a kid, as you've already been an adult studying at college when I met you. Of course, I've also witnessed every single day of your experience in college," he explained, since he had nothing to hide.

Astounded at his answer, Chen Hao asked in shock and suspicion, "Why would you do that, Uncle? Have you been spying on me?"

"No, I didn't. To be more exact, it wasn't you whom I was spying on." Chen Pingan seemed to have recalled something, for

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his face turned grave as soon as he finished his sentence.

"Uncle, why would you say that you weren't spying on me despite knowing so much about me?" Chen Hao found his Uncle more puzzling than he thought.

"Well, that was because I had been spying on another man who was spying on you!"



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"Another person who had been observing me?" This time, Chen Hao could feel his scalp itch. Apparently, his college life had not been peaceful at all; he'd been monitored in secret the whole time by someone as powerful as Uncle, no less.

To be honest, Chen Hao had noticed that Uncle seemed to know him well since they first met, and him rescuing Chen Hao that night couldn't have been a coincidence. Then, after spending some time with him, Chen Hao realized that Uncle even understood his personality very well.

Sometimes, Chen Hao wanted to ask about this but Uncle clearly didn't want to talk about it. Furthermore, so many things happened after that, so Chen Hao never had the chance to ask again. It was only when Uncle brought it up again that he realized that was what had been going on.

"Mm hmm, I didn't know how long that person had been watching you, and I only discovered him after you left Ping An County. After you started Year 1 at college, he started appearing more frequently and once you'd revealed your identity, he practically observed you twenty-four seven. I was worried he'd do something to

you, so I've always wanted to find out why he was following you. So for convenience, I disguised myself like this and infiltrated your cafeteria as a back-of-house cook!" Chen Pingan let out a dry laugh.

"Our cafeteria? But I've never seen you!"
Chen Hao couldn't recall anything of the sort but at the same time, he was amazed that such an all-powerful person was right inside his own cafeteria.

"Of course. Why would you have focused on me at the time? Besides, as a back-of house cook, I'd have to go out in secret even if I wanted to!" Chen Pingan said.

"Then why did you look for me on campus, Uncle? And what did you originally look like?" Chen Hao felt like Uncle was telling him a truth that had been hidden for a long time.

"Yes, I'd originally planned to reveal my identity to you only after I've figured out what this guy's deal was, but I suspected that those incidents were the work of this same person! I'd believed he was aware of my existence and after so many years, I've grown accustomed to this face of mine. I didn't even tell Jiannan the whole truth out

of fear that it'll be leaked to this man behind the scenes. But I suppose that's unnecessary now!" Chen Pingan said seriously. Then, wth a curious look at Chen Hao, he raised a hand to his ear and slowly tore off his skin mask to reveal an extremely handsome face underneath.

Yes, Uncle was a middle-aged man but 'handsome' was the only appropriate word that could be used to describe his face.
And more importantly, his true face sent a shiver throughout Chen Hao's entire body.

"U-Uncle Pingan?" Chen Hao's heart was beating wildly, because the person he was looking at looked just like the Uncle Pingan he saw in the photo, and that was unbelievable.

"Do you know who I am now, Xiao Hao?" Chen Pingan said.

"Uncle Pingan, is that really you? But I thought you'd..." Chen Hao said, breathing heavily.

"I'll explain more about this to you in the future. Right now, our concern is tracking down your parents and to investigate the incident at the Holy Water Ritual! He took

everyone in our family in one go and I don't know what his intentions are, but I think for now, they should be safe. Murder does not seem to be his motive," said Chen Pingan as he analyzed the situation calmly.

Chen Hao nodded solemnly as he gave an emotional look at Chen Pingan, then hastily asked, "Then have you fought this mystery man or found any leads on him after all these years?"

Chen Pingan's gaze shifted for a moment before he replied with a light cough, "Well, none so far. I have no idea who he is but now that he's appeared, I think we'll see him again soon. Actually, we now have an important lead—the area managers know how the Chen family fell, and that is the key!"

"Yes. If this is the mystery man's doing, I'll have to get him no matter what!" At that moment, Li Wen suddenly shuddered and fell to the floor weakly. "He's been soaking in the well for so long, he has suffered damage to his internal organs. Uncle, let me help him first!" Chen Hao said as he carried the unconscious Li Wen to a room within the villa.

Meanwhile, Chen Pingan worriedly scanned his surroundings. "Are you from the Border Realm too? The League of the Sun took you there, didn't they?" Luo Ziyan asked as she stared at him.

"Nothing gets by you, Miss Ziyan. No, actually, I should call you Goddess!" Chen Pingan bowed slightly toward her.

"Yes, your cultivation base and Li Ba's are quite similar. Oh, and why didn't you tell Chen Hao the whole truth just now?" Luo Ziyan asked curiously.

"You mean the identity of Chen Hao's stalker? I wanted to but first of all, it's only speculation at this point. Secondly, Chen Hao has been through so much physical and mental torment that if I told him my suspicions under such uncertain conditions, he'd probably wouldn't be able to take it!" Chen Pingan shook his head worriedly.

"In truth, you also find it hard to accept."

"Yes. Hopefully, it'll all work out in our favor!"

"Understood, but Chen Hao's suffering was

actually predestined because from the moment of his birth, he was destined for greatness, and not a commoner's life!" Luo Ziyan said.

"Hmm, then what do you think he should do from now on?" Chen Pingan asked.

"His Foundation was destroyed, which means he can go through hellish cultivation and still fall short of being able to fight those people. I'm really worried about what happens next."

This is what Chen Pingan was worried about too. According to his judgement, Chen Hao's family and his were in no mortal danger at the moment because the mystery man had likely simply planned to hold them hostage. So Chen Hao was in for a lot of trouble and with his current cultivation base, he'd never stand a chance against those experts.

"Uncle Pingan, Ziyan, what are you talking about?" Chen Hao walked out at this moment.

"We were discussing your destroyed Foundation." Ziyan looked to Chen Hao.

"I know it's destroyed, but right now I only want to investigate my family and the Holy Water Ritual. I've also got to find my grandfather as soon as possible, so I'm in no state to worry about restoring my Foundation at the moment!" Chen Hao said, frustrated.

"But if it's not restored, even if you found out what happened, you'd just get into more trouble without the ability to defend yourself. Restoring your Foundation is your only option to overcome all these challenges!" Luo Ziyan advised.

Chen Pingan nodded. "She's right. I think that our main concern is to repair your Foundation as well. To be honest, both of us are counting on you."



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"Alright, I understand you boh. And you said the Stone of Fate can restore my Foundation, but how? I've done some research and apparently, even an unstable Foundation can be tricky to restore as it may risk severely affecting the whole cultivation process. Besides, we're talking about completely restoring a destroyed Foundation here, so that would be even more difficult!" Chen Hao felt that there was a very small chance of him succeeding because it was so difficult. Even with a miraculous item such as the Stone of Fate, he had a hard time believing he could really restore his Foundation.

Luo Ziyan nodded. "True, it will be difficult to restore your Foundation, but not impossible. The Stone of Fate is the key due to its powerful ability to manipulate time and space."

"Manipulate time and space?" Chen Pingan shared a look of disbelief with Chen Hao.

"That's the Stone of Fate's essential ability and Celestial War God himself told me this back then. Using this ability, you can return to the past at a suitable point, and bring the potential you had back to the present.

Theoretically, this would allow you to achieve the Way of Heaven before your Foundation was destroyed!" Luo Ziyan said.

"That sounds unbelievable. It means this Stone of Fate is one of Earth's greatest treasures!" Chen Pingan nodded a little shakily.

"Yeah. Wouldn't that mean time travel is functionally possible to rectify our past mistakes?" Chen Hao asked curiously.

Luo Ziyan shook her head. "That's not doable. I just mentioned that the Stone of Fate's essential power was space-time manipulation, but its essence would gradually deteriorate once it's used until the Stone itself disintegrates completely. So after completing the time travel, there will be a fixed point in time where it disintegrates after bringing you back to the present. Once that happens, the Stone would then cease to exist!"

"So it can only be used once." Chen Hao nodded.

"Mm hmm, things look bad now and the King of Nine Doors will not give up easily,

not to mention there's a mystery man eager to make his move from the shadows. Chen Hao, we don't have much time and the Holy Water Ritual may be conducted at the entrance to the Border Realm, but the situation is too difficult to grasp at for you to barge in without the proper strength to fight them. So before you obtain the absolute power required to do so, I would advise you against acting rashly. Otherwise, all our efforts will have been in vain!" Luo Ziyan advised.

This gradually calmed Chen Hao down. He worried a lot about his grandfather, whose life still hangs in the balance after the Holy Water Ritual. Honestly, if it were in the past, he'd have rushed to locate him, but now that he was a calmer person, he realized that Ziyan was right. His strength was nowhere near an overlord's and even if he did go, he'd only risk his life like he did the other day with General Black. If he'd thrown his life away like that without accomplishing anything, then his family, grandfather and Tongxin would have truly lost their hope.

"But Ziyan, I'd like to postpone the restoration effort for a week so I can head over to Jin Ling and investigate the district

managers. Otherwise, I wouldn't rest easy," Chen Hao said. With him not knowing whether his family was dead or alive and having such an important lead dangling in front of him, even the most composed person would find themselves uneasy.

"That can be arranged, because the Dragon Blood Jade is necessary to cultivate the Stone of Fate. It'll take at least one whole day, so you'll need to be quick with your business while your uncle stays behind to back me up!" Ziyan said, after some thought.

"Alright, Miss Ziyan. But I still have one more question—if Chen Hao can really return to the past, which point can he return to and how long can he stay there?" Chen Pingan asked.

"Only the point where it's most suitable, so that the awakening can be achieved perfectly. The fact is, Chen Hao's awakening came only after his Foundation was destroyed and that made it pointless because he'd only awakened to access his Foundation when there was none. I've checked his situation and he'd have to travel at least 2 and a half years back. As for the exact point, we'll have to see how

compatible the Dragon Blood Jade is with him. He'll be fine so long as the Jade sends him back to a certain point through the Stone of Fate, but there's one thing he must do—wait for 7 days regardless of which point he is sent to, awaken the Way of Heaven, then immediately return!" Ziyan said.

Chen Pingan nodded. Meanwhile, Chen Hao recalled that 2 and a half years ago, he was still a broke student instead of a young heir; also, the Sky Stone was at the Cloud Hill Mansion! Would he mess up the timeline if he'd revealed his identity earlier?

Out of concern, he asked Ziyan this question, who patiently replied, "That's the second thing you must do—do not attempt to change the results of past events. For example, if you knew something would happen to your friend and you interfered to change that, you'd be sent back to the present by force. Of course, this has nothing to do with the event's timing, so even if you weren't an heir when you initially traveled back, revealing yourself earlier wouldn't affect things because the end result—your transformation from a broke student to the rich heir—would still be the same."

"Then I don't need to worry. I bought the Cloud Hill Mansion as Young Master Chen, so I can still buy it anytime I want after travelling back, so long as the end result is me purchasing the mansion?"

"Yes, exactly. Two more things, though. First, the timeline may be a bit scrambled and out of order when you go there, and it's incredibly likely. You'll have to improvise as you go instead of forcing things to happen a certain way."

"Got it!" Chen Hao nodded.

"Secondly, there will still be a past version you when you go there. You'll have to figure out how to replace him temporarily. The two of you cannot meet face to face, or the Stone of Fate will break and we'll have worked for nothing," Luo Ziyan added.

"Got it, Ziyan. I've understood everything you said!"

"Good. If you don't have any more questions, we'll need to hustle. Remember, come back here before tomorrow at midnight!"

Without wasting another moment, Chen

Hao rushed to Jin Ling. Ever since his cousin took control of the China Economic Zone, the headquarters was moved to Jin Ling. So if he wanted to find them, he'd have to look there.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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It was already evening when Chen Hao had arrived in Jin Ling at the headquarters building. The Economic Zone's deputy general managers were Zhenguo and someone called Zhong Wuyan, both loyal to the Chen Family; it was especially so for Zhenguo, who Chen Hao was familiar with. According to Uncle Pingan's judgement, something could have gone wrong with them, so he needed to investigate properly.

"Sorry, sir. Both Mr. Zhong and Mr. Li are absent until tomorrow morning. Even if they were present, I can't simply allow you to meet them!" said the receptionist politely. Although her tone was courteous, the hint of mockery in her voice was obvious. Who the hell are you to ask to meet these two bigshots?

"Call them and say Chen Hao has arrived!" he said simply, not wanting to waste his time.

"What? You're Young Master Chen, Chen Hao?" Several front-desk staff immediately stood up straight and looked at him with disbelief.

"Can you make the call now?" Chen Hao said coldly.

"Alright, Young Master Chen, I'll call... the security instead!" The staff sounded friendly at first, but she suddenly switched to a mocking tone, making Chen Hao frown.

"What are you looking at, idiot? How dare you impersonate Young Master Chen with that outfit? Do you know how many people are walking around Jin Ling, claiming to be Young Master Chen? Where do you think you are right now? How dare you be this insolent!" the staff yelled. "Security, get this troublemaker out of here!" she said, then threw down her pencil.

Immediately, several guards surrounded Chen Hao and was about to make a move on him when he looked at them and sighed. If neither Zhenguo nor Zhong Wuyan was present, he might as well come again the next day.

It wasn't that Chen Hao wasn't angry; in fact, no one who insulted him could get away with it but for one thing, these people were his own employees, not to mention there wouldn't be a point to punishing them. Technically, he could simply reveal himself and show off to them so long as he could prove his identity, but he saw no

point in doing that since he was too frustrated to deal with them. So, he did nothing.

"Alright, since they'll only be back tomorrow morning, then I'll come back to see them tomorrow!" Chen Hao shook his head with a bitter smile, then left with one hand in his pocket.

"Damn, who's this kid? His outfit is so cheap, but he sure has a big attitude!" The guards exchanged looks and shared mocking smiles.

A female receptionist reminded the guards by saying, "Probably an asylum escapee, with his stupid look. If he dares come tomorrow, you all had better stay alert and keep Mr. Li and Mr. Zhong from meeting this man. Otherwise, we'd be fired. Remember, there's a big meeting tomorrow so we can't afford to make mistakes!"

The guards promised her by replying, "Don't worry. If he does show up, we'll show him the door!"

Meanwhile, Chen Hao had exited the place and planned to head for the Hot Spring Villa when he met several young men and

women. "Hey, man!" One of the more elaborately-dressed girls called out to Chen Hao with her finger pointing at him, making him stop in his tracks.

"Aren't you what's-his-name?" The girl scratched her head in thought. Chen Hao glanced at her; she seemed pretty, but the point was that he didn't seem to know her.

"What's my name?" Chen Hao asked.

"Wait, let me think. Oh yeah, didn't you graduate from Jin Ling College? Do you know Yang Hui?" she asked.

"Yep! We shared a dorm, but do I know you?" Chen Hao asked.

"Haha, that's right. I knew you looked familiar!" The girl smiled.

"Who's this, Weiwei?" The other girls crowded around curiously with crossed arms and their handbags slung over their shoulders. Looking Chen Hao up and down, they thought he looked handsome, but his whole impression was ruined by the complete lack of a noble air!

"He's a roommate of someone from my

town. I remember him because he was always clearing trash and running errands for money. He was quite poor," Li Weiwei said as an introduction.

"This is quite normal. Every school has someone like him, if you know how to look. From grade school to college, you'll always find that one person like him regardless of which school you go to! That's where the saying 'great minds think alike, but fools rarely differ' came from!" a handsome guy from beside Li Weiwei piped up. The guy was wearing designer-brand athletic clothing.

"Haha! Yang Ming, you're sure smart with your mouth. How did you make even such a saying sound so sagely? Haha, no wonder Weiwei likes you!" the men and women burst out laughing.

"So what are you doing right now? I heard Yang Hui's actually made it big and even started his own listed company! Are you two still in touch? You don't look like he's been paying you any attention," Li Weiwei asked curiously. Coincidentally, she'd also been looking for ways to contact Yang Hui since as his friend in high school, they naturally came from the same town.

In high school, Yang Hui was quite popular and she'd always liked him, but things changed after they went to college. How could she put it? She'd basically gone through an ugly duckling transformation and her tastes became wildly different from what she liked in high school, especially because people who seemed cool in high school often became nobodies in college. It was even worse once they entered the workforce, where the cool kids truly disappeared into mediocrity.

As such, her feelings toward Yang Hui changed with every new life stage she went through— from admiration to ignorance to condescension. By the time they neared graduation, Li Weiwei barely bothered to speak with him and had even deleted his contact details, thinking he'd amount to nothing more than a salaryman once they graduated.

To her surprise, she heard that he'd become the boss of a company that was listed on the stock exchange, and thus she bitterly regretted deleting his contact details. She'd been thinking about asking around for his contact details when fate itself seemed to work in her favor, and

she'd bumped into Yang Hui's old roommate. What a godsend!

Sure, she was a divorced woman with a new boyfriend, but no one could know for sure how things would turn out to be. She thought that maybe if she got in touch with Yang Hui again, sparks would fly; such was the mindset of pretty women like her, always on the lookout for backups.

"We've been out of touch for ages. I have his WeChat details on my phone, but I haven't used my phone since a long time ago," Chen Hao said, instantly realizing what Li Weiwei was getting at.

"Holy crap, have you been living under a rock? Who the hell would believe you not having a phone?" Li Weiwei's eyes went wide.

"I'm serious! And according to my estimations, he'd probably have switched accounts by now?" Chen Hao vaguely remembered asking Li Zhenguo to give Yang Hui a company of his own that was worth several billion in terms of market price. He didn't mind shelling out such a large sum, because their friendship was worth more than that.

However, his words instantly changed the way Li Weiwei looked at him now that he'd exhausted his usefulness to her. "Hmph, dumb*ss! I should have known Yang Hui wouldn't spare you a second glance in this sorry state, you piece of trash! What a waste of my time!" she yelled.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chen Hao merely glared at her, not even bothering to deal with such a woman before he set off toward the Hot Spring Villa. Of course, he went there so that a staff member who knew him could call Li Zhenguo on his behalf, and not for the accommodation. After the call was made, Li Zhenguo seemed to become fearfully respectful once he realized it was Chen Hao.

"Yes. There are some things that you'll have to explain to me when you come back," Chen Hao said simply.

"Understood. I'll return at once and give you a personal report on the matter," Li Zhenguo said hastily. Judging by what he said, Uncle Pingan was right about the incident being a deliberate act and not coincidental; Zhenguo definitely knew something about the matter too. Meanwhile, noticing that Zhenguo's tone seemed a little flustered, Chen Hao didn't pry further and simply waited for his return on the next day.

The next day, when he came straight to the Hot Spring Villa and waited for Li Zhenguo, he walked around the villa and recalled the funny incidents that occurred here back

when he'd just restored his identity as Young Master Chen. In hindsight, those were truly good times.

As he walked through the villa, a noisy voice reached his ears. "Are you blind? Do you have any idea how much this top cost me?"

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to, really!"

"Hmph, how can they hire some riff raff in such a big villa? Even if they did, couldn't they have found one who watched where they were looking? Bloody hell, what do you want me to do now?" A girl seized a server by the collar and jabbed her in the forehead; they were surrounded by champagne that was spilled all over the floor.

By the looks of it, the server had accidentally spilled champagne after being bumped into and losing her balance, but Chen Hao didn't think much of it because incidents like these were very common in any place of entertainment, and he was sure the management staff would be able to handle it well. However, when he took a good look at the people involved, he froze.

What a coincidence! It was Li Weiwei, Yang Hui's high school classmate that he met on the previous evening. Of course, Chen Hao was surprised not by her but by the server being seized because after he took a closer look, he realized that she was none other than his own former classmate, Hao Lanlan.

Upon realizing who she was, Chen Hao's eye started twitching. Back when they were both poor students, they'd worked together for some volunteering projects. Her family was not well-off at all, but she was a resilient person with exceptional grades.

At the time, the two of them were quite close, so Chen Hao curiously approached them when he saw that she was here.

Meanwhile, Li Weiwei was screaming as if she'd dressed up nicely for the first time and had her shirt ruined, and her attitude of treating the mishap like a grave insult was turning her initial jabbing to full-on shaking. She was even planning to slap Hao Lanlan when Chen Hao dragged the poor girl out of the way, and her slap missed.

"You?" Li Weiwei asked, finally noticing Chen Hao. She was surrounded by the same people from the previous day, except there was a bespectacled boy he'd never seen before, who had a hand in his pocket and an indifferent smile on his face as he watched the scene.

"That's enough. Don't cause a scene here!" Chen Hao was not close to these people, so he didn't hold back his annoyance.

"Chen Hao?" Hao Lanlan exclaimed, feeling extremely shocked as her breathing became heavier. She hadn't heard from him in so long and only knew that he was now a capable young heir, so of course she would have never imagined that she would one day become associated with him. In that moment, Hao Lanlan was shocked to see him again, to the point of falling completely silent.

"I say! Isn't Hot Spring Villa supposed to be the best villa in all of China? It's bad enough they have such a mindless server, but now they're letting in just about any commoner from the streets? Am I missing something here?" Li Weiwei said with surprise. After all, being able to enter this place was practically a status symbol on

its own, and she considered Chen Hao's existence here a grave insult.

"Exactly! How did he get in here?" the other girls chimed in, clearly agreeing with her.

"Yi, can't you get the manager to boot these two out!" Li Weiwei said.

"No problem. If you find it annoying, then all I have to do is say the word," the bespectacled boy called Yi said, then took out his phone and actually made the call.

"Oh, you're really trying to get me kicked out? Am I hearing this correctly?" Chen Hao asked as he smiled bitterly.

"Just you wait, loser!" Li Weiwei snapped. Meanwhile, Yi had just got off the phone and was shaking his head at Chen Hao and Hao Lanlan.

"Chen Hao, they bumped into me just now and I lost my grip on the server's tray," she hastily explained to Chen Hao, terrified of losing her job.

"It's alright. You could have smacked that tray onto their faces and still get away with it," Chen Hao said, then smiled.

"What?! Is something wrong with your head, loser? Did you just say that you wanted to hit me?" Li Weiwei said, angered.

After a while, a middle aged man who seemed to be in his forties jogged over, all sweaty and out of breath as he called out respectfully, "Young Master Chen!"

Chen Hao had never seen him before; he seemed to be a newcomer, so Chen Hao didn't know what position he held in the villa, but with a hand stuck in his pocket, he still said anyway, "These people are not welcome here at the villa. Send them out!" The girls froze when Chen Hao said that. What kind of bigshot was he to be able to even command the villa's director?

"Young Master Chen, I thought you were arriving at noon? I didn't expect you to arrive so soon!" The man took one look at Chen Hao, then ignored him as he clasped Yi's hand with reverence.

"My friends here got antsy. Besides, the villa is so big that we can't possibly complete a tour in one afternoon," Chen Yi said with a faint smile.

At that moment, the girls all burst out laughing. "Oh, I was scared to death!" Li Weiwei patted her chest as she laughed.

"Oh? How so, Miss?" the man asked, confused.

"Haha, didn't you hear what this dumb*ss said, Director Zhao? He thought you were calling him when you said 'Young Master Chen', and asked you to kick us out of here! Oh, this is hilarious!" Li Weiwei clutched at her stomach.

The other girls joined in the mocking as well. "I know, right? Look at him, pretending he's the real boss around here!"

"Oh. I was wondering why this kid interrupted me when I was calling for Young Master Chen," replied Director Zhao coldly.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 718 Here I am, Young Master Chen

"Director Zhao, my friend does not wish to see this person. Please show him the door so that he doesn't tarnish our manor's reputation!" instructed Chen Yi with a smile.

"No problem, Young Master Chen. You were classmates with General Manager Li's son back in high school, so we will listen to all your instructions here. Don't worry, I will drive this brat out right away!" answered Director Zhao complacently.

"Hey little brat, are you going to leave willingly, or do you want me to ask my men to beat you until you get out of here?" asked Director Zhao mercilessly.

Li Weiwei and the rest looked on with their arms across their chest.

"You're chasing me away? Director Zhao, are you new in Jin Ling?" asked Chen Hao in return, infuriated.

"What do you mean by that?" Director Zhao squinted his eyes.

"Do you know who is the owner of the Jin Ling Villa?" asked Chen Hao. "Haha, who doesn't? Everyone knows General Manager Li Zhenguo owns the place!" exclaimed Director Zhao.

"That's right, who here doesn't know that General Manager Li Zhenguo owns Jin Ling Manor? You're asking a stupid question!" Li Weiwei sounded dumbfounded.

Director Zhao added, "Judging by your looks of a loser, you sneaked in here, didnt you?"

"If General Manager Li is the owner of the Jin Ling Manor, then who is General Manager Li's superior?" asked Chen Hao nonchalantly.

Li Weiwei did not give an answer right away; General Manager Li was the top person in China's business industry, so why would he have a superior?

However, Director Zhao's expression became one of distress.

"General Manager Li's superior would naturally be Young Master Chen!"

Director Zhao suddenly had a look of panic

on his face as he answered Chen Hao in a respectful tone.

"Young Master Chen? Director Zhao, are you talking about the Young Master Chen of Jin Ling who was so widely discussed in our school previously?" asked Li Weiwei in shock.

Yes, of course she had heard of stories about Jin Ling's Young Master Chen before. In fact, every student in Jin Ling College had heard of the story, knowing full well that he was the true definition of the second generation of a wealthy family.

However, only a handful of people knew Young Master Chen's true identity. Hence, when Li Weiwei heard that Young Master Chen was the superior of the reputable General Manager Li Zhenguo, how could she not be surprised?

"Weiwei, I have also heard of this person before. It is rumored that this guy is very good-looking and countless women fell in love with him at first sight!" The rest of the women held their hands over their mouths, astonished.

"I would never have thought that Jin Ling's

Chapter 718 Here I am, Young Master Chen

Young Master Chen is General Manager Li's superior!" exclaimed Li Weiwei.

"Yes, Young Master Chen is a mysterious guy. He is not someone that people like us can approach easily!"

A yearning look flashed across Director Zhao's eyes.

At this moment, a few luxurious cars suddenly stopped in front of the gate of the manor.

Li Weiwei and the rest of the people were coincidentally standing near the gate, so they could clearly see who it was.

"Oh my! It's General Manager Li's car. General Manager Li and the rest of them are back!"

Director Zhao's forehead was covered in sweat.

"It really is General Manager Li's car.
Young Master Li and I went to the same school previously. I had the chance to meet General Manager Li once, but I wonder if he still remembers me.
Nonetheless, I'll just go and greet him out

of courtesy!"

As the car came to a halt, Young Master Chen adjusted his suit for a bit before striding to the gate while Li Weiwei and the rest followed from behind.

After all, everyone there, including Li Weiwei's boyfriend, had never been through an occasion of meeting reputable figures before, but Young Master Chen was different.

He was good at dealing with people and perhaps he might earn himself some opportunities if he made himself conspicuous to General Manager Li.

This was simply how peoples' minds work; people naturally had utmost respect for the rich and the influenced.

Nobody even bothered about Chen Hao anymore as all of them headed to the gate.

"Chen Hao, everything will be fine, right?" asked Hao Lanlan worriedly.

"What can possibly happen? Don't worry, everything is going to be fine!" Chen Hao forced out a laugh.

After that, he walked toward the entrance where Li Zhenguo and the rest of the people were walking in.

Young Master Chen took a breath in before walking quickly toward Li Zhenguo. "Mr. Li, I'm Yi, Young Master Li's ex-classmate. I wonder if you still remember me," greeted Young Master Chen excitedly.

"Young Master Chen!" Li Zhenguo suddenly sounded respectful as he stood up straight abruptly, showing his utmost respect.

"Hey Mr. Li, you're being too courteous!"

Yi was so nervous that he did not know what else to say. Similarly, Li Weiwei was also so nervous that she bit on her lips. Oh my, Yi must have felt so honored that General Manager Li just addressed him as 'Young Master Chen'!

Damn, Yi was really cool! At the same time, Director Zhao was surprised by General Manager Li's behavior. It seemed like this Young Master Chen was someone not to be messed with since General Manager Li had personally addressed him as 'Young Master Chen'!

"Young Master Chen!"

What surprised them even more was the dozens of high ranking executives of the company who were still standing outside of the entrance behind Li Zhenguo all bowed respectfully and greeted Young Master Chen loudly at the same time.

Yi grew so emotional that even his face paled.

"Mr. Li, s-stop pulling my leg. I'm merely your junior!" exclaimed Chen Yi emotionally; he felt thoroughly delighted on the inside.

"He's right, General Manager Li. Although he's an amazing person, your positions are too high to be greeting Yi like this. He would start behaving boastfully if you treat him like this!" said Li Weiwei after she gathered her courage to interrupt the conversation.

Thud!

What happened next was so shocking that everyone nearly passed out—Li Zhenguo's expression was one of great emotions as he dropped to his knees.

The rest of the rich who had made a name for themselves in China followed suit, simultaneously dropping to their knees.

"This-"

Chen Yi's eyes went wide before taking a step back.

Cold sweat trickled down his forehead; it was at this moment when he realized something was wrong.

This can't be right! Mr. Li and the rest do not seem like they are looking at me. Are they not addressing me?

However, besides himself, who else could they be addressing as Young Master Chen?

Neither him nor Li Weiwei could wrap their heads around this.

"You guys are back? I did not expect all of you to return this early!"

At this moment, a calm voice came from behind Li Weiwei and the others.

"If Young Master Chen has given out an

Chapter 718 Here I am, Young Master Chen

order, of course I will return as soon as I can, even if I'm on the other side of the world!" declared Li Zhenguo with tears in his eyes. He obviously knew that the Chen Family was facing hardship.

Then, Chen Yi, Li Weiwei and the rest followed General Manager Li's gaze and turned behind them, since General Manager Li seemed like he was looking at someone behind them.

"Chen Hao?"

Li Weiwei's eyes nearly popped out of her head as she stared at him.

"Get up and follow me to the study room.

There is something I want to ask you
about!" Chen Hao commanded Li Zhenguo
emotionlessly, not even laying eyes on Li
Weiwei.

"Yes, Young Master Chen!"

Li Zhenguo swiftly stood up.

"Y-Young Master Chen? He is THE Young Master Chen?"

Director Zhao almost wetted his pants; he

was gulping heavily while Li Weiwei started breathing heavily.

Oh my, this person is the legendary Young Master Chen of Jin Ling! No wonder Yang Hui owned a public listed company. So, the person and connection he mentioned was this legendary Young Master Chen! She had a bad feeling about this.

Chen Hao had his hands tucked in his pockets as he made his way to the study room.

As he passed by each person, regardless of their status, every one of them took three steps back and bowed to him respectfully.

Cool! That was way too cool! Every woman there was astonished...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Nobody would have thought that Chen Hao, who was once a poor kid, was actually the esteemed Young Master Chen; even General Manager Li Zhenguo would have to kneel before him. Goodness!

Chen Hao left the scene with the crowd looking on in astonishment; he couldn't care less about these people.

Meanwhile, in the study room, Li Zhenguo said, "Young Master Chen, I'm so glad that you're fine. We thought..." His eyes reddened.

"You thought something happened to me as well, didnt you?" Chen Hao then asked, "Zhenguo, what actually happened recently? I heard you people are transferring the company's assets?"

"Yes, Young Master Chen, but take a look at this first!

Li Zhenguo nodded firmly before carefully pulling out an item wrapped with a yellow cloth from his office bag.

Chen Hao took the item from Li Zhenguo, but as soon as he opened up the item, his eyelids started to twitch.

It was the Holy Water Order!

Wasn't this the Holy Water Order which was given out to the crowd previously by the mysterious group, possibly the League of the Sun?

Chen Hao remembered that this Holy Water Order was the one that belonged to his grandfather.

After stumbling upon some accidents during the Holy Water Ritual, nobody knew whether his grandfather was alive or dead. And now, Chen Hao couldn't help feeling anxious with the emergence of his Holy Water Order at this moment.

"Zhenguo, what actually happened?" asked Chen Hao immediately.

"Young Master Chen, everything started a few days back!" Li Zhenguo started explaining everything to Chen Hao.

So the story went like this—a few days ago, the president of China's Economic Zone, President Yang Xiaobei suddenly received an order from the Chen Family, asking her to head to the Southern Region after handing the business in the China's

Economic Zone over to Li Zhenguo and Zhong Wuyan to manage.

一切都是照旧。

Everything went on as usual until Li Zhenguo received a phone call from Young Mistress Shen Lan herself a few days later.

Young Mistress sounded like she was in an urgent situation. After giving Li Zhenguo a few simple instructions, she hung up hurriedly, leaving Li Zhenguo puzzled by her instructions.

She instructed him, "This matter is urgent because something is going to befall the Chen Family. You must transfer all of the assets in China's Economic Zone to be under your name right away on my behalf. You have to hurry, because all the other business districts around the world are doing the same thing! Quick, you must hurry!"

After emphasizing the same thing a couple of times, Young Mistress hung up the phone.

This explained the scene where Li Wen noticed the two of them secretly

transferring the assets.

Young Mistress was talking in a very urgent tone, so even though Li Zhenguo had his doubts, he did not dare delay the matter because he knew something serious must have happened. Hence, he proceeded to do as instructed, ensuring that he did not cause any unnecessary delay to the matter.

If things had been this simple, Li Zhenguo would not have been this worried.

Soon after he was done with the matters instructed by Young Mistress, Li Zhenguo received a message from her once again, which said, 'The Chen Family is done for. I could be facing danger at any time, and I wonder if Chen Hao is alright. I will be giving you something. You must guard it and secretly find out where Chen Hao is. After that, hand this item to him. All the clues are in there.'

Things happened very quickly, as Li Zhenguo had woken up on the previous night to find this Holy Water Order at his bedside.

The entire sequence of events was just

bizarre to Li Zhenguo, which made him begin to panic; he did not know where to start looking for Young Master Chen.

Just when he was frustrated about this, he was surprised and delighted when he suddenly received a call from Chen Hao.

Thus, he handed the item to Chen Hao as soon as possible.

"Tell me, what else did Lan say, other than she could be facing danger at any time?" Chen Hao frowned, trying to understand the situation.

"She did not say anything else. This was all she told me!" answered Li Zhenguo.

I could be facing danger at any time.

Three days ago, Li Wen witnessed an assailant kidnapping someone at the Chen residence in the morning.

However, Chen Hao noticed that Shen Lan had sent this message in the afternoon.

The Chen Family had already met their end at that time.

This also meant that perhaps Shen Lan was not kidnapped, and she managed to flee the scene; or maybe she did not come back at all, coincidentally escaping the ordeal.

However, she must have foreseen the danger—that was why she gave those instructions to Li Zhenguo.

What is actually going on? What is that person trying to do? thought Chen Hao to himself, holding tightly onto the Holy Water Order in his hands.

Uncle Pingan said that the person who had been secretly watching him in the shadows was the mastermind behind everything that was happening.

What was his objective?

Chen Hao could not wrap his head around it.

"Young Master Chen, the Chen Family's phone cannot be reached anymore. What is going on?" asked Li Zhenguo worriedly.

"Just do as Shen Lan has instructed. Transfer the assets as quickly as possible

and execute the rest of the things as per our previous plan. I will handle the rest of the stuff!" instructed Chen Hao. Then, he focused all of his thoughts on the Holy Water Order.

What did Shen Lan mean by the Holy Water Order containing all the clues?

This Holy Water Order belonged to his grandfather.

Was Shen Lan hinting that something had happened to his grandfather?

Was that the reason the Chen Family was destroyed?

However, the initial prophecy from the Sun Totem seemed like it was true after all—a power had indeed surfaced, destroying the Chen Family as predicted.

If so, was he the next to be gone?

Chen Hao scrutinized the Holy Water Order repeatedly, but still did not notice anything that was peculiar about it.

Thinking about the ritual involving the Stone of Fate on the same night, Chen Hao

decided to go back first, and would decide on his next move after consulting Uncle Pingan about it.

After giving Li Zhenguo some instructions, Chen Hao did not linger around any longer.

As for his ex-classmate, Hao Lanlan, she did not do well after graduating. After seeing the high salary offered by Hot Spring Villa, she decided to work here as a waitress.

Chen Hao then instructed Li Zhenguo to take extra care of her before leaving.

After returning to the manor, Chen Hao informed Uncle Pingan about this clue.

"This is the Holy Water Order. Shen Lan treated dad's Holy Water Order very seriously. She must have known something was coming, so she has hidden herself. The only thing that remains uncertain now is whether she's in any danger. If not, certain things will surely come to light when we find her!" said Chen Pingan. "So, Hao, you have to focus on recovering your Foundation. The faster you recover, the sooner we can get the upper-hand!" added Chen Pingan.

"Understood, Uncle!"

"I will help you discover the clues in this Holy Water Order. Since you're back, help Ziyan in refining the Stone of Fate, then proceed with recovering your Foundation!" instructed Chen Pingan.

"Alright, I will do it right away!"

"Hold up, Chen Hao!"

Chen Pingan was holding the Holy Water Order in his hands; his tone carried a hint of indecision.

"What is it, Uncle?"

"If, and I mean if, your grandfather is still alive, what will you do?"

Chen Pingan was unsure how to phrase his question.

Chen Hao forced out a laugh. "Uncle, if Grandpa is still alive, of course I'd be elated. I'd even look for him as quickly as I can! If Grandpa is still alive, and with you around, the three of us can then save our family and be reunited!"

"Chen Hao, you probably didn't understand what I'm trying to say. What I meant was, the people who joined the Holy Water Ritual are dead. Have you ever thought about why your grandfather is still alive?" asked Chen Pingan after pondering for a moment.

"What do you mean, Uncle?"

Chen Hao was puzzled.



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Actually, Chen Hao had noticed that Uncle Pingan was trying to imply something earlier on.

However, Chen Hao still did not understand what Uncle Chen was hinting at.

If his grandfather was still alive, it would surely be a good news. Why would Uncle Pingan ask him such a question?

Furthermore, his grandfather's Stone of Fate had surfaced now. Chen Hao conjectured that something must have happened to him.

Perhaps the incident of the Holy Water Ritual was directly linked to the mysterious person behind the scene.

Based on the sequence of events revolving around the Stone of Fate, perhaps the mysterious person had gone to the Holy Water Ritual first, then killed everyone there.

After that, he headed to the Palace in the Sands, killed the giant python and took away Celestial War God's corpse.

Then, he kidnapped the Chen Family before they arrived.

Since Chen Hao's grandfather's body was not discovered, he was probably not dead. Instead, this same mysterious man must have taken him as well.

There was no doubt that the mysterious man's end goal was to get his hands on Chen Hao himself.

Only the mysterious expert who slayed the giant python was capable of shattering those magical tools with ease.

Chen Hao had already been thinking about this possibility on his way here.

"Never mind, Chen Hao. You just have to focus on rebuilding your Foundation in peace and don't worry about the rest. We are depending on you for what's coming next!"

Chen Pingan looked like he wanted to say something but decided against it at the final moment. Instead, he just patted Chen Hao on his shoulder.

Chen Hao did not think much about it

anymore. So many things had happened; all he wanted now was to recover his Foundation as soon as possible so that he could inherit the first cycle of the power more perfectly. By then, he would no longer be passive like how he was now.

Thus, Chen Hao went to help Ziyan out first.

According to what Ziyan had said, the Stone of Fate was a magical tool that was formed by the condensation of the energy of the Heavens and the Earth. As time went by, it slowly turned from a form of pure energy into a stone.

It had been endowed with an enormous amount of energy, with patterns of magical formations engraved on it; the stone also had powers that could be used to predict the future.

If a person wanted to use it to time-travel, he would have to reshape the stone, dispersing all of its energy. With the help of the strong controlling powers of the Dragon Blood Jade, time-travel would then be achieved.

But unfortunately, the Stone of Fate could

only be used for time-travel once. After that, it would be the end of it.

With Chen Hao's help, the refining process of the Stone of Fate certainly sped up.

In the blink of an eye, it was already midnight when the Stone of Fate was successfully refined.

"Chen Hao, I will protect you while you enter the Stone of Fate's formation in a moment. You must remember everything that I have told you before this!" reminded Luo Ziyan.

"I will, Ziyan! By the way, can I use my cultivation base?" asked Chen Hao.

"There are no restrictions on this matter. You can do anything you want, as long as you don't change the outcome of things you already know. For example, you can use your cultivation base to teach a lesson to a person who had a grudge against you previously, but you must not kill him if he wasn't meant to die there!" instructed Luo Ziyan.

"Understood!"

Chen Hao gave a firm nod.

"Also, you have to wait for seven days before you can undergo the awakening of the Way of Heaven. In addition to that, don't simply let anyone get near you because you don't know who destroyed your Foundation, and when it was done. Thus, you must take extra care on this matter!"

Chen Hao nodded his head before entering the magical formation.

With Luo Ziyan channeling the energy of the Dragon Blood Jade, blue luminescent light that was emitted when the refining process was done enveloped Chen Hao's entire body, completely covering him in the shimmering blue light.

After that, Chen Hao's body started spinning non-stop as he continuously felt a tearing force that was acting on his body.

"Hold your breath and focus, endure it!" reminded Ziyan.

Chen Hao obeyed Ziyan's instructions; every part of his body was taking in the nourishment and guidance from the Stone of Fate.

The theory behind this process was to completely take apart the person before reassembling him once again using the Stone of Fate.

Of course, the person would have to endure the pain that came with it.

Boom! Suddenly, the dark night turned blindingly bright; streaks of blue lightning flashed across the dark sky outside, as if they were going to rip the sky apart, followed by another loud booming sound.

The lightning flashed into the room and started spiraling round Chen Hao who was enveloped by the blue light, demolishing the furniture in the room in the process.

Luo Ziyan had an unfazed look while Chen Pingan was getting so anxious that his back was drenched in sweat.

"Ziyan, Chen Hao is going to be fine, right? I can't stand this anymore!"

Even Chen Pingan was worried to death at this moment because the scene was just gut-wrenching.

"He'll be fine. If it had been any other cultivators, they might not be able to survive it. However, Chen Hao is not an ordinary being!"

Zap!

Suddenly, the electrical center violently exploded.

With that, the blue light dispersed and Chen Hao was nowhere to be seen.

Chen Hao felt like he was in a state of chaos; he felt like he still had some consciousness, but he had zero control over it.

He was endless wandering in the darkness that was like dark ocean waves, trapping him in the abyss, dragging him deeper and deeper within.

It was only when a bright light shone onto Chen Hao's eyes did he finally have control over his consciousness.

He opened his eyes slowly as the light was glaring.

Chen Hao lifted his hand to block off the

light shining at his eyes. After a moment of adapting to it, Chen Hao glanced around his surroundings.

He was in a forest that was not far away from his college, Jin Ling College.

With his current extraordinary abilities to hear and see things that were far away, he could see those college students walking at the road nearby.

This forest had also become deserted.

Wasn't this the forest which he used to park his Lamborghini?

It had become very deserted indeed; there was nothing there. He had returned!

He had actually returned!

It looked like he had returned to the time when he had yet to obtain his identity as a young master.

As he thought about it, Chen Hao stood up, feeling the strength of his body. His cultivation base was obviously still stuck at the stage before awakening the Way of Heaven. Although his cultivation base was

not that high yet, he would have still no problem defending himself with the progress he had achieved.

Chen Hao glanced downward and noticed that there were seven blue shining spots still glowing on his arm.

The spots were an indication of the seven days that he had to wait to awaken the Way Heaven. Once the seven days were over, the bright spots would disappear and he would be forced to return to his original time.

I must pay close attention to the time, Chen Hao reminded himself.

"Tongxin!"

At this moment, the image of a beautiful girl whom Chen Hao had missed dearly flashed across his mind.

Tongxin was still alive at this time. He never thought that he would be able to see her once again, but he never expected it to be under this kind of circumstance.

How nice would it be if I could stay forever in this time, Chen Hao thought to himself.

Just when he picked up his pace, wanting to enter the school compound, he suddenly remembered something. Oh, there's something I've forgotten to do!



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That was because he had come to this world, but now, it seemed like there was another Chen Hao.

Ziyan had specifically instructed Chen Hao not to meet with his other self under any circumstances.

That was why Chen Hao had to look for his past self and momentarily hide him somewhere secluded. In other words, he had to replace his other self during these seven days.

At the moment, a simple disguise would suffice.

Meanwhile, a male student was being tripped by an extremely well-built student in the school compound.

The girthy student had his arms around a girl who was dressed gorgeously.

"Damn it, Chen Hao! You're really embarrassing! It's already shameful enough to be here picking up rubbish, and you almost ran into my girlfriend. Not only are you shameless, but I think you're blind too!"

The girthy guy pointed his finger at Chen Hao, rebuking him before tripping him over.

"Darling, did you know that Chen Hao has a rather good-looking girlfriend? I don't understand what the hell that girl was thinking. She has completely humiliated all the girls here by having him as a boyfriend!" exclaimed the girl.

"Hehe, let's not talk about this beggarly boy anymore. Look at his disheveled appearance! How can I not be furious at him? Honey, let's go elsewhere to hang around. Just ignore him!"

The girthy guy then left with the girl in his arms.

They were at the school compound where many students passed by. After witnessing the scene unfold, many of the students started pointing fingers and commenting about Chen Hao.

Chen Hao had been stomped right in his gut, and he felt a series of cramps in his stomach. Yet, all he could do at the moment was to clutch his stomach and bite onto his lips.

It was apparent that this was not the first time something like this happened.

However, what made him feel really humiliated were the sarcastic looks from the crowd. He picked himself up from the ground, and grabbed his snakeskin bag that he used to collect empty bottles before dashing off in embarrassment.

Chen Hao fled to a barren corner outside of school.

He squatted down with tears streaming down his face.

Chen Hao did not want things to be this way either. However, he was poor and had no other choice.

Of course, it had never crossed his mind that his behavior was disgraceful.

But why does everyone bully me?

As he pondered on, Chen Hao received a notification of a text message from his battered phone.

It was a text message from his girlfriend, Yang Xia.

"Chen Hao, I've thought about this matter for quite some time now. Why don't we take a break from each other? Please do not misunderstand, I have no other intentions. I just want to spend some time on my own to think about our future! Don't contact me for the time being!"

It was plain that it was a break up message from Yang Xia.

"Why?"

He wailed in pain.

He did not notice the man wearing a cap and a mask watching him nearby.

"Looks like I've returned to the point in my life where I had just broken up with Yang Xia!"

That was right, this person was none other than Chen Hao who had just returned.

He had never showed himself before this because he wanted to be sure of the point of time he had travelled back to, and he was sure of it now.

Chen Hao slowly walked up to him.

"W-what do you want from me?"

His past self picked up his snakeskin bag with a terrified look on his face.

Chen Hao had transfigured his voice using an enchantment; that was why he looked like a total stranger standing in front of him.

Chen Hao frowned. "Why do I feel like punching you after seeing you behave like this?"

He was speechless.

This was him from the past!

As for the current Chen Hao, he wanted to give himself a few slaps across his face.

He was an extraordinary Young Master. How could he have behaved like a loser?

He was irritated by the sight of himself.

It was an intriguing feeling.

"Just let me leave after you've beaten me up!" Chen Hao yelled. His most beloved Yang Xia had just broken up with him and

he was all alone. Moreover, what right did he have to stand up for himself when he was being bullied and rebuked? None!

"God damn it!"

Chen Hao was in disbelief. He did not waste any more time on such nonsense, and accurately poked Chen Hao's acupoint right away, making him unconscious.

"Sigh, your luck will turn around soon.
However, I hope that you will toughen up after that. Don't be a good-for-nothing like me. You're a man, so act like one!" Chen Hao helped himself up as he smiled bitterly.

Naturally, he had to hide this version of Chen Hao. After erasing this particular part of his memory, Chen Hao would reappear once more, disguised as himself.

Everything else would be a breeze for him after finishing everything up here.

Half an hour later, Chen Hao reappeared in his own clothes. However, he had ditched the snakeskin bag altogether.

As he walked down the street of his alma

mater, Chen Hao reminisced about the countless nostalgias and memories.

If all of these had been real, it would have been wonderful. He would gladly give up on being a Young Master if it were his reality.

Soon, Chen Hao arrived at the spot where the milk tea shop was located.

This milk tea shop was one of Chen Hao's fondest memories.

It was where he had officially met Tongxin in the first place. He could still clearly remember Tongxin's adorable demeanor back then.

Chen Hao was visibly moved.

Thinking back to how long they have been separated for, Chen Hao could not help but feel sorrowful having to return to this place again.

"Boss, give me a cup of milk tea!" said Chen Hao. The owner of the shop was still the same person.

"Sure, here you go!" The boss handed over

the milk tea with ease. "Young man, eight bucks please!"

"Sure!"

Chen Hao subconsciously took out a banknote from his pocket and handed it to the boss. "Keep the change!" said Chen Hao.

He was about to leave when he heard a shout from the owner. "Damn it! Hold up, young man! What do you mean by keeping the change? A cup of milk tea costs eight bucks. You gave me 50 cents and asked me to keep the change?"

The boss stared at Chen Hao like he was a fool.

"Um..."

Chen Hao took a look at it; it really was 50 cents.

He had forgotten that he was now the Chen Hao who was a poor student.

To be honest, the current Chen Hao no longer had a clear concept on the value of banknotes. The last time he spent money

was in the billions. That was why he was not used to it now!

Damn it, my current self has no money on him at all. I reckon these 50 cents is the last of his savings!

Chen Hao was put in an awkward situation.

Meanwhile, the people around him who were there to buy milk teas covered their mouths, snickering at Chen Hao.

The expression on their faces looked as if they were saying, this poor guy has the audacity to get himself some milk tea?

"Damn it, don't tell me you don't have eight bucks on you?"

The boss was stunned.

"I-I really don't have the money!" Chen Hao replied awkwardly. He patted down his pockets again and there wasn't a penny left.

"Are you kidding me? Do you think I'm a fool? A cup of milk tea costs next to nothing, but you handed me 50 cents and

asked me to keep the change. What is that supposed to mean? Why are you acting so snobbishly when you're actually poor? There is no way I'm letting you go today unless you pay for it. If not, I will complain to the school!"

The owner of the milk tea shop was getting furious and Chen Hao did not know what to do.

Just as everyone was making fun of him, he heard a soft, sweet voice from behind.

"Boss, quit embarrassing him. Here's the eight bucks. I will pay it for him!"

This voice was crisp and pleasant, like the sound of an oriole. It was mingled with a sense of elegance and a gentle tone.

Chen Hao suddenly shivered after hearing the voice, and the cup of milk tea in his hands fell to the ground...



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Chapter 722 Finally Meeting Her Again

Chen Hao turned around to look at the girls who stood elegantly before him. All of them were very stunning and beautiful. However, Chen Hao's eyes reddened when he saw one of the girls, who appeared to be the leader of the group. Su Tongxin! The girl standing before him was none other than Su Tongxin!

Chen Hao's heart skipped a beat as he felt a sudden shortness of breath. He had been feeling very nervous for the past hour. Although he was dying to meet Su Tongxin, he did not know how he should feel when he actually met her. But here she was now, standing in front of him. Chen Hao's mind suddenly went blank. As he stared at her in a daze, he could not help but think that she was still the same girl he had known before, always so beautiful, kind and cute!

Meanwhile, Su Tongxin was frightened by Chen Hao's stare. For some reason, she noticed the strange, inexplicable feelings hidden in the eyes of the boy standing before her.

"Tongxin, is this guy crazy or what?" Chen Hao's peculiar behavior startled Su Tongxin's roommates standing beside her, who pulled her back quickly.

"Yeah, look at his gaze, I bet he's mesmerized by Tongxin's beauty!" said a girl as the look of annoyance and disgust flashed through her eyes.

"Let's just leave now, Tongxin!" Apparently, the girls had lost their interest in their milk teas, and wanted to drag Su Tongxin out of the place. After paying for his drink, Su Tongxin bit her red lips and glanced at Chen Hao, who was still staring at her. She was dragged by her roommates and was about to leave when Chen Hao suddenly grabbed her wrist. "Tongxin, don't go!" He was unsure of what he had in mind, but when he saw Su Tongxin leaving, Chen Hao was afraid that he would not see her for a long time again—or worse, never again!

"Ah! What are you doing?" Su Tongxin was startled when Chen Hao grabbed her wrist tightly.

Truth be told, Su Tongxin could see that the look in Chen Hao's eyes was love, even though her friends were disgusted by him. Deep down, there was a voice within her that assured her Chen Hao meant no harm. Especially when he grabbed her wrist tightly, Su Tongxin's heart skipped several beats. Nevertheless, a girl's first instinct was to withdraw her wrist after being startled.

"You nasty moron! How dare you take advantage of Tongxin right here in public? Do you want to die?" Several of Su Tongxin's roommates lunged at Chen Hao and started attacking him.

"That's right! That's how he repays
Tongxin's kindness! Tongxin just helped
him out and he took advantage of her!
Ladies, let's get him and don't let him get
away!" The girls advanced toward him and
cornered Chen Hao.

"It's okay, let's just go!" Su Tongxin knew that Chen Hao did not mean to harm her. She felt sorry for him too, and decided not to report him to the police as suggested by her friends. She had always been a softhearted girl, so she dragged her friends away from him and left the place immediately. Most importantly, the commotion had attracted a large group of spectators, who started to crowd the place. They were pointing around and busy gossiping, which made Su Tongxin feel

uncomfortable.

Gazing at Su Tongxin's disappearing figure, Chen Hao suddenly came back to his senses. This isn't right! This is the past. Tongxin does not know who I am yet. Oh god, I almost scared her away with my impulsiveness just now! Chen Hao could not help but sigh.

However, Chen Hao had a plan.

Before all of this happened, the entire process from when they first met, until they fell in love with each other was plain and dull. Even though he had a large fortune, Chen Hao never did anything special or exciting for Tongxin. He used to think that as long as two people truly love each other, it would be enough. It was only later on Chen Hao realized that love between a couple needs a little bit of romance as well. And he himself had never done anything romantic for Tongxin at all. By the time he wanted to give it all to her, he did not have the chance anymore.

Now that I'm back in the past, I want to redeem myself by giving Tongxin the most passionate romance ever and make her the happiest girl in the world!Chen Hao decided.

Chen Hao did not go back to school. He did not continue pursuing Su Tongxin under this condition for fear that he might frighten her away. However, there was a very important thing he had to do right now. It was the Cloud Mansion on Cloud Hill. The construction of the Cloud Mansion was completed but it had yet to be auctioned at the moment. All Chen Hao had to do now was to contact Li Zhenguo to purchase the entire Cloud Hill, and get workers to mine for the Sky Stone. However, it was not an easy task trying to excavate the entire Cloud Hill within a week. It required an extended amount of money and human resources. Just like what Ziyan said before; as long as I don't change the outcome, time shouldn't be much of a problem here.

Chen Hao pulled out his cell phone immediately and dialed a number. Soon, the line was connected.

"Chen Xiao!" Chen Hao said.

"Hao, why are you calling me now? I'm still working in the factory. Can't you hear the loud noise in the background?" Chen Hao's

sister, Chen Xiao said.

Previously, Chen Hao had never suspected anything from the surrounding noise when he called his sister. Now, he realized that the noise sounded more like a party rather than noise coming from a factory.

"I need money!" Chen Hao said while shaking his head and smiling bitterly.

"I know you need money. The whole family needs money. Isn't that why all of us are working abroad now? We have so many debts, and we don't have much money left! Oh well, how much do you need though? I'll see if I can think of something for you," Chen Xiao said, pretending to be distressed.

"Chen Xiao, I need a few hundred billion to acquire and manage the Jin Ling Commercial Street. How about that? It's not much, right?" Chen Hao asked with a smile.

"W-What... What did you just say?" Chen Xiao stuttered, her eyes bulging out.

"Chen Xiao, could you help me out? I really need the money!" Chen Hao said.

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"Hao, did someone tell you something?" Chen Xiao's tone turned cold.

"I just figured out a little something, that's all. After all, your brother may be an honest guy, but he's not a fool!" Chen Hao replied.

"Hahaha! My little brother is a smart boy indeed. I've never noticed that! Well then, smart cookie, I wanted to tell you everything in a few days, but I can't believe you managed to figure it out on your own. That's right, let me tell you this—our family is the wealthiest family in the world. Half of the fortune on Earth belongs to our family. And you are not just the son of a wealthy family, but the son of the wealthiest family in the world!" Chen Xiao explained.

"Wow! That's awesome!" Chen Hao tried his best to sound surprised.

"I don't have anything to say if you need money. Besides, both Jin Ling Commercial Street and Hot Spring Villa are projects I developed under your name. I thought about sending Li Zhenguo over to pick you up when we amend the details in the agreement within the next few days. Since you know everything now, you should meet

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up with Li Zhenguo right away to settle everything. I'll send him over to pick you up. The Jin Ling Commercial Street belongs to our family!" Chen Xiao stated.

It seemed like Chen Xiao wanted to continue the conversation with Chen Hao. Unbeknownst to her, Chen Hao was desperately trying to save them, and had no time to chat with her. He hung up the phone after making several limp excuses and made his way to Hot Spring Villa without waiting for Li Zhenguo either.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"Wait a second, why are you here? Do you think that this is a place where you can simply enter?"

Just as he expected, Chen Hao was blocked by several security guards as soon as he reached the entrance of the villa. The guards had stern looks on their faces and electric batons in their hands. They looked as if they were ready to strike and knock Chen Hao out at any moment.

"Dear, look at this guy. Who does he think he is? Does he really believe that a person like him can enter such an elite place like the Hot Spring Villa here? That's really ridiculous! He should take a look at himself in the mirror!"

A young man and woman, who looked like a couple, were standing beside the entrance. They gazed at Chen Hao mockingly, but the latter did not even bother acknowledging them. Chen Hao was not in a hurry as he figured that Li Zhenguo would be on his way to pick him up, so he took a few steps back and waited quietly.

"Seriously, is your cousin coming or what? Do you know how difficult it is to get into

the Hot Spring Villa and drive around it?"
The woman diverted her gaze full of contempt away from Chen Hao and placed it onto her husband instead. "Did you know how many strings my father had to pull for him to get in here? And now, he's using the villa to impress his girlfriend, not to mention that he is late!" she complained.

"But you said that your father could use his connections to get us a retreat here at the Hot Spring Villa anytime. It just so happened that my cousin asked me about it yesterday, and I certainly can't refuse his request, can I?" the husband exclaimed, trying his best to calm the woman down.

Chen Hao was not in the mood to hear them bragging about their so-called connections; he just stood aside and waited for Li Zhenguo.

"There he is!"

The young man pointed in one direction and exclaimed soon after.

A white BMW drove toward the entrance of the Hot Spring Villa. The driver kept honking loudly non-stop, as if he was trying to call everyone's attention to his

BMW. As the tires screeched against the road, the luxury car came to a halt right in front of the entrance.

"Cousin, cousin-in-law, sorry for keeping you waiting!"

A young man who looked like a student stepped out of the car, wearing a pair of stylish sunglasses. As he took it off and hung it on the front of his chest, the man looked absolutely chic and fashionable. Two guys and a girl followed him out of the car. One of the guys had a head full of blonde hair, while the girl had a pretty face. They were tall, but all of them had a bashful look on their faces as they walked toward the entrance.

"Why are you late? Eh, who's this?" the woman asked coldly.

"Cousin-in-law, this is my new girlfriend, Yang Xia. Xia, this my cousin and his wife I was telling you about." The leading young man introduced. "Hehe, my cousin-in-law's family is very rich. We've only gotten together just today, and my cousin-in-law suggested inviting us over to have some fun at the Hot Spring Villa!" he said.

Throughout the exchange, Chen Hao had not paid much attention to the group, but he was slightly surprised when he heard some familiar voices in the conversation. He turned around and glanced at them. Yang Xia! Chen Hao was startled. That's my girlfriend-no, my exgirlfriend. What a coincidence to have bumped into her here! Chen Hao thought to himself in surprise. He recognized the other three guys as well-Lu Chen, Xu Nan, and Blondie. Wait, something's not right. From what I remember, Yang Xia has never been to Hot Spring Villa before. Lu Chen brought her here the first time, but I humiliated her. Why is she here now? Perhaps this is what Ziyan meant when she said that my arrival will cause some changes to the past.

Despite that, Chen Hao did not think much about it. Even though he no longer harbored any feelings for Yang Xia, he could not help but feel slightly uncomfortable when he saw her with another guy so soon after their breakup. Amid Chen Hao's daze, Lu Chen and the rest of the group had noticed him standing at the side. All of a sudden, their eyes met and they were all very surprised to see each other there. Yang Xia felt particularly

embarrassed as her cheeks turned a deep shade of pink. All she wanted to do at the moment was to hide in a hole.

"Chen... Chen Hao?" Yang Xia said nervously.

"Don't get the wrong idea Chen Hao, we were studying earlier but we decided to have fun out here spontaneously!" Even though they had broken up, Yang Xia felt slightly awkward in the current situation.

"Oh, yeah, that's great! Have fun then!"
Chen Hao could not help but answer with a bitter smile.

"Hahaha! I can't believe things are so exciting here! Lu Chen, didn't I tell you earlier in the car that this dude looks like Chen Hao? I can't believe that I was right!" Blondie exclaimed. "I bet this loser is feeling devastated. Let me tell you the truth—from now on, Yang Xia is Lu Chen's girlfriend. If you dare mess with her after knowing whose girlfriend she is, I will beat the living sh*t out of you!" said Blondie viciously.

On the other hand, Yang Xia played with her hair, looking up to observe Chen Hao's

expression and see how he would react to the news. Although it was devastating news to Chen Hao, vain girls like Yang Xia took great pleasure in watching guys compete with each other in order to win her affection. However, the only expression on Chen Hao's face was a bitter smile. He could not help but feel silly when he thought of how he had reacted in the past.

"What's that look on your face supposed to mean, Chen Hao?" Yang Xia was, however, slightly offended by Chen Hao's reaction. She was extremely annoyed by the indifferent look on his face.

"Nothing!" Chen Hao said.

"Hmph! You idiot! I'll tell you the truth then! I fell in love with Young Master Chen a long time ago! Only an idiot would fall for you!" Yang Xia insulted angrily. "Besides, you can't blame me for breaking up with you. It's your own fault for not being capable enough to do anything for me! At least with Young Master Chen, I get to own branded cosmetics and handbags. Look, I can even have fun here at the Hot Spring Villa. What did I get when I dated you? Nothing! Because you are a nobody!"

Feeling humiliated by Chen Hao's reaction, she continued to insult him.

"Lu Chen, who is he? Is he your schoolmate?" the woman at the side asked.

"Hahaha! Him? He's the poor loser from our school, and also Yang Xia's exboyfriend," Lu Chen said gleefully.

"Hmph! I was wondering what on earth he was doing here. Earlier on, he was trying to break into the villa only to get thrown out by the security guards!" the woman said as her dislike toward Chen Hao increased.

"What? You were thinking of getting into the Hot Spring Villa?" Yang Xia asked in surprise. "Do you know what this place is? Somewhere you can enter as you please?" Right now, Yang Xia was certain that Chen Hao was a complete idiot. She could not understand why she had fallen for him in the first place.

"That's enough now, let's not waste any more time talking to him. Lu Chen, Xia, it's getting late now. Let's go inside and have some fun!" said the woman.

"Yeah, Xia, let's go!" Lu Chen showed off by putting his hand around Yang Xia's shoulders, all of them turning around to walk in.

"Sorry, we just received a notice that the villa will be closed today. No one will be allowed to go in!" This time, it was the group's turn to be blocked by the security guards.

"What do you mean? We have admission tickets!" the woman asked in confusion.

"From now on, all admission tickets are void and cannot be used anymore. If you are not happy with it, feel free to file your complaints with the management!" said the security guards duly.

There was nothing the woman could do except to wait there anxiously. Indeed, the tickets were invalid if they said so. She did not dare make a scene out of it.

"Can I at least ask why?" asked the woman reluctantly one last time.

"The boss of Jin Ling Commercial Group, Young Master Chen, will be coming here today. Thus, the villa will be temporarily

closed to welcome him!" the security guard explained.

"What? The boss of the group, Young Master Chen?" Although the woman did not know who Young Master Chen was, she knew Jin Ling Commercial Group very well.

The entire commercial street and the villa all belonged to Jin Ling Commercial Group. No one could imagine what the boss would be like. Evidently, Lu Chen, Yang Xia and the rest of the group all knew how influential Jin Ling Commercial Group was, and swallowed nervously as they heard the announcement.

"People, please make way, our group's management board is coming! Young Master Chen might be here any moment now!" Seeing several senior management staff rushing out of the villa, the security guard anxiously asked the group to make way for their boss.

The woman and Yang Xia stepped aside immediately after hearing the security guard's instructions.

"Eh? You punk, didn't you hear what I just

said? Hurry up and scram!" the security guard said, agitated when he saw Chen Hao standing motionlessly at the entrance without moving an inch.

"Damn! Is he dumb or what?" Lu Chen and Xu Nan remarked disdainfully.

"What do we do with this idiot?" said Yang Xia coldly, folding her arms across her chest.

Meanwhile, the security guard realized his words fell on deaf ears. He proceeded to take his baton out and swing it at Chen Hao's body. "You're asking for it!"

However, with a crack, the baton flew out of the security guard's grip as Chen Hao pointed at it lightly. At the same time, the security guard fell to the floor in a shock.

"I am your dear Young Master Chen!" Chen Hao looked at him and said tartly.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"What? Who did you say you were again?" asked the security guard in shock.

He would never have thought that the penniless youngster in front of him had the audacity to claim that he was Young Master Chen.

Of course, judging from his appearance alone, the security guard would not believe him.

What astounded him was the gaze of the young man which he did not notice earlier.

As he exchanged gazes with Chen Hao, the security guard felt a strong gush of suppression coming toward him all of a sudden.

In addition to the terrifying power this young man had, the aura sent chills down his spine.

He had no reason not to believe him; in other words, he simply did not dare to not trust his words.

Everyone was dumbstruck at that moment, including Yang Xia and the rest of the group.

"Hahaha, Chen Hao, I must've misheard you, right? Who did you say you were?" Yang Xia let out a chuckle.

Yang Xia thought that Chen Hao was going to get himself beaten up. However, she did not expect him to have such tricks up his sleeve.

On the other hand, she was still thinking about what Chen Hao had said, claiming himself to be Young Master Chen.

Young Master Chen was Jin Ling's wealthiest individual; his reputation had preceded him.

If he was indeed Young Master Chen, wouldn't that mean she was Mrs. Chen? No, she would actually be ex-Mrs. Chen instead. How could this be?!

Especially when Chen Hao claimed himself to be Young Master Chen, Yang Xia immediately felt a surge of panic. She no longer had any relations to him, but why was she feeling scared?

In the blink of an eye, Li Zhenguo arrived at the entrance.

Chen Xiao must have explained the situation and given Li Zhenguo a photograph of me, Chen Hao thought to himself.

Zhenguo dashed toward him with joy.

"Young Master Chen!"

He gave a deep, 90-degree bow.

"Young Master Chen!"

All the other high-ranking staff in the company greeted him simultaneously as well.

The young man in front of them was not any ordinary person; he was Chen Hao, the poor kid who was raised by the rich family!

"What?"

Yang Xia, Lu Chen and the rest of the group could not believe their eyes. Especially Lu Chen, whose face turned ashen in an instant.

The dirt-poor kid was actually the Young Master? Someone who even President Li had to bow down to?Lu Chen thought to himself.

Their breathing became heavy and staggered, and they desperately wanted to dig a hole to hide themselves in.

"Yes, President Li. There is something I need to discuss with you. Let's talk it over in my office!"

Chen Hao nodded.

"Yes, Young Master Chen!" answered Li Zhenguo.

Just when they were about to leave, Yang Xia could not help but yell for them to stop. "Hold up!"

"Huh? Is there a problem, miss?" Li Zhenguo stared at her.

"President Li, are you sure you got the right person? His name is Chen Hao and he's from our college; he's not Young Master Chen! How can he be Young Master Chen?" replied Yang Xia, stopping Li Zhenguo in his tracks.

"Of course he is, I wouldn't mistake him for someone else. Moreover, Chen Hao is

Young Master Chen indeed!" answered Li Zhenguo calmly.

"That's impossible, impossible!"

Yang Xia staggered to her feet, taking two steps back. Li Zhenguo's words were like a bolt of thunder filled with an aura of devastation, shattering every last hope and wish Yang Xia had.

In just an instant, she lost everything she ever had.

"Chen Hao!"

Yang Xia was full of regret now.

"Forget it. Since we've already broken up, let's just stop pestering each other. Live your life as it is. I still have work to do!"

Chen Hao did not pay any attention to her much longer, and went straight into the Hot Spring Villa—leaving the astonished crowd and Yang Xia behind, who was absolutely repentant.

"Young Master Chen, you are right. There is a unit in the Cloud Hill Manor that is going to be auctioned off soon. Do you

want to purchase it?" asked Li Zhenguo in the office.

Truth be told, this was the first time Li Zhenguo had met Young Master Chen, and Young Master Chen was not the person Li Zhenguo had imagined him to be.

He thought that after living so poorly for such a long time, Young Master Chen would need a period of time to get used to his new life after figuring out his identity.

He thought that Chen Hao would be bashful and appear truthful in front of everyone. However, Li Zhenguo did not expect Young Master Chen to be so vigorous, giving people a strong feeling of being suppressed immediately.

This sense of suppression was so overwhelming that it made people suffocate.

"Yes, not only do I want to purchase it, I also want you to assemble an engineering team to open up the land below the Cloud Hill Mansion and put a huge boulder in it. It will come in handy for me. I don't care what measures you have to resort to; you have six days to complete the task," said

Chen Hao.

"U-Understood!"

Li Zhenguo wanted to ask Chen Hao the reason for doing so, but no words came out from his mouth.

He knew that there were some questions he could ask, and some which he knew he shouldn't.

"Young Master Chen, I will handle it right away!" answered Li Zhenguo.

After delegating the tasks, all Chen Hao had to do was to wait patiently for the next few days.

There was no doubt that this was an opportunity of a lifetime as he could only go back in time just this once.

Thus, he had to take advantage of the situation to compensate for all the regrets he had toward Tongxin and make it up to her.

He had always told her that he would make her the happiest woman in the world when they got married. But before they

could get married, an accident fell upon Tongxin, and he could not do anything for her.

This time round, Chen Hao did not care whether the both of them were in a relationship or not. All he wanted to do was to make Tongxin the happiest person alive during these six days.

Later on, he returned to the college and stopped by the milk tea store.

"I want a cup of milk tea, boss!" said Chen Hao.

"A-Are you done kidding around yet? Stop stirring trouble here, do you even have the money to pay for it?"

The boss was petrified.

"Keep the change!"

Chen Hao took out a 100 bill and handed it over to the boss.

The boss was shocked. "You didn't steal this money, did you?"

"Your milk tea is delicious. The only

problem is that you talk too much. Hurry!" Chen Hao was speechless.

"Alright!"

The boss did not ask any more questions as he quickly made a cup of milk tea for Chen Hao.

After collecting his drink, Chen Hao headed straight to the Broadcasting Department.

Su Tongxin was in the middle of class, listening to the male lecturer going on about the lesson.

Suddenly, the classroom door swung open.

Every single student lifted their gaze, turning their heads toward the door.

They were surprised to see Chen Hao standing in the doorway, holding a cup of milk tea in his hand.

Almost the entire school knew that Chen Hao was an impoverished loser, but what was he doing here at the Broadcasting Department?

"Tongxin, look! It's him!"

Su Tongxin was busy taking down notes when someone interrupted her. Only then did she come back to her senses.

As she lifted her head, her cheeks turned rose pink.

"Excuse me, what are you trying to do? What are you doing here in our class?" asked the lecturer sternly, fixing the glasses sitting on his nose.

Chen Hao ignored him. With one hand tucked in his pocket, Chen Hao walked straight toward Su Tongxin.

"Here is the milk tea I owe you. Take it!"

Chen Hao placed the milk tea in front of Tongxin.

"Wow!"

The whole class started howling.

Was this beggarly kid trying to chase after a wealthy maiden? Damn, this theatrical scene that appeared out of nowhere felt unreal to everyone! "Y-You didn't have to, just go back!"

Su Tongxin did not see this coming as well and did not know what to do. Moreover, the boys in class were staring at them maliciously.

"Actually, I still owe you two more things. I was wondering when I could return them to you?" said Chen Hao with a serious tone as he looked at her.

"What are those two things?" asked Su Tongxin bashfully.

"A promise, and a heart!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Everyone was dumbfounded when those words came out from Chen Hao's mouth.

His speech might or might not have been romantic, but it caused a huge uproar within the class in an instant.

There were even students who whipped out their phones to document what was going on.

Su Tongxin's face had turned as red as a ripe apple.

However, Chen Hao simply turned away and left the classroom after his little declaration of love.

As she watched him leave, Su Tongxin felt an indescribable emotion, but she did not know what triggered it.

Naturally, news of the incident quickly spread across the whole school as soon as the class ended.

After all, the scene of a dirt-poor kid chasing after a charming girl only existed in movies.

This had also boosted the confidence of

all the boys that had a crush on Su Tongxin. There were so many of them who wanted to give Su Tongxin their love letters that it almost formed a queue.

"Hmph, what is there to brag about, Su Tongxin? I really don't get why all these boys are treating you like you're some sort of goddess. They must be blind!"

Su Tongxin could not stand being in class any longer, and had planned to go out with her good friends after the lesson.

At this moment, a classmate of hers glanced at Su Tongxin indignantly before muttering under her breath. Granted, she herself was quite good-looking.

She was Xu Meimei, a well-known student in the Broadcasting Department.

Evidently, the more popular the girl, the more jealousy she had. This was because she had been so used to having the spotlight all to herself. Thus, when everyone started paying attention to someone else, she could not help but feel upset about it.

"What's wrong with the boys treating Su

Tongxin like a goddess, Xu Meimei? Unlike her, no boys are attracted to you."

All this while, Xu Meimei had always treated Su Tongxin harshly. It was only natural for Su Tongxin's friends to be on bad terms with her as well.

"Who says no boys like me? Hahaha, what a joke! Let me tell you, the number of boys chasing after me is absurd. Moreover, these boys are rich and reputable, unlike Su Tongxin, who only attracts povertystricken boys like Chen Hao. I couldn't care less about a boy like that!" said Xu Meimei.

"I know you, Xu Meimei. You're just jealous that Su Tongxin is the hottest topic of the school right now. If you are jealous, just admit it! Why bother putting on such a show?" said another friend.

"Hot topic? It will be the school's 50th anniversary in three days' time. I will be the emcee while Su Tongxin is only a substitute. Hmph, we'll see who is the beauty queen after that. Everything will be clear soon, just wait and see!"

It looked like a quarrel was about to break out, but Su Tongxin pulled her friends

away, leaving the scene hurriedly.

She did not want to waste her saliva on trivial things like this.

"Just you wait, Su Tongxin!"

Xu Meimei glared viciously at Su Tongxin as they left her sight. She took out her phone, searched for her godfather's number, and immediately rang him up!

Meanwhile, Chen Hao had gone to a branded boutique to buy himself a new outfit after leaving the Broadcasting Department.

He did not want to be mocked as a poor kid anymore.

It was already a pleasant surprise to be able to reunite with Tongxin this time, even if it was only for a brief moment.

His utmost priority now was to awaken the Way of Heaven once again.

Other than visiting Tongxin briefly when he had spare time, Chen Hao spent most of his time waiting at the Cloud Hill Mansion.

Even though his transformation had raised a lot of questions from his schoolmates, it no longer mattered toward Chen Hao, because he had revealed himself as a wealthy second generation—one at the very top level.

This had caused a huge commotion in the school; countless girls had begun approaching him after hearing about his reputation.

However, Chen Hao rejected every single one of them.

Apart from that, there was another thing that bothered Chen Hao.

Chen Hao was constantly aware of his surroundings. Even when he was resting in his hostel at night, he was still in a halfalert mode.

Just like what his Uncle Chen had told him before, apart from Uncle Chen himself, there was another person secretly watching him, and Chen Hao could clearly feel his presence.

In the beginning, he had only secretly approached Chen Hao at random times of

the day. However, it has been three days since Chen Hao revealed his identity.

Chen Hao noticed that the person had started to spy on him more and more frequently.

As Chen Hao walked around the school grounds, he unleashed his spiritual sense, immediately feeling the presence of two people who had been trailing behind him for quite some time.

One of them was the mysterious man, while the other person was Uncle Chen.

"Is he the person who destroyed my Foundation? It must be him, for he is the closest person I have been in contact with!" he said to himself.

But who was the person exactly?

This was the best chance for him to find out who the person was.

However, Chen Hao was worried that he would be no match for the mysterious man.

I hope that you'll still follow me after I have

awakened my Foundation. I will figure out who you are!

It was the school's anniversary today.

Chen Hao still remembered how Tongxin was one of the emcees of the celebration back then. However, Chen Hao only thought that she was mesmerizing at the time, and had never expected her to become his girlfriend in the future.

Then, he made his way to the celebration venue.

There was already a huge crowd at the venue, but the organizers were delighted to have their hands tied up with work.

"Tongxin, there is something I must tell you!"

One of the middle-aged directors called Su Tongxin to the side, who was busy memorizing her script.

"What is it, Director Yang?" she asked curiously.

"I'm afraid you won't be going on stage today!" replied Director Yang.

"Huh, why not?"

Su Tongxin was astonished.

"I'm sure you know all about the discussion surrounding you and the boy who confessed to you in the last two days. The school is afraid that if they allow you to go on stage, it will leave a bad impression on us. I hope you understand where this is coming from!"

"B-But I..."

Su Tongxin was really disappointed.

"There are no but's. You have quite the audacity to be here after a boy like that confessed to you. Are you trying to embarrass the school and drag us down as well?"

At this moment, Xu Meimei walked up to them, talking in a sarcastic tone.

Her eyes gleamed with pleasure. This was obviously Xu Meimei's doing. Her godfather was a reputable figure in the business industry. Here, he was like the ultimate boss.

It would not be a big deal for him to handle such matters if Xu Meimei simply asked him to do so.

Even more so, he had personally visited the school to see her today.

With the help of her godfather, it was only natural for Xu Meimei to become the star of the day.

"Xu Meimei, I know you are the one behind this. You're despicable!" Su Tongxin yelled out furiously.

"Don't put the blame on me. Too bad I have a great godfather, whereas you have nothing!"

Xu Meimei felt delighted when she saw the look of disappointment on Su Tongxin's face.

"My stepfather will be supporting me from the crowd. I shall not waste my breath talking to you. Bye, just go down and be a good audience member!"

As soon as she finished talking, Xu Meimei turned to walk away.

Although Xu Tongxin was infuriated, there was nothing she could do to change the situation.

She tossed her script aside before walking out the back.

However, what unfolded next shocked Xu Meimei and Su Tongxin to the core...



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The two of them watched as the highranking officials of the school stood in a row below the stage, looking like a group of students being punished.

A bald, middle-aged man kneeled beside a young man; his tears and snot flowing down his face.

"Godfather?"

Xu Meimei's eyes popped out of her head; she was in disbelief.

The young man dressed fashionably was the dirt-poor kid chasing after Su Tongxin yesterday?

I can't be dreaming! Xu Meimei thought to herself.

Come to think of it, her godfather could not be any unluckier. When he made the call to make the arrangement, Chen Hao—with his superb hearing—overheard the entire conversation.

Thus, pulling a prank on them was an easy feat for him.

"Miss Tongxin, we apologize for the earlier

incident. You were able to reel in such a reputable sponsor for our school, and we don't know how to thank you enough. Also, Young Master Chen would like to have a few words with you, Miss Tongxin!" A middle-aged man stood forward to announce the good news.

"Young Master Chen?"

Su Tongxin stared at Chen Hao. It was this strange man again. She had not seen him only for a few days, but so much had changed about him!

Nonetheless, she was still puzzled by the whole incident. Having a peculiar feeling toward this man, Su Tongxin nodded and agreed before following Chen Hao.

"Why are you looking for me? You are Young Master Chen from Jin Ling Commercial Group. Plenty of girls are in love with you, and there is nothing great about me. Why are you helping me?" Su Tongxin went straight to the point.

"Actually, there is something I'd like to ask from you!" said Chen Hao, looking in her direction.

"Young Master Chen, what can I help you with?" asked Su Tongxin.

"I'd like to kiss you on your forehead!" answered Chen Hao.

He had been here for almost seven days and had no time to do anything else. The only thing he could do was to let Su Tongxin and her family live unworriedly.

He did not even have the opportunity to court Su Tongxin again.

Thus, Chen Hao wanted to give a final kiss to Su Tongxin on her forehead as a reminiscence and a farewell.

He knew that once he had awakened the Way of Heaven, he could never come back anymore. He did not even know when he would be able to meet Su Tongxin again.

Chen Hao did not want to miss out on this short window of opportunity.

"What did you say?"

Su Tongxin was startled and she couldn't help but take a step back.

With a flick of his fingers, Su Tongxin suddenly realized she could not move at all.

She just stared at Chen Hao terrifyingly.

"Tongxin, there are some things that you won't be able to understand. You have no idea how much I feel toward you. I have been looking for you so long, but you disappeared mysteriously, and I could not find you no matter what!"

Chen Hao walked up to Su Tongxin, gently holding onto her hands as he confessed to her.

Looking at Chen Hao's gaze which was filled with love, the confusion in Su Tongxin's eyes subsided all of a sudden.

"The reason I came to look for you this time is to bid a proper farewell to you. After this, I have to keep an eye on the Cloud Villa Mansion..." said Chen Hao calmly.

Then, he embraced Su Tongxin warmly in his arms before kissing her on her forehead.

Su Tongxin was shivering all over. She felt as if she had made a connection with Chen Hao at that moment.

Suddenly, she started having mixed feelings about Chen Hao.

She felt like she had known this man before. This feeling was already present during the first time they met each other.

In addition, she felt like her relationship with him was not platonic; whenever she saw him, she would start feeling anxious for no reason.

Especially when he gave her a kiss just now, she felt even more puzzled because she was nervous yet sad at the same time.

Su Tongxin had never experienced this kind of heartache before, and this feeling of heartache made Su Tongxin's tears roll out of her eyes. She looked like a piece of glass that had been shattered.

She seemed as if she had been thinking about this person for a long time and that the two of them had been separated for a while now.

She missed him, but thinking about him every day only brought pain to herself.

Oh my god, what is going on with me? thought Su Tongxin, feeling shocked. She did not seem like her usual self at this moment.

"Tongxin, I will use my entire life to return the two things that I owe you!" Chen Hao wrapped up his final words.

After that, he gave her a gentle tap to relieve her acupoint.

However, Su Tongxin still stood there motionless because her heart was aching.

On the other hand, Chen Hao's silhouette faded slowly right in front of her eyes until he vanished completely.

"I-I miss you, Chen Hao!"

Su Tongxin couldn't believe the words that had just come out of her mouth.

Why did this moment feel so unreal?

Meanwhile, it was already midnight somewhere, and a girl was sleeping

comfortably on her side in her luxurious bedroom. Her body started convulsing suddenly as she started weeping, as if she was having a nightmare.

Chen Hao's seven days were almost up.

He had been standing guard over the Sky Stone for the past few days.

He could feel that his Foundation had been perfected, and with this, Chen Hao knew that the day of awakening the Foundation was nearing.

Truth be told, apart from awakening the Foundation, there were still many other things that Chen Hao wanted to do when he returned this time round. However, he realized that this was simply destiny; every dimension had its own rules, and there was nothing much he could do about it.

As soon as he understood everything, he went to bid farewell to Tongxin as soon as he could because he did not want to leave this place with regret.

Suddenly, there was a thunderous bang!

As the mountain exploded, the team of

engineers in the thousands retreated to one side as the sudden flash of spectrum flared up in the middle of the mountain.

Everyone was startled.

At this moment, only one illuminance of the seven remained on Chen Hao's arm.

After dispersing his spiritual awareness, he discovered that the mysterious person was watching nearby.

You'd better not leave, just let me have a good look at you first before I leave, and I'd be content!Chen Hao thought to himself.

He did not give it much more thought as he flew straight into the mountain to awaken the Way of Heaven.

Meanwhile, a guy dressed black stood in a forest nearby. He had covered his entire body from head to toe, even his face. His eyes were glistening with a faint purple ray of light as he watched everything unfold.

"What is going on? What is he trying to do? How did he go through such huge transformations in such a short period of time?"

The man in black muttered to himself.

His voice sounded old, but was loud and filled with vigor.

"Never mind that, let's go and take a look first!"

The man in black stared right ahead. Just as he was about to go forward, there was a sudden whoosh in the air, like an arrow that was heading in his direction.

"Huh?"

Only then did the old man in black realize that danger was heading his way.

This was bad!

With a quick sway of his body, he managed to dodge the attack heading straight at him.

However, a black shadow followed, brushing against his shoulder.

The shadow moved at a fast speed, quickly tearing off the black mask he was wearing.

At that moment, the two of them exchanged gazes for a brief moment.

The old man was stunned, quickly covering his face as he fled the scene.

The person in front of him was a middleaged man whose face was covered in scars. He did not pursue the old man, for he himself was dumbstruck after seeing the old man's face.

It was as if he had been struck by a bolt of lightning.

"How is this possible!" the man exclaimed in a terrified tone. He was in utter disbelief.



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The middle aged man couldn't believe his eyes, but just to be sure, he rushed in the direction of the man in black's disappearing figure.

Meanwhile, the cave was filled with a rumbling sound and flooded with light that came from all over Chen Hao's body as he exclaimed, "So this is the true awakening of the Way of Heaven!"

Chen Hao could feel energy bursting through every cell in his body, and having it burst out of his body felt really good. However, he wasn't concerned with how he would use this power; he was more concerned with how he would control it because right now he felt invincible, invulnerable. This was way more strength than he could possibly handle.

Is this the true strength of someone who has actually achieved the first cycle of awakening? Chen Hao sighed. Thank goodness for the strong Royal Stage Technique he learnt as part of the Heaven Abstruse Skills, or else he'd genuinely have no idea how to control all this power. Naturally, Chen Hao also noticed that the seven spots on his body had disappeared after his awakening, and he was

completely enveloped in blue streaks of light.

This means that I'm going back! Chen Hao thought. Now that he'd completed his awakening and achieved all the abilities that came with this first cycle, he'd gained so much strength that Chen Hao felt confident enough to see what the man in black's face looked like.

But Chen Hao was running out of time, so he didn't dare waste another moment; he levitated into the air and turned into a ball of light before heading straight toward the man in black.

"Holy crap, he's a god!" The workers were losing their minds.

In a flash, Chen Hao caught up to the man in black, where he was still battling Uncle Pingan and clearly intending to make a break for it if it weren't for his uncle blocking his way. Unfortunately, though, Uncle Pingan was no match for him.

The two of them were battling in earnest when they both noticed a change in the weather. The man in black froze and immediately tried to retreat, but Chen Hao

immediately attacked.

With a loud boom, the man in black was hit by a strong Qi wave that he simply could not resist. Chen Hao internally thought, I'll unmask you for sure today!

While the man in black stumbled backward, Chen Hao lifted a hand to his mask and pulled. The man was powerless to stop Chen Hao in his current state, and his eyes instantly became filled with fear.

On the other hand, Chen Hao thought the man's eyes looked familiar and was just about to take off the guy's mask when a blue crackling current of electricity wrapped itself around Chen Hao.

Damn it, I'm being sent back! Chen Hao thought, feeling himself become unable to move forward in the exact moment his Stone of Fate started using its irresistibly strong powers on him.

With a loud boom, another bolt of thunder struck and Chen Hao's entire body disappeared in a flash of blue light. Before long, he felt that sensation again of being a blurry consciousness that had no control over itself.

Chen Hao did see the man's eyes though, along with half of his face. He was familiar with it and he knew that it belonged to someone close to him, but he still couldn't remember who he was.

After what seemed like an eternity, Chen Hao suddenly heard a loud blast next to his ear that startled him as if he was waking from a dream.

When he slowly opened his eyes, Chen Hao realized that he was on an island full of lush forests. When he used his godly senses to look around, he could sense ships constantly passing nearby.

I should be back, but I was sent off course onto an island, Chen Hao thought. It wasn't hard to fly straight back to the Chen residence in the Southern Region, and Chen Hao fully intended to do that after meditating and sensing that his Foundation was completely intact. Truly, the Stone of Fate could do anything, so he had nothing to be afraid of anymore.

However, another problem surfaced immediately—with the reawakening of his Foundation, Chen Hao had so much power that it felt like a mountain's worth of

weight on his body unless he could channel it properly. So, he was forced to stop and process this immense power by getting into a meditative position and use his channeling techniques.

At the same time, several bolts of lightning flashed over the Chen residence, but nothing was left behind when they passed. Chen Pingan was already getting anxious, and his eyes went wide when he realized this. "Ziyan, what's going on? Where is Chen Hao? Shouldn't he be back by now?" he asked hastily.

"Yes, but he should be fine. He probably just went off course because he was moving around at top speed before he left, and that's why he didn't reappear at the same spot. We're just not sure where the Stone took him," Luo Ziyan said.

"According to what you said, Chen Hao should be completely different after his awakening, so it shouldn't take him much time to come back here if he was sent off course!" Chen Pingan said.

"No, he'll have received so much power that he cannot handle it when it resurfaces in the present, so he'll need to take some

time to channel it properly because there's so much to process! This might even result in physical changes, so he must take his time to reabsorb all that energy instead of rushing back."

"Hmm." Chen Pingan nodded, then asked, "Then what changes will he go through? Will he get superpowers like we did in the Border Realm?"

"Perhaps, but clearly the ones he'll get are completely different from ours. His powers won't just be superpowers, but it would be in a category of its own! A terrifyingly strong divine power!" Luo Ziyan explained.

"Hmm, then I can't wait to see what his final transformation will look like," Chen Pingan said cheerfully.

Just then, Luo Ziyan suddenly frowned and said, "Oh no!"

"What is it, Ziyan?" Chen Pingan asked.

"A team of people are heading toward us fast, and I can sense the King of Nine Doors!" Luo Ziyan said grimly.

"The King of Nine Doors?" Chen Pingan's

eyes went wide.

"They've found us after all. We need to leave right now!" Luo Ziyan said.

"Leave? You wish it was that easy!" A terrifying voice could be heard roaring from all around them and with a howling gust of wind, the King of Nine Doors arrived with an army of martial arts experts, who quickly surrounded the entire island that the Chen residence was on.

"Ziyan, this won't do! You need to leave now while I distract them!" Chen Pingan said.

"No way! You're Chen Hao's uncle, and he'll be devastated if you were in danger. He can't afford to lose another loved one!" Luo Ziyan shook her head.

"You're more important to him by comparison. My life is nothing! Please go! The Chen residence has secret tunnels, and if we keep wasting time, none of us will be able to escape!" Chen Pingan begged in earnest.

Luo Ziyan hesitated for quite a while, but had to bite the bullet in the end; she

couldn't afford to be captured by the King of Nine Doors right now, or else Chen Hao would be in a lot more danger than he already is. She had no choice but to turn herself into a beam of light with the Dragon Blood Jade still in her hands and hid within the Chen residence's secret tunnels.

"None of you can leave! Chen Hao will fall before me!" The King of Nine Doors's voice could still be heard howling outside.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Ultimately, Luo Ziyan managed to escape with Chen Pingan's help but as he predicted, it was too late for him to escape; the King of Nine Doors and Gu Yuehong from the Gu family had instantly surrounded him.

For the past few days, both of them had kept on searching because now that Chen Hao had become their sworn enemy, it was no longer a question of pros and cons!

In the face of opposition from two powerful people, especially the King of Nine Doors, Chen Pingan did not resist and simply let himself be captured by the Gu family.

"Where's Luo Ziyan?" the King of Nine Doors asked after choosing a human form.

"Clearly, she escaped before you actually got here. You'll never have her now!" A mocking smile appeared on Chen Pingan's face.

"And Chen Hao?" Gu Yuehong asked, her eyes becoming bloodshot with hatred.

"Oh, he's long gone. Despite all that noise,

you two have been going on a wild goose chase this whole time with nothing to show for it in the end!" Chen Pingan mocked.

"Insolent bastard!" the King of Nine Doors roared. "You seem confident that everyone we're after has escaped, but you're wrong! Catching you is more important for us than you think it is in comparison!" He looked at Chen Pingan.

"Me?"

"Yes. Once I have you, I won't have to worry about Chen Hao staying hidden. You're his uncle, after all," the King of Nine Doors said.

"I'm afraid you two will be no match for him when he does come!" Chen Pingan's smile did not waver, but the King of Nine Doors seemed to have exhausted his patience with him and was about to go after Luo Ziyan.

"Gu Yuehong, you're in charge now. Get your family to take over the residence. That should lure Chen Hao out!" the King of Nine Doors instructed.

"Yes, my lord!" Gu Yuehong answered, but he was already gone by the time she lifted her head.

"When Chen Hao shows up, he'll have a hard time escaping again!" Gu Yuehong said coldly to Chen Pingan. "Besides, the Thai City escapees have all been captured, so there's no way he wouldn't show himself!"

"True, and I know he will come!" Chen Pingan answered, but he didn't expect that this was why Jiannan and the others haven't returned in time. As it turned out, they were captured by the Gu family and the King of Nine Doors.

He'd actually figured that they were in trouble several days ago, but he didn't anticipate it to be because these two had gone on the offensive like Miss Ziyan predicted. After a certain point, a lot of people would be forced into the role of a bystander and in this case, the only person who could do something about this was Chen Hao. We're counting on you now, Chen Hao! Chen Pingan thought.

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Five days later, on a small island, the sun shone brightly and huge waves crashed onto the shore as a foraging seagull approached it, then landed on a branch.

After a while, the island itself seemed to tremble as a loud blast rocked the place. Then, the seagull's eyes reflected an earth-shattering sight—the island itself was splitting apart at an impossible speed, producing a large canyon as the waves roared as if a tsunami was about to descend upon the island.

Meanwhile, the sky had somehow become crowded with storm clouds and as lightning flashed, the seagull's eyes became filled with terror. It shuddered before taking off from the branch and flying away like its life depended on it; it must have seen something truly terrifying to have escaped in that manner.

With a deafening crack, a bolt of lightning struck the island. Then, a beam of light shot up from the island's center and in the middle of that beam sat a young man in the lotus position.

That young man, despite sitting on the abandoned island while being surrounded

by howling winds and roaring waves, didn't have a speck of dust on him. Stranger still, his skin was perfectly pale and his body exuded an intimidating aura.

Of course, any person who saw him right now would be afraid because his forehead was looking quite strange—not only was it glowing, there seemed to be a third eye on it. That eye was the source of the bright light that seemed to pierce the sky and illuminate everything as far as the eye could see. After a while, the eye slowly snuffed out the light and the young man opened his own eyes.

"Who would have thought that the awakening of the first cycle would give me this much of a power boost! This God's Eye is out of this world! Unbelievable!" It was clear from the youth's face that he was usually calm and collected, but this well and truly blew his mind; this young man was none other than Chen Hao.

He'd been processing his newfound power for 5 whole days and during that time, besides the drastic increase in his cultivation base, he'd discovered some miraculous changes in his body 3 days ago; he started feeling a dull ache in his

forehead that became a throbbing pain, then it progressed into a head-splitting pain. In the end, he'd actually grown a third eye that had granted him magical powers.

The first of the eye's numerous powers was info storage. He'd tried using the Eye to scan his surroundings, and realized he could remember everything he saw and even sense danger around him. The second was a drastically larger field of vision, to the point that Chen Hao could look high into the skies. The third power was something Chen Hao called the God's Gift, a gift to all living beings that could bring back the dead and turn trash into treasure. The fourth and final power was its devastating attack that could be used for long-range and close-ranged attacks, making him practically invincible. This attacking power could even form a mysterious formation.

So far, those were all the powers he'd developed. The fourth one especially made him wonder—if he continued to cultivate himself, then what kind of terrifying strength could he achieve? Now that he'd processed all the power he got from the first cycle, he would technically be able to hold his own against the King of

Nine Doors, and that was before he accounted for the Eye's powers.

Chen Hao stood excitedly, then realized his Eye was flashing continuously and thought, *Hmm? A danger signal?*

He quickly thought of the Chen family. Was Uncle Pingan and the others in trouble? he thought. Then, he remembered that he'd been away for 5 days, so it was about time he went back. As such, he used his powers to hide the Eye, then disappeared in a flash.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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In the Southern Region, at the Hong Kong port, a crowd was gathering around a crawling man, who'd attracted everyone's stares and gossip, but none of their assistance.

"Holy sh*t, isn't that Mr. Li Zhenguo?" someone piped up, finally recognizing the man before him. Indeed, this man was none other than the famed businessman, Mr. Li. Oh my god. How did he become like this? the man exclaimed internally.

The moment he recognized Li Zhenguo, everyone started taking pictures with their phone cameras because right now, the famed Mr. Li was actually covered in wounds and seemed as if someone had severed the ligaments in his limbs; it was a sorry sight.

"Mr. Li, what happened to you? I heard you were in Jin Ling, so why are you here at the port all of a sudden?" the middle-aged man asked sympathetically. He was apparently acquainted with Li Zhenguo. At the same time, he took out his water bottle and attempted to let the parched Li Zhenguo drink from it.

But before he could raise it to Li Zhenguo's

lips, someone kicked it away and several bodyguards in black outfits walked over with cold smiles. "Damn it, fatty! Get out of here if you don't want to die! And stop being so nosy, unless you have a death wish!" one of them warned maliciously.

The middle-aged man wanted to protest, but stopped when he noticed that the bodyguards seemed to be someone he couldn't afford to mess with and thus, forced himself to leave. Meanwhile, Li Zhenguo picked up the bottle to take a drink, but the bodyguard stomped on his hands and pinned it to the ground, then ground his heel until Li Zhenguo's hands were a mess of flesh and blood.

"I told you, no water for a week! What, you're already begging for water on the third day? Damn, and I thought you were a bigshot in the Chen Family, where you could have water handed to you on a silver platter? I'm telling you, that family will be called the Ximen Family from now on, and you will be nothing but a servant to them!" the bodyguard said. Li Zhenguo, though, was thirsty enough that he even tried drinking the spilled water. "I say, you're that thirsty, huh? Hahaha! Let's throw him in the river, boys, and see if he can live to swim

up here again! What do you say?" the bodyguard asked.

The others replied in unison, "Alright!"

At the same time, Chen Hao had just left the island in the Southeastern Ocean and was just passing Hong Kong on the way to return to the Chen residence's island when he saw the bodyguards. At the time, though, he didn't want to interfere in other people's business.

However, he was about to pass them when he heard Li Zhenguo's cries of agony. He thought he had misheard it, but when he turned to take a closer look, he realized that it really was Li Zhenguo himself! But how could this be possible? Chen Hao's eyelids twitched and he materialized in front of them.

"Zhenguo!" Chen Hao shouted in disbelief. When they met a few days ago, Zhenguo had been taking care of the asset transfers in Jin Ling and he'd been completely fine. What happened?

When Li Zhenguo heard Chen Hao's call, he looked up shakily and instantly teared up. "Y-Young Master Chen?" It was as if he finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel.

"What happened?" Chen Hao asked hastily.

"It was the Gu Family and the King of Nine Doors. They took over the Chen residence, handed it to the Ximen Family in Thai City and took all our assets! I was taken here because I opposed them!" Li Zhenguo cried out.

"Hmm, who's this? Could he be that Young Master Chen the Gu Family's been looking for?" The bodyguards exchanged excited glances; the Gu Family had ordered the Ximen Family to torture everyone associated with the Chen Family specifically to lure this Chen Hao out and capture him. Now that this fellow had presented himself, they basically had fame and fortune in the bag after they managed to capture him.

"Who else did you Ximen people take? Where's my uncle, Chen Pingan and the others?" It seemed like the Chen Family was indeed in trouble. Chen Hao didn't expect the Gu Family and the King of Nine Doors to follow him all the way here.

In that moment, he looked at the three bodyguards with unbridled rage.

The bodyguards burst out laughing. "Is this idiot trying to ask us something?"

Another one chimed in mockingly, "Yeah, and he even looks angry?"

Chen Hao frowned, then immediately smacked one of the bodyguards' forehead with his palm. With a boom, the guard's head blew up as if he'd been hit by a missile.

"Ahh!" The crowd dispersed immediately, leaving behind the two dumbfounded bodyguards.

"F*cking hell! He's that strong? We can't possibly beat him!" The two men exchanged terrified glances. No wonder the Gu Family was going all out to get him! He was so strong!

"I'm warning you for the last time. What happened?" Chen Hao asked icily.

"Hmph, as if we'd tell! Even if we did, you'd kill us immediately so if we keep quiet, then—"

Poof!Chen Hao flicked his fingers, instantly blowing their heads up before they could finish.

After that, he turned to Li Zhenguo who was in pain. "Zhenguo, let me heal you!" Then, with a twist of his body, Chen Hao brought him to a forest.

Naturally, Chen Hao wouldn't need to heal him the way he used to; immediately, he closed his eyes as the God's Eye slowly appeared and covered Li Zhenguo in a beam of golden light. Then, astonishingly, Li Zhenguo's wounds visibly started to heal.

When that golden light disappeared, Li Zhenguo could already feel his body changing before he turned to look at Chen Hao, not with respect or reverence, but as if he was looking at a demon.

"Young Master Chen... How?!" He then fell silent—he was completely healed.

"We can talk about that later. What happened to the Chen Family?" Chen Hao asked. So, Li Zhenguo began explaining the whole incident.

As it turned out, the trouble started 5 days ago when the King of Nine Doors and the Gu Family showed up to capture Chen Pingan, Fang Jiannan and the others before confiscating all of the family's assets and dragging Li Zhenguo here for trying to resist. One of their pawns in this plan was the Ximen Family from Thai City.

Now, the Ximen Family had practically become the tyrants of Hong Kong, torturing the Chen Family and its associates with all sorts of methods. "What's more, when they heard that Miss Fang Jiannan was your fiance, the eldest heir of their family sold her to a bar as a server to humiliate her. Rumor has it that they've set up all sorts of traps at the Chen residence in hopes that you'll fall for it," Li Zhenguo said, telling Chen Hao everything he knew.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 730 You've Been Fooled

"What? I should have gotten rid of the Gu Family ages ago!" Chen Hao's hands balled into fists. "Oh, yeah. Where did they take Jiannan? And what about Uncle Pingan and Li Ba and the others?" he asked. Before he went back in time, Chen Hao had told Li Zhenguo about all these matters, so the latter was well aware of these people.

Li Zhenguo replied, "Miss Jiannan was sent to the Hong Kong King's Bar! Master Pingan and the others are trapped at the Chen residence, where the Gu Family had made full preparations and they are awaiting you to surrender yourself!"

Chen Hao's fists tightened. "Get yourself some rest. I'll get Jiannan while you contact the other members of the Chen Family. Once I've taken care of the Gu Family, you all figure out what to do next!" he instructed.

Li Zhenguo knew he wouldn't be of much help otherwise, so he merely nodded in compliance.

Chen Hao, on the other hand, went straight for the bar; it was a mess of a place that was packed with drinkers. Chen Hao didn't

know who the eldest heir of the Ximen family was and assumed that he was a brother of Ximen Yu's. The moment he entered the place, he asked a server, "There's a young master by the name of Ximen. Which room is he in?"

Meanwhile, in Room 888, a young master who was being surrounded by a lot of people said, "Haha! What a beauty! I wonder what it'd be like to have some fun with her!" Beside him, there was a woman on her knees, with more people holding her down—this woman was Fang Jiannan.

"If you wish to, Young Master Ximen, then why not do it directly?" some of the people said. They also hinted to him that they were ready to offer aid if necessary.

"Ha! Even if you didn't remind me, I would have had my way long ago if I wanted to! But that would be too easy. I want to see what it's like when this girl is so fed up with torture, she throws herself onto me. Haha!" Young Master Ximen said.

"I'm telling you, just kill me if you have the guts or Chen Hao will never let you get away with this! You Ximen people have some nerve! Aren't you afraid of getting

your whole clan wiped out?" Fang Jiannan cursed.

"Hmph, Chen Hao? Let me tell you, the Gu Family has prepared a lot of traps for him and honestly, we can't wait for him to show up because the sooner he does, the sooner we can enjoy everything we took from his family! Haha!" Young Master Ximen said. "He killed Ximen Yu, so this is a personal grudge between the Ximen family and him. And I intend to have my revenge eventually!"

Just then, the door opened with a bang and an important bodyguard slowly strode in. He had been in charge of all of Young Master Ximen's arrangements and had been sent by the Gu Family itself. In fact, he was the leader of all the hundred professionals tasked with ensuring Young Master Ximen's safety.

"What is it?" Young Master Ximen asked.

"Someone will die here today. All allies of the Chen Family and neutral parties are advised to leave!" the leader said shakily.

"Hmm? What is the meaning of this, Ri?" Young Master Ximen asked, astonished.

"It's the Ximen Family who call the shots in Hong Kong now!"

"Someone will die here today. All allies of the Chen Family and neutral parties are advised to leave!" the leader repeated to himself, seemingly deaf to Young Master Ximen's words. By now, everyone had become slightly unnerved to see the leader's panicked expression; an unknown murderous aura had suddenly permeated the place, making them even more nervous.

Leave! Yes, that was their best and only choice! Half the people in the room stood up and prepared to leave when Young Master Ximen scoffed and mocked them, making them stop in their tracks by saying, "Where do y'all think you're going? I thought all you young masters would have more guts than this. What are y'all even scared of? I'm here, aren't I?!"

Then, Young Master Ximen looked at the bodyguard and asked, "Ri, what's going on?" In response, the bodyguard shuddered and fell to the floor with foam in his mouth, dying soon after.

The women in the lounge screamed with

terror as Young Master Ximen's face paled and he roared, "Who did this?! Who? Guards, come in right now! You have some nerve, trying to overthrow a noble family like us with your small peasant family! And don't get me started on how you treated my friend!"

Suddenly, a ghost-like voice rang out and sent shivers down everyone's spine. However, Fang Jiannan immediately perked up with joy because she knew the voice all too well. "Chen Hao!" she called out in surprise.

"What? Chen Hao?" Young Master Ximen said nervously.

"Young Master Chen!" The other young masters exchanged looks and in an instant, the space itself seemed to become warped as Chen Hao mysteriously appeared before them.

"Young Master Chen!" Of course, the heirs knew Chen Hao, but they were still terrified to see him.

"Chen Hao!" Fang Jiannan quickly ran to his side. What happened these few days had truly traumatized her, even to the point

of contemplating suicide. She didn't expect to see Chen Hao appearing here now, standing in front of her.

"Fear not! I've returned to settle the scores and grudges!" Chen Hao said coldly. Clearly, the young master of the Ximen family was basically dead meat, but as the others knelt and begged for their lives, he burst out laughing.

"Hahaha!" He threw his head back and guffawed, making the hairs of everyone else's bodies stand on end.

"What's so funny?" Chen Hao asked.

"Your idiocy, haha!" Young Master Ximen said, his eyes filled with mockery. "Chen Hao, I've heard that you were extremely cunning in Thai City, and I thought you were a smart man. Turns out, you're the dumbest man alive! I'm telling you, you've been fooled!"

"Fooled?" Chen Hao asked coldly. "How so? What are you planning?"

"Haven't you noticed that everything you've encountered, from bumping into that bastard Li Zhenguo to you showing up

here, were all too coincidental? In other words, I'd lured you here step by step, knowing that you'd waste no time saving your damsel in distress. I've been expecting you, actually!" Young Master Ximen said.

"Not bad, it's a great plan. But I think you might have miscalculated something," Chen Hao replied with a bitter smile.

"I know what you're going to say. You're just going to say that I'm no match for you, and it'd be so easy for you to kill me off, right? Haha! That's why I brought a special guest to welcome you!" Young Master Ximen said, then clapped. In the blink of an eye, a wave of darkness rushed into the room.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A wave of darkness engulfed the room in an instant, scaring the rest of the young masters out of their wits; some of them were even screaming in horror at the scene before them, which was terrifying enough to drive everyone insane.

"I'm so sorry, Hao. It's all my fault!" Fang Jiannan was terrified as well.

Chen Hao pulled her back behind him, comforting her by saying, "It's alright. Stay close behind me!"

Soon, the dark wave split into three rays of light before transforming into two men and a woman, who stood before Chen Hao. One of the two men looked intimidating in his black full-body armor, whereas the other looked slender in his tuxedo. Meanwhile, the woman, who carried about her an air of mysterious allure, looked extremely seductive with her curvaceous figure, pointed chin and wavy, long red hair; she looked like a snake demon.

All three of them were from the Nine Doors; they were known as the Three Saints of Nine Doors. They were the King of Nine Doors' right-hand men and each of them possessed different special powers.

One of them—the burly man in black armor—was General Black, who had nearly crippled Chen Hao when the latter ran into him previously.

They were Young Master Ximen Qing's trump card. Needless to say, the Nine Doors and the Gu Family had set up an elaborate trap to get at Chen Hao.

"Hahaha! How's that, Chen Hao? I suppose my plan is simple and crude enough with these three friends of mine to entertain you. You can no longer escape me, even if you have wings on your back!" sneered Ximen Qing while a glint of murderous malice flashed in his eyes. "The Chen Family's fortune that is worth half of the world will rightfully belong to Ximen Family after I have killed you. Hahaha! I can't thank you enough, Chen Hao. No family would ever dare crave such insurmountable wealth if it weren't for you. Everything your Chen Family has done is benefiting us, the Ximen Family!"

"I guess you must be angry at me right now. The happier I am, the angrier you are, aren't you?" asked Ximen Qing with a smirk as he crossed his legs while lighting his cigarette.

breath," said General Black apathetically while raising his hands slightly, his steel claws turning black instantly like a pair of steel forks before he turned to look at Ximen Qing. "The prize is yours, Young Master Ximen. Master's going to reward you well this time for your great contribution."

"No problem! I guarantee you'll enjoy all the splendor in the world and have whatever you wish for after the Ximen Family inherits the fortune!" declared Ximen Qing with a grin.

The seductive woman laughed and asked, "Hahaha! May I have lots of hunks then, Young Master Ximen?"

"Sure! All your wishes shall be granted." Ximen Qing laughed in response.

Chen Hao couldn't help but shake his head and put on a wry laugh at the sight of them chattering away. He interrupted them, asking, "Hey, have you guys forgotten me? How could you start discussing splitting my family's fortune with me standing right here without even greeting me?"

"Haha! You don't seem to understand the

"Nope. Sorry to disappoint you, but seeing the three of them now makes me really happy somehow." Chen Hao gave him a thin smile.

"Oh? Are you scared out of your mind? Tell me—what is it that makes you feel happy about the situation?" asked Ximen Qing with a smug smile.

"Well, I have some scores to settle with one of them, and I've been wondering when I'll get my revenge, but he showed up himself instead!" Chen Hao pointed at General Black.

General Black had broken Chen Hao's tendons in his limbs and tortured him; now that he was standing before Chen Hao, Chen Hao could finally take his revenge!

"He's talking about you, General Black!" said the woman to General Black while sticking her tongue out at him.

"Hmph, he's nothing but a piece of trash whom I crippled last time. It won't be much of a trouble since I can just cripple him again. Since it's Master's order to keep him alive, I'll simply have to injure him so much that he is holding on to his last

situation yet, Chen Hao. Now that you're at your wits' end after falling into my trap, it shall be my responsibility to give you the death sentence. Perhaps it's fate that I, Ximen Qing, am an unsurpassable genius even though my martial arts skills are lesser than yours!" said Ximen Qing with a grin.

"Let's cut the nonsense with him, Young Master Ximen. I'll break his limbs as soon as I catch him!" With that, General Black's Qi could be felt suddenly surging before he raised his steel claws and lunged toward Chen Hao at lightning speed.

Due to the shock that was created from his overwhelming aura, the tables and seats around them cracked and exploded as soon as he moved; this was proof that he was now stronger than when Chen Hao had fought with him previously.

In the blink of an eye, his steel claws reached Chen Hao, which was followed by a loud smack.

However, the loud smack wasn't from Chen Hao getting hit; it was from General Black, who was stopped one meter away from Chen Hao, his body frozen, unable to

move an inch!

"What?" General Black was taken aback; he distinctly felt a gush of overwhelming power paralyzing him on the spot!

Both the woman in black and the man in tuxedo had their eyelids twitching violently as well.

"I was no match for you back then," said Chen Hao flatly, "but now you're nothing more than an ant in front of me that I can crush easily!"

With that, an intense light beam suddenly shot out of Chen Hao's fingers. It was a ray of sword-light of immense energy and lightning speed, which sliced General Black into half with a slash, killing him instantly!

Everyone was driven hysterical at the sight of General Black's purplish-black bleeding and dismembered body being presented before their eyes.

"What? He's so strong!"

Both the man in tuxedo and the woman had their faces tensed with fear.

"Hold him for now, Dark Dancer. I'll return with backup soon!" The man in tuxedo gasped in horror. With his excellent Lightness Skills, he leaped out of the window and disappeared in a flash.

只剩下女郎惊慌失措。

想要逃,却根本逃不掉了。

陈灏手起刀落, 女郎瞬间被大卸八块。

Now left alone in panic and helplessness, the woman wanted to flee, but her fate was sealed when Chen Hao raised his hand and instantly tore her into pieces.

It took no more than a few minutes before the tables had turned.

"H-How c-could..." Visibly wetting his pants, Ximen Qing knelt at once, gulping frantically as he cried, "Young Master Chen!"

"Did you just say you're a genius? Well, I've heard many people telling me that, which made me sometimes wonder what's inside your brains that gives you guys the nerve to think so highly of yourselves. I wouldn't be that confident compared to you guys

for I doubt myself more often than not," said Chen Hao while looking at Ximen Qing.

"Young Master Chen, please spare me! To tell you the truth, I was being forced to do this... Now that the man has gone calling for help, the King of Nine Doors and Gu Yuehong will be here very soon, and you'll be in trouble! Young Master Chen, please give me a chance to redeem myself by telling you the escape route! Please spare my life!" Ximen Qing knelt down and kowtowed repeatedly.

"Hao, that guy..." Fang Jiannan was still worried about the man in tuxedo, who escaped the scene.

Chen Hao though, slowly walked toward the window without looking anxious for a single bit. "Close your eyes, Jiannan," he said.

"Huh? Oh, alright!" Fang Jiannan immediately closed her eyes upon hearing his words.

Chen Hao closed his eyes as well. In an instant, a golden eye appeared on his forehead, emitting a blaze of dazzling

golden light which covered the entire room and a loud roar was heard.

"Aaahh!"

Many in the room covered their eyes and began screaming in pain; some of them even started foaming at their mouths as they lay convulsing on the floor.

Then, a surge of shock wave gushed out from the golden eye and shot out straight toward the sky and above...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The man in tuxedo was flying in the air as he screamed in his mind, Sh*t, I'd never expected that lad's cultivation base to be so much more terrifying than Master's. It was so terrifying that I must leave at once! Luckily my reflexes are quick enough. I must quickly get out of here!

Just then, he was instantly targeted by a surge of scorching light; he lowered his head to see a gush of shock wave containing boundless energy shooting toward himself at high speed.

"Aahhh!" He screamed hysterically with his eyes widened in horror before his entire body instantly turned to dust with a loud boom...

Back in the room, Chen Hao slowly opened his own eyes and closed his golden eye, restoring calm to everyone around him.

Ximen Qing broke out in a cold sweat with his head excruciatingly painful from the sharp prick in his eyes. This man before me must be a monster, for his overbearing aura is so terrifying that it was suffocating!

"P-Please... Please spare me!" he begged while crying.

"I've said this before—anyone who harms my friends shall bring death upon themselves!" said Chen Hao.

After that, he raised his hand to point at Ximen Qing, who was then immediately engulfed in flames. A nauseating sizzle sounded, accompanied by Ximen Qing's agonized screeches before he soon turned to a piece of scorched meat!

Everyone else in the room was terrified at the scene, including Fang Jiannan, who gulped a mouthful of saliva and stared at Chen Hao with a sudden feeling that the guy in front of her whom she loved and missed with all her heart had become somewhat distant.

The scene when they first met two years ago was still vivid in her mind. He was kind and pure-hearted at the time, looking modest from head to toe without a hint of domineering arrogance despite his dignified status as Young Master Chen. Fang Jiannan had even dug into his past, which was the time when he used to be timid with little self-esteem to the point that he was constantly shy while handling many matters.

She couldn't help chuckling at her memories of him even now, for she found Chen Hao cute at the time and there was a certain personality about him which had always attracted her. But now...

Fang Jiannan was disturbed to find Chen Hao had become so cold and merciless. Ximen Qing indeed deserved death as well as those men, but their manners of death were so violent that it was simply cruel. Furthermore, Chen Hao's murderous aura almost scared her from getting near him.

"It's alright now. Let's go," suggested Chen Hao flatly.

"W-Where are we going, Hao?" asked Fang Jiannan as she came to herself.

"We're going to slay the Gu Family!" said Chen Hao before he slowly walked out.

Meanwhile, the scene turned to the Chen Family island, which had become a base of operations for the Gu Family, the Nine Doors, and the Ximen Family.

The Gu Family, in particular, was planning to build a brand new family residence on the island, considering that the Chen

Family island was vast in size and that their Gu Family residence had been burned down.

"Pft! Shame on you, you bunch of filthy men! I had thought of the Gu Family as some sort of prestigious Mystique Clan, but it turns out that all of you are nothing but a bunch of thieves!" yelled Chen Pingan. He was being hanged up at the Chen Family square, which was lively with the men from the Gu Family; they were all listening to him uncaringly.

"Hmph, you sure got the nerve to blabber even in such a state. I shall knock all your teeth out and see how you'll stay arrogant!" said some members of the Gu Family. As they were about to make their move, they were stopped by a voice that barked coldly, "Stop!"

"Madam Gu!" The members of the Gu Family on the square turned to greet Gu Yuehong, who walked toward them along with a group of people.

"Step back!" ordered Gu Yuehong.

After they left, Gu Yuehong looked at Chen Pingan, held her hands behind her back,

and said to him with a smile, "A few years ago, a mysterious master had appeared in the world with the ability to shoot a tiny leaf with an arrow from 100 miles away. I had assumed the man to be from a newborn Mystique Clan, but I never expected that person to be you!"

She was right—the man before her was very powerful. Unfortunately, he had met the King of Nine Doors; he would be completely powerless in front of the latter.

"Just cut the crap, you old hag. Kill me if you want to!" said Chen Pingan coldly.

Gu Yuehong chuckled and said flatly, "Don't you worry. You'll die sooner or later, but not now. Besides, you look very familiar to me. Are you Chen Diancang's second eldest son?"

Chen Pingan's eyelids were twitching when he heard her question. "Do you know my father?" he asked, puzzled.

"Yes. In fact, there's some history between the Gu Family and the Chen Family. I honestly never expected that sly old fox to have a remarkable hero for a son!" answered Gu Yuehong.

Gu Yuehong insulted Chen Diancang directly, which was reason enough for a man to be furious upon hearing it. But Chen Pingan responded by taking in a deep breath instead. "What's the history between him and the Gu Family?" he asked.

"Hmph. As expected, this unscrupulous man would do anything to get what he wants while fooling you all, including his own son, into believing whatever he says. His son is nothing but a pawn to him!" said Gu Yuehong with a sneer. "Alright, since you're going to die, I wouldn't mind telling you what kind of person Chen Diancang truly is. I will let you know that the Chen Family is nothing but a joke! I'm sure you'll understand who's truly the thief here after listening to my story."

Chen Pingan frowned as he listened without interrupting her.

"Chen Diancang may seem like a responsible father and a successful businessman with strong capability to you, but in reality, he's a despicable beast. Also, the Chen Family is not a powerful family with a thousand years of history at all. Chen Diancang has been deceiving you all

along!" explained Gu Yuehong. "That's because the Chen Family used to be a Mystique Clan once upon a time. In fact, the Chen Family was the strongest Mystique Clan on Earth! Their mysterious techniques were so different from that of other Mystique Clans in nature, to the point that the Chen Family in its early history was in some ways almost on par with those from the Border Realm!"

"The Chen Family was originally a Mystique Clan?" Chen Pingan was thunderstruck at Gu Yuehong's words. Of course, if that was indeed the case, then some of his long-harbored questions might have been answered.

"You're right. Unfortunately, the Chen Family had died out almost overnight when Chen Diancang was 16, leaving him the sole survivor. Thus, the Gu Family naturally became the strongest Mystique Clan on Earth after that," sneered Gu Yuehong. "Since the Chen Family and the Gu Family had been fighting for so many years, that sly old fox put all the blame on the Gu Family and tried a few times to seek revenge. He set up various schemes against the top levels of the Gu Family, but none of them succeeded because his

abilities were far less than that of the early members of the Chen Family. When he tried to steal the Gu Family's heirloom the last time, he did not even hesitate to massacre the innocent villagers from the few surrounding villages to lure the Gu Family out. In the end, he was attacked by the Gu Family from all sides and he ended up fleeing with serious injuries!"

As he was listening to Gu Yuehong, Chen Pingan suddenly became absorbed in thought.

"Why would my father keep hounding the Gu Family and attacking them over and over again, despite knowing that he was no match for your family? He must have known it was impossible for the Gu Family to slaughter the original Chen Family with their capabilities at the time as well!" said Chen Pingan after mulling it over.

"Hahaha, you are indeed Chen Diancang's son with your cleverness! You're right. Even a fool would know that the Gu Family wasn't responsible for the massacre of the Chen Family at its height. The reason he hounded us relentlessly was that he discovered an astonishing secret..."



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