

A Demoness 371

Chapter 371: The Demoness Finds Xiao Li

Jiang Hao could sense that the man before Elder Baizhi was extraordinary.

His aura was balanced and stable.

From all aspects, he had an elegant and refined demeanor.

The arrivals from the Bright Moon Sect were indeed exceptional.

They were even more formidable than the individuals he had met from the Bright Moon Sect before.

However, what caught his attention was the person behind him.

Fang Jin.

After so many years, he hadn't expected to see him again.

Unfortunately, Jiang Hao couldn't let Fang Jin recognize him.

Since Fang Jin was here, he would definitely look for Chu Chuan.

If Chu Chuan didn't encounter any accidents, he would be safe.

Even if Fang Jin came looking for him, it wouldn't be a problem.

He was different now from before.

Both in terms of aura and appearance.

Back then, Hong Yuye had shielded him from everything. She had made it impossible for anyone to see his true face.

Otherwise, he would have to hide.

He used to be an insignificant individual. He had never thought he would make acquaintance with someone from a big immortal sect.

Nevertheless, he was still a nobody and didn't dare to climb up the ranks. Doing so would only bring more trouble.

Being insignificant had its disadvantages, but being someone of import also had its issues.

He could handle most of the troubles within the Heavenly Note Sect.

"Junior Brother Jiang, are you done with the sect's mission?" asked Liu Xingchen as he approached Jiang Hao.

"Greetings, Senior Brother Liu." Jiang Hao bowed to him.

At a glance, they seemed like two people at the Primordial Spirit Realm and Foundation Establishment Realm. The gap was vast.

"The sect has been quite lively during the time you were away." Liu Xingchen smiled.

Jiang Hao was puzzled.

If Liu Xingchen, who was always bored, found it lively, then the matter must be serious.

“Soon after you entered Devils’ Den, some seniors from overseas were ambushed by our sect’s seniors. They were taken down in one move. One of them is Mu Qiu. They are in the Lawless Tower now. Elder Baizhi personally went to meet him to get some information, but Mu Qiu didn’t yield. He was hellbent on destroying the Heavenly Note Sect,” said Liu Xingchen.

Jiang Hao hadn’t expected Mu Qiu to be sent to the Lawless Tower so soon. He had been worried about nothing.

He was puzzled why Mu Qiu had given in so easily.

He had learned that name from Heavenly King Hai Luo. However, he had refused to reveal the information to the heavenly Note Sect.

Jiang Hao suspected it was Mi Lingyue who had given it away.

The Heavenly Note Sect was searching for individuals targeting the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. Everybody knew that.

Mu Qiu’s name had likely come up. Since he boldly barged into the heavenly Note Sect, Mu Qiu was taken down.

Jiang Hao thought it might have happened that way, but he had no way to confirm it.

“It’s said that Mu Qiu wanted to activate the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl and was absolutely confident they could do it. Elder Baizhi was decisive and prepared the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror. They paid a huge price to activate the mirror. It’s truly an extraordinary treasure. The Heavenly

Essence Soul Modeling Mirror was directed at Mu Qiu and revealed his actions. Although he was concealed by luck, he couldn’t escape the power of the treasure. The other person was immediately located. Unfortunately, it was too late. That person had already died. The Law Enforcement Hall tried to

track the killer, but we couldn't find them. I feel like the one who killed Li Bai is the same one who killed the legacy disciple of the Hundred Bones Forest. What do you think, Junior Brother Jiang?"

Cold sweat trickled down Jiang Hao's back.

It wasn't because Liu Xingchen was asking for his opinion. He feared the

Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror

He was certain that once the mirror was directed at him, he wouldn't be able to avoid it.

It was no wonder that no one in the sect dared to offend the Law Enforcement Hall. Everyone feared the mirror.

It was impossible to hide from it.

This meant that he was safe for now, but it also meant he had to be more cautious in the future.

However, so much had happened.

"Is the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl really that important?" Jiang Hao asked.

"It seems so, otherwise, why would people from the Bright Moon Sect come here so suddenly? They must have sensed something." Liu Xingchen looked at Xu Bai. "I've heard that person is also an extraordinary figure in the Bright

Moon Sect. Such a person coming here has surprised everyone." Jiang Hao nodded and then looked at Liu Xingchen. He appraised him.

[Liu Xingchen: True Disciple of the Heavenly Faction. Born with the aura of a dragon. An undercover agent of the Law Enforcement Hall of the Heavenly Note Sect. He holds a slight interest in those three

remnant souls, but their lack of action has left him bored. The individual capable of activating the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was killed. He suspects that it is somehow connected with you. His interest in you has grown stronger, especially after getting to know you. He now finds his days in the Heavenly Note Sect to be far more interesting than before he knew you.]

Jiang Hao felt stressed. How bored could Liu Xingchen be?

He didn't care about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower at all now. He just wanted to keep an eye on Jiang Hao.

In the beginning, he just befriended Jiang Hao because of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. But things had changed.

With the arrival of the Bright Moon Sect's people, he decided to keep a low profile, avoid them, and stay put at the Cliff of Broken Hearts.

After bidding farewell to Liu Xingchen, he went to the Law Enforcement Hall and reported the completion of the mission.

He received 380 spirit stones. Then, he went to the market to buy some materials to make more talismans.

This time, he needed materials, especially for the Breath Concealment Talisman.

He also needed materials for the Thousand Miles Teleportation Talisman.

A bundle of ten sheets costs around four hundred spirit stones.

He bought three bundles and spent a total of eight hundred.

He also purchased ink brushes and other talisman papers, cinnabar, and so on.

Those materials cost him around two thousand spirit stones. He also bought some Vitality Pills.

He bought a bottle of Healing Pills too.

It cost another two thousand spirit stones.

Everything was too expensive.

In the end, he decided to buy a few more things. He bought three bottles of Vitality Pills and two bottles of Healing Pills. It cost around one thousand spirit stones.

They weren't the best pills, but they were still useful. At two hundred spirit stones each, they were considered quite expensive. Although their effects on his Primordial Spirit weren't that significant, having them was better than nothing at all.

In total, he spent three thousand spirit stones.

After that, he sold some talismans. The client from before wasn't there. However, with the recent events and the arrival of the Bright Moon Sect, people were worried. Talismans sold very well.

He was left with 2367 spirit stones.

At night, Xiao Li was picking jujubes at the outer gates of the Cliff of Broken Hearts. Whenever she saw them, it reminded her of her parents.

She ate them while deep in thought.

Suddenly, she felt uneasy.

She could smell a nice fragrance. She turned her head to look behind her.

For an instant, she thought she saw a red shadow, but there was nothing there.

She scratched her head in confusion and continued eating the jujubes..

Chapter 372: The Demoness Questions Xiao Li

In the moonlight, Xiao Li plucked white jujubes.

She put one in her mouth and held the others in her hand.

While picking them, she recalled the times when her parents were still around. At that time, she would secretly glance at them before plucking one from the tree.

Sometimes they wouldn't let her pluck them.

"They're not ripe yet. You'll get a stomachache," her mother used to say.

Her father, on the other hand, would quietly come up behind her and ask what she was doing. He often teased her.

Xiao Li felt sad thinking about them.

"Why aren't you picking more of those?" said a voice from behind.

Xiao Li was startled. The jujubes fell from her hands.

In her haste, she failed to save them.

She turned to look behind her and found a figure in a red and white gown that had appeared by her side silently. She didn't know how long the woman had been standing behind her.

Under the moonlight, her face was breathtaking. It was a scene of otherworldly beauty.

"So beautiful!" Xiao Li exclaimed.

Hong Yuye looked at Xiao Li. "Are you Xiao Li?"

"You know me?" Xiao Li crouched down to pick up the jujubes.

One jujube fell at Hong Yuye's feet, and she leaned down to pick it up.

She wiped it off and asked Xiao Li if she wanted to eat it.

Hong Yuye picked up the jujube but didn't eat it.

"Is this jujube tree yours?" she asked.

"It was left to me by my parents," said Xiao Li sadly.

Hong Yuye looked at the jujubes. She wiped the one in her hands. "When did you start living with them?"

"I've been with them ever since I can remember," Xiao Li said.

She looked at the person before her. "Are you a senior? Why haven't I seen you before?"

“How would you have seen me?” Hong Yuye chuckled.

“Because...” Xiao Li looked at her. “I have a feeling you must know Senior Brother Jiang.”

“Do you have a good relationship with him?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Yes.” Xiao Li smiled. “Now, Senior Brother Jiang is my older brother.”

Hong Yuye fell silent. She looked at the young girl with interest. Then, a pill appeared in her hand.

“Try this.”

“What is this?” Xiao Li was puzzled.

“Scarlet Feather Divine Pill,” Hong Yuye said.

Xiao Li didn’t understand what it was, but she didn’t think too much about it.

She accepted it and put it in her mouth.

After biting into it twice, she looked pleased. “It’s crisp and sweet.”

She then swallowed the pill.

Hong Yuye watched her intently as though she wanted to see if there would be any changes. “How does it feel after swallowing it?”

Xiao Li furrowed her brow. “I feel like something is moving chaotically inside me, but I can’t catch it.”

“Come here,” Hong Yuye whispered.

Xiao Li walked over to her. With a slender finger, Hong Yuye drew something on her body. It made Xiao Li feel ticklish.

She giggled.

Hong Yuye gently patted her, and the chaotic sensation dissipated.

She felt comfortable in an instant. It was strange.

Hong Yuye seemed deep in thought.

Finally, she shook her head slightly, as if she hadn't found the answer she was seeking.

After that, she turned to leave.

Xiao Li suddenly grabbed her hand.

“Hmm?” Hong Yuye turned around.

Xiao Li was a bit frightened and hurriedly let go of her hand.

She felt scared and lost, so she offered Hong Yuye the jujubes in her hand.

“Here... Please have these.”

Hong Yuye looked at the young girl intently. She accepted a jujube. “How old are you?”

“Sixteen,” Xiao Li said.

“What’s your cultivation realm?”

“I’m at the seventh stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm, I’m about to advance to the eighth stage.”

“Do you lie?”

“Huh?” Xiao Li was puzzled. “My mother used to say lying is bad. Even Lord Beast doesn’t lie. It says all its friends are honest because honesty means respect for one another.”

Hong Yuye looked at the young girl in front of her with a strange look in her eyes. “How did you end up here?” she asked.

Xiao Li told her about her experiences and the recruitment process. She was so excited that she talked with Hong Yuye until midnight. After that, she fell asleep.

When she woke up the next morning, she was still under the jujube tree.

She looked around but didn’t see the senior from the night before.

This left her puzzled. Just then, her stomach growled.

She brushed her thoughts away and ran to the cafeteria.

Seven days later, Jiang Hao was tending the spirit herbs in the Spirit Herb Garden at noon.

The incident involving Mu Qiu had passed, but matters overseas were still ongoing.

Others were still concerned about the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

Although there were no rare Bodies of Misfortune for now, they had to remain cautious.

The Heavenly Note Sect was still investigating the overseas individuals, as well as the remnants of the Heavenly Saint Sect.

They were determined to eliminate every danger.

Most of this information was conveyed to him by Liu Xingchen.

However, due to the arrival of the Bright Moon Sect, the sect couldn't act recklessly.

They needed to deal with the strong individuals from the Bright Moon Sect.

If the Bright Moon Sect decided to take action against them, the consequences could be dire.

These days, Han Ming and the others were preparing for every possible scenario. Members of the Bright Moon Sect proposed a friendly sparring match.

What surprised everyone was that the one initiating the match was a prominent figure from the Bright Moon Sect. It was Xu Bai.

For a while, the sect felt that he was being unfair to them. If he went to that extent, it would reflect badly on the Heavenly Note Sect. Was he trying to embarrass them?

No matter what, Han Ming didn't let his guard down. He was with his master almost every day. He practiced every day to make himself stronger.

Among those at the Foundation Establishment Realm, nobody was as diligent as Han Ming.

His talent surpassed others, his opportunities were more abundant, and he worked harder than everyone else. There was no way others could catch up to him.

In his view, Jiang Hao was only relying on a higher cultivation realm to win against him.

Once he reached the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm, it would be Jiang Hao's time to lose.

Jiang Hao often saw Han Ming.

Occasionally, Han Ming would come to him and tell him that he only hid in the Spirit Herb Garden. He sometimes declared that he would surpass Jiang Hao soon enough.

To this, Jiang Hao praised Han Ming even further and encouraged him to practice harder.

Xu Bai from the Bright Moon Sect wanted to spar with everyone from Foundation Establishment, Golden Core, and Primordial Spirit Realm cultivators. This caught him off guard.

They wondered whether the Bright Moon Sect was trying to oppress them.

To the Heavenly Note Sect, they were just a distant sect.

Nevertheless, Jiang Hao didn't mind. He wasn't the one participating, after all. He could just watch from below.

At this moment, someone unexpectedly visited the Spirit Herb Garden. It was Fang Jin.

'Why did he come here?' Jiang Hao was surprised.

"Apologies for troubling you, fellow disciple," Fang Jin said politely. "I came to take a look around. I hope I'm not causing any trouble."

“No worries. Senior, if you need anything, please don’t hesitate to ask,” Jiang Hao said with a bow.

“Fellow disciple, there is no need to be so formal. According to the hierarchy of each sect, we should be at a similar level. Referring to each other as “fellow disciple” is fine with me. I feel a bit uncomfortable being referred to as Senior,” said Fang Jin.

Jiang Hao lowered his head and didn’t say anything.

Addressing someone in the Golden Core Realm as a “fellow disciple” when he only displayed his realm at the Foundation Establishment Realm was quite troublesome.

The Divine Corpse Sect had done the same thing in the beginning.

“Fellow disciple, your name is Jiang Hao?” Fang Jin asked.

“Indeed.” Jiang Hao nodded.

Fang Jin also nodded. He didn’t ask further questions. He proceeded to explore the garden.

After a simple stroll, he left.

Jiang Hao knew that Fang Jin was looking for Chu Chuan.

He should be able to find him if there were no accidents.

Thankfully, Lin Zhi had used a concealment talisman to hide his aura. So, he wouldn’t be discovered easily.

The rest depended on Chu Chuan..

Chapter 373: The Secret of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower

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Bang!

Chu Chuan was hit again. His head was covered in wounds, and he lay motionless on the ground.

“Junior Brother Chu?” Xiao Li shook Chu Chuan gently.

When he didn’t respond, Xiao Li looked at Cheng Chou. He seemed to be asking for his help.

They had been too heavy-handed this time.

However, Chu Chuan insisted that he was fine and encouraged them to go all out.

“It seems like it’s over. The peaches are finally ripe. Let’s go pick some peaches,” the beast said as it hopped onto Xiao Li’s shoulder.

Xiao Li was excited.

Cheng Chou felt helpless. He went to the outer sect and went about his work.

He had gotten used to this kind of thing.

It had been like this for the past few years. Chu Chuan’s progress had amazed him.

His talent was no less than that of a gifted disciple.

Chu Chuan struggled to open his eyes. Next time, he definitely wouldn't boast in front of Xiao Li again.

Xiao Li had no sense of restraint, whereas the beast knew how to hold back and when to go easy.

Xiao Li was like a child and did whatever she pleased.

It would be even better if it were Senior Brother Cheng. He would show him some new moves.

Unfortunately, these three people came to test his progress. There was no rule of who went first. The one who felt like it did it.

"You're awake."

It was a male voice.

Chu Chuan jumped up. He was on his guard. He frowned when he saw the person next to him.

The man seemed somewhat familiar, but he couldn't recall where he had seen him before.

"Just a few years, and you've already forgotten me?" Fang Jin smiled at Chu Chuan.

He had been walking around when he found Chu Chuan knocked out on the ground.

Fang Jin didn't know what had happened, but he waited for him to wake up.

'Senior Fang?' Chu Chuan could hardly believe it.

Fang Jin nodded.

“How’s Chu Jie? Is she well?” Chu Chuan asked.

“She’s well. Even better than you might think,” said Fang Jin. He looked at Chu Chuan’s injuries. “How are you?”

“I’m fine. Every day here is very fulfilling, ” Chu Chuan said eagerly.

Fang Jin was puzzled. Chu Chuan looked like he was beaten badly, but he still looked happy.

“Do you know which sect this is?”

Chu Chuan nodded. “It’s a demonic sect. Heavenly Note Sect.”

“So, you know. How did you end up here? And where’s Senior Jiang?” Fang Jin asked.

“I don’t know...” Chu Chuan shook his head. “When I was taken away, I fainted. When I woke up, I was here, and then someone guided me into the sect.” Fang Jin nodded.

He could sense that Jiang Hao Tian didn’t want to get involved in this matter.

However, it was clear that everything they had left for Chu Chuan had been given to him.

The only thing that surprised him was Chu Chuan’s cultivation realm. He was almost at the seventh stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

‘How can this be?’

This talent was quite high. It wasn’t the same as what they had expected before.

“Have you had any fortuitous encounters?” Fang Jin asked. “Fortuitous encounters? Not at all.” Chu Chuan shook his head.

“Then what about your cultivation realm?”

“It’s been increasing normally, but I have to endure a beating every week.” Chu

Chuan chuckled. “The more I fight, the stronger I become.”

In an instant, Fang Jin understood. ‘Special physique?’

Although Chu Chuan’s talent was average, his physique was unique.

Back then, Jiang Hao Tian had asked him why he couldn’t take Chu Chuan along. After that, he had placed him in a demonic sect.

‘Had he known?’

Fang Jin didn’t think much about it.

After all, there was no right answer, unless he found Jiang Hao Tian and asked him properly.

“I came to find you for two reasons. First, Junior Sister Chu Jie is worried about you and wants to know about your situation,” Fang Jin said.

“I’m doing well. Tell her not to worry.” Chu Chuan patted his chest confidently.

Fang Jin nodded. “Secondly, I want to ask you something.”

“What is it?” Chu Chuan asked.

“I want to invite you to join the Bright Moon Sect,” Fang Jin said. “Do you want to join us?”

Chu Chuan realized that everything Senior Brother Jiang had said was true.

“You don’t have to worry about leaving this sect. We’ll figure out a way to take you with us without any serious consequences,” said Fang Jin. “If you have any ideas, you can share them, of course.”

“Are you inviting me because of Chu Jie?” Chu Chuan asked. Fang Jin fell silent for a moment. “It does have something to do with that.” “Is the Bright Moon Sect very powerful?” Chu Chuan asked.

“Yes, very powerful. What you can learn there is ten times more than what you’ll learn here,” Fang Jin said.

He was being quite modest. The Heavenly Note Sect couldn’t compare to the Bright Moon Sect at all.

“I... refuse,” Chu Chuan said.

Fang Jin was surprised. “Won’t you think about it a bit more?”

“No... I don’t want to live in Chu Jie’s shadow,” said Chu Chuan. “If I do that, then she won’t even be comfortable to reach her full potential. It will affect her cultivation. Another reason is that I want to pave my own path too. Lord Beast says that going up a mountain is always very difficult because the path is steep and rugged, but coming down is easier. The more exceptional Chu Jie becomes, the more comfortable I’ll feel in the Bright Moon Sect. That will affect my own path to cultivation.”

“Uncle Beast?” Fang Jin was astonished.

“There are three people who constantly test my progress. Uncle Beast is one of them. It beats me up, but it’s for my own good,” said Chu Chuan.

Fang Jin was speechless. However, Chu Chuan’s words made sense to him.

This Chu Chuan was no longer the frail-looking boy of the past. The Heavenly Note Sect had made him learn and grow.

“By the way, Senior, when you return, can you not mention my cultivation realm to Chu Jie?” asked Chu Chuan. “I want to enter the Foundation Establishment Realm before your sect’s Dao Conference begins. Then, I’ll go find Chu Jie. It’ll be a surprise.”

Fang Jin nodded and smiled. “Sure.”

For a moment, he was looking forward to Chu Chuan’s visit to the Bright Moon Sect.

Fang Jin thought of Senior Uncle Xiao. Back then, he hadn’t thought much of Chu Chuan. If Chu Chuan advanced fast into the Foundation establishment Realm and visited the sect, he would surely be astonished.

At White Moon Lake, Baizhi looked at the black-robed woman. “Are all the disciples ready?”

“Yes.” The black-robed woman nodded.

Since the Bright Moon Sect proposed a sparring match, they obviously couldn’t refuse.

But Xu Bai personally involving himself with this left everyone puzzled. What exactly did he intend to do?

They had to be cautious.

There was another matter that made Baizhi restless.

A few days ago, she met Mi Lingyue.

She learned something that very few people knew in this world.

She said that many in the cultivation world might know about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, and they might have a rough idea of what the flower was like.

However, many people didn't know that these records were from countless years ago.

Furthermore, these records didn't include the growth process, and the descriptions of the fragrance were extremely vague.

In short, if the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower appeared somewhere, and it grew naturally, there was no problem. However, if artificial means were used to grow the flower, then the person doing it was noteworthy.

It seemed that no one knew how to grow the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower in this world. No one at all.

Those words left Baizhi shocked. She found it hard to calm herself.

She finally understood why the Sect Master kept a close eye on Jiang Hao and even tried to nurture his talents.

She also understood why the Blackheaven Sect had been hellbent on taking Jiang Hao away. The Sect Master had killed the envoy from there too.

At that time, she only thought that Jiang Hao was one of the few people who could grow the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. She hadn't realized that he was irreplaceable.

When she first heard the news, she couldn't stop her hands from trembling. She had done something terribly wrong without realizing it.

It was precisely because she had made a mistake that the Sect Master needed to intervene..

Chapter 374: What Does Your Injury Have To Do With Me?

“Mi Lingyue wants to see me?”

Jiang Hao looked at the communication talisman. He thought maybe she had important information to give him.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have been able to get to the higher people and make them summon him.

The communication didn't specify a date. It meant he could go to the Lawless

Tower whenever he wanted.

‘What can I gain from Mi Lingyue?’

Jiang Hao thought for a while, and the only thing he could gain was experience in talisman making.

Although he also had an interest in array formations and alchemy, there was no time. He didn't have the talent for that either.

It would take a lot of time for him to learn.

While the Heavenly Note Sect did have teachings on array formations, they were as comprehensive as what was taught in the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

Even if he could learn the basics, it would still be difficult to master everything.

Furthermore, he needed to focus on crafting talismans, and studying array formations would take up a lot of time.

He shook his head and looked at the peach tree in the courtyard.

The Immortal Peach Tree had already borne fruit. Every day, the fruits would be fewer.

Xiao Li and the beast picked the peaches as if they were thieves. They always avoided him. He didn't know why they did that. It wasn't as though he stopped them from taking the peaches.

He used Daily Appraisal on the peach tree. He wanted to know how many spirit stones were required this time for the incarnation. It had already been three years since the last incarnation.

[Immortal Peach Tree: Related to the ancient divine tree, the Immortal Peach Tree. It possesses a trace of the divine. The fruits are sweet. Leaven one fruit on the tree and surround it with 19,999 spirit stones arranged in a spirit-gathering formation to trigger an incarnation. After undergoing nine successful incarnations, the tree will turn into an Immortal Peach Tree. It is easier for the incarnation to succeed if it is placed near other divine items.]

'Almost twenty thousand spirit stones...'

Jiang Hao checked his storage treasure.

After deducting twenty thousand, he had less than four hundred left. For a moment, he felt regretful. He was back to having only a few hundred spirit stones at hand.

He needed to earn more spirit stones as soon as possible.

He headed to the Spirit Herb Garden.

Late, the Spiritual Herb Garden had been relatively quiet.

No one from other branches had come to cause trouble. As his cultivation improved, there would be fewer people doing that.

But that didn't mean the problems were gone.

"How's the Outer Sect's Spirit Herb Garden?" Jiang Hao asked.

"It's the same, but I heard that they are planning to start planting herbs. Each branch's Spirit Herb Gardens has been asked to contribute some spirit herbs. Any type would do," said Cheng Chou. We need you to make the decision, Senior Brother Jiang."

Jiang Hao was most familiar with the spirit herbs in the Spiritual Herb Garden, and he knew which herbs could be given away without incurring a loss.

Suddenly, he remembered that he still had some spirit herbs left from before.

He could select some common ones to send to the Outer Sect's Spirit Herb Garden.

If they survived, that'd be great. If not, it wasn't much of a loss. He had already suffered a lot at the hands of Gu Qing anyway.

He couldn't nurture the remaining spirit herbs here. He had done it before.

Doing so again would make people suspect that he had an abundance of spirit herbs.

He could just give them away to the Outer Sect's Spirit Herb Garden.

In the afternoon, Jiang Hao went to the Lawless Tower. He soared through the air on his flying sword.

A woman with long hair flew ahead of him. She was at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Jiang Hao followed behind. He lowered himself slightly in the air.

This way, the woman would have an unobstructed view of everything, and she wouldn't bother him.

At this moment, a man flew from behind. He was covered in injuries.

He directly blocked the path of the woman in front.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"What am I doing? I was going to ask you the same thing," said the man in anger. "Aren't you going to do something about my injuries?"

"What does your injury have to do with me?" the woman asked.

"Really? It has nothing to do with you?" said the man furiously. "When you flew by, you crashed onto me, and I fell. Do you still think it has nothing to do with you?"

"That's your problem. I didn't crash onto you deliberately. I didn't make you fall. It's your own fault," said the woman.

"I fell because you crashed onto me. I got hurt! How can you say that is my fault?"

"Alright, alright. Fine! I get it. It was my fault. Now, can you leave?"

"That's it? You admit it and then ask me to leave?" The man clenched his fists.

"What else do you want? How do you want me to make up for it? I'm already running late for Senior Brother Qianchen's meeting. Will you take responsibility for making me arrive late?"

Jiang Hao took a detour and flew past. He didn't want to get involved.

However, he hadn't flown very far when he felt someone shoot past him. Fortunately, he evaded the person in time.

"Why are you in front of me?!"

It was the woman from before.

Jiang Hao was surprised. She looked beautiful. However, she had a sharp tongue.

Jiang Hao didn't think it was his problem that they had almost crashed into each other. He wasn't even standing in her way.

However, he didn't say anything and let her pass.

He didn't care much. This was the first time this had happened. He had ridden on his sword and flown throughout the Heavenly Note Sect but had never met someone like her.

Soon, he arrived at the Lawless Tower. He went up to the fifth floor.

Surprisingly, Mi Lingyue was still there.

She should have been demoted to lower floors a long time ago. It seemed that the people from the Lawless Tower intentionally kept her here.

There were only three prisoners on the fifth floor. Zhuang Yuzhen, Hai Luo, and Mi Lingyue.

Jiang Hao looked toward the fourth cell. It was empty.

Gu Qing had been sent to the mines.

He heard that prisoner number five was Mu Qiu.

Mu Qiu's fate was different from the others.

The Heavenly Note Sect didn't kill valuable people.

At worst, they would be sent to the mines.

Mu Qiu should have had immense value, but he was still killed.

He was unwilling to give the sect information in exchange for his life. So, he had no use.

Mu Qiu was afraid of death. Jiang Hao had heard that he regretted it at the last moment and pleaded, but the executioner had no patience to listen to his excuses.

Jiang Hao thought he would be sent to the mines. He even thought he could visit him there to get some information.

Dangerous individuals like him weren't allowed to live. When Jiang Hao arrived, Hai Luo glared at Mi Lingyue.

"B*tch, your master is here."

"You should be called the Heavenly Conch King instead. You are nothing more than an empty vessel that can do nothing but make annoying noises," said Mi Lingyue.

Jiang Hao walked up to Mi Lingyue. "You wanted to see me?"

'Yes,' she said nervously. 'I admit that I acted a bit arrogantly before. I have since reflected on myself and will never behave like that again. If you need me to cooperate with anything, I'm fully willing. Do you have any questions for

Jiang Hao was surprised. She indeed cared about her child. Otherwise, why would she be so obedient suddenly?

Since Mi Lingyue was being cooperative, there was something he wanted to know about..

Chapter 375: Hypocrite

'Crafting talismans?' Mi Lingyue was surprised. 'You want me to teach you some basic talismans? Not even powerful ones?'

Jiang Hao shook his head. He only wanted to learn talisman crafting. If he wanted a specific talisman, he could always purchase it, learn the method, and then make more. He could then sell it.

For instance, he knew how to make the Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman, but he couldn't sell it.

He just needed to learn the basic way and pattern to go about making any kind of talisman. That way, he could make anything he wanted.

'Then, I need to make sure what you already know first. What kind of talismans do you usually make?' she asked.

The other two in cages also turned to look at them in curiosity. They had some understanding of talisman-making as well.

'I know how to make the Divine Movement Talisman, Spirit Gathering Talisman, Ten Thousand Swords Talisman, and Hundred Thousand Swords Talisman,' said Jiang Hao.

“You know the Hundred Thousand Sword Talismans too?” Mi Lingyue was surprised.

“I do.” Jiang Hao nodded.

After that, he took out all of these types of talismans he had created lately. Mi Lingyue looked at them and told him that they were of high quality. Then, she didn’t say anything.

Jiang Hao couldn’t understand whether she was praising him or criticizing him.

“Are you self-taught?” Mi Lingyue asked.

“Yes. Is there something wrong with that?” Jiang Hao was confused.

“Have you seen exceptionally powerful brushwork? I mean, have you seen very powerful talismans?”

Jiang Hao nodded.

Mi Lingyue looked at the runes for a while. “Your talisman crafting talent is quite good, but your process is quite ordinary. Furthermore, being able to see brushwork from a single talisman means you can obviously pursue this path. However, I don’t know how far you can go. In the early stages, hard work can make a difference, but later on, it’s all about comprehension. This thing is both profound and mysterious. You’ll understand when the time comes. I’ll teach you the basic brushwork now, and then you’ll be able to better grasp the brushwork you see. But don’t get deceived by brushwork, and don’t try to forcefully imitate it. You need to find your own path in this, just like talisman crafting, alchemy, array formations, and forging. It’s all about being flexible and walking the path that suits you the most. Of course, if you don’t have enough talent, then this will not work. Some people are just born for this. Some need to consolidate their foundations and then seek the path. You need to find out which one you are.”

Jiang Hao nodded. He could do this.

Although he had some talent, he still needed to take it step by step. He could only succeed if he believed in his capabilities.

He wasn't looking to become excellent at this craft. He just wanted to make spirit stones through it. The essence of it all was to improve his cultivation. After that, he began to learn. Brushwork could be divided into many aspects, including lines, thickness, curvature, and so on.

He truly benefited a lot from this information.

After a while, he whispered something to Mi Lingyue. No one else could hear him. After that, Mi Lingyue relaxed.

She also didn't speak loudly. She wasn't Hai Luo, after all.

Jiang Hao then asked Zhuang Yuzhen about the extraordinary genius from two hundred years ago who had appeared in the Corpse Realm.

"I heard it was someone from the west."

Shang An was from the west.

So, the extraordinary genius from two hundred years ago was most certainly him.

The next day, the sparring match between the Bright Moon Sect and the Heavenly Note Sect began.

Jiang Hao had just arrived at the Spiritual Herb Garden when Xiao Li and the others were waiting for him.

"Senior Brother Jiang, do you want to come with us?" Xiao Li picked up the spirit beast in her arms.

"You all go ahead," Jiang Hao said.

It would only start at noon, so he still had time to tend to the spirit herbs. Jiang Hao watched them leave and walked into the Spiritual Herb Garden.

[Strength +1] [Spirit +1]

[Spirit Sword +1]

After such a long time, he felt like he had gained a lot of spirit swords. Unfortunately, he couldn't put them to use. He could only give them away as gifts.

If he ever needed help from someone from the outer sect, he could give them spirit swords instead of spirit stones. They would be happy to receive spirit swords.

He couldn't sell these within the sect. It would invite unnecessary trouble.

At noon, Jiang Hao arrived at the arena outside the Law Enforcement Hall. Many people had gathered around.

Everyone was paying close attention to the match between their own sect and the Bright Moon Sect.

Even though they knew they weren't a match, they couldn't help but watch.

When Jiang Hao arrived, he saw that Manlong was standing in the arena. He had achieved the peak of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

As the former top disciple, no one was a match for him.

He wasn't disqualified from participating in the previous competitions, so he could still receive resources and visit the Bright Moon Sect. He could even spar with them.

He stood there with absolute confidence. Manlong's talent, opportunities, and strength were beyond reach.

Even against the Bright Moon Sect, he was confident that he could put up a fight.

Jiang Hao looked around and found Xu Bai standing next to Elder Baizhi and the others.

"He looks elegant and refined, but he's a hypocrite," whispered a man angrily.

"That's right! A scoundrel is a scoundrel. No one's looking down on them. These noble and upright sects love to pretend to be gentlemen. When he wins, he will act all elegant and graceful. When he loses, he'll take out his anger on us. Then he will try to suppress others with his realm. Shameless! He is making such a big show of this," said a woman.

Jiang Hao stood amidst the crowd. He didn't think too much about it. He just wanted to see what would happen.

But he felt that the words of two people made sense.

Xu Bai soared into the air and landed in the arena.

His cultivation was now at the peak of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Manlong looked at him like he was facing a formidable enemy. At this moment, blood surged within him, and he didn't dare to underestimate Xu Bai in the

"I am Xu Bai. May I ask who you are?" Xu Bai smiled. "Manlong," said Manlong. "Should we start now?" "Of course." Xu Bai didn't waste any time either.

Whoosh!

Manlong shot out.

Boom!

A powerful fist pounded toward Xu Bai.

In response, Xu Bai raised his hand to defend himself and was pushed back a bit by the impact of the punch.

“Great!”

People cheered.

Manlong didn't stop. He continued his assault.

Boom!

Boom!

He threw punches. Each punch was accompanied by a burst of energy.

The arena shattered layer after layer.

Xu Bai retreated and counterattacked.

He used his fingers as a sword. He found gaps in Manlong's defense and poked at him.

Splat!

Blood splattered everywhere.

However, Manlong didn't pay it any mind. He continued with his attacks.

Xu Bai struck Manlong's body with over a hundred strikes.

Blood flowed. The friendly spar became intense.

Manlong seemed to become more courageous as the fight went on. He even surpassed his limits.

At this moment, Manlong felt that something was off. He was excited about this fight, and his body felt different from before. It was as though nothing hindered him at all. It was as if he had reached his peak.

"Roar!"

His blood energy transformed into a fierce beast around him. It was majestic and incredibly powerful.

Manlong launched his most powerful attack and charged forward.

Boom!

Xu Bai countered with his palm. A powerful shockwave spread out.

In an instant, both Manlong and Xu Bai were pushed back.

Manlong stood still. He was unwilling to back down.

"It seems like a tie. Friend Manlong, you are indeed quite exceptional," Xu Bai said.

He smiled warmly at him.

Manlong gritted his teeth. He knew that Xu Bai had gone easy on him. He had guided him to refine his cultivation at his peak. That was why he had felt different.

Yet Xu Bai didn't take any credit for it at all. He didn't even mention it. He just declared that it was a tie.

Manlong bowed to him in respect. "I know I lost. I accept that wholeheartedly.."

Chapter 376: The One Who Sees Through People's Hearts

Manlong had lost.

Although it seemed like a tie, he did lose. Quite thoroughly, in fact.

Jiang Hao had seen it clearly. Xu Bai wasn't just sparring with Manlong. He was also guiding him.

After the battle, Manlong became stronger than before.

He had to admit defeat.

'What is he doing?' Jiang Hao was puzzled.

If he kept guiding people in this way, it would be a huge opportunity for his opponents to learn.

As someone who excelled in the Bright Moon Sect, Xu Bai's insight and understanding surpassed those of other sects.

Although he was a disciple of the sect, he was definitely not an ordinary one.

His strength even exceeded that of some senior disciples.

“He is pretending it’s a tie and pretending to be magnanimous. Making others think he is such a gentleman. It’s a trick commonly used by cultivators. If he finds someone stronger than him, his resolve will crumble,” said a voice. Jiang Hao didn’t know if that was true. He didn’t think Xu Bai could lose.

Jiang Hao didn’t think Xu Bai was the way they described.

However, that wasn’t important right now.

It wasn’t like he was going to interact with Xu Bai, so it had nothing to do with him.

He wouldn’t choose to live as Xu Bai either. He preferred others not paying attention to him or underestimating him.

After Manlong left the stage, a disciple in the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm took his place in the arena.

It was the same all over again, and the result was the same too.

It was declared a tie.

Several times in a row, the disciples of the Heavenly Note Sect displayed their powerful combat abilities, yet the match always ended in a tie.

Jiang Hao was surprised. He realized that Xu Bai’s control over power was precise.

He indeed hadn’t used excessive strength. He only used the necessary bit of it to make his attacks flow smoothly and strengthen the opponent.

Jiang Hao tried it himself and could sense every tiny bit of strength in his body, but his control was far from that of Xu Bai.

He could also see some issues with the disciples' spiritual energy, but he couldn't provide the clearest guidance.

This was a gap in experience.

'He is indeed a very strong cultivator from the Bright Moon Sect.' Jiang Hao was amazed.

It wasn't only Jiang Hao. Even Baizhi and the other seniors realized it.

They didn't know what Xu Bai was up to.

In just one day, Xu Bai sparred with twelve people.

Each match ended in a tie, and each person found themselves with improved cultivation.

Xu Bai returned to stand with the seniors and elders.

"I've made a fool of myself in front of you seniors. Forgive me."

Baizhi was silent for a while. "Friend, is there something you want?"

"Yes." Xu Bai nodded. "Could I trouble you to accompany me to your sect's mine?"

'Is he looking for treasure?' Baizhi was concerned, but she didn't show it.

"Of course," she said.

Following that, several people arrived at the mines.

They didn't enter. They just stood at the edge of the cave.

There weren't many people down there at the moment.

"We don't mine at night," Baizhi said.

Xu Bai nodded. "I've heard that many people captured by your sect are sent to the mines. Is this true?"

"That's indeed the case. Are you looking for someone?" Baizhi was surprised.

If he didn't want treasure, it was all well and good. The famed treasure of the mine was an elusive thing. It might or might not be real.

"Yes." Xu Bai looked at Baizhi. "I don't know if your sect has recently captured someone with the surname Gu?"

"Gu Qing?" Baizhi immediately thought of her.

"Perhaps she's the same person I'm looking for. Can you let me meet her once?" Xu Bai asked.

After a short while, Gu Qing was brought to them.

When she saw Xu Bai, she seemed taken aback. "Please, take me away from here! I'll tell you everything. These monsters of the Heavenly Note Sect are worse than animals. They don't treat me like a human being at all." Xu Bai frowned. He then used a technique to seal Gu Qing's mouth shut.

"Don't you have any manners?" Xu Bai scolded her.

Then he looked at Baizhi. "There's something I'd like to ask you, Elder Baizhi. Did your sect take the Sky-Piercing Shuttle?"

Baizhi was wary of his question.

"Elder Baizhi, please don't read too much into it," Xu Bai said hurriedly. "I am indeed here for that treasure, but I wouldn't resort to force. I can exchange a similar treasure with you for that particular treasure. All credit goes to you and your sect for Gu Qing's capture, after all."

After a night of discussion, Baizhi reached an agreement with Xu Bai.

Both the Sky-Piercing Shuttle and Gu Qing were handed over to him. It was already morning by then.

"Then I won't disturb you any longer, Elder Bai," Xu Bai said politely. "Thank you so much for your help."

As Baizhi and the others left, he looked at Gu Qing.

"Are we taking her along when we visit other sects?" asked Fang Jin.

"There's no other choice. When the time comes, Junior Brother Fang, you'll need to watch her carefully." Xu Bai chuckled.

Fang Jin nodded.

"Speaking of which, I'm quite curious. They say that the Fallen Immortal Clan isn't easy to subdue. Why did you give up the Sky-Piercing Shuttle? How did you even get captured?" asked Xu Bai.

Gu Qing fell silent.

“If you don’t cooperate, I won’t have any reason to take you back with us. You can stay here,” Xu Bai said calmly.

“There’s an artifact that interferes with the Sky-Piercing Shuttle,” said Gu Qing hurriedly. “I was hiding here quite well, but I got discovered. They ambushed me and sent me to the Lawless Tower. I lost all my cultivation. The Heavenly Note Sect is truly wicked and demonic. They send the captives to the mine to dig all day, and they only give us a chance to cultivate at night. Once we reach Foundation Establishment Realm, we’re sent back to the Lawless Tower to stunt our growth. The cycle repeats endlessly.”

Xu Bai and Fang Jin were not surprised by this.

“But why did you willingly hand over the Sky-Piercing Shuttle?” Xu Bai was puzzled. “If you hadn’t handed it over, you wouldn’t have ended up in such a situation.”

“Because of a person. He is clearly only at the Foundation Establishment Realm yet possesses the ability to see through people’s hearts. I didn’t want to hand it over. Unfortunately, the one locked up with me was none other than Mi

Lingyue, who is known as the “Forging Hand.” To make matters worse, Mi Lingyue fears... something. That person found out about it. Mi Lingyue was terrified, and she offered to extract the treasure from me. I had no choice but

to willingly give it up. Otherwise, I would have been severely injured or would have ended up dead.”

At that time, she had felt despair. After she was sent to the mines, she wished the Bright Moon Sect had captured her instead.

“A Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator? Who is it?” Xu Bai asked. He was quite curious.

“His name is Jiang Hao. He is just an ordinary inner sect disciple,” Gu Qing said.

Fang Jin was taken aback.

“Do you know him, Junior Brother Fang?” asked Xu Bai.

“I don’t exactly know him, but I did run into him while wandering around the sect. He didn’t stand out very much,” said Fang Jin. “He looked ordinary.”

Xu Bai nodded. “What did he do to make you think he could see through people’s hearts?”

“The elder of the Divine Corpse Sect, Zhuang Yuzhen, Heavenly King Hai Luo, and Forging Hands Mi Lingyue... they all gave in to this person. I don’t know what he did to make them give in. He stared at me for a long time and left. After the Heavenly Note Sect found out about Mi Lingyue being the “Forging Hands,” he appeared again and said something to her that made her submit entirely. In the end, she told him she would do anything to cooperate. I don’t know what he said to her,” said Gu Qing..

Chapter 377: How to Find The Spy?

“It seems he does possess some means.” Xu Bai nodded.

Once Gu Qing went off to rest, Fang Jin finally said, “Senior Brother Xi, are you going to get in touch with Jiang Hao?”

“No.” Xu Bai smiled. “Junior Brother Fang, we have only one purpose for this trip. Since all objectives have been achieved, there’s no need to complicate things unnecessarily. Our cooperation with the Heavenly Note Sect has been quite pleasant. We shouldn’t let Gu Qing muddy the waters. Just because she told her these things doesn’t mean we can trust her words. She might have some ulterior motives. Besides, what she says doesn’t even make sense. Don’t you find it odd that an ordinary inner sect disciple who is only at the Foundation Establishment Realm can enter and leave the Lawless Tower whenever he wishes? I don’t think the Heavenly Note Sect would want us to probe too much into their internal affairs. They won’t be pleased. The Heavenly Note Sect is a bit different from other demonic sects. Perhaps there’s still a chance for cooperation if we need it in the future.”

“I see.” Fang Jin nodded.

“Some things require a balance between advancing and retreating. Cunning individuals aren’t necessarily the smartest ones. We’ve gathered quite a bit of information already.” Xu Bai smiled.

Fang Jin was a clever person, and he understood what his senior meant.

“We’ll be leaving in two days. Junior Brother Fang, have you found the person you were looking for?” Xu Bai asked.

“I found him, but he declined the offer to join the Bright Moon Sect,” Fang Jin said.

“Everyone has their own aspirations. It’s always better not to push them.”

“I understand.”

Two days later, the people from the Bright Moon Sect left.

Jiang Hao knew that they had taken Gu Qing with them.

Their purpose for visiting was the almost-eruption of the Heavenly Fate

Misfortune Pearl. It was also because of Gu Qing.

Fortunately, none of this had affected him.

Even though traces of great luck, the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, and Gu Qing were somewhat connected to him, he managed to remain detached from it all.

The more things he did, the easier it was for others to notice him. It was an unavoidable reality.

As long as it didn't directly affect him, he was okay with it. In time, everyone would forget about him anyway.

A few more days passed, and it was already early October.

Jiang Hao felt the stone tablet vibrate.

He thought it might be another gathering, but it was only a message.

"Eastern Region, Ancient Tower, Gu Dongqing." "Western Region, Astronomical Academy, Luo Li."
"Southern Region, Blackheaven Sect, Xuanyuan He." "Northern Region, Snow Spirit Sect, Ling Luo Xue Yu."

Senior Dan Yuan had sent the message.

'Is he notifying us of this because there won't be a gathering in the recent future? Or is he trying to tell us not to discuss this matter in the gathering?' Jiang Hao was puzzled. This trade wasn't a typical one, so it made sense not to bring it up again during the gathering.

The names of the individuals were the answers he sought. People with a good understanding of languages.

Dan Yuan had provided him with information from people in all four regions.

"Currently, only Xuanyuan He from the Blackheaven Sect has a chance to make contact. The others are all too far away."

He had never heard of the Ancient Tower in the east.

The Astronomical Academy in the West was probably where Gu Wen was from. Jiang Hao had met him in the Corpse Realm. It was a major sect, and it wasn't easy to make contact with them.

There was no need to even entertain the North.

Going there was akin to asking for death.

The Divine Corpse Sect members were probably already waiting for those from the Heavenly Note Sect to throw themselves into their trap.

As for the Blackheaven Sect in the south, he had heard of them. He had even met someone from there, such as Xuanyuan Tai.

Even the surname was the same. They were probably related.

'Even if I could find Xuanyuan Tai, I can't leave the sect. Besides, going to the Blackheaven Sect would be suicidal. It might also raise Dan Yuan's suspicion.

How can I get him to willingly teach me?'

Jiang Hao decided to tempt him with information.

It wasn't that he couldn't contact Xuanyuan Tai. He just didn't want to.

There was a spy agent from the Blackheaven Sect within the Heavenly Note Sect. Jiang Hao knew that their name was Hua Le.

'Based on the name, it seems like it might be a woman, I need to find out which branch she is in.'

It was troublesome because he didn't know who he could ask about it. He just needed to wait and observe.

He needed to take it slow. He might find someone who knew about Hua Le.

Jiang Hao walked to the Immortal Peach Tree. He plucked a peach and took a bite. It was very sweet.

After taking care of the spirit herbs in the Spirit Herb Garden, the beast and Xiao Li returned.

They were discussing something.

“I think a thief broke into Senior Brother Jiang’s courtyard,” said Xiao Li.

This made Jiang Hao vigilant. ‘A thief in my courtyard?’

As expected, planting too many spirit herbs in the courtyard was a bad idea.

He needed to be cautious, especially since he couldn’t sense anything. However, Xiao Li had noticed it.

It seemed that whoever had visited his courtyard was definitely extraordinary.

As a True Dragon, Xiao Li could sense these things.

“A thief?” Cheng Chou asked in disbelief.

“Yes, I counted the peaches today, and one was missing. It must’ve been stolen by that thief,” Xiao Li said indignantly.

Jiang Hao froze.

At the Blackheaven Sect, Xuanyuan Tai sat on the ground. He was surrounded by numerous spirit herbs. He stared at the golden seeds in front of him.

“How can I possibly make them grow?”

The Xuanyuan family had strived for countless years, yet they still couldn't manage to cultivate the ancestral divine flower from these seeds.

Within the clan, it was believed that successfully growing this flower would grant access to the ancestral legacy.

Unfortunately, after all these years, no one had managed to figure out a way to do it.

The seeds might as well have been lifeless stones.

Some within the clan even speculated that their ancestors were playing a prank on them.

Or perhaps it was a test of their determination.

“Senior Brother, you're still thinking about growing those flowers?” asked a woman.

She was beautiful and youthful. Her presence was soothing.

“Junior Sister, what brings you here?” Xuanyuan Tai inquired.

“I know you are paying attention to the Heavenly Note Sect. I have some news. The ones from the Bright Moon Sect have left from there,” said Xuanyuan He.

“There must have been a reason for the Bright Moon Sect's visit. Do the seniors plan to make a visit there?”

“How is that even possible?” Xuanyuan He shook her head. “We don't get along with the Heavenly Note Sect. We might even launch an attack on them to prevent their evil plans in our vicinity.”

Major conflicts between sects were rare unless there were significant reasons. However, the Heavenly Note Sect had been quite active recently. They had attacked Azure Mountain.

The Xuanyuan family was considering fighting the Heavenly Note Sect.

But the distance was too great, and every sect had its own affairs to handle. So, no one was going to the Heavenly Note Sect yet.

“Is that so?” Xuanyuan Tai stood up and looked at the seeds helplessly.

“Let’s wait a bit longer to see if there’s any new information. If we still can’t find a solution, I’m thinking of leaving the sect to find a way.”

“Leaving the sect? Where do you plan to go, Senior Brother?” Xuanyuan He asked in concern.

“I can’t reveal that to you at the moment.”

“Can you please be patient? I’ve found some ancient books. Perhaps they might contain relevant information on how to grow them.”

“I’ll wait a bit longer. I didn’t say I’ll be leaving soon.”

“Alright, then I’ll go and browse through the ancient books. Maybe I’ll find something..”

Chapter 378: Compensates Whom?

After seeing Xu Bai and Fang Jin off, the Heavenly Note Sect had no other pressing matters to attend to

The Heavenly Saint Sect and the overseas forces still posed some troubles, but it was unlikely they would retaliate soon.

The Heavenly Saint Sect was very far away. They would need time if they were thinking of attacking the Heavenly Note Sect. That would give the Heavenly Note Sect plenty of time to recover.

Furthermore, the overseas forces had also suffered significant losses.

Though they suspected the Heavenly Note Sect was involved, it was just speculation. They wouldn't attack rashly. After all, nobody was certain whether it was a trap.

If they fell into the trap of another sect without getting detailed information, they might be doomed.

So, the overseas forces were not likely to act recklessly.

They had their own objectives, after all.

Jiang Hao believed that these individuals weren't foolish, and they definitely wouldn't make rash decisions.

They weren't as single-minded as the members of the Heavenly Saint Sect. Those people were fanatical. They were still after the "secret" Yan Hua had supposedly conveyed to him.

'Hm... the secret of the mine...

Jiang Hao, who was sitting in the courtyard reading a book, suddenly thought of something.

Could Hua Le be a spy in the mines?

'Unlikely. Xuanyuan Tai was imprisoned in the Lawless Tower. People from the mines had no access to anyone inside the Lawless Tower. Then... who told him about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower?'

Jiang Hao was certain that Xuanyuan Tai might have not known for sure that he was the one who planted the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

'However, Xuanyuan Tai had been attacking the mine and was caught by Manlong. Those in the mines and from the Flowing Waterfall are all suspects.

There is also a possibility that the jailers might have been involved.'

There were those three possibilities, but he was sure about any of them. It might be difficult to find Hua Le.

"Master, the sun is up. It's time to go to the Spiritual Herb Garden," said the beast.

Jiang Hao looked at the beast, stood up, and prepared to head to the Spirit Herb Garden.

He would continue reading when he returned.

He was trying to understand everything he had learned from Mi Lingyue.

His Clear and Pure Heart ability was still recovering, and he could still use it.

So, he made great progress.

In a few days, he would be able to resume his learning. He needed to be fast.

Mi Lingyue wouldn't be here much longer.

The Bright Moon Sect had already taken Gu Qing away.

The people from overseas were probably on their way too.

Though Mi Lingyue was remarkable, she couldn't be used by the Heavenly Note Sect. When people came to get her, she would be allowed to leave.

Everyone knew that Mi Lingyue was a person of high importance, and someone would come to get her.

Such a talented person wouldn't be abandoned. The Heavenly Note Sect wouldn't be willing to give her up either.

If she chose to stay, there was a high probability that the Heavenly Note Sect

would establish another branch through her.

Jiang Hao wasn't just guessing. He had heard as much from seniors at the Lawless Tower.

As his visits to Lawless Tower became more frequent, he had gotten acquainted with quite a few seniors and juniors working there. This might be of some help in the future.

"Where are you so eager today?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Everyone knows that I, Lord Beast, have the makings of a great demon. Sometimes people make an offering to me," said the spirit beast as it stuttered proudly.

"Can you speak in human language?" Jiang Hao asked.

“Cheng Chou said he brought some delicious jerky for me and Xiao Li,” said the beast regretfully. “I like to eat rich people the most. They are tender and soft.” “You like eating human flesh?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Of course not. I am Lord Beast. I don’t like meat. Everyone knows that! I’m a spirit beast. How can I eat meat?”

Jiang Hao chuckled and then headed toward the Spirit Herb Garden. Xiao Li was already waiting for them.

“Senior Brother Jiang, did you get robbed?” she asked as she ran up to him.

Jiang Hao looked at her. “Uh... no.”

Xiao Li let out a sigh of relief and then sniffed him.

“As expected!”

“What do you mean?” Jiang Hao was puzzled.

“I smell the scent of a Senior Sister on you. I thought I was dreaming all this time. But then, I suddenly remembered. So, it wasn’t a dream. I wonder when she will come to find me again.”

Just as Jiang Hao was about to ask her, Cheng Chou arrived.

The spirit beast and Xiao Li ran over to him.

‘Senior Sister?’

There were currently four Senior Sisters who had contact with him: Miao Tinglian, Ming Yi, Leng Tian, and Zhou Chan.

Miao Tinglian and Mu Qi were partners. Miao Tinglian used to be from the Heavenly Saint Sect, but she harbored no ill intentions toward him. They got along fine.

Ming Yi was also a Saintess of the Heavenly Saint Sect, but she was much more dangerous to him than Miao Tinglian.

Leng Tian was entirely focused on searching for things outside. With her cultivation realm, she wasn't much of a threat.

Zhou Chan had a kind heart. She had no ill intentions toward him at all.

If he had to guess which senior might be trying to get close to Xiao Li, the most likely person was Ming Yi.

'Hm... I should have the spirit beast keep an eye on her, just in case.' As for others, he didn't pay much attention to them.

Xiao Li could take care of herself. There wasn't much danger.

In the morning, Jiang Hao selected some spirit herbs. The Outer Sect's Spirit Herb Garden was finally being used.

Led by the Candlelight Pill Pavilion, they began planting the herbs.

The Spirit Herb Garden was most beneficial to the Candlelight Pill Pavilion, and the other branches didn't contest it.

As long as they weren't in the last place, it was okay.

He would need three batches of spirit herbs to be able to contribute.

In the first batch, Jiang Hao used some of his own spirit herbs to send to the garden.

When they were retrieved, they would be considered as cultivated by the Outer Sect's Spirit Herb Garden and could be sold.

He didn't send everything out for now, as he intended to gradually send them

in three batches.

After Cheng Chou and his group took the spirit herbs away, Jiang Hao checked the situation in the Spirit Herb Garden.

He would then return in the evening to learn about talismans.

However, not long after that, an outer sect disciple rushed back a Divine Movement Talisman.

He seemed quite flustered. "Senior Brother Jiang, something has happened."

Jiang Hao was surprised.

He was one of the outer sect disciples responsible for delivering the spirit herbs.

'Has something happened to Cheng Chou?'

"There's a place we can only get to by flying on our swords. Senior Brother

Cheng was heading that way when a Senior Sister knocked him off. His life is hanging by a thread. I came here immediately!"

Jiang Hao frowned. He used the Demonic Sound Thousand Miles Technique and disappeared from the spot.

A moment later, they arrived in front of a cliff.

He saw the group from the Cliff of Broken Hearts.

Cheng Chou confronted someone while nursing his injuries.

“Senior Sister, aren’t you being a little unreasonable? Clearly, it was you who bumped into me and damaged my spirit herbs. And now you demand compensation from me?”

“If you hadn’t blocked my path, my clothes wouldn’t have been ruined. I’m only asking you to compensate for the damage. That’s already very generous.” “But what about my spirit herbs?”

“You weren’t careful with your spirit herbs. What does that have to do with me?”

Alright, I won’t ask for compensation. I guess you’re just unlucky.”

Jiang Hao looked at the damaged spirit herbs. Then, he turned to Cheng Chou.

Fortunately, his injuries didn’t look very severe.

Finally, he turned to the Senior Sister..

Chapter 379: Senior Sister, You’re Very Easy To Talk To

Looking at the woman, Jiang Hao recalled the encounter he had with someone when he went to the Lawless Tower before.

It was the same woman who had almost knocked him off. It seemed he had been lucky not to run into her all these years.

Jiang Hao leaped from his sword and appeared beside Cheng Chou. "Tsk... you ruined my robe, and you're still complaining!"

When Cheng Chou saw Jiang Hao, he let out a sigh of relief and quickly explained what had happened.

While he was flying on his sword, the woman had suddenly bumped into him and sent him falling. He had almost fallen off the cliff.

Although he was unharmed, most of the spirit herbs were destroyed.

"Please, can you be reasonable? You blocked my path while I was flying. My robe got ruined. Why don't you mention that part in your story?" said Yi Lian. "Moreover, the spirit herbs were in your hands. Did I actually take them from you and damage them? If you couldn't protect what was yours, how can you blame that on me? What kind of logic is that?"

"But you bumped into me! That's why the herbs got damaged!" said Cheng Chou.

"Your logic is just... If you hadn't been standing there, would I have crashed into you? Fine! Let's assume that I crashed into you. Why didn't you move away? Maybe you should blame that spirit sword you are riding on. If you had forged a better sword, this wouldn't have happened."

"You..." Cheng Chou was momentarily speechless.

She was being completely irrational. However, Cheng Chou was only at the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, while she was in the peak stage.

"Do you think it's our fault, Senior Sister?" Jiang Hao asked.

“No. Since there are more of you to defend yourselves, obviously it’s supposed to be my fault,” said Yi Lian sarcastically. “Why don’t you all just leave?” “Leave?” Cheng Chou was stunned.

“I already said it was my fault. What more do you want?” asked Yi Lian.

“These spirit herbs are worth 1,800 spirit stones,” Cheng Chou said.

“So? How is that my concern? If they were that precious, why weren’t you more careful?” asked Yi Lian.

“Senior Sister, may we talk privately?” Jiang Hao asked politely.

“Am I supposed to delay my meeting with Senior Brother Qian Chen for you? Can I afford to waste my time?” she asked.

“I will compensate you, Senior Sister,” Jiang Hao said calmly.

Yi Lian laughed. “Fine! Let’s talk over there. I want to see what you have to say.”

She was curious about what this person wanted to say to her in private. If the person had a higher cultivation realm than hers, she naturally wouldn’t follow him. But they were at the same level, and she was confident in her abilities. She was close to breaking through to the Gold Core Real, after all.

It was just a matter of time before she advanced. She only needed one Heaven Rejuvenation Pill to complete the process.

The two of them walked to the other side of the cliff. The area was surrounded by fog.

“Speak,” said Yi Lian as she activated the defensive ability of her robe.

Jiang Hao was calm. Then, he used Daily Appraisal.

She was an inner sect disciple at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm, and she was from Misty Cloud Peak.

That was all.

There was nothing particularly special about her.

She was close to the Gold Core Realm.

She was annoying, and her personality was bound to lead to many troubles in the future. She might not live long with that attitude.

Surprisingly, she was thriving. Her cultivation had advanced so quickly.

“Senior Sister, do you really think that it wasn’t your fault at all?” Jiang Hao asked coldly.

“Your guy dropped it himself. What does that have to do with me?” said Yi Lian mockingly.

“But those are worth 1,800 spirit stones. Cheng Chou can only earn twenty spirit stones a month. With two hundred and forty a year, he can only pay off the damage in eight years. Even if he took on tasks, it would still take three to four years. There is also the risk to his life. If he’s lucky, he might survive with barely anything left at all, and it would still take more than a year,” Jiang Hao said.

“What does that have to do with me? Should I give him spirit stones just because you want me to pity him? Why don’t you give them to him if you pity him so much? Since it’s his fault, he should bear the responsibility,” said Yi Lian.

Jiang Hao looked at her. “Senior Sister, your logic is sound. Whoever is at fault should bear the consequences. In that case, I think you were the one who started it all. So, I hope you will do what is necessary and compensate Cheng Chou with 1,800 spirit stones.”

Yi Lian sneered. "So, you're saying it's all my fault?"

A cold light suddenly flashed. A long spear emerged and stabbed at her magical robe.

Yi Lian was startled at first. He was then terrified. In an instant, her defense was shattered.

The spear shot at her like a thunderbolt, and she didn't even have time to react.

Splat!

The spear pierced through her and sent her flying backward.

Boom!

She was pinned to a stone wall.

"You..." She stared at Jiang Hao in shock.

He raised a blade and slashed at her neck.

With the power of Peak Foundation Establishment Real, she managed to break free. She rolled aside. But the sword stabbed into her thigh.

She cried out in pain. The sword pinned her to the ground.

Jiang Hao walked over to her with the Half-Moon Blade in his hands. He stared down at Yi Lian and slowly pulled the sword from her thigh. "Do you think I'm right, Senior Sister?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Yes... you're right," said Yi Lian fearfully. "What about the compensation?"

“I... I will compensate.”

“Senior Sister, do you have the necessary spirit stones?”

“Yes, I do.”

“That’s good. You are indeed very easy to talk to, Senior Sister.”

Yi Lian was terrified. Jiang Hao’s ruthlessness exceeded her expectations.

After collecting the spar and the sword, Jiang Hao applied a Healing Talisman on Yi Lian and left.

He needed to prepare the spirit herbs again.

However, his actions might have consequences. He didn’t know how powerful Qian Chen was. Would he intervene?

He needed to find out more to prepare himself.

He couldn’t just kill Yi Lian once and for all. The death of a disciple was a serious matter in the Heavenly Note Sect. The Law Enforcement Hall wouldn’t let him off easy. He might be caught and sent to the Lawless Tower. Even if he survived, his cultivation would suffer. Then he would be sent to the mines...

Jiang Hao was worried. He had already offended the Heavenly Joy Pavilion, the Sunset Immortal Sect, and the Blackheaven Sect. If he went to the mines, someone would definitely come for him.

At that time, he wouldn’t have the ability to protect himself.

Shortly after, he arrived at the Law Enforcement Hall. This was where disciples from various peaks gathered for missions.

He might be able to find out about Qian Chen, after all.

He looked at the available missions. He saw one mission that surprised him.

“Organizing the library. Should be at the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Does not have to be from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.”

The requirements and the mission were ordinary. What surprised him was the signature. It was signed by Hua Le.

It was like finding something important without putting much effort into it.

Without hesitation, he accepted the mission.

However, it seemed that more than one person was needed for the task. There was also a screening process. The requirements were quite strict.

‘I should be able to get in.’

He was sure that Hua Le knew about him and the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

If he approached Hua Le on his own accord, she would definitely accept him for the mission. She was here for the flower, after all.

But how could he make her teach him about foreign languages?

Chapter 380: Who Took the Bait?

The library was managed in rotation. Members from each branch helped to maintain it.

'So, this time, the place is managed by the Law Enforcement Hall. Does that mean Hua Le is from the Law Enforcement Hall?'

Jiang Hao headed to the designated venue for the screening process. Several people were already in line.

"So many people?" Jiang Hao was surprised.

He thought there would only be a few applying for the position.

After confirming with a junior in front of him, he joined the line too.

The person in front was in the middle of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

People who had never met before usually tried to figure out each other's cultivation realm. Whoever had the higher realm had the authority.

That was the best way to avoid offending someone of importance.

If people knew each other, then they would already be familiar with each other's status.

Jiang Hao was somewhat curious about these people. There was no indication of spirit stones as a reward on the board.

Jiang Hao had planned to get into the library, find more books on language, and get close to Hua Le enough for her to teach him about languages.

That way, Xuanyuan Tai would also know about him and might help him secretly.

However, with so many people... They couldn't possibly be here to read books.

Since they were allowed to organize the library, the available books might not be particularly outstanding.

"I don't know if I can enter this time. They're going to change people in a few months, but I don't know how many would get selected," said a woman nervously.

"There's probably not much hope. We have no idea about their criteria, or why they're changing the staff. I was doing well before, and they just told me to leave without a reason. It seems they change people every month without fail," said a middle-aged man.

Being in the Foundation Establishment Realm at that age... his cultivation path might be difficult. However, Jiang Hao saw that his cultivation was quite good.

In theory, he shouldn't have remained in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm for so long.

At this moment, the middle-aged man sighed. "If that senior who reads books could give me some guidance again, I'd be able to advance smoothly. I hope I can get in again this time."

'The senior who reads books?' Jiang Hao was surprised.

So, there was a senior who was guiding people inside! It was no wonder so many people wanted to be selected.

"Senior Brother, how did you get in last time?" asked the woman in front.

The others immediately leaned in to listen.

Jiang Hao did the same. He knew very little about this place.

“Actually, I don’t know... Maybe Senior Sister Hua Le was in a good mood at the

time? She glanced at me and said I could enter.” said the middle-aged man The others didn’t believe it. They were unwilling to say anything.

“Next!”

A man walked out with a frustrated face. Someone asked him what Hua Le had asked in the interview.

“This task is clearly about organizing books, but she asked me about forging techniques. How would I know that?” said the man furiously.

Jiang Hao suddenly understood why the mission requirement had highlighted that applicants needn’t have to be from Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

Going by the criteria, it might offend most Foundation Establishment Alchemists.

If a powerful alchemist appeared later on, the people inside would surely regret it.

Geniuses wouldn’t care for missions like these.

It seemed like recruiting and changing people every few months was so random.

‘I wonder if it’s intentional.’

Jiang Hao wasn't in a hurry. He wanted to wait and see what Hua Le would say when she saw him.

After waiting for some time, individuals began to come out of the room one after another.

They looked frustrated and annoyed. Some were furious.

"What did she ask?"

But the answers were different each time.

"She asked me how old I was, and then told me to leave."

"It was different for me. She asked about my cultivation realm and then told me to leave."

"Mine was outrageous. As soon as I went in, she told me to leave."

"She talked with me for a long time and then told me to leave."

Each answer was baffling, and no one understood what was happening. They could only hope that luck would favor them.

At this point, there were still four people ahead of Jiang Hao. He thought the process would continue, but someone came out and said that the selection process was over for today. They had to come back tomorrow.

Jiang Hao was stunned.

This was so random.

The next day, Jiang Hao arrived early. There were only four or five people in front of him. Those were the same people from yesterday.

Soon, the woman in front of him from yesterday went in. She had her hair tied in a big twist at the back of her neck.

She looked quite young. She was at the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Once she went in, she didn't come out again. The next person was called in.

"She's got through!" said someone.

Jiang Hao lowered his head. He hadn't observed anything.

Next was the middle-aged man who had gotten accepted once before.

He hadn't been inside for long before he walked out in frustration.

Jiang Hao looked at him.

"I was accepted once, but they won't accept me now! They told me to come back in a year or two."
Jiang Hao nodded.

He was now first in line.

When the previous person walked out, he went in.

Inside the room, there were three people. Two people were at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

In the middle sat a woman at the early stage of the Primordial Spirit stage.

Jiang Hao was quite shocked. It was no wonder they dared to offend those at Foundation Establishment Realm.

At the moment, the woman was looking at some books with her head lowered. She didn't pay attention to the newcomer.

"Hello, I'm Jiang Hao from the Cliff of Broken Hearts. It is nice to meet you, Seniors," said Jiang Hao in a polite introduction.

He didn't think Hua Le would ignore him.

Hua Le raised her head to look at him. Her eyes were calm, and her aura was steady.

There was nothing strange as if she genuinely didn't care about the person in front of her.

"Why did you accept our mission?" she asked.

"I wanted to read and learn things," Jiang Hao said.

"Can't you read in the library?" She asked.

"I think there might be more books here." Jiang Hao's voice was calm.

He knew she would accept him, so he didn't need to think hard about the answers.

If he was rejected, it meant Xuanyuan Tai didn't have influence over Hua Le, or he was no longer needed.

In that case, he would have to come up with another plan. “Is reading that important to you?”

“Just something to do in my spare time,” said Jiang Hao.

Indeed, it was just something to pass the time.

“Alright, I’ll take you.” Hua Le stood up. “I’m Hua Le, you can call me Senior Sister Hua. Today, it’s just the two of you. Let’s end it here. Follow me.”

Jiang Hao looked to the side, and the woman with the twisty braid was also there. She looked excited.

Hua Le walked with loud, crisp footsteps.

She walked toward another door.

Jiang Hao quickly followed.

On the way, he used Daily Appraisal on her.

[Hua Le: True Disciple of the Blackheaven Sect. She bears the heavy responsibility of her sect and possesses a special treasure that can detect the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. Her cultivation is at an early stage of the

Primordial Spirit Realm. Undercover at the Law Enforcement Hall. Xuanyuan Tai entrusted her to carry out missions in the library for a while. She was waiting for you to come knocking on her door.]

Jiang Hao was quite surprised. Hua Le had actually been waiting for him!

At that moment, he couldn’t quite figure out who was using whom..