

## **A Demoness 411**

### Chapter 411: A Palm Technique Used Only by Couples

Hong Yuye got up. She didn't seem to mind Jiang Hao's mouthful of lies.

She walked all the way to the hall and went up to the second floor.

Finally, she arrived at Jiang Hao's table and gazed at the talisman-making tools.

"Draw a talisman," she said. "I want to see how you do it."

Jiang Hao followed her without thinking much and started making the talisman.

It was the more challenging Ten Thousand Swords Talisman.

After days of practice, he was different from before.

His strokes were balanced and forceful. Each stroke was distinctive and imbued with power.

The whole process was as smooth as flowing water.

When he finished, Hong Yuye took the talisman to inspect it. She then moved to the balcony.

"How long has it been since you slept?" she asked.

Jiang Hao was surprised at the question. Had he been poisoned again without his knowledge?

Considering the dense spiritual energy in the courtyard, he felt that he might have been poisoned in some other way.

"It's been a while," Jiang Hao said.

Hong Yuye turned to look at him. "Single-mindedly pursuing something can easily damage your lifeblood."

Jiang Hao was taken aback.

At this moment, Hong Yuye began to fade.

"You've been serving me watery tea for a long time. If it's still the same next time, come drink at my place," Hong Yuye said mockingly.

She then completely vanished.

Jiang Hao didn't even know where Hong Yuye lived. But he knew going there would be dangerous.

He understood all of this, but... "What about my talisman?"

He began adjusting his state.

"Damage of the lifeblood?" He hadn't noticed that.

Perhaps he should try sleeping.

Hong Yuye wouldn't harm him. At least not yet.

He had enough value even if he was weak.

If she wanted to kill him, she wouldn't have let him thrive this long.

He trusted Hong Yuye more than others.

However, as he grew stronger, everything would become complicated.

He needed to keep some hidden trump cards. Something that no one else could fathom. Maybe some divine artifact.

These things took time to cultivate. There was no need to rush.

"First, identify the condition and see what kind of palm this is."

Jiang Hao looked at the crimson palm on his chest. He was somewhat concerned.

He appraised it.

[Status: Afflicted by the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison and Hong Yuye's One Heart Palm. The One Heart Palm is difficult to dissolve. It can only be used by couples in a relationship. The one who uses the palm can travel across space to the recipient of the palm through a special method.]

Jiang Hao was stunned.

It meant that Hong Yuye could only use it on him. If he wanted to learn it, he could only use it on her! o

'It's similar to the golden rings, but somehow entirely different... Why would Hong Yuye use it on me?'

Maybe because he would head to the east soon, and she would find it hard to locate him.

If he was far enough away, it would be extremely difficult to find him.

After all, the distance was too great. Even Hong Yuye's strength might not cross such a distance.

Jiang Hao thought that the possibility was very high and kept this in mind for possible use in the future.

Of course, he had to guard against deliberate use by her.

He needed to make sure of it.

This palm technique wouldn't cause any harm to him, so he didn't care much.

Instead, he lay down on the bed and tried to sleep.

The next day, when he woke up, he felt much more alert.

There wasn't a significant change, but his state of mind did seem better.

'It seems I'll need to sleep occasionally in the future.'

Daily cultivation and talisman-making might not be enough.

He went to the courtyard and looked at the surrounding spiritual energy. He had thought that Bai Ye had done something under the cover of night. 'It's been a while since I last went to take a look. I should go again.' That night, Jiang Hao went to the Hundred Bones Forest.

However, he returned quickly.

Bai Ye was still in the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, and his injuries were severe.

Jiang Hao could only give up for now and continue observing.

There was no news from Senior Brother Qian Chen.

The deaths of Junior Sister Yu Xuan and Senior Brother Bai Ji didn't seem to have caught his attention.

No one had come to question him.

As for Yi Lian, she had come to meet him once.

She apologized to him.

It seemed she was still waiting for Senior Sister Yu Xuan's return.

Jiang Hao could understand. Yu Xuan had truly treated her well, so it was natural for her to be worried.

However, such kindness sometimes could turn out to be poison.

With a slight misstep, both of them could end up dead from it.

Jiang Hao also occasionally stood up for others.

He might end up like Yu Xuan if he wasn't careful.

The only way to avoid this was to focus on cultivating.

Apart from these things, there hadn't been any incidents in the Spirit Herb

Garden.

The whole sect had entered a state of peace.

Things had calmed down significantly.

Jiang Hao was content with this. Occasionally, he would give some pointers to Cheng Chou. When he had time, he went to observe Lin Zhi.

Lin Zhi was doing good. Spring turned to autumn, and he repeated the same thing every day. Even when bullied, he tried to protect himself with all his might.

But when faced with his two good friends, he was always reserved and silent.

The gap in their cultivation was too vast.

Those two friends of his visited him less frequently.

Such a gap would lead to differences. Despite their strong friendship, they couldn't communicate with each other anymore when they were together.

'Has it changed them?'

Maybe not entirely. They were just different people heading down different paths in life.

The further they go, the harder it would be to communicate with each other.

One doesn't understand the world of higher realms, while the other can't grasp the hardships of lower realms.

Lin Zhi might not be handling things perfectly, but he was still persevering.

“He is indeed impressive,” Jiang Hao muttered in praise as he looked from afar.

Half a year had passed, and while the other hadn’t made much progress in cultivation, his heart had steadied significantly.

He practiced every day without pause and without losing his determination.

He waited patiently. He would soon break out of the cocoon like a butterfly.

Though he couldn’t see hope yet, he hadn’t given up and was no longer anxious.

It was already September.

Almost a year had passed since Xiao Li and the others had left.

Jiang Hao had spent the year peacefully as well.

In a few more months, Xiao Li and the others would arrive at the Bright Moon Sect.

He would go to see them when that time came.

‘I wonder if there’s enough time for another advancement.’

He looked at his interface.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 29]

[Cultivation: Early Stage of the Soul Ascension Realm]

[Cultivation Method: Heavenly Sound Hundred Revolutions, Hong Meng Heart Sutra]

[Divine Ability: Nine Revolutions Death Substitution (unique), Daily Appraisal,

Clear and Pure Heart, Reappearance of Hidden Spirit, Divine Might, Revival of

Withered Tree, Heavenly Cauldron] [Lifeflood: 62/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 60/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Divine Abilities: 0/3 (cannot be obtained)]

'I'm nearly thirty years old. Halfway to achieving my cultivation.'

After that, he headed to the Spirit Herb Garden to attend to the spirit herbs. However, as soon as he arrived, a man approached him. "Senior Brother Jiang." "Uh... Who are you, Junior Brother?" Jiang Hao frowned.

The man's aura was chaotic, yet there were signs of a breakthrough. He was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

His aura had a faint scent of blood.

This person wasn't normal. It wasn't about his identity but the cultivation technique he practiced.



“I apologize for troubling you, Senior Brother Jiang. I am Pei Yuan, an inner sect disciple of the Flowing Waterfall. I have come to seek your advice on a few problems relating to my cultivation.”

He even took out fifty spirit stones. They were quite valuable.

“Cultivation problems?” Jiang Hao didn’t accept the spirit stones just yet.

“Yes, I wish to inquire about the Blood Wish Path. It’s quite rare, so I have no choice but to trouble you with my doubts,” Pei Yuan said.

Jiang Hao was taken aback. He had never expected such a thing to happen..

Chapter 412: If He Couldn’t Learn It, Then Others Shouldn’t Either

Looking at the junior, Jiang Hao was unsure how to proceed.

‘Blood Wish Path..

He had considered the various problems this rumor brought him, but he had never anticipated that someone would come to ask about how to cultivate it.

He had never even seen the cultivation method of the Blood Wish Path.

He only knew that the early stages were extremely cruel, especially the refining of the Blood Wish Gourd.

It was abhorrent.

To walk this path, one had to trample countless lives.

Even if one succeeded, their aura would be unstable.

It was far less stable than conventional cultivation methods.

The only benefit was faster progress.

But the junior brother before him had a strange aura. It seemed his eagerness for quick gains was causing frequent issues.

“I would be immensely grateful if you could provide me some guidance, Senior Brother Jiang,” Pei Yuan said and added ten more spirit stones.

“It’s not that I don’t want to help you, but I am not knowledgeable about the Blood Wish path,” Jiang Hao said.

Rumors were just rumors, after all.

The day he admitted to it would be the day he couldn’t find any other choice.

That day hadn’t come yet.

But such rumors could influence others.

“You really don’t know?” Pei Yuan was surprised.

It seemed he had come here for another answer.

“But many people have said that only you practice the Blood Wish Path, and you do it well,” Pei Yuan said.

“Perhaps they are just rumors,” Jiang Hao said. “I must take my leave.”

Jiang Hao walked towards the Spirit Herb Garden to continue tending to the spirit herbs.

Pei Yuan stood still for a moment, hesitated, and turned around to leave.

He thought that Jiang Hao just didn’t want to guide him.

The more people practiced the Blood Wish Path, the fiercer the competition would be.

So, those who knew it claimed not to.

However, he had been unable to make a breakthrough. If he continued like this, it would deplete his lifespan.

Originally, it wouldn’t be a problem, but several failures had left him in a desperate situation.

At the thought of his impending death, his eyes turned hostile.

If he couldn’t succeed, then others shouldn’t either.

The Blood Wish Path was extremely crucial and required a lot of effort.

The loss of one or two people wasn’t very significant, but what if everyone died?

Pei Yuan had a crazy idea. But he wouldn’t take extreme actions until the end.

In the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao glanced behind him and looked in the direction where Pei Yuan had left. He frowned.

Did his lack of knowledge bring him trouble?

Those who cultivated the Blood Wish Path were inherently cruel and bloodthirsty.

After that, Jiang Hao continued with his own affairs but made some preparations.

He just had to wait and see if the bait would be taken.

Unfortunately, two months passed without any incidents.

What surprised him was that he encountered the junior brother again this morning.

However, this time, the junior brother's aura was no longer chaotic. It was solid and pure, and the scent of blood was even stronger.

Someone experienced had guided him. Jiang Hao knew it.

"Senior Brother Jiang, I came to seek guidance regarding the Blood Wish Path again." Pei Yuan smiled.

Gone were the previous humility and respect. This was a change brought about by power.

Jiang Hao saw this and understood his thoughts to some extent.

With someone experienced guiding him, his progress was swift.

A promising future awaited him. Thus, he was confident and assured of his success.

Jiang Hao had also encountered such situations, but he managed to control himself. Initially, he suppressed such thoughts to prevent any slip-ups, and then he got used to it and treated things calmly.

He believed in growing stronger and acting when the time came.

Facing his junior brother, Jiang Hao responded as he had before.

“Junior Brother, you’ve really got the wrong person. I don’t know anything about the Blood Wish Path.”

“How about we compete to see who reaches the Golden Core Realm earlier?” Pei Yuan said. His eyes were icy.

It was as though anyone who didn’t make it fast would die.

Jiang Hao appraised him.

[Pei Yuan: At the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Inner sect disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect’s Flowing Waterfall branch. Cultivates the Blood Wish Path. He nearly died because he learned it incompletely. Yin Wei guided him, and he successfully broke through to the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm in one fell swoop. He has come to provoke you this time.

He is planning to seek a chance for vengeance after reaching the Golden Core Realm and drain your blood.]

‘Who is Yin Wei?’

Jiang Hao thought that it would be Senior Brother Qian Chen guiding Pei Yuan, but he didn’t expect it to be someone he didn’t know at all.

However, he didn’t make a fuss.

He just shook his head and told Pei Yuan that he was far from reaching the Golden Core Realm.

If this person wanted to act against him, he'd have to wait until after reaching the Golden Core Realm.

For now, there was no need to pay him any mind.

He was more concerned about someone watching him.

The appearance of the Blood Wish Path had thrown him into a vortex.

He was sure that Qian Chen had pushed him out to avoid other influences.

Pei Yuan was likely a pawn as well.

However, this Yin Wei seemed strange.

Jiang Hao didn't think much of it for now.

It was already November.

The Immortal Peach Tree was once again full of fruits. He kept some and gave the rest to Cheng Chou and Lin Zhi.

At this moment, Jiang Hao felt the stone tablet vibrate.

It was a call for a gathering, and it would be tonight at midnight.

There wasn't much time left until Tune. This gathering would probably discuss

the upcoming Bright Moon Sect's Dao Conference.

Late at night, Jiang Hao took out the stone tablet and entered it.

There were the same four people present with Dan Yuan.

"Are there any issues with your cultivation?" Dan Yuan asked as usual.

Once again, no one had any cultivation-related issues.

"What about the Saint Bandits?" asked Dan Yuan.

"When I was in the southern region, I heard some rumors about them. But I was in a hurry, so I didn't investigate further. It seems like the influence of the Saint Bandits has started spreading to various regions," Gui said.

"I haven't heard anything overseas." Liu shook his head.

"Because of the upcoming bright Moon Sect's Dao Conference, people have been arriving one after another. The members of the Saint Bandits have gone quiet. They are most likely relocating to other areas," Xing said.

Jiang Hao remained silent.

He hadn't come into contact with members of the Saint Bandits.

Moreover, the information was spread out too thin. They only informed everyone about the situation and warned them to be cautious in their approach. It didn't amount to completing the mission.

Dan Yuan nodded. He didn't dwell much on the topic. After all, this gathering wasn't for that.

“Has the date for the Bright Moon Sect’s Dao Conference been set?” asked Dan

Yuan.

“It should happen in June next year, so there are still six months left,” Xing said.

Then, Xing turned to Gui and Jiang Hao.

“I’ve already arrived in the east, not far from Tiansheng Continent,” Gui said.

“I’m almost there too,” Jiang Hao said.

He hadn’t actually set out yet, but if Xiao Li and the others arrived at the Bright Moon Sect soon, he could just arrive there.

They might be almost there.

“My people have reached the eastern region too. Friend Xing, you can try to contact them,” said Dan Yuan.

Then, the stone tablet appeared in front of Xing. It was offering a communication method.

“Alright.” Xing nodded in gratitude. Then, he began to explain the new mission.

“There are a total of three locations. They are unpopulated and not very important. They are in the south, north, and west. You can choose where you want to go,” Xing said.

“I’ll go to the south,” Gui said. She then looked at Jiang Hao.



“In that case, I’ll go north,” Jiang Hao said.

He wanted to keep a distance from Gui.

That left the West for Dan Yuan’s people.

He didn’t know if Dan Yuan himself would appear there or someone else..

Chapter 413: Another Tooth

If it was Dan Yuan, it would be dangerous.

If it were others, that would be fine.

However, having Hong Yuye with them this time was a big help for him.

As long as they didn’t confront him directly, there usually wasn’t much to worry about.

This time they weren’t going to take action anyway. They were there to just help with the conference.

Everyone knew that those who could appear within the stone tablet were not ordinary people. Their influence far surpassed others.

That’s why Xing assigned them this mission.

If they did what they had to and went their separate ways, there wouldn’t be any problems.

“Alright, I’ll inform you about the location. It’s quite a large area. You can pay attention to it. If you want to change your position and enter the Bright Moon Sect, you can do that too,” said Xing.

The stone tablet appeared in front of Jiang Hao and the other two.

Liu stood aside and observed. He couldn’t participate for now.

Soon, the stone tablet disappeared.

Jiang Hao received the location from it. It was a mountain peak in Twin City.

As for the exact situation, he would need to find out when he got there.

But the mountain peak was indeed a better choice. The place would provide him with a good view and less possibility of getting ambushed.

With the location confirmed, they checked whether there were other tasks.

Gui had no tasks as she was rushing on the road.

Jiang Hao had never issued tasks before.

Everyone looked at Liu.

“I heard that Mi Lingyue has returned, but her cultivation has greatly decreased. Mu Longyue is paying a high price to find a method for her recovery. Do any of you have it?” Liu asked.

“How did her cultivation decrease?” Gui asked.

“Some say it’s because of the Lawless Tower. I don’t know what that tower is,” Liu said.

"I know. It's where the Heavenly Note Sect detains prisoners. Their cultivation is absorbed, and their realms shatter and weaken," Gui said.

"Indeed, I've heard that Gu Qing was in a similar state. Restoring her cultivation isn't so simple," Xing said.

Several people looked at Jiang Hao.

'Don't look at me...' Jiang Hao sighed inwardly. He then turned to look at Dan

Yuan.

Dan Yuan smiled. "Any decrease in cultivation won't be able to affect the original foundation. If there's nothing wrong with the body, with spirit stones and pills, recovery is possible. However, most people require a process. They need to keep nourishing their cultivation, one realm at a time. If they are overseas, using Blue Clear Coral is the best."

Seeing Liu nod, Dan Yuan said, "This will serve as the previous reward."

Liu had a few questions in mind. He decided to use the rest of his questions carefully.

"Recently, I heard the news about Shang An," Xing said. "It's said that Bright Moon Sect invited him, but his master refused for the sake of advancement."

"Advancement?" Dan Yuan was surprised. "Did people from the Bright Moon Sect go?"

"They did." Xing nodded.

"If this person truly possesses the Sage's Heart, once he advances, he will draw a portion of the luck of the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment." Dan Yuan was quiet for a moment. He then smiled. "However, if he really possesses the Sage's Heart, he definitely won't advance at that time."

Shang An's advancement would affect the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment.

If his reputation dominated the East, it would be the same.

So, the Bright Moon Sect's people had gone to meet him.

If he could advance a little later, it would be better for all of them.

If both their disciple and Shang An advanced at the same time, it would affect the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment.

The Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment would benefit the entire world, so the Clear Sky School would definitely take it seriously.

Jiang Hao recalled Shang An in the Corpse Realm. He was indeed a good person, but he had suffered a lot.

He had even deceived him once.

Shang An intended to save the Charm Goddess. Jiang Hao had agreed to help him and then had hurtled him out of there.

After that, it was hard to find him.

Shang An also had no hope of entering the Corpse Realm again.

The eastern region had no Corpse Realm Flower.

“I wonder if I can see Shang An this time and witness just what an extraordinary genius looks like.” Gui chuckled.

Jiang Hao didn't really want to see Shang An. He would have some grievances against Jiang Hao.

After that, Liu talked about the overseas situation.

It was about a small island, which seemed to have gotten involved in conflict. It was causing losses on both sides.

But it wasn't clear who was driving this conflict.

Jiang Hao didn't pay much attention to it.

The gathering ended.

Back in his room, Jiang Hao took out his notebook and started jotting down the things he had learned.

First, Dan Yuan's task was still ongoing. The Saint Bandits were hiding in the east and had appeared in the south.

Secondly, the mission for the Bright Moon Sect was confirmed. He needed to head to the Twin City Peak in the north.

Thirdly, the cultivation lost from the Lawless Tower could be re-cultivated. It required some kind of nourishing process.

Finally, Shang An was about to advance. It was highly probable that he was taking a different path, and perhaps he had given up on the Charm Goddess.

Previously in the Corpse Realm, Jiang Hao saw that Shang An had used the Mantra of Oblivion to advance.

But Shang An couldn't possibly forget the Charm Goddess. She should definitely take a different path.

After that, there was the matter of the overseas small island.

Looking at these records, Jiang Hao felt that the second point was the most important.

It was also the most likely location where he might encounter unexpected situations. He relied on Xiao Li and the spirit beast to enter the Bright Moon Sect.

But if those two caused any trouble, it would take Jiang Hao forever to reach the Bright Moon Sect.

Jiang Hao closed the book and decided to take a nap.

He felt it would be good for his state of mind.

In the eastern sky, a huge ship moved forward.

On the ship's deck, Chu Chuan was sent flying backward.

His face was swollen and bruised, and his body was covered in injuries.

Xiao Li descended from the sky. Her fist slammed down.

Bang!

Chu Chuan coughed up a mouthful of blood and his aura weakened.

“Junior Brother, you should get up. Let’s continue,” Xiao Li said excitedly.

Xiao Li was now at the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Chu Chuan was at the ninth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

He had asked for the fight.

They were about to arrive at the Bright Moon Sect, and he still hadn’t advanced to the Foundation Establishment Realm.

So, he had asked Xiao Li to help him.

“Here, I have a delicious treat for you,” said the spirit beast and fed Chu Chuan a healing pill.

Chu Chuan’s injuries were somewhat healed.

“Let’s continue,” Chu Chuan said defiantly.

Xiao Li appeared even younger than him as if he were being beaten by a child.

How could he accept that?

Bang!

Another punch and a tooth that had been just fixed flew out of Chu Chuan’s mouth.

Ku Wu Chang was standing at the edge and watching everything. He had become accustomed to it.

Mu Qi and Han Ming were both by his side.

“It seems that Junior Brother Chu is also about to advance,” Mu Qi said with a smile.

Xiao Li had now become a True Disciple.

No one had expected Xiao Li to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm within the year.

There were no signs. They only realized it when Xiao Li woke up the next day and complained about hunger.

Han Ming looked at Xiao Li and felt the pressure.

However, he had his own goals and didn't need to pay much attention to them for now.

Ku Wu Chang sighed softly.

It was useless to try to instruct Xiao Li, as she would fall asleep after listening for a moment.

And whether she understood the cultivation method or not didn't matter.

He stopped trying to teach her.

Xiao Li excitedly ate a few more bowls of rice.

Ku Wu Chang walked inside and didn't pay attention to it anymore.

Mu Qi led Han Ming toward Chu Chuan.



“Junior Brother Chu, would you like to spar with Senior Brother Han?” Mu Qi asked with a smile.

Chu Chuan nodded.

Senior Brother Han would give him some pointers. The people from other sects nearby were no longer surprised when they saw this.

“I heard they’re from the demonic sect. It seems like they enjoy bullying their fellow disciples.”

“Stay on guard. Who knows when they might suddenly become aggressive.”

Han Ming didn’t even bother listening to them. They were just a bunch of small fries..

Chapter 414: Became the Team Leader

While Jiang Hao was waiting for Xiao Li and the others to arrive at the Bright Moon Sect, he received a sect mission.

This mission was different from the previous ones.

It involved clearing the Sea Fog Cave beside the mining site.

The cave produced poisonous mist, and their goal on this trip was to use magical artifacts to clear the mist.

The sect would provide talismans, pills, and tools to disperse the mist.

As long as they were careful, there wouldn’t be much danger.

What was unusual this time was that he, as someone who had achieved the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm, became the leader of this mission.

The only good thing about this mission was that they didn't need to stay in the toxic mist for a long time.

Staying inside for too long would lead to poisoning that would affect their cultivation.

Therefore, they usually went during the day and returned at night.

They could come out whenever they completed the task.

After handing over the Spirit Herb Garden to Cheng Chou, Jiang Hao headed to the Law Enforcement Hall. On the way, he visited the Task Hall.

It was still the same Senior Sister from last time.

"Want new missions?" She smiled. "Let me check."

After flipping through the mission book, she said, "There are relatively simple tracking missions. It's to find out about a Foundation Establishment traitor and a Golden Core traitor."

"There's also a mission to recruit new disciples, plus a mission to eliminate traitors."

She looked at Jiang Hao. "Junior Brother Jiang, you can accept them now. The weather outside is snowy. It's inconvenient to travel. We've also eased up on compensation. Just 1,200 spirit stones, which can be paid off within five years, with no additional interest. You earn fifty spirit stones per month, which is more than enough."

Jiang Hao was speechless.

It sounded quite reasonable, but it wasn't the right time to go out yet.

Each expedition had a time limit of three months.

It was already December, and they would have to pay the spirit stones before Xiao Li and the others even arrived.

"Maybe next time," Jiang Hao said.

He left it hanging so that his refusal wouldn't seem abrupt. "Are you really not taking even one mission?" the Senior Sister asked.

"No." Jiang Hao shook his head.

These people were eager for others to accept the missions so that they could get spirit stones.

Anyone who returned alive from the missions would eventually have to pay off the debt.

They would even help introduce missions to put people at ease while doing their work and earning spirit stones.

Jiang Hao didn't think about it further.

Because in a while, he would have to come back to deliver the spirit stones.

After more than a year, he had saved up to twelve thousand spirit stones.

Among them, he had given three thousand to Xiao Li and the others when they left, and he earned nine thousand over the past year.

With his current skill in making talismans, he couldn't even earn a thousand in a month.

Mainly because the sect had entered a period of rest, so there were fewer people using talismans.

They weren't selling well since there were many other talisman makers.

Although his quality was better, the difference in these talismans wasn't significant.

And he couldn't lower the price either. That would offend many people.

It was better to take the middle ground.

Jiang Hao headed to the location where they were supposed to gather.

He faintly heard people mentioning him.

"I heard that the Senior Brother from the Cliff of Broken Hearts is leading the team this time. He practices the Blood Wish Path. We need to be careful," said a woman.

She was the only woman among the three people. She was Qiao Xiu from the Hundred Bones Forest and was in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

"What is the Blood Wish Path? I prefer Senior Brother Zheng Shijiu from the Ice

Moon Valley to lead the team. I heard he's been at the peak of the Foundation

Establishment Realm for a long time and is on the verge of the Golden Core

Realm. If he leads, there shouldn't be any issues."

Jiang Hao could tell that the one speaking was Wu Shi from the Thunder Fire Peak and was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. He was in his thirties.

“Senior Brother and Senior Sister, it’s almost time. Senior Brother Jiang might be arriving soon,” said the other person. He was an outer sect disciple from the Law Enforcement Hall, Ji Bian. He was at the ninth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

He had exceptional talent.

Once they quieted down, Jiang Hao walked over to them.

He didn’t want them to worry that he might hold grudges against them. If that happened, it would affect subsequent missions.

Since he was leading, he wanted to complete the mission quickly and continue earning spirit stones.

The Immortal Peach Tree would undergo incarnation this year. The spirit stones he had saved weren’t enough.

He could only hope that he could sell everything he had on this trip.

He should be able to gather enough spirit stones.

When he arrived, the three greeted him. “Greetings, Senior Brother Jiang.” Jiang Hao nodded. “Have you received the items provided by the sect?”

“We did.” The three nodded.

“Let’s go,” Jiang Hao said.

Then, he flew up on his sword. However, he suddenly thought of something and snapped his fingers. Ji Bian flew along with him. He hadn't reached the Foundation Establishment Realm yet.

Ji Bian bowed and thanked him.

This mission only had four people. It was one less than usual. Jiang Hao was fine with it.

More people meant more trouble.

This mission wasn't difficult. They just needed to be careful.

They only had to push the toxic mist a few hundred meters away.

Then, they would have a safe period of three to six months before the mist returned, which would become the next sect mission.

Many places in the sect were like this, and disciples were responsible for handling them.

Places like Devil's Dens, mining caves, and the Sea Fog Cave were common.

There were many more places like these.

After a short while, Jiang Hao arrived at a barren hillside near the mining site, which had been heavily excavated.

It is said that the Sea Fog Cave was accidentally uncovered during mining. After that, it required annual cleanups.

"Take an Antidote Pill and follow me in," Jiang Hao said as he casually swallowed a pill.

He could see the toxic mist here, but it didn't seem to affect him.

Qiao Xiu had her hair in pigtails. She followed behind Jiang Hao cautiously.

More than the toxic mist, she seemed more afraid of the person in front of her.

The other two kept watch on their surroundings.

Jiang Hao didn't pay much attention to them. The toxic mist in the Sea Fog Cave was white, and it was easy to distinguish when encountering the poisonous mist from the normal mist.

"Although there aren't many dangers here, there are still some formidable creatures within the toxic mist. They are said to be extremely fast, and once they catch you, you might not be able to return," Jiang Hao said.

As the team leader, he didn't want anything to happen to these people.

Qiao Xiu didn't take it seriously. She had heard about these things, but she knew that the probability of encountering a dangerous creature was very low.

It wasn't that terrifying.

She assumed that Jiang Hao was just trying to win them over so that he could use them for his Blood Wish Path.

Ji Bian and Wu Shi had similar thoughts. They didn't consider the danger here to be that great.

If they stayed a little further away, they could easily avoid it. They could evade the dangers if they were quick enough.

They also had defensive spells, so they wouldn't be caught off guard.

Jiang Hao was unaware of their thoughts. Even if he knew what they were thinking, he wouldn't have cared much.

There was a chance that they would encounter such a creature. It was better to be cautious.

Soon, they encountered a white mist that was unusually dense. It was expanding outward like cumulus clouds.

It wasn't spreading very fast, but it was still creepy because they didn't know what was inside the mist.

"Let's begin," Jiang Hao said. Some lightning talismans shot out.

Boom!

The talismans exploded within and thinned the mist. At this point, Jiang Hao held a transparent gourd and activated his technique. The toxic mist was rapidly absorbed.

"It doesn't feel too difficult indeed. The only issue is that the toxic mist can easily infiltrate the body and cause subtle changes with prolonged exposure."

The others maintained their distance while using magical artifacts to absorb the toxic mist.

By evening, Jiang Hao was done with the mission and led the group away.

They couldn't continue.

He could clearly see that if these people continued, their cultivation would decrease.

Leaving now was the best choice.



However, they seemed somewhat dissatisfied to leave so early. How long would it take to complete a mission like this?

But faced with someone who was at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm, they dared not say anything..

Chapter 415: The Light in Despair

For half a month, Jiang Hao continued the mission with the group and returned home in the evening.

The others felt that they returned too quickly.

Sometimes they wanted to complain that a task that could be completed in two months was taking so long, and it was uncertain if it could even be finished in four months.

However, no one dared to voice such complaints to Jiang Hao.

They could only nod along.

They began to doubt whether Jiang Hao was really someone who practiced the Blood Wish Path.

If he was, then it seemed he had no intention of turning them into sources of blood for the Blood Wish Path.

“Come to think of it, not everyone can become a source of blood for the path. We’ve been overthinking,” Qiao Xiu said.

“I wonder how much longer this will take. Should we talk to Senior Brother Jiang?” Wu Shi asked.

“But what if Senior Brother Jiang has his own reasons? Saying anything might just delay him,” Ji Bian said.

Everyone fell silent.

It might be better to delay a little rather than offend a senior and become the next target.

Being targeted in this place might mean never getting out again. That would be a real disaster.

A delay of two more months wouldn't cost them their lives, and they could still cultivate at night. It wouldn't waste too much time.

“Let's pick up the pace during the daytime,” Qiao Xiu said helplessly.

“Now, I'll have to endure the ridicule of my fellow disciples when I return. It took four months for a task in the Sea Fog Cave. They finished theirs in just two months.”

Wu Shi and Ji Bian could only nod in agreement.

“Junior Brother Ji, you're from the Law Enforcement Hall, right?” Wu Shi asked.

“Why don't you go and talk to them? The Law Enforcement Hall holds considerable influence.”

Ji Bian quickly shook his head, “Senior Brother, please don't put me in a difficult position. Senior Brother Jiang is someone famous in the Law

Enforcement Hall and also ranks high in the Merit Hall. I'm only an outer sect disciple. Even the seniors in the Law Enforcement Hall and the Merit Hall respect him. I heard the senior in the Task Hall saying that Senior Brother

Jiang hasn't accepted any missions from them so far."

The three sighed in defeat. It seemed there was no other choice.

They could only endure it for as long as they could.

Soon, Jiang Hao walked over to them.

Although he didn't hear what these people were saying, he could understand their feelings.

Some matters were inconvenient to say aloud, so they remained silent.

This was the demonic sect where some seniors who led teams were capricious, and others had no say.

He had encountered this before, and now he was becoming that kind of person.

Many people exchanged ideas and discussed matters, but he didn't want to participate.

It would waste his time. He needed to finish things here quickly.

They went deep into the Sea Fog Cave.

The surroundings grew damp, and there was no light. They could only rely on magical artifacts for light.

Another half a month passed, and Jiang Hao's group pushed forward bit by bit. The deeper they went, the smoother the walls became as if they were artificially carved.

"I heard there are ruins here, and fierce creatures inhabit this place," Wu Shi said.

“I heard there’s nothing inside except for some ancient relics from who knows when. The sect’s people have explored this place long ago,” Qiao Xiu said.

Jiang Hao looked around. “Be careful. We’re quite deep now. There might be demonic beasts around.”

The others nodded, but they didn’t treat the matter like a big deal. They weren’t ignorant of these things.

Afterward, they continued to push forward using magical artifacts and talismans. Once they ran out of sect-provided talismans, they would need to rely on their own spells. They would have to use lightning spells. Otherwise, their progress would be slow.

As Jiang Hao looked around, he suddenly spotted some inscriptions on a wall ahead.

Although curious, he didn’t approach it immediately. He waited until they had pushed the toxic mist forward before going to inspect the inscriptions.

He made sure he was within a safe zone.

Jiang Hao was slightly taken aback when he saw the inscriptions.

It wasn’t ordinary text. It was the language of the Heavenly Spirit Tribe.

Why was it always the heavenly Spirit Tribe?

He had heard that tribe’s language in the Corpse Realm before.

He thought he would be able to translate those words quickly, but unfortunately, he hadn’t been able to decipher them to this day.

However, the text on this wall was understandable.

It looked slightly distorted as if it had been scratched by claws.

“These are special characters. I’ve heard some seniors say there’s nothing special about them,” Ji Bian said.

Jiang Hao nodded. There was indeed nothing special about them. Still, they made him feel strange.

The inscription read: “You watch me. Watch me sink to the depths of the sea. Not only are you not in pain, but you’re also laughing at my failure.”

‘The depths of the sea?’

Jiang Hao looked at the white mist. Could this place lead to the depths of the sea?

It didn’t seem very likely.

As for whether anyone had investigated this possibility, he had no idea.

But he wasn’t in a position to investigate. He should just complete the mission and leave as soon as possible.

It had been a month already, and another half month would be enough to complete the mission.

The cave grew even larger as if they were entering a ruin.

At this point, Qiao Xiu noticed something emitting golden light in front of the mist.

She was surprised. She sensed that it wasn’t an ordinary object.

She had heard that valuable treasures could be found in places like these.

Senior Brother Wu, keep an eye on our surroundings. I'll go pick it up," Qiao Xiu said when she noticed that Wu Shi had also spotted it.

"Junior Sister, wait until we've pushed the mist forward before picking it up. Senior Brother Jiang reminded us to be extra careful this time," Wu Shi said.

He also wanted to retrieve the object, but he couldn't act rashly. He mentioned Jiang Hao in the hopes that she would give up.

This way, he would have a chance.

If she found it, she would own most of it even if she shared some of it with them.

However, Qiao Xiu had already moved forward.

Wu Shi could only give up with a sigh.

As for danger, there really wasn't much to be concerned about.

They had been here for a month. If it was dangerous, they would have encountered it long ago.

Qiao Xiu felt the same.

Soon, she reached the object and picked it up. To her surprise, it was only a piece of stone.

The stone was emitting a golden light, but she had no idea what it was.

Just as she was about to put it away, the white mist suddenly surged.

As she stood up, Qiao Xiu saw a tentacle slithering toward her. In a split second, she was ensnared by it and pulled inside.

Everything happened too quickly. She hadn't even had time to react.

She looked at Wu Shi in fear and hoped she would be rescued.

She was instantly pulled into the white mist.

She felt terror and despair.

Qiao Xu felt helpless. She trembled in fear. The icy cold robbed her of her strength.

Just then, a streak of blade light shone through.

Boom!

The entire tentacle was severed by a single slash.

While she was still puzzled, a hand grabbed her and pulled her away.

However, she felt numerous tentacles emerging from the mist.

“Demonic Sound Slash!”

Boom!

A tremendous sound rang out, and the tentacles were blocked.

Qiao Xiu felt the person pulling her away urgently.

It seemed like the person was leading her away from the abyss of death.

The next moment, her vision cleared. The white mist vanished, and she was left lying on the ground.

She turned to see a figure beside her who was swinging his blade.

“Moon-Slaying!”

At this moment, massive tentacles appeared.

Moonlight flashed.

With a thunderous crash, the blade collided with the tentacles. For an instant, the tentacles recoiled in pain.

Qiao Xiu felt as if she had been pulled away by this person from falling into despair. He had saved her. She felt fear and relief at the same time.

Jiang Hao turned to Qiao Xiu. “Rest for a while before we continue,” he said calmly.

He didn’t say anything more.

Jiang Hao no longer paid them any attention. Instead, he looked at the white mist. He wasn’t sure if it had been an illusion. He felt there was something inside.

This place wasn’t safe..

Chapter 416: Isn’t This Too Fast?



In front of the ruins, Jiang Hao lowered his head and thought about what had happened.

The presence of figures within the Sea Fog Cave was something he hadn't expected.

He had never heard of such a thing happening anywhere.

Beasts were common, and he knew that the beasts weren't particularly strong.

But a human...

This was beyond normal.

He didn't know if this figure had just appeared or had been there before.

If it had been there before, then it wasn't a big deal.

But if it had just appeared, the possibility of other unexpected surprises was high.

Currently, there didn't seem to be any issues, but he couldn't afford to let his guard down.

"Continue pushing forward," Jiang Hao said while looking at Wu Shi and Ji Bian, who were still in shock.

Only then did the two of them snap out of it and begin working.

This time, they didn't dare to slack off in any way, and they avoided getting too close to the toxic mist.

The speed of the tentacles was too fast, and they couldn't keep up at all.

A small mistake could lead to being completely devoured.

Wu Shi wasn't someone without insight. He could sense just how timely Jiang Hao's intervention had been.

His strength, action, and timing had been impeccable.

He had a feeling that if it had been any other Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator, it wouldn't have been as easy to rescue Qiao Xiu.

Jiang Hao didn't make any further discoveries.

He didn't see any more inscriptions either.

Everything was progressing smoothly.

"Let's head back. Be here on time tomorrow."

This time, no one had any complaints. They even breathed a sigh of relief.

Over the next few days, no unexpected incidents occurred.

It was mid-January when Qiao Xiu and the others were waiting at the cave entrance as usual.

"Something strange happened," Ji Bian said.

"I've got something strange to report too," Qiao Xiu said.

“What strange things?” Wu Shi asked.

Ji Bian quickly said, “Senior Sister Qiao, you go first.”

After thinking for a moment, Qiao Xiu said, “Remember when I said that Senior

Brother Jiang practiced the Blood Wish Path and warned you to be careful?”

“I remember, but you also said he didn’t actually want us to become Blood Wish Path practitioners, right?” Wu Shi asked curiously.

“Yes, that’s right. That’s the strange part.” Qiao Xiu sighed. “I suddenly feel like it’s not a big deal to offer my blood for the path. You may not understand, but the impact of escaping death has deeply affected me.”

Wu Shi and Ji Bian thought about it. It would make anyone feel like returning a favor, but they would probably feel unhappy after a while.

If they were only good enough to be a source of nourishment for others, they might as well die.

“What about you, Junior Brother Ji?” Wu Shi asked.

“I asked some seniors, and they said that our current situation is where they arrived after almost two months,” Ji Bian said seriously.

Qiao Xiu and the others were stunned.

“Could they be mistaken?” Wu Shi asked.

“No, I asked very clearly. I didn’t believe it at first, so I described our situation in detail. They said this is already near the completion of the mission,” Ji Bian said.

“But we’ve only been on the mission for a little over a month. Moreover, we constantly took a break. Shouldn’t it take four months to complete? How is it possible that it’s already near the end? How did we do it quicker than normal?!” Qiao Xiu exclaimed in surprise.

Before they could continue discussing it further, Jiang Hao arrived.

They had no choice but to follow him into the cave to complete the mission.

Jiang Hao looked around. He felt that they could complete the task today.

As long as nothing went wrong today, they wouldn’t need to return to this place again.

He could also avoid unexpected dangers.

The closer it got to the last day, the more he needed to stay calm.

He didn’t say anything more than usual and didn’t mention that they would complete the mission today.

He treated it like any other day.

When evening arrived, Jiang Hao saw a stone tablet.

He didn’t rush over to it as it was still in the mist.

He waited until the white mist was pushed far enough back before he approached the stone tablet. Three words were written on it: “Heavenly Note Sect.”

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

When he turned around, he suddenly noticed a line of text at the corner of the stone tablet.

It was written in the language of the Heavenly Spirit Tribe.

It was unclear who had left it there, but it seemed like it was something intrinsic to the stone tablet.

The meaning of the line was: "Do you want supreme talent? Come find me, and I will grant it to you."

Jiang Hao ignored it.

He had no intention of exploring it. He simply turned around and led the group away. "Let's go back."

He didn't say it was over. He was worried that someone might be eavesdropping.

Jiang Hao didn't leave in a hurry either. He did feel that someone was spying on him.

Even so, he didn't dare to speed up recklessly. They left at a normal pace.

If they sped up, it might appear as if they were afraid, and whoever it was would pursue them.

After safely leaving the Sea Fog Cave, Jiang Hao let out a sigh of relief.

"It's over." He looked at Qiao Xiu and the others. "You can go and report the completion of the mission. You don't need to come here tomorrow."

With that, he left on his sword.

The three of them stood in place. They were stunned.

They exchanged curious glances.

“We agreed on four months, but I didn’t expect it to end this early,” Qiao Xiu said in disbelief.

Since they had arrived here, everything had progressed at a rate beyond her expectations.

It was too fast. They couldn’t even understand why it had gone this quickly.

Other seniors struggled for two months to complete this task. Their group had taken constant breaks, and they still finished the task earlier than expected.

They had prepared themselves to be mocked, but now, they were the envy of others.

Wu Shi was also shocked. He had heard this morning that the mission would be complete, and now, it was done! He couldn’t believe it.

Ji Bian chuckled. “Did we stumble upon the quickest method? Maybe it’s been simplified.”

Regardless, once they got back, they could use this news to exchange for some spirit stones.

“Oh, I forgot to ask...” Qiao Xiu flew on her sword amidst the surprised gazes of the two. “I need to ask

In the surprised gazes of these two, Qiao Xiu rose on her sword, saying, “I need to ask Senior Brother whether he wants a blood vow.”

The next day, at the Hundred Flowers Lake, petals gently fell on the lake’s surface.

Whoosh!

There was a rustling sound as numerous petals fell from the flowers.

Hong Yuye stood at the edge of the lake as her red dress swayed in the wind. Hong Yuye watched as the petals fell into the lake. Then, she returned to the pavilion.

After she sat down, a white figure arrived.

“Sect Master,” Baizhi said.

“Speak.” Hong Yuye looked at Baizhi indifferently.

“Today, the people from the Law Enforcement Hall went to inspect the mission at the Sea Fog Cave and found a line of text on the stone tablet,” Baizhi said seriously.

“What’s the content?” Hong Yuye asked.

“It’s a prophecy from the Heavenly Spirit Tribe. Our people don’t understand it very well, but the sentence was translated. It seems to say: “Do you want supreme talent? Come find me, and I will grant it to you.” I’m still trying to find someone to check if the sentence has any other meaning,” said Baizhi.

“Is there anything strange?” Hong Yuye asked.

“The person leading the team this time was Jiang Hao. Apart from completing the mission at an extremely fast pace, there were no other anomalies. However, there must be someone behind Jiang Hao. He might not have noticed that the person behind him could also sense it. Of course, it’s possible that he’s aware but feels that it exceeds his current capabilities. Therefore, to avoid drawing too much attention from us, he chose to conceal it. Our people have started investigating, and there might be some information soon,” Baizhi said seriously..

Chapter 417: The One Who Erected the Monument

Hong Yuye was silent for a moment. She didn't immediately give her opinion on the matter. Then, she said, "Go on."

"Recently, there have been rumors within the sect concerning the Blood Wish Path, and the central figure in these rumors is Jiang Hao. It's being said that he's practicing the Blood Wish Path," Baizhi said.

"What's the truth?" Hong Yuye asked.

"He is definitely not practicing the Blood Wish Path. However, he hasn't offered any explanation or response to these rumors. I suspect that he didn't spread the rumors, but he might have intended to use the rumors to his advantage to justify his advancement. If he does that, then no one would notice the person behind him," Baizhi said.

Hong yuye poured herself a cup of tea. "What else?"

"This situation might actually benefit us, so we've been waiting for it to be more evident. We might find some flaws in his actions, and it might lead us to the person behind him," Baizhi said.

"Then, is he a traitor or a spy?" asked Hong Yuye.

"We're still suspicious. He hasn't betrayed the sect so far in any aspect. He seems to be a decent person and isn't reckless or impatient. It's not without reason that someone powerful would take a fancy to him," said Baizhi.

"What about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower?" Hong Yuye asked as she put down her teacup.

"Apart from Zhuang Yuzhen, no one has meddled with the flower," Baizhi said. She then hesitated. "The person behind Jiang Hao remains hidden in the shadows. It's not out of the question that he might also have his sights on the

Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower."



“Continue the investigation,” Hong Yuye said.

Baizhi nodded.

She understood that the Sect Master intended to uncover the person behind all of this. Once Jiang Hao’s accomplice was exposed, he would find it hard to leave the Heavenly Note Sect. And there was no need for him to do so.

After that, Baizhi briefed Hong Yuye about The End of All Things.

“According to the information so far, they seem to be plotting something on a small island using the Earth Extreme Heart Devouring Pearl. But we’re still uncertain about the person in contact with Azure Mountain. The investigation is ongoing.”

“The team heading to the Bright Moon Sect has already arrived in the eastern region and is on their way to the sect.”

She then went on to explain some other matters.

After Baizhi finished her report, the Sect Master didn’t immediately respond.

Baizhi felt puzzled. When she looked up, she realized that the Sect Master’s mind wasn’t focused on their conversation.

However, it didn’t take long for Hong Yuye to snap back to the present. “Who was it that erected the monument in the Sea Fog Cave back then?”

“It was Lady Qing Yu,” Baizhi said. “Ah, her...” Hong Yuye’s tone softened.

Baizhi understood why.

This was because the Sect Master was brought into the sect by Lady Qing Yu from the outside world.

It was said that Lady Qing Yu had only a short time left to live back then. She was merely in the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. Although she was strong, she was getting old.

Her position within the sect wasn't high, but no one dared to provoke her.

At that time, she had brought back a young girl during one of her trips outside. That young girl was the current Sect Master.

The event had occurred over a hundred years ago. Nobody in the sect dared to disrespect Lady Qing Yu, even though she had passed away nearly a hundred years ago.

"Keep an eye on those who practice the Blood Wish Path within the sect, especially those close to the Sea Fog Cave," Hong Yuye said.

"Understood."

Then, she recounted the earlier matters once again.

With that, she left the Hundred Flowers Lake.

She needed to make arrangements.

"The depths of the Sea Fog Cave must hide something, so we need to be careful."

"As for Jiang Hao, we can give him some more time. The Sect Master wants him to be investigated further, but she also doesn't want to restrict him."

“The sect currently needs to recuperate and can’t afford to deploy too many people. However, based on the Sect Master’s intentions, even if there are issues within the Sea Fog Cave, it wouldn’t be a problem. Someone is trying to achieve their goal by using others. It’s important to involve as few people as necessary for this.”

Once these things were settled, Baizhi knew what to do next.

Jiang Hao completed his mission but still felt uneasy.

The figure he saw in the Sea Fog Cave and the feeling of being watched didn’t seem like mere illusions.

‘Should I inform Elder Baizhi about this?’

When he was reporting the completion of the mission, the senior had asked him about it. But he hadn’t dared to say anything.

There was a danger if these things were revealed recklessly.

It might not be safe for him to make any noise regarding the figure in the cave.

He felt helpless when considering the female disciple who was on his team.

She had caught up with him yesterday and offered her blood to be used for his Blood Wish Path in exchange for saving her life.

‘She seems to think that I’m practicing the Blood Wish Path and that I saved her only to get blood from her.’

He had thanked her for her goodwill and then politely declined.

After he did that, she seemed relieved.

That was to be expected. Those who weren't involved with the Blood Vow Path wouldn't understand what it was all about. It could potentially impact their cultivation or other aspects.

Jiang Hao didn't know how this would play out because he had never seen the techniques of the Blood Wish Path.

Putting these thoughts aside, he began to consider how to pass the message to Elder Baizhi.

Then, he went to the Lawless Tower.

Inside the tower, he met the black-robed woman.

"It's been a while since you visited, Junior Brother Jiang," she said.

Jiang Hao smiled. "Yes. I was on a mission at the Sea Fog Cave. It's strange, but once when I was in the white mist, I thought... I saw someone. However, no one was there the next second. I don't know if it was just an illusion or if the poisonous fog was to blame."

"You saw a figure?" asked the black-robed woman in surprise. "What did it look like?"

"I don't know..." Jiang Hao shook his head.

"I've recently received an assignment from Elder Baizhi to investigate the Sea Fog Cave. Junior Brother Jiang, please let me know if you have any unusual experiences," the black-robed woman said.

"Investigate the Sea Fog Cave?" Jiang Hao was taken aback.

It seemed that Elder Baizhi had already caught wind of something.

At that moment, he felt even more uneasy. It appeared that the figure he encountered was indeed unusual.

“Besides the figure, I also felt as if I was being observed. I can’t pinpoint it, but I just felt like we needed to leave the cave as soon as possible,” he said awkwardly. “I apologize if it sounds silly.”

“No, Junior Brother Jiang. You’ve done well. This is very important information. If you ever have any doubts, feel free to come and ask me,” the black-robed woman said.

Jiang Hao nodded in gratitude. He was relieved that his words were taken seriously. He wouldn’t have said anything if it hadn’t felt unusual to him.

After that, Jiang Hao went to find Zhuang Yuzhen.

Without Mi Lingyue, the place was much quieter.

Zhuang Yuzhen rarely spoke. Even when King Hai Luo wanted to engage in conversation, there was no response.

So, Jiang Hao talked casually with them. He discussed topics related to the

northern region, overseas matters, and even the Blood Wish Path.

It appeared that the Blood Wish Path was mainly practiced in the southern region. There were no practitioners elsewhere, but there were similar cultivation methods.

Three and a half months later, it was already early May.

While watering the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, Jiang Hao sensed the activation of the communication talisman. It was the spirit beast and Xiao Li’s talisman.

'It seems they've arrived.'

He headed to the Task Hall.

"Senior Sister, do you have any new missions?" Jiang Hao looked at the familiar face of the senior.

"We do," said the Senior Sister eagerly when she recognized him.

"There are two missions. One is to recruit a disciple who our sect initially showed interest in, but was snatched away by the Blackheaven Sect. So, the task is to bring him back. The other is to track down a Golden Core Realm traitor. Both of these missions are suitable for you, Junior Brother Jiang." "What if I fail?" Jiang Hao asked.

"The compensation is two thousand five hundred spirit stones," said the Senior Sister with a chuckle. "With more people taking on missions lately, we've been under more pressure. That's why we've increased the price. But don't worry, Junior Brother Jiang, there's still a five-year deadline. Fifty spirit stones per month should be enough to pay the fine. The first five months are interest-free. Only the later period will incur an interest."

Jiang Hao was speechless..

Chapter 418: Golden Core Demon

Jiang Hao received a mission from the Task Hall and then turned to leave.

It was the task of recruiting disciples, with a compensation of two thousand five hundred spirit stones. The deadline hadn't changed. It was still three months away.

Three months.

With his Foundation Establishment Realm, if the other party returned to the

Blackheaven Sect, the round trip would take more than three months.

Jiang Hao didn't think much about it.

Anyway, he didn't intend to complete it.

The more people he brought back, the greater the impact on him.

This time, he didn't plan to delay his journey.

Xiao Li and the others had just settled down. It might not be long before they entered the Bright Moon Sect.

If he didn't go now, he would miss the opportunity.

Back at the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao informed Cheng Chou about his departure.

The Outer Sect's Spirit Herb Garden was now on track. As long as there were no unexpected incidents within the sect, there wouldn't be any major issues there.

Those who used to harass and cause trouble in the Spirit Herb Garden had become much more self-aware because of unexpected deaths and injuries. However, it was uncertain how long the peace would last.

But by the time Jiang Hao ascended to the Golden Core Realm, none of these people would dare offend him.

As for the dangers in the sect at the moment, only the Sea Fog Cave was the most prominent one.

Jiang Hao felt that there was something unusual about it.

However, three months had passed, and it seemed like there was no progress.

Going out now would also provide a chance to avoid whatever was there.

If there was danger, he wouldn't need to get involved.

Cultivating the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment seemed to be even more perilous.

"How long will you be gone this time, Senior Brother Jiang?" Cheng Chou asked.

He felt uneasy without Jiang Hao around.

Han Ming, Miao Tinglian, and Mu Qi were all absent. If he wanted help, there was no one to turn to.

The most harrowing thing was the fact that even the spirit beast wasn't around.

With Lord Beast present, he felt much more at ease.

After instructing Cheng Chou, Jiang Hao went to where Lin Zhi was.

Since he might be away for three months, he needed to give Lin Zhi some guidance.

Lin Zhi wasn't the same little kid he used to be. He was now an eighteen-year-old youth.

He was cutting bamboo in the bamboo forest.



Despite being in the sect for several years, he was still at the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

“Senior Brother Jiang.” Lin Zhi stopped his work when he saw Jiang Hao.

“How’s your progress?” Jiang Hao asked.

“About the same as before,” Lin Zhi said.

“I heard that both of your friends have already reached the Foundation Establishment Realm?”

Reaching Foundation Establishment Realm at eighteen years old was a formidable achievement. Their talent was comparable to Han Ming’s.

Unfortunately, they weren’t a match for Han Ming yet.

They could only compare in terms of the speed of their cultivation, but they wouldn’t be able to catch up in the later stages.

Of course, it didn’t rule out the fact that they had enough opportunities and put in enough effort.

It was just extremely difficult to catch up to Han Ming.

In the past, Han Ming participated in the war with Azure Mountain and the Heavenly Saint Sect.

Whenever there was a battle, he was ready to march.

Moreover, he managed to survive every time with considerable achievements. Luck, strength, talent, determination, and execution. Han Ming had them all.

“I also heard that Lin... Senior Brother Lin reached the Foundation

Establishment Realm first. Senior Sister Zhao should be close too,” Lin Zhi said.

“Are you in a hurry to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm?” Jiang Hao asked.

Lin Zhi lowered his head and then smiled bitterly. “I’m hopeful, but not in a hurry.”

Jiang Hao nodded. “Practice diligently, read more books, and observe others more. Read the book of sages.”

Apart from the hardships he faced, Lin Zhi would have to face two more difficulties.

If his progress was slow, it would lead him to despair. However, if he progressed rapidly, he would think himself invincible and lose himself.

He had overcome the former, but the latter still needed time to come to fruition.

After giving some more guidance on cultivation, Jiang Hao left.

Later that night, he glanced at his interface.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 30]

[Cultivation: Early Stage of the Soul Ascension Realm]

[Cultivation Method: Heavenly Sound Hundred Revolutions, Hong Meng Heart Sutra]

[Divine Ability: Nine Revolutions Death Substitution (unique), Daily Appraisal,

Clear and Pure Heart, Reappearance of Hidden Spirit, Divine Might, Revival of

Withered Tree, Heavenly Cauldron] [Lifeblood: 100/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 100/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Divine Abilities: 0/3 (Cannot be acquired)]

'Thirty years old...'

Jiang Hao felt quite emotional when he looked at his age.

Lin Zhi was eighteen. Xiao Li was nineteen. But somehow, he had already turned thirty.

The time had passed so fast. He still felt like he was only nineteen.

That was the first time he had seen Hong Yuye.

Except for that single trip, he hadn't gone out since then.

He had wanted to find his stepmother and his family, but now it seemed he might not have the chance.

He still didn't know where they had gone. He had searched through all the nearby cities, but there was no news of them.

If he had younger siblings, maybe he could hear about them in the future.

If not, his past remained frozen at the time he used to be a five-year-old child.

Sometimes he wondered how things would have turned out if he hadn't been sold.

Perhaps he would have died in famine, or maybe he would have survived and then been sent to work by his stepmother once he reached a certain age.

When he got a bit older, he might have chosen to leave them and start a family.

He could have found a wife and lived a peaceful life. If his luck was rotten, he would have suffered throughout his life.

Maybe his ten-year-old self would have rebelled and run away to the Heavenly Note Sect anyway.

Unfortunately, he could only speculate.

Jiang Hao looked at his cultivation and lifeblood and didn't pay attention to his wandering thoughts.

Nearly two years had passed, and they were finally full again.

Without hesitation, he began to advance.

Late at night the next day, Jiang Hao used the Heaven Secrets Hidden talisman and disappeared.

In Tiansheng Prefecture in the east, the night sky was filled with stars, and disciples occasionally soared through it.

Not far from the Bright Moon Sect, there was a city.

The city was brightly lit and was adorned with flowers.

Most of the people passing through had an extraordinary aura as if there were no ordinary people among them.

This was a city mostly inhabited by cultivators.

It was called Star-Moon City.

The inns and lodgings in the city were almost fully occupied.

The inn named "Eternal Traveler" was also fully booked.

At this moment, most of the people in the inn were cultivating, while the occupants of one room were sound asleep.

Inside the room, the furnishings were simple.

A young girl smacked her lips in her sleep as if she saw something delicious in her dreams.

A spirit beast was sprawled out on the table, asleep.

A puddle of drool formed beneath its mouth.

A faint light appeared on the ground.

A figure surrounded by purple energy silently materialized in the room.

The person looked at the beast and realized that it had already reached the Golden Core Realm. Then, he glanced at the girl on the bed.

She had reached the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Indeed, neither of these two stayed the same for long.

Shaking his head silently, he extended his hand and two golden rings appeared from the ground and fell into the hands of the girl and the beast.

He no longer needed them.

Jiang Hao turned to leave. However, just as he took a step, he felt a sudden burning pain in his chest.

He opened his shirt to look at his chest. The One Heart Palm that was imprinted on his chest flashed briefly and disappeared.

When it disappeared, a figure in red appeared beside him. It was a familiar shadow with a familiar fragrance.

'Hong Yuye?'

Just as he was about to turn around, the beast suddenly shot into the air and dropped back down to the ground. The beast, which had been perfectly fine before, now had a swollen face.

Looking at the beast with a bruised and swollen face, Jiang Hao sensed that it was a warning..

Chapter 419: Demoness Explains One Heart Palm

Jiang Hao let out a sigh as he looked at the beast, which was in a very bad condition.

The beast still had some dignity.

Hong Yuye never targeted anyone but the beast. It was admirable that it survived the encounter every time.

“Senior.” Jiang Hao turned and respectfully bowed.

Hong Yuye was dressed in a red and white gown. Her hair fell down her shoulders and chest. She looked elegant and classy.

She was just about to say something when an urgent voice sounded from behind.

“Beast! My meat bun!”

Xiao Li even kicked her blanket away, and it flew away from the bed.

Jiang Hao sighed helplessly. Did she only even dream about food?

Hong Yuye looked at Xiao Li and took a step forward. Then, she covered Xiao Li with a blanket.

In her sleep, Xiao Li sniffed. “Senior Sister...” She was half awake and in a daze. “How old is she this year?” Hong Yuye asked.

“She’s supposed to be nineteen,” Jiang Hao said.

The age of dragons differed from that of humans.

Xiao Li had never changed even after all these years.

She was the same as when she first entered the sect. She hadn’t grown at all.

“She hasn’t grown mentally nor physically,” Hong Yuye said.

Jiang Hao was helpless. He had only requested Xiao Li to stay out of trouble and not cause any commotion.

More importantly, it depended on the beast.

Currently, Xiao Li was growing well. She was fearless in the Cliff of Broken Hearts.

The most important thing for her was food.

Jiang Hao looked at his chest and realized that the One Heart Palm had disappeared.

The purpose of this palm technique was for Hong Yuye to travel long distances.

From the south to the east, the distance was great. Even Hong Yuye found it difficult to cross it.

That's why the One Heart was left on him. It allowed them to travel together.

However, it seemed like this palm technique could only be used once.

Suddenly, Jiang Hao thought of something.

If he was married to many people across the north, west, east, and south, would it be easier for him to travel great distances with the help of this palm technique?

Would it be even more convenient than the golden rings?

He wanted to learn this technique.



Just as Hong Yuye was about to turn away from the sleeping Xiao Li, Xiao Li grabbed her hand in her sleep and hugged it to her. "Mom..."

Jiang Hao was a bit worried. Even if Xiao Li didn't do that intentionally, it was easy for Hong Yuye to get riled up.

"Are you worried about her?" Hong Yuye didn't pull her hand away. She just turned to look at Jiang Hao.

"Xiao Li is young. She didn't mean to offend you, Senior," said Jiang Hao.

"Has she remained by your side after her parents died?" asked Hong Yuye as she looked at Xiao Li.

Jiang Hao thought for a moment. "Not exactly. After Xiao Li's parents died, the beast stayed with her and comforted her. I'm not good at that, so I couldn't do much for her."

Xiao Li tightly clung to Hong Yuye's hand and didn't let go.

Hong Yuye moved a bit closer to her.

"Why would someone like you stay in a demonic sect?" Hong Yuye gestured for Jiang Hao to stand beside her.

"Senior, you must be kidding," said Jiang Hao. "That doesn't have anything to do with where I am."

"You're easily influenced by emotions," Hong Yuye said calmly.

'Emotions?'

Jiang Hao thought of Xiao Li's old parents, who were struggling with their health. They held on and waited for Xiao Li to return home every time.

He also thought of Lin Zhi's mother. Even though she was suffering from a serious illness, she traveled dozens of miles to get a protective talisman for her child. She bore the burden until she heard the good news. After that, she finally let go.

He thought of his stepmother and his family.

Though his memories of them weren't very vivid, he was determined not to forget. Regardless of whether they were kind or harsh to him, he wanted to see them again.

He didn't even know why he wanted it, but he wanted to see them one last time anyway.

Jiang Hao shook his head. "Senior, you must be joking."

His weaknesses were too obvious, and for him, that was a disaster. Hong Yuye glanced at him in front of her and didn't think much of his lie.

"Were you just thinking about the palm technique on your chest?" she asked.

Jiang Hao didn't answer.

He was thinking about it, but he didn't dare voice his thoughts.

"The technique is called the One Heart Palm. Do you know the conditions for activating it?" Hong Yuye asked.

"No." Jiang Hao shook his head.

"The One Heart Palm requires a relationship between a man and a woman for it to activate successfully. To use it, you just need to leave an imprint on the body, like I did earlier," Hong Yuye said.

Jiang Hao didn't respond. He already knew all of this.

"Are you thinking that once you learn this technique and have a relationship with many women, you can go anywhere?" Hong Yuye sneered. "Why do you think it's called the "One" Heart Palm and not the "Many" Hearts Palm? If you have a relationship with a second person, the One Heart Palm can't be used. So, once you've mastered it, you can only use it on me. Do you still want to learn

Hong Yuye smiled sinisterly.

Jiang Hao lowered his head and didn't answer.

He did want to learn it. If there was danger, he could immediately go to Hong Yuye.

Even if she was too terrifying and might be unpredictable, she was his safe bet. If he was on the brink of death, going to Hong Yuye would undoubtedly provide a way out.

However, earning it was one thing. Leaving an imprint on someone else's body was another.

Hong Yuye had left an imprint on his chest. He didn't dare do the same to her. That would turn out to be deadly.

With a sigh, Jiang Hao also gave up on the idea of learning it.

Red Yuye didn't say anything either. She just watched Xiao Li.

After a while, Xiao Li finally let go of her hand and went back to dreaming about food.

Hong Yuye pulled her hand back and disappeared with Jiang Hao.

"Ahhhh!" The spirit beast wailed and held its face in pain.

Then, it looked around.

“Beast, what’s wrong with you?” Xiao Li was startled awake.

“I thought the Master was here,” said the beast.

“Where?” Xiao Li looked around but didn’t see anyone.

She sniffed again but didn’t smell anything.

She looked at the spirit beast. “Your face is swollen again.”

“That is a favor from an acquaintance. The master must be nearby.”

Jiang Hao had already arrived at the street.

The place was brightly lit. It was a city that never slept.

“Star Moon City. It’s near the Bright Moon Sect. It’s said that many sects gather here,” Jiang Hao said.

“It’s busier than the cities you’ve visited before,” Hong Yuye said.

Indeed, it was bustling. Jiang Hao was amazed. The streets were paved with jade and stone, and towering pavilions filled the area. Everything looked beautiful.

The entire city seemed to have formed naturally, and its grandeur was impeccable.

It looked very festive. The city was truly remarkable.

“Where do you plan to go, Senior?” asked Jiang Hao.

“Go where?” Hong Yuye looked at him with a smile. “Haven’t we hung out before?”

Jiang Hao was momentarily stunned. Were they just going to observe and not get involved?

That was fine too, as it wouldn’t affect his plans for later.

However, her sudden appearance had disrupted his arrangements a bit. He needed to find a place to buy some tea first..

Chapter 420: You Know How To Bargain?

Jiang Hao walked into a pavilion somewhat helplessly.

He thought he would find a place for Hong Yuye to stay and go out alone to buy tea.

Unfortunately, Hong Yuye came along with him to the city.

He had no choice but to take her along to buy tea leaves.

The pavilion didn’t look very big, so Jiang Hao dared to explore it. He was worried that the price for the tea would be too expensive here than at the Heavenly Note Sect.

The place was filled with spirit tea.

No one was there to welcome him, so he explored the place alone.

Soon, he saw the Thousand Flower tea. It was priced at 181 spirit stones.

It was unexpectedly cheaper, but the minimum purchase was twenty-five grams.

If he bought and resold it, he could make a decent amount of money.

Then he saw Snow Queen Spring, which was priced at 70 spirit stones for five grams.

That was 20 spirit stones more expensive than what he bought at his sect.

If he could set up a stall here, he could sell it for 60 and still make a profit.

He could fully utilize the golden rings and come here to sell things.

Leaving the sect wouldn't be too difficult either. He could take on a mission from the Law Enforcement Hall and set aside two or three thousand spirit stones as compensation.

But unfortunately, nothing was that simple. Tea leaves weren't easy to sell either.

"What would you like to buy, fellow disciples?" asked a young woman.

She was at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm.

'Was this all a Golden Core Realm cultivator capable of?'

It made sense somehow. The city was crowded, and there wasn't much opportunity. Competition was fierce.

“Help me get...”

The moment Hong Yuye’s spoke, Jiang Hao felt anxious. “Ancient Spirit Tea!” he said hurriedly.

He had seen that tea in the Heavenly Note Sect before. It was priced at five hundred spirit stones for five grams.

“Alright, please follow me.” The young woman was quite surprised, but she nodded and smiled.

Jiang Hao felt a chill run down his spine. He didn’t dare to turn around.

If Red Yuye had just asked for Red Azure Tea, he would have gone bankrupt.

He could only cut her off.

Fortunately, it seemed that Ancient Spirit Tea still met her standards.

The woman prepared to brew a pot of tea. “Please have a taste and check the quality first.”

Jiang Hao and Hong Yuye sat down and waited.

Only after they were seated did the young woman sit down.

She was very polite and professional, which surprised Jiang Hao.

She was at the Golden Core Realm, while they only displayed their cultivation at the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Hong Yuye must have suppressed her cultivation to be on par with his. After a while, a pot of Ancient Spirit Tea was ready. The woman poured them each a cup.

“Please try it. If you like it, you can buy the tea. If not, then this pot of tea can be considered a gift from the pavilion.”

Jiang Hao’s attention wasn’t on the tea but on the brewing process. It was rather complicated.

He picked up the cup, and the fragrance wafted into his nose.

He took a sip. It was slightly bitter. As it cooled down, he felt the spiritual energy surge into his body.

It gave him the feeling of being among the mountains and rivers. This tea was good.

Jiang Hao turned to look at Hong Yuye.

At this moment, the cup had just left her lips.

“This is average quality.”

The young woman was surprised. She smiled. “Your assessment is similar to our pavilion master’s. I can lower the price by 30 spirit stones. It’ll be 450 spirit stones now. What do the two of you think?”

Hong Yuye didn’t say anything. The woman turned to Jiang Hao.

He hadn’t expected her to lower the price. In the end, he bought 50g of Ancient Spirit Tea and 50g of Red Sleeve Tea.

He got a discount of another 80 spirit stones.

In total, it cost him 5,300 spirit stones for everything.



The tea should last until the end of the trip.

Now, he was left with 11,168 spirit stones.

All the spirit stones he earned over two years were spent here.

After getting used to the surroundings, he decided to find a place to set up a stall and sell his goods.

He hoped to accumulate enough spirit stones for the incarnation of the Immortal Peach Tree.

He had one concern. His cultivation realm was in the middle stage of the Soul Ascension Realm. He didn't know if it would be enough to set up a stall here.

After all, this was a city near the Bright Moon Sect. If someone were to cause trouble, they might be at the Soul Ascension Realm or higher.

He needed to be prepared.

When they left the pavilion, Hong Yuye looked at him.

"You know how to bargain?"

"It can save some spirit stones." Jiang Hao nodded.

"But what if she had refused to sell it?" Hong Yuye asked.

"That's alright. We never know until we try, after all," Jiang Hao said.

"I never saw you take a gamble before."

“Well, it’s different. Gambles include risks. I just want to be careful with certain things,” said Jiang Hao.  
“How old are you this year?”

“Thirty.”

Hong Yuye fell silent. She seemed deep in thought.

Jiang Hao didn’t know what she was thinking.

But it meant that the two of them had known each other for ten years, and soon it would be eleven.

Eleven years had swiftly passed by.

“Where do you want to go next, Senior?” Jiang Hao asked.

Hong Yuye was silent for a while. Then, she said, “Let’s go to the riverside.” It was nighttime, and the stars and moon were radiant in the sky.

At the riverside of Star-Moon City, the reflection of the stars fell on the water’s surface.

Jiang Hao rented a boat.

Hong Yuye stood at the bow of the boat, while he ferried the boat at the stern.

In the darkness of the night, Jiang Hao gently sailed the boat through the river.

A gentle breeze rustled Hong Yuye’s hair, and her robes swayed lightly. She looked ethereal.

“Hahaha!” A sudden voice echoed.

Jiang Hao turned to see a man standing on another boat nearby. He was drinking wine and laughing merrily. However, he seemed somewhat puzzled.

“When did I find myself on the Sea of Stars again? Hahaha. The stars on the water are quite something, though a bit dizzying.” “This is good wine. Hahaha!”

The man was a bit incoherent. He seemed to be drunk.

Hong Yuye also looked at him. She heard a resigned voice behind her.

“Unaware of the heavens while drunk and sound asleep while crossing the

Milky Way.”

She looked at Jiang Hao in surprise. “How do you know that?”

“My father was a scholar, so I learned some things,” said Jiang Hao.

His memory of his father was quite vague. He only remembered his father occasionally going out to sell calligraphy.

Now that he thought about it, the business must have been good. The family had lived well. Although his meals were quite plain because his stepmother didn’t give him much.

At this moment, a figure descended from the sky and stood on the surface of the river. He gazed at Jiang Hao.

“Apologies for the interruption,” said the middle-aged man politely. “May I ask if the poem you just recited was composed by you, fellow disciple?” Jiang Hao greeted him politely. Then, he shook his head.

“Senior, you’ve misunderstood. That was a line of poetry I heard somewhere before. I’m not knowledgeable about such matters.”

The person’s aura was restrained, so it was difficult to discern their cultivation realm, but he emanated a certain kind of pressure.

This was definitely not an ordinary cultivator.

Even the drunk person from before was the same.

Many powerful cultivators had gathered here.

If it weren’t for the Bright Moon Sect monitoring the place, things might have gotten out of hand..