

A Demoness 501

Chapter 501: I've Always Been This Strong

Looking at the three people who were still kneeling, Jiang Hao frowned slightly.

These three were injured. It would affect the work in the garden.

It was his first time seeing ordinary people being targeted like this. What was so interesting for a Golden Core Realm senior to bully someone weak?

Jiang Hao didn't understand it.

It seemed like many people behaved this way. Perhaps ordinary people were an outlet for their frustration.

If a fellow disciple was accidentally killed within the sect, it would be a huge problem.

But these ordinary people were not under the protection of the sect.

"What has made you angry, Senior?" Jiang Hao asked.

"You don't know? Go find out first, and then come and tell me after you know," said the senior.

Jiang Hao frowned.

"Senior Brother Zong Liucheng says that the direction of growth of his Hundred Leaves Flower is wrong. This flower has two growth possibilities: one is that it bears fruit, and the other is for the flower to bloom with a hundred petals. This flower has chosen to bear fruit, but Senior Brother Zong said he wanted a hundred petals."

“That’s right.” Zong Liucheng pretended to be angry. “What explanation do you intend to give me for this, Junior Brother?”

“Perhaps I could compensate you?” Jiang Hao said.

“Sure, but this flower is extremely important to me. I nurture it like a child. Now that my child is growing incorrectly, it pains my heart,” Zong Liucheng said. “Junior Brother, how much compensation do you think is appropriate?” “How much do you want for it, Senior?” Jiang Hao remained calm.

“This amount.” Zong Liucheng held out three fingers.

“Three thousand?” Jiang Hao asked.

The flower was worth about five hundred spirit stones, so it couldn’t be three hundred.

“No, no,” Zong Liucheng said. “Thirty thousand.” “Thirty thousand?!” Cheng Chou exclaimed.

How could that be?

Jiang Hao knew that Zong Liucheng was doing this on purpose.

He couldn’t even come up with thirty thousand spirit stones in the Soul Ascension Realm, let alone the Golden Core Realm.

“Too expensive? Then what compensation would you offer, Junior Brother?” Zong Liucheng sneered.

“When you entrusted the spirit herb, you didn’t specify the type of growth you wanted, Senior Brother.” Jiang Hao looked at the record.

“Is a reminder needed for this? Everyone knows that I wanted a Hundred Petals Flower. Don’t you take care of that while collecting the seeds?” Zong Liucheng asked.

“But when I took the seed and asked the senior who took it from you, he said you were okay with it bearing fruit, Senior Brother,” said Cheng Chou.

“If he said yes, does that make it okay? If I say you’re a traitor, would that make you a traitor?” Zong Liucheng looked at Jiang Hao and Cheng Chou. “There are so many Spirit Herb Gardens in this sect, and people there are very professional and courteous. I chose to help you, and this is what I get. Is this the result of me trusting you?”

Cheng Chou was anxious. “But...”

“But what?” Zong Liucheng asked. “Did I force you to accept it? Weren’t you willing to take on the herb? Now that there’s a problem, you want to blame it on me. I haven’t encountered this kind of problem in other Spirit Herb Gardens.

Why do I have to face the problem only here?”

Jiang Hao lowered his head and remained silent.

Cheng Chou opened his mouth but couldn’t say anything.

He didn’t even know how to refute it.

Some people around them looked at them but dared not approach them. They were afraid of being roped in.

The three individuals who were kneeling earlier also dared not make any movements. They didn’t want to offend the angry senior.

“I can offer two solutions,” Jiang Hao said. “Do you want to hear them, Senior

Brother?”

Zong Liucheng sneered. "Tell me."

"The first one is that we can offer you the amount of the flower and an extra five spirit stones. Five hundred and five spirit stones. It will be enough for you to buy a new one," Jiang Hao said.

Upon hearing this, Zong Liucheng laughed mockingly. "Tell me about the second one."

"The second one is that... you didn't specify the type of growth while giving us the flower, so the consequences are your own fault, and we are not responsible for it," said Jiang Hao.

"Hahaha!" Zong Liucheng burst out into laughter. He then looked at Jiang Hao coldly. "What if I don't agree?"

"Senior Brother, you will agree," said Jiang Hao in a voice devoid of emotions.

"Hahaha! You're making me laugh. Then, tell me how I should agree?" Zong Liucheng laughed heartily.

Jiang Hao took a step forward, and the aura of the early stage of the Golden

Core Realm began to surge.

Zong Liucheng was furious.

"You dare to attack me, you fool!" he said.

He took a step forward, and the power of the early stage of the Golden Core Realm erupted.

The three ordinary people and Cheng Chou were blown away by the impact. A punch was thrown. The fist weighed a thousand pounds and carried a mighty force.

Boom!

The fist swung toward Jiang Hao's face, but a long blade blocked it.

However, Jiang Hao took a step forward, evading the attack by tilting his head, and then punched him in the stomach.

Zong Liucheng felt the pain. His body was sent flying backward.

However, it didn't have much impact on him.

The power in his fist condensed.

It was the Mang Mountain Technique!

His fist descended like a mountain.

Clang!

The half-moon emerged from its sheath. Jiang Hao used the Demonic Sound Slash.

There was a boom.

The blade clashed with the fist.

In Zong Liucheng's eyes, Jiang Hao was just a scum who was willing to cultivate the Blood Wish Path to enter the Golden Core Realm. He couldn't possibly withstand his Mang Mountain Technique.

However, when his fist met the blade, a sharp pain shot through his hand.

His anticipated Mang Mountain attack was shattered by a single strike of the blade.

Intense pain surged from his hand.

Pfft!

The blade swept across from his wrist and slashed into his chest.

Fresh blood spewed on the ground.

The intense pain made him lose his mind.

He clasped his hands and channeled his power. His anger and humiliation transformed into the strongest force and struck down.

It had the force of a mountain.

Jiang Hao raised his Half-Moon Blood once again.

He slashed down with the force of thunder.

He used the Thousand Demonic Tones.

The blade's impact collided with the mountain's force.

There was a resounding boom!

The demonic sound crushed the mountain's force and broke its power.

The Half-Moon Blade was unstoppable. It kept slashing down.

Bam!

This strike landed on Zong Liucheng's shoulder.

Crack!

There was a sound of bones cracking.

"Ahhh!"

The intense pain made him shout, but the immense strength continued to suppress him as if trying to crush his life force.

With a thud, he fell on his knees. The blade rested on his shoulder.

The tremendous impact made his knees crack.

Death made him frightened. He dared not resist the attack.

At this moment, he knelt in front of Jiang Hao, and the Half-Moon Blade didn't sever his shoulder.

Jiang Hao had used the blunt side of the blade.

Zong Liucheng was filled with fear and shock. A calm voice sounded in his ears. "Senior Brother, do you think the first option is better or the second?"

He looked up at the person he had underestimated. Jiang Hao's cold and indifferent face terrified him.

It looked as though this person didn't care about life or death.

An inexplicable fear made him speak falteringly. "The... the second option."

"It seems you are much easier to talk to than I imagined, Senior Brother," said Jiang Hao and retrieved his blade.

"How... How are you so strong?" Zong Liucheng couldn't understand it. How could a cultivator using the Blood Wish Path become this powerful?

Jiang Hao lowered his head and remained silent.

He didn't plan to explain anything.

'I have always been this strong. It's just that you don't see it.' After that, he let Cheng Chou handle the matter with Zong Liucheng..

Chapter 502: This Time I'll Bring Back Three Disciples Who Will Surpass Xiao Li and the Others

This time, Jiang Hao didn't ask the person to talk privately.

The person had come with the intention of humiliating Jiang Hao in front of everyone. He also wanted to make an example of this person to others of the same cultivation realm as him.

In the demonic sect, he needed to be cautious in dealing with people with a high cultivation realm and strong background. But if they were similar in cultivation realm and strength, he couldn't bow down and take this kind of humiliation quietly.

If the other person showed some courtesy, he would reciprocate in kind.

However, if the person was arrogant and unreasonable, then being equally arrogant was the way to go.

He didn't want to give in and handled the situation as he saw fit.

Since everyone had seen this, people would think twice before doing something similar.

This way, even if people didn't like him, they wouldn't come looking for trouble.

Bowing down to someone practicing the Blood Wish Path might hurt their pride, but if they couldn't defeat him, then they would better acknowledge it and move on.

Furthermore, they still had a sense of superiority when compared with others in the Blood Wish Path. They thought the practitioners of the Blood Wish Path wouldn't live much longer.

'Maybe that will put their mind at ease...'

After that, Jiang Hao had the injured trio sent back to recuperate.

Their injuries were not small, but fortunately, they would recover.

Jiang Hao then collected the bubbles floating around.

[Strength +1]

[Spirit +1]

[Endurance +1]

The subtle changes in his body brought him great joy.

Although the progress was slow, he was indeed getting stronger.

It was different from getting stronger through cultivation.

Even now, without his cultivation, he was naturally a person with innate strength and a strong spirit.

It had only been about twenty years since he started cultivation. He was still young.

Given a hundred years, there would be significant changes.

By then, he could easily defeat someone in the Soul Ascension Realm.

After taking care of the spirit herbs, Jiang Hao went to the market.

In the past few days, he had been to the Lawless Tower and inquired about some formation-related questions.

He also asked some seniors who sold formations about the blueprint.

He had a general understanding of the functions and usage of formations.

What was left now was to gather materials.

This time, the upgrade in formations would allow him to block others from entering his place at will.

He didn't know how many spirit stones it would cost, but he expected it to be quite a lot.

Last time, it was already too expensive, and this time would be no different.

However, he had an invitation to sell. He had singled out three young talents who wanted to obtain invitations from the royal family.

One person was from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion and was at the late stage of the Golden Core Realm.

His alchemy skills were good, but he had a gloomy personality. Dealing with him would bring unnecessary trouble.

The second was cold and somewhat aloof, but he was a decent person. He was at the late stage of the Golden Core Realm, too. However, he was poor and couldn't pay many spirit stones.

After appraising him, Jiang Hao found out that he was looking for a partner and had a prearranged agreement with a princess from the royal family.

The third was at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm and was studying formations. He could make a trade, but if he was displeased, things might get difficult.

He had to choose one of these three because whoever got the invitation would have to leave soon.

Going to the Imperial City would take quite some time, especially for Golden Core Realm cultivators who weren't particularly strong.

The question was whom to choose among the three.

The first person would undoubtedly give the most spirit stones, but his personality was too dark, and it was easy to attract attention.

If he never went out, there wouldn't be a big problem, but trouble would inevitably arise if someone kept an eye on him in the future.

The second person wouldn't be able to pay much in spirit stones, but the trade would be the safest.

The third person could initiate more transactions. Based on his many years of trading experience, he wouldn't let himself or the seller feel dissatisfied. Ideally, he seemed to be the best choice.

But...

He chose the second person.

This was a man in his late twenties and had stable cultivation and decent strength.

The young man was setting up a stall to sell spirit herbs.

"What kind of spirit herbs do you want, Junior Brother?" a man asked when he saw Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao shook his head. "I'm not here to buy spirit herbs, but I'm selling something you might be interested in."

"What are you selling?" The man was a little puzzled.

"I'm selling something that might interest you, Senior Brother," Jiang Hao said earnestly.

"Not many things interest me," said the man, and laughed.

"Well, are you interested in matters related to the royal family?" Jiang Hao looked at him.

The man was momentarily stunned, then he packed up his stall. "Can we talk in private?"

This made Jiang Hao alert. He remembered saying similar things to many seniors because he wanted to sneakily attack them. Now, he felt that others might also be planning the same. But he agreed.

They walked to an empty corner.

“I am Luo Zhong from the Thunder Fire Peak. What about you?” Luo Zhong asked politely.

“Jiang Hao from the Cliff of Broken Hearts,” Jiang Hao said. “What are you selling, Junior Brother?” Luo Zhong looked conflicted.

“This.” Jiang Hao took out the royal invitation. Luo Zhong’s eyes lit up. “Where did you get this, Junior Brother?”

“A senior gave it to me,” Jiang Hao said.

The invitation was meant for Mu Qi, but Miao Tinglian had given it to him. She didn’t have ill intentions, so it could be considered a gift. She always pestered him with matchmaking, but she was always good to him.

It was just that the matter was too much of a hassle for him.

After a moment of silence, Luo Zhong asked, “How much are you asking for it?” “How many spirit stones do you have, Senior Brother?” Jiang Hao asked.

Luo Zhong lowered his head. “I have less than three thousand,” he said in embarrassment.

This surprised Jiang Hao. ‘He is this poor?!’

“I’ve used it all to improve my cultivation and strength. Earning spirit stones isn’t that easy,” Luo Zhong said awkwardly.

For a cultivator at the late stage of Golden Core Realm, not having three thousand spirit stones was indeed embarrassing.

Jiang Hao knew he was poor, but he didn't expect him to be this poor.

"However, I can write an IOU. I will pay you back later," Luo Zhong said hastily when he saw Jiang Hao hesitate.

Jiang Hao lowered his head. This kind of thing was useless because he could never be sure if this person would actually pay him back. In the end, he sighed. "We don't need an IOU, but I have a condition." "Please, Junior Brother, go ahead," Luo Zhong said happily.

"After you go to the Imperial City, tell me everything you see and hear there," Jiang Hao said. "Just that?" "Just that."

"Alright, I promise."

Jiang Hao lowered his head. "The imperial city is not safe. Are you sure you want to go?"

"Junior Brother, you must be joking," Luo Zhong said with a smile. "Which place is ever safe entirely?"

Jiang Hao was stunned.

In the end, he sold the invitation for 2,500 spirit stones.

He felt that it was a loss.

This time, his approach hadn't been practical, but it was too late to regret it.

As for the condition, he had only mentioned it as a second thought.

If it could be fulfilled, that would be good, but it didn't matter in the end. After that, he found a formation master and inquired about the price.

"Eight thousand?"

Jiang Hao was dumbfounded.

The material cost was so high! He almost coughed up blood in indignation.

"That is my offer, but the final price would be different."

"Why?"

"Because you'll need to find a grandmaster. I, at my level, can't create this formation.'

Jiang Hao was speechless.

Finally, Jiang Hao went to the Stellar Tower.

The final price was thirteen thousand.

The spirit stones from selling the invitation couldn't even cover a fraction of the total price.

He had to give up and figure something out later.

The expenses were too high. He had just ascended to the Golden Core Realm in the eyes of the others, and if he spent such an extravagant amount, it would look suspicious.

The next day, Jiang Hao found that Junior Brother Han Ming had returned and took on a sect mission.

It was a mission to recruit disciples.

“Senior brother Jiang, this time, I will also bring back three disciples. They will definitely surpass Junior Sister Xiao Li and the others,” Han Ming said. He had specifically come to tell Jiang Hao that.

“Naturally.” Jiang Hao could only play along.

As for the outcome, they would only know it in a few days..

Chapter 503 - 503: Junior Brother Han's Exceptionally Unique Perspective

In front of the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao could sense that Han Ming's cultivation had improved. He never stopped improving himself.

It was all because of his talent and hard work.

He utilized both opportunities and potential to the best of his ability. In the entire Cliff of Broken Hearts, there were only a few people who could match him.

He had matured a lot. He still clung to luck a lot, but that was just a small flaw.

It didn't affect him much.

As for who Junior Brother Han would bring back, he didn't really care. It wasn't very likely that he would bring back a dragon, after all. They were rare.

However, since Han Ming's sect mission had arrived, his own mission might also be coming soon.

Sure enough, three days later, he received a sect mission.

Surprisingly, this time the mission was once again related to the Sea Fog Cave.

“Why is it the Sea Fog Cave again?” Jiang Hao felt a headache coming on.

After asking the senior at the Task Hall, he got the answer.

“It wasn’t originally yours. Last time, it was fine for a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator to lead the team. But now, the Sea Fog Cave has become a lot more dangerous, so we need a Golden Core Realm cultivator to lead the group. Since you advanced to the Golden Core Realm recently, the mission was assigned to you.”

He was speechless.

If possible, he wanted to bribe with some spirit stones and request a mission change.

But sect missions were not something that could be modified or changed.

Only a few individuals had that authority.

Sect missions could be exchanged with others, but they couldn’t be avoided.

This was something that most disciples had to face.

Normally, there would be no punishment for failures. Jiang Hao’s focus was always on keeping a low profile.

But with the advancement of his cultivation realm, he had become the leader.

Trying to pass off unnoticed would be troublesome, as he couldn't deceive everyone in the group.

Just like last time, there were four people in the group, including him.

What surprised him, however, was that all three were people he knew.

There was Zheng Shijiu from the Ice Moon Valley, who was now in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm.

There was also Xin Yuyue from the Thunder Fire Peak who was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Yue You from the Flowing Waterfall was also at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

The first two had cooperated multiple times before with him. The last one had worked with him twice.

"Senior Brother Zheng, you have also reached the Golden Core Realm!" Jiang Hao said with admiration.

Thirteen years ago, Senior Brother Zheng was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Now, he had advanced to the Golden Core Realm.

Jiang Hao wondered why he wasn't the one leading the team instead.

Xin Yuyue's advancement was also quite rapid. She had advanced from the early stage to the late stage in just thirteen years.

It's quite fast, considering Han Ming had just reached the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Xin Yuyue was most likely in her forties now.

Han Ming was thirty-one.

‘It seems Junior Brother Han is not young anymore.’ Jiang Hao shook his head and chuckled.

After that, he planned to go back and prepare. It was not safe to enter the Sea Fog Cave unprepared.

He needed to see if the Saint Bandits had done anything new recently. Unfortunately, he believed he couldn’t find anything about them unless he could lure Yin Wei out.

‘Perhaps I can lure Yin Wei out. Once I appraise him, I’ll know if he has done anything.’

Yin Wei used the Blood Wish Path and hid in the shadows. Even people at the Soul Ascension Realm worked under him. It meant that his status and influence might be quite extraordinary.

‘So, what method can I use to lure him out?’

Jiang Hao thought along the way but didn’t find an answer.

However, he still had half a month. Perhaps he could come up with something. During this time, he also needed to ask about the exact situation of the Sea Fog

Cave.

Ever since they had cooperated with the overseas people, there had been very little information from the Sea Fog Cave. There was no news about what might have actually happened inside.

Ordinary disciples probably wouldn’t know what happened inside. Fortunately, he could go and ask at the Lawless Tower.

Perhaps he could learn a thing or two from there.

A few days later, in mid-January, Jiang Hao went to the Lawless Tower and learned that many people had already entered the Sea Fog Cave for exploration.

There wasn't anything too dangerous for now. It was still manageable. Therefore, they even allowed Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators to enter the cave for missions.

Jiang Hao still couldn't rest easy. But there hadn't been any major conflicts so far, and he wasn't sure if the Saint Bandits had left or had a different plan.

There was also no progress in the stone tablet.

Gui and the others didn't mention anything about the Saint Bandits.

Seemingly, there hadn't been significant developments overseas.

The only good news was that Gui seemed to have successfully cursed Yin Wei.

Although weak, the curse was indeed a success.

However, it seemed that the person had sensed Gui's location, so she was being careful.

Jiang Hao was the same.

Yin Wei's strength didn't seem to be weak. His methods were not lacking in strategy and strength.

"Senior Brother Jiang?" some called him.

After wrapping up his sales, Jiang Hao was walking along the path near the entrance of the Cliff of Broken Hearts.

He turned and saw Han Ming.

Three other people accompanied him. Two men and one woman.

“Junior Brother Han, who are these people?” Jiang Hao was surprised.

“I recruited them for the outer sect,” Han Ming said with a confident smile. Jiang Hao was surprised. ‘Does he really expect to surpass Xiao Li with the help of these three?’

In fact, no matter how talented someone was, they couldn’t surpass Xiao Li.

After all, this young dragon was not truly at the Foundation Establishment Realm. She was just recovering her lost cultivation.

Her true cultivation might even have surpassed the Sect Master’s.

It was quite normal for her at the Foundation Establishment Realm to be able to fight on par with those at the Golden Core Realm.

In the eyes of their Cliff Master, Xiao Li was extraordinary. The only regret was that she was practically unmanageable.

He had also heard that whenever Cliff Master tried to teach her, Xiao Li would always fall asleep.

In the end, the Cliff Master gave up. He would only say, “Go and eat.”

Naturally, Xiao Li was delighted.

Jiang Hao looked at the three people behind Han Ming.

On the left was a rather tall man who appeared to be at the fifth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm but was actually at the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm. There were traces of the Great Thousand Spirit Technique in his spiritual energy. Jiang Hao wondered if he was from the Great Thousand God Sect.

In the middle was a young girl who seemed to have no cultivation aura, but in reality, she was at the late stage of the Golden Core Realm. It seemed she had traces of the cultivation technique he had seen on Situ Jian and the others. He wondered if she was from the Blackheaven Sect.

The last one was a young boy who appeared to be destitute and weak but had a strong and vigorous lifeblood. His spiritual energy was similar to the Heavenly Saint Spiritual Technique. Jiang Hao wondered if he was from the Heavenly Saint Sect.

Regardless of their cultivation realms, these three individuals had one thing in common.

Their method of concealment was too crude.

Anyone with a higher cultivation than them could see through their guise.

“Junior Brother Han, are you going to meet the Cliff Master?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Master is busy, so I’ll just meet with a Senior Brother. If the Senior Brother is also busy, I’ll just arrange their accommodation directly,” Han Ming said.

“Then, Junior Brother Han, be careful on your way,” Jiang Hao said.

If he were to meet the master, Jiang Hao thought Han Ming might be in

trouble.

The people would be worried about meeting the Cliff Master, but meeting a fellow senior would be no problem.

However, what they didn't know was that the fellow disciple helping with tasks was most likely Senior Brother Bai Yi.

If these three Golden Core Realm cultivators had disguised themselves better, Senior Brother Bai Yi probably wouldn't have bothered to investigate.

It was just unfortunate for them. Even if they had advanced in their cultivation realm, Senior Brother Bai Yi wouldn't have said anything.

Most of the time concealing one's cultivation didn't necessarily mean that they were a spy, but the senior would note down their names for future reference, just in case.

Jiang Hao watched Han Ming leave.

The next day, Cheng Chou told Jiang Hao that Han Ming had received great praise for capturing three spies.

He had calmly handed them over to Senior Brother Bai Yi.

The three Golden Core Realm spies had contributed to Han Ming's merit..

Chapter 504 - 504: Would Anyone Really Wipe The Dirt?

In the following days, Jiang Hao did not see Junior Brother Han again.

He heard that he had gone out for training, and he didn't know how long it would take for him to come back.

In the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao smiled.

Junior Brother Han's efforts were admirable. The harder he worked, the sooner he would become one of the top disciples.

He hadn't received any achievements for a long time. This thing was indeed good for him.

The higher the achievements, the lesser the probability that others dared to mess with him.

But, for Jiang Hao, more contribution would mean a higher possibility of being taken off the suspect list.

In late January, the spirit beast still didn't return. So, Jiang Hao handed the task of watering the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower to Xiao Li.

Other spirit herbs could stop growing, but he couldn't take a risk with the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

There were too many people watching him.

Both Elder Baizhi and Hong Yuye were watching him like a hawk.

Xiao Li readily agreed.

After that, he went to the cafeteria and gave enough spirit stones to take care of Xiao Li's meal.

"Senior Brother Jiang, you don't have to be so formal. You can give them to me later when you come back," said Feng Yang.

Jiang Hao was already at the Golden Core Realm, so as a Foundation Establishment Realm disciple, Feng Yang was even more respectful than before.

As his cultivation realm increased, his status in the sect also grew.

“Of course.”

After exchanging a few polite words, Jiang Hao turned and left.

Later, he went to the Outer Sect’s Spirit Herb Garden. With his presence there, it would be much easier for Cheng Chou in the future to manage the garden.

After arranging that, he went to the Law Enforcement Hall.

He found that Zheng Shijiu and the others were already there.

“Senior Brother Zheng, Senior Sister Xin, and Senior Sister Yue, greetings,” Jiang Hao said politely.

Zheng Shijiu felt quite emotional. He recalled the time thirteen years ago when they had gone on a mission together. Jiang Hao had been the weakest among them, and now, he was the strongest. He had even become a team leader.

The changes were truly incredible.

Xin Yuyue was the most touched. Before, she and Jiang Hao were at the same level, but now, she was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, and he was already at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm.

Before Jiang Hao arrived, she was actually feeling conflicted.

She was torn between whether to address him as “Senior Brother” or “Junior Brother,” considering the difference in their cultivation realms.

But he still called her Senior Sister, so she didn’t need to overthink.

Yue You was also surprised. His progress was too fast, even faster than some of the True Disciples.

“Junior Brother Jiang, you’re being too polite. We’re here to cooperate with you this time. Feel free to tell us what you need us to do.” Zheng Shijiu smiled.

“Alright. Thank you, Seniors,” said Jiang Hao with a smile.

That was good. He had been worried that they might have a clash of opinions. These three people had worked with him before, and he couldn’t leave them to die if something happened.

The four of them flew on their swords and headed toward the direction of the Sea Fog Cave.

“Junior Brother Jiang, have you been to the Sea Fog Cave before?” Xin Yuyue asked on the way.

“I have been there once. It gave me a feeling of danger,” Jiang Hao said.

“Danger?” Yue You asked in confusion. She had a large sword on her back. “But I heard that it’s not very dangerous there.”

“Yeah. It seems so on the surface, but it’s just my feeling,” Jiang Hao said truthfully.

In fact, he didn’t know where the danger lay, but he felt it anyway.

“It seems that we need to be careful. By the way, I heard that entering the sea fog this time will affect both vision and perception,” said Zheng Shijiu with the fan in his hand.

Jiang Hao nodded. He had also heard about it. So, he was even more worried.

Unfortunately, during this time, he hadn't found Yin Wei or anything related to the Saint Bandits.

He could only take it one step at a time.

Zheng Shijiu and Xin Yuyue were grateful. This time, they felt that they were safest with Jiang Hao on the team.

After working with him several times, they understood how unique he was.

He was already extraordinary at the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, and now, at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm, he was bound to be even more exceptional.

At the Sea Fog Cave, they found many people taking a break outside.

"Every month or so, you have to come out and rest for three days at least. Then, you can go back in," said a senior as she came to receive and brief Jiang Hao's team.

She was from the Law Enforcement Hall and was in charge of briefing the ones who had this mission.

"What is our task?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Go to Route Two and take over that area. You don't need to do much. You just have to guard it," said the senior.

"What's over there?" Jiang Hao asked.

The task seemed safe and easy, but he knew that it would turn dangerous. The fact that they were supposed to guard the place meant there was something important there.

Would one Golden Core Realm disciple be enough?

The people working at the Lawless Tower were beyond the Soul Ascension Realm, and they had still disappeared from this cave. One Golden Core Realm disciple was definitely not enough for the dangers inside.

“Don’t worry. It’s not an important place. It’s just that... It feels a bit strange. Besides, there are already people guarding the place. The sect only wants you to take over the task for a while,” said the senior.

Jiang Hao nodded.

He could only go in and take a look.

But there was a problem. There were already people over there, and he needed to take over. That wouldn’t be easy.

As they entered the cave, Jiang Hao found that there were many sea monsters there.

“What are these?” Zheng Shijiu and the others were surprised.

They were all tentacle-like creatures that they had never seen before. They hadn’t even seen such creatures in the bestiary.

“They call themselves the Sea Patrol Spirit Beasts,” said the senior. “You need to make them familiar with your scent. If there is an accident, they can find you the fastest. You must let them lead the way for you. The poison in the sea fog is not the most dangerous thing here. Losing your way might be the most terrifying thing that you might face. These creatures can guide your way. You can easily tame them with meat. For those with higher intelligence, you can even speak to them.”

Jiang Hao and the others were surprised. The Sea Patrol Spirit Beasts were indeed unusual.

Zheng Shijiu and the others were puzzled. Why were they called the Sea Patrol Spirit Beast when they were actually in the Sea Fog Cave?

With a Sea Patrol Spirit Beast as their guide, Jiang Hao and the others headed further inside.

Surprisingly, this time it was Ah Zha who led the way.

Originally, they had arranged for it to be another Sea Patrol Spirit Beast, but Ah Zha volunteered and left the supervisors with no choice.

Ah Zha was the most trustworthy among the beasts and was said to have acknowledged Elder Baizhi as its master.

Jiang Hao agreed with it. Ah Zha wouldn't betray them, so there was no need to worry.

With another beast, he would need to be careful.

However, Ah Zha was okay. It could even communicate with them.

At the Heavenly Note Sect, two people looked in the direction of the Sea Fog Cave from a small path.

"They have entered the Sea Fog Cave."

"Isn't that just perfect?"

"It's good, but there are records inside. If they are discovered, wouldn't they hit the jackpot?"

“It’s unlikely. The sea fog blocks most perception, especially after many years of erosion on the walls. They certainly won’t be able to find anything, unless someone is willing to put in the effort to wipe the walls, and even then, it would take a long time. Is there anyone like that?”

“No. They would at most use techniques or magic treasures. However, that wouldn’t have an impact.”

The two smiled at each other and no longer worried about the matter.

“I heard that the plan is to connect to the cave from the royal family. Is that true?”

“I don’t know. They usually don’t inform us of their plans, but it’s not impossible. Let’s continue to gather what we need.”

“By the way, aren’t you concerned that the person you’re observing seems to have gone there?”

“There’s no rush. We’ll see later. If needed, we’ll go in to save him.” “Hahaha! That would be perfect.”

The two no longer paid attention to the Sea Fog Cave and instead headed toward a crowd.

“When are you planning to contact the people of the White Moon Lake?”

“No rush. We need to wait for things to settle down first. It’s too risky now. If you’re not in a hurry to make contact, I’m even less so. After all, almost everyone anxious has ended up dead.” Boom!

One of them almost tripped.

“I wonder who in the Imperial City is keeping an eye on me? Their cultivation realm is very high too..”

Chapter 505 - 505: Doesn’t He Realize Who He Is Talking To?

At the Imperial City, in the underground palace, Bi Zhu was standing in the center of a huge spirit stone array.

The surrounding spirit stones were lit on fire, but they quickly turned to ashes.

“This person has a high cultivation realm and is very keen. He has almost sensed my location several times now.”

The first time she was noticed, she changed her approach, but unexpectedly, she was noticed again.

Luckily, the curse was successful.

It could cause some trouble to the person.

It might not affect them too much, but even a slight inconvenience could prove fatal, especially in a battle.

“Unfortunately, the information is too little. Otherwise, the effect would definitely be great. If I could just see him once, he would be dead within three years.”

Bi Zhu sighed and waved her hand.

The ashes spread across the entire palace and disappeared.

Then, she left.

She had secretly investigated Yin Wei but had found nothing.

A person who could attract Jing’s attention might not be an ordinary person.

However, although Yin Wei couldn't be found, she had managed to find traces of the Saint Bandits.

They were right near the Imperial City.

From the signs, it was likely that the royal family was indeed cooperating with them.

It was unclear what they were up to.

Of course, as a princess who wasn't important enough, she couldn't participate.

There were quite a few factions within the royal family, and it wasn't her place to dictate what they should do.

It was best to just watch quietly.

Back at her residence, Qiao Yi approached her.

"Princess, have you tried the techniques that Prince Bi You suggested?"

"I've tried them." Bi Zhu smiled and nodded.

"And what were the results?" Qiao Yi was quite interested.

Bi Zhu shrugged. "None of them suit me."

Qiao Yi couldn't help but sigh.

"It's alright. I've already told you that I'm a genius." Bi Zhu smiled. "These small matters aren't worth worrying about. By the way, has anything significant happened in the Imperial City lately?"

"I don't know about other matters, but there are indeed some things regarding you." Qiao Yi furrowed her brows.

"Me?" Bi Zhu sat down by the stone table and smiled. "What could there possibly be to talk about me? Are they saying I'm getting old yet again?"

"Indeed, some other princesses have mentioned age-related matters. They say a princess who can't cultivate won't find a good marriage prospect and would end up just being a burden," Auntie Qiao said.

Bi Zhu was speechless. After all, she wasn't dependent on her family.

"In fact, there is another troublesome matter," Qiao Yi said in a low voice:

"Someone has come to propose marriage to you."

"Propose marriage to me?" Bi Zhu was stunned and pointed at herself in disbelief.

"Yes." Qiao Yi nodded.

"It's..." Auntie Qiao was about to say it when suddenly she turned toward the back gate and said in a low voice, "He's here again."

Bi Zhu looked curiously toward the gate.

A middle-aged man in armor walked in. It was General Lin, who had visited before.

As soon as he entered, he bowed to Bi Zhu.

"Greetings, Princess Bi Zhu."

“General Lin?” Bi Zhu smiled. “Are you acting as a messenger for someone?”

Auntie Qiao had explained everything clearly. So, Bi Zhu knew the purpose of General Lin’s visit.

“You are wise as always, Princess,” said General Lin in praise. “I have come on behalf of Crown Prince Shangguan.”

“The eldest son of the Shangguan family?” Bi Zhu asked. “The one with a bad temperament?”

“He is just young and passionate,” General Lin said. “Princess, please consider it. Being a princess in the Imperial City will be... difficult in a few years.”

It would indeed be difficult in later years, especially with her lack of value. Bi Zhu understood his implication.

She smiled. “Is that all, General Lin?”

“That’s all.” General Lin nodded.

“In that case, you may leave,” Bi Zhu said with a smile. General Lin frowned, but he turned and left.

“So insolent,” Auntie Qiao said in a low voice.

“Indeed, he doesn’t even consider who he’s talking to. He’s talking to the first genius of the royal family and the most exceptional talent to have ever been born,” said Bi Zhu jokingly.

Auntie Qiao was speechless.

“How much farther is it?” Jiang Hao asked Ah Zha inside the Sea Fog Cave.

“We’re almost there,” Ah Zha said.

The surrounding was full of sea fog, and it affected their vision and perception. It was even impossible to determine which side the walls were on.

However, they could hear some sounds.

Jiang Hao tried to make sense of the surroundings using what he had learned from the nameless manual.

He tried to pay attention to the extension of sounds and the movement of the fog.

Slowly, the vague pattern of the passage appeared in his mind.

He stopped in his tracks.

Zheng Shijiu and the others also stopped behind him. They were puzzled.

“Why aren’t you coming along?” Ah Zha asked from the front. “Do you have any grievances with us?” Jiang Hao asked suddenly.

This surprised Zheng Shijiu and the others.

Ah Zha didn’t seem surprised. It nodded. “Yes, there are grievances indeed.

That woman tricked me. I want revenge.”

“I’m not familiar with Elder Baizhi. None of us are,” Jiang Hao said.

Ah Zha was deceived, which was inevitable.

Its wisdom was definitely not on par with Elder Baizhi.

“Humans... you’re all indeed cunning and sly,” Ah Zha said. It turned and walked in another direction.

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief. There was a cliff ahead this time.

Falling here might not be life-threatening, but it would be painful and would cause a lot of problems.

It was better to avoid it if possible.

Zheng Shijiu and the others had no idea what was going on.

All they knew was that after Jiang Hao spoke, the spirit beast had abandoned the original path.

It looked a bit angry.

They understood that the previous path was problematic.

What was even more puzzling was that Jiang Hao seemed to know this spirit beast.

They looked at each other and exchanged knowing glances.

After that, nothing unexpected happened, and they arrived at a place isolated from the sea fog.

This place was backed against the wall and surrounded by a simple fence, and there were two guards in front of the gate.

They could even see some houses inside.

The arrival of Jiang Hao and the others made the guards nervous, but they relaxed when they saw that they were from the heavenly Note Sect.

“Who are you?” one of the guards asked.

“We’re here to take over.” Jiang Hao presented the token.

“Please wait a moment.” One of the guards went inside.

Shortly after, three Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators came out.

Two men and one woman.

All of them were in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

The leader was a middle-aged man who was tall and burly.

The muscles on his upper body were distinct, and he was not wearing any clothes.

It looked like he could unleash tremendous power at any moment.

He took the token and then nodded. “It’s indeed the Heavenly Note Sect here to take over.”

“Let me see.” The woman took the token and glanced at it. “They could have been intercepted. How do you prove that you are Jiang Hao?”

“It shouldn’t be a problem, but not everyone who comes to take over can be trusted. At the very least, you have to convince us of your identities or your task,” The bald Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator said.

“How can we convince you?” Jiang Hao asked.

He had already known that these people would make things difficult. They were just doing this because they could. He didn’t intend to establish dominance here. He would do whatever they said as long as they didn’t try to harass or harm him and the others.

“First, you need to show us whether you can guard this place, ” said the middle-aged man. He seemed to be the leader. “Before, we guarded the gate for thirty days to stabilize this place. Now, if you and your group can guard the gate for ten days, we will acknowledge you..”

Chapter 506 - 506: There’s A Problem With This Wall

“I thought we were called here to guard the main gate?” said Xin Yuyue coldly.

Zheng Shijiu and others frowned slightly.

These people were deliberately making things difficult because they wanted to show their dominance.

“Is that what you were told? We didn’t say anything like that.” The woman at the Foundation Establishment Realm smiled.

The other two also smiled as if enjoying the show.

“Alright. We’ll guard it for ten days.” Jiang Hao nodded.

The three Foundation Establishment Realm individuals were surprised that he agreed so quickly.

Xin Yuyue and the others were a bit angry, but since Jiang Hao had spoken, there was nothing more to say.

“It seems you have the courage and fortitude worthy of being the leader this time, Fellow Disciple Jiang,” the middle-aged man in charge said with a meaningful look.

Jiang Hao then walked to the inside.

But before he could enter, he was stopped by two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators.

“Can’t enter?” Jiang Hao looked at the middle-aged man who seemed to be in charge.

“You can’t.” The man shook his head.

“Why?” Jiang Hao asked calmly.

“You haven’t gained our approval yet. You need to defend against the enemy outside for ten days first. Only then can you gain our approval to enter,” the middle-aged man said.

“Can I enter after ten days then?” Jiang Hao asked again.

“After ten days, you can enter the main gate. However, there are three subsequent tests. If you pass them all, we will submit and assist you in defending this place,” the middle-aged man said apologetically. “It’s unavoidable. After all, this place is not ordinary. With a new leader arriving, we have to be cautious in our approach. Assessment is necessary. I hope you understand.”

“Aren’t you being a little unreasonable? Junior Brother Jiang came here for a sect mission, and you don’t even let him enter the door,” Zheng Shijiu said in a low voice. His fan was already closed.

“You are right, of course. Since it’s a sect mission, you can call in the person who assigned the mission. If they say there’s no need for an assessment, then we will naturally listen,” the middle-aged man said politely.

“Are you from overseas, fellow disciple?” Jiang Hao asked calmly.

“Indeed, but we are cooperating with the Heavenly Note Sect. If it’s really guaranteed by the Heavenly Note Sect, we will also comply. Would you like to go ahead with the assessment or go fetch the person who assigned the mission to confirm this?” the man asked kindly.

Jiang Hao looked at the man and suddenly looked surprised at someone behind him. “Heavenly King Bu Dong?”

The middle-aged man was startled and instinctively turned.

Clang!

The Half-Moon Blade was unsheathed.

At the sound, the middle-aged man knew he had been deceived.

While defending, he began to retreat.

Bam!

The hilt hit his forehead heavily and sent him flying. But this gave him the time he needed.

His defense was fully activated, and his treasures were revealed. A surging power was unleashed.

But before he could even see the opponent, moonlight clouded his vision.

“Moon-Slaying.”

At this moment, he saw a figure appear in front of him, followed by a sweeping blade.

Bam!

The blade met the defenses. It swept through everything. His defense shattered and his treasure broke.

The blade cut across his neck.

In an instant, the middle-aged man felt his vision blur and spin.

A sense of unexplained fear overpowered everything.

But before he could fully understand the situation, his consciousness was fading.

It was too late for any regrets.

Jiang Hao stood in front of the corpse. He was silent for a moment. Then, he used a basic lightning technique to ensure that the person was dead.

He didn't see a storage treasure, and even if he did, he couldn't pick it up in front of everyone.

Looting was different from killing.

No one had expected the situation to escalate this quickly.

Zheng Shijiu reacted very quickly and exerted his strength to face the two people in front to prevent them from fighting.

Xin Yuyue's sword was unsheathed, and Yue You held the giant sword behind her.

At this point, regardless of what happened, they had to face it head-on.

Jiang Hao turned to the two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators and asked calmly, "Have we passed the assessment?"

His blade emitted a faint light.

It seemed the blade was already at the necks of the two people, and if they said the wrong thing, it would strike down.

The woman and the bald man panicked. Their hearts raced.

Finally, the two of them lowered their heads and bowed respectfully. "Of course, fellow disciple."

Only then did Jiang Hao retract his sword and walk inside.

This time, no one dared to stop him. The previous guards were also fearful.

It wasn't until Jiang Hao went in that the two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators breathed a sigh of relief.

They hadn't expected the newcomer to be so ruthless.

He had even killed the strongest person among them with one strike!

At this time, Ah Zha was resting. It was not surprising at all.

After all, besides that woman, only this person looked it straight in the eyes.

That woman was a bad person, and this young man wasn't a good person either.

Jiang Hao walked into the main gate and found that there were quite a few people inside.

There weren't many places to stay. It was mostly open spaces.

And there were many broken stones on the open ground.

Jiang Hao felt that this place was familiar.

"Is this a mine?"

Zheng Shijiu looked around. "I think you are right, Junior Brother Jiang. There really is a mine here! It is no wonder they wouldn't let us in."

The mine was discovered by the people here, so they could secretly keep a portion of the gains for themselves.

Originally, the three Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators had been in charge here. They might be getting a considerable portion of the shares.

Now that a new manager had suddenly come, it meant a huge loss for them, so they were naturally unwilling to give in.

At that point, the two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators rushed over to explain.

They discovered the mine here accidentally, so they kept half of the gains and left the other half here. If it was discovered, they would submit the half they had saved.

As they spoke, they showed them the ores they had collected.

Jiang Hao looked at it and realized they had kept at least 80% of the total gain.

“Show me the mine.”

Jiang Hao looked inside and observed. He found that the mine here was relatively average in size.

Of course, he would still dig here.

He wouldn't let go of such an opportunity. But he recalled Heavenly Stele Mountain.

“Are there any stone tablets or something similar here?”

“No,” said the woman, Xiao Xiaohui.

“What a pity...” Jiang Hao walked to the outside of the mine and dusted the wall.

He remembered very clearly that just wiping away the dirt from stone tablets produced bubbles.

Later, after wiping the treasures many times, only the Primordial heavenly Blade had given him a bubble.

But it was just white bubbles.

Suddenly, a white bubble fell before his eyes.

[Strength +1]

Jiang Hao was stunned. 'Huh? What's going on here? Why would wiping the wall produce bubbles?'

Perplexed, he continued to wipe the wall.

[Spirit +1]

[Spirit Sword +1]

The more Jiang Hao wiped, the more surprised he became. This wall was strange.

Normally, walls would never produce bubbles, let alone so many.

Although there were no blue bubbles, this was just the beginning. There would definitely be more bubbles to come.

Jiang Hao stopped wiping and then turned to Zheng Shijiu. "Senior Brother Zheng, I'll leave everything here to you while I examine this place.."

Chapter 507 - 507: Was Your Junior Brother Normal Before?

Zheng Shijiu was temporarily appointed the leader. He was surprised but didn't say anything.

After all, Jiang Hao rarely did this kind of thing without reason.

What puzzled him, however, was what he wanted to examine in this place.

Everyone was curious, but no one asked any questions.

They could only follow his arrangements.

The immediate priority was to understand this place and then deal with the matter of the mine.

The mine was still a secret, and there was no need to report it right away. Everyone wanted to make some profit from it.

However, they needed to be careful about this to avoid trouble.

When Zheng Shijiu and the others left, Jiang Hao faced the wall alone.

He didn't do much but started to wipe it.

He wanted to see how much he could wipe in a day and figure out why the wall produced bubbles.

It took a long time.

He took a piece of cloth and focused on the task. As time passed, white bubbles kept appearing.

[Strength +1]

[Strength +1]

[Spirit +1]

The constant notifications were refreshing.

It felt wonderful to get so many bubbles. He could feel the change in his body.

But after wiping for a while, all he got were white bubbles.

Even green ones were exceptionally rare.

The next day, Jiang Hao was still wiping the wall. The area where he had wipes gradually became smoother, but there was still a lot of dirt.

After a day, the bubbles didn't surprise Jiang Hao so much, as the number of bubbles gradually began to decrease.

The quality of the gains had also improved, and he obtained several spirit swords.

What surprised him the most was that the dirt and grime here were unbelievably thick.

"If Heavenly Stele Mountain had dirt this thick, I wonder how many blue bubbles would appear when it's wiped clean." Jiang Hao sighed.

Back then, he hadn't wiped it completely clean. It was such a pity!

On the third day, Jiang Hao managed to get a blue bubble. Although it was just one blue bubble, it was still great.

The Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower produced two blue bubbles every seven days. But wiping this wall produced one blue bubble every three days. Moreover, finding a blue bubble also depended on luck.

Perhaps he would find another blue bubble tomorrow.

On the fourth day, it happened!

[Vitality +1]

“It really appeared!”

His luck was decent.

Even though no one had come to ask him anything, there was still a lot of gossip.

No one understood what he was doing.

Most of the people said, “Look, the manager is wiping the wall again. Do you think he’ll stop today?”

“No, he does that every day. I really don’t know what he’s here for.”

Even a Golden Core Realm cultivator Zheng Shijiu couldn’t understand why Jiang Hao was acting like this.

Now, the five of them were sitting together discussing Jiang Hao.

“You’re from the same sect, right? Don’t you know what he is doing?” asked Xiao Xiaohui.

Zheng Shijiu felt a little embarrassed. “Junior brother Jiang is a peculiar person. He seems to prefer silence and is always alone, so it’s normal not to understand what he plans.”

“But can’t he just stop wiping the wall day and night? Everyone knows that Disciple Jiang is in charge here. His every move affects the surroundings,” said the bald man and hesitated. “How about the three

of you go and persuade him?" "Or we could enclose the area where Junior Brother Jiang is," Xin Yuyue said.

"That's a good idea." Yue You nodded. "We can publicly announce that Junior Brother Jiang is digging for the secret of the Sea Fog Cave."

The five of them felt that it was a good idea.

After all, no one knew what the secret was, so it didn't matter whether it was there or not.

The most important thing was to stabilize the place first.

This area wasn't particularly dangerous, and there were no special changes. As long as there were no internal problems, there shouldn't be any issues.

In the following days, Jiang Hao noticed that the walls were starting to clear out around him.

They enclosed the area where he was. Apart from the entrance to the mine, there were walls everywhere, and the interior space was not small either.

Lighting arrays had also been set up.

The quiet environment made Jiang Hao feel quite comfortable. He went out to thank Senior Brother Zheng in person.

When he was asked what he was doing, he couldn't answer, so he chose to remain silent.

He couldn't tell them that he was here for bubbles.

So, what else could he say? Should he tell them that he was just cleaning the walls?

That was partly the truth, but they might not believe him.

So, silence was the best choice. Perhaps they would come up with their own answers to this question.

This was a short-term solution but in the long run...

This wall did have a secret, but he didn't know it at the moment.

As for the secret, he didn't care. He didn't have any intention of taking advantage of any opportunities, no matter what they were.

As long as he could wipe the wall in peace, he was satisfied.

He found that about half of the walls had bubbles. That meant the secret was within these walls.

The secret might be something impactful. Whether he wanted to reveal it or not depended entirely on him.

With so many people watching, it was impossible to keep it a secret.

Shaking his head, Jiang Hao continued to wipe the wall.

White bubbles kept appearing.

[Strength +1]

[Endurance +1]

[Spirit +1]

Seeing all the +1s made him feel a bit emotional. If he could gain +1s for intelligence too, he would be more composed when dealing with Hong Yuye in the future.

Unfortunately, he couldn't add to his intelligence. He couldn't understand how someone with a warped mind thought.

Jiang Hao chuckled at himself and then continued to wipe.

Becoming a genius was impossible, but improving his strength was a better choice.

In the Sea Fog Cave, there was no concept of day and night, and many people lost track of time.

They could only go about their own business each day.

"Junior Sister Yue, how long has it been?" Zheng Shijiu asked.

At this moment, Yue You was standing in front of a wooden board and marking it to count the days.
"About a month."

"A month?!" Xin Yuyue looked at the wall in disbelief. "Junior Brother Jiang hasn't come out for a month. What could be the reason?"

"I don't know, but the people already believe our explanation. They all think there's a secret inside and don't dare to approach recklessly." Zheng Shijiu sighed helplessly. "At least, that's the situation on the surface."

As for the discussions happening in secret among the people, they were unaware of it. There were always some people who would have doubts. "Was your junior brother normal before all this?" Xiao Xiaohui walked over to

them.

Xin Yuyue thought for a moment. "I heard he just worked in the Spirit herb

Garden and didn't go anywhere else."

Zheng Shijiu looked outside. "According to the time, the sect's people should be coming to check our situation soon."

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone became nervous. There was a mine here, and the arrival of sect members might bring trouble.

However, it was unlikely they would make things difficult for the people here. After all, they hadn't done anything to harm the sect.

"Hey, something seems to be approaching," Ah Zha said suddenly.

Everyone was startled and immediately went outside to check.

They understood how special Ah Zha was. It had extraordinary intelligence and a high status.

It was Elder Baizhi's envoy.

So even though Ah Zha's strength was just average, no one dared to show it any disrespect.

When it said something was approaching, nobody questioned it..

Chapter 508 - 508: Deciding Not To Greet Junior Brother To Save Him The Embarrassment

“Senior, what is it?” Zheng Shijiu rushed to Ah Zha’s side.

At this moment, Ah Zha was nibbling on some meat. “Seems like thieving sea monsters.”

“Thieving sea monsters?” Yue You was puzzled.

“We named them that. The Sea Fog Cave doesn’t just have patrolling sea beasts like us. There are other things here. The most annoying ones are the thieving sea monsters. They’re fast, agile, and love to steal things from others. Once they steal, they run, and it’s hard to guard against them. They only steal and attack as a group,” said Ah Zha in disdain.

Xin Yuyue and others felt a bit sympathetic.

Some were spirit beasts, while others were sea monsters.

Indeed, it was believed that whoever named them would suffer bad luck. “How strong are they?” Zheng Shijiu asked the most crucial question.

“Stronger than us, but slower than us,” Ah Zha said.

“Prepare for battle.” Zheng Shijiu instructed everyone to put down what they were doing and prepare for the encounter.

He said, “We don’t have time. Test their strength and if something feels off, go find Junior Brother Jiang.”

Jiang Hao had amazed them by killing the leader before in one strike.

Even if it was a surprise attack, that strike was something none of them could block.

So undoubtedly, Jiang Hao was the strongest among them.

Outside the Sea Fog Cave, Zuo Cheng walked over from the Lawless Tower.

In a few days, he would enter the Sea Fog Cave to assess the situation there.

This was the task assigned by the Lawless Tower. After all, they were the ones most familiar with the Sea Fog Cave.

“Seven locations. They are a bit further away and might take some time,” said the junior respectfully.

“The first line under the jurisdiction of Heavenly King Bu Dong. The second point of the second line under Jiang Hao’s jurisdiction from the Cliff of Broken Hearts, and the Heavenly Joy Pavilion...”

Once the locations were confirmed, Zuo Cheng was surprised.

“Junior Brother Jiang is also in there?”

“Do you know him?” The junior was surprised.

“Not really. Just heard about him.” Zuo Cheng didn’t say much but observed the entrance. He waited to enter the cave and check the situation.

The Sea Fog Cave had changed rapidly, and they hadn’t found any suspicious places, which made them concerned.

The lack of suspicion was suspicious in itself.

Senior Sister Yinsha was still missing.

There were no traces of the tentacles they were looking for overseas.

A lot of manpower and resources had been invested here, but there had been no gains so far.

It made many people anxious.

Inside the Sea Fog Cave, under the enclosed walls, Jiang Hao looked at the relatively clean wall and felt strange.

If he continued to wipe a few more times, he would be able to see the truth.

Then, he would know the situation.

However, he gave up and continued to wipe other places.

If he was noticed, he might not be able to continue wiping.

In this month, he had obtained eighteen bubbles here.

On average, each had nine points.

With the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, he only managed to get four points in one month. Even with the Holy Medicine Herb, he only got five. Here, it was almost double the amount.

This place was better.

He wouldn't go back for a while and would devote himself to the sect mission instead.

However, on this day, he felt a surge of power coming from outside. He checked the area and found no problems. Then, he went back in.

Those attackers weren't that strong.

However, in the evening, Zheng Shijiu found him and said they had made a discovery outside.

This made Jiang Hao have to put down the cloth.

Outside, he saw everyone sitting on the ground. They looked tired and disheveled.

Although the attackers weren't strong, they were extremely fast. Nobody enjoyed fighting them.

"Senior Brother Zheng, what did you find?" Jiang Hao asked.

"It's this." Zheng Shijiu showed him a creature similar to Ah Zha.

It had tentacles similar to Ah Zha, and it had three eyes.

At this moment, it was holding a round crystal, which displayed various runes. When touched, it emitted a faint light.

"Is it a magic treasure?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Yes. Ah Zha asked them, and they said it was stolen from the depths when no one was around," Zheng Shijiu said. "Their ability to steal things is quite extraordinary. Junior Brother Jiang, we need to be careful. It seems they can steal from a distance."

"The depths?" Jiang Hao was quite surprised. "Not our people?"

"It shouldn't be. Ah Zha said our people haven't been to that area yet," Zheng Shijiu said.

'Sacred Bandits?'

Jiang Hao frowned. This reminded him of the figure he had seen when he first came to this cave.

If they encountered those people, this place would be far more dangerous.

He carefully examined the crystal and found that the runes carried a kind of power, but it was all locked inside.

This thing had no aura. It was difficult to understand.

He appraised it.

[Core Life Bead: One of the 81 Life Beads that Yi Jian laid down. It is connected to Shangguan Hengyu in order to steal the royal family's fate and the blessing of the earth.]

The information astonished Jiang Hao.

It was evident who Yi Jian was. He was certainly from the Saint Bandits.

As for this Shangguan Hengyu, Jiang Hao wasn't sure who it was. However, since they were stealing the royal aura and favor, this person must be located in the Imperial City.

In reality, Jiang Hao didn't care whether the royal blessing was stolen or not. But if they were the Saint Bandits, it did concern him.

The Sacred Bandits had set their eyes on him and were somehow connected to the Heavenly Note Sect.

He couldn't let the opponent become stronger, no matter how he looked at it, especially since the Heavenly Note Sect had sent so many people in. There might be a traitor among them.

Jiang Hao hesitated. This place didn't seem safe at all.

The Core Life Bead couldn't be left here. It would cause trouble.

Jiang Hao looked at Zheng Shijiu. "Senior Brother Zheng, I have to trouble you to make a trip."

Then, he took the bead from the thieving sea monster's hands and handed it over to him.

"Take Ah Zha and give this to the seniors outside in charge," Jiang Hao said.

"Alright." Zheng Shijiu didn't hesitate.

After they left, Jiang Hao stood in place for a long time and made sure no one was following them.

Unlike the others, he could roughly perceive everything in the surroundings using the knowledge from the nameless manual.

After half a day, when he saw Zheng Shijiu return, Jiang Hao finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He continued to go back and wipe the wall.

It was expected that people from outside would come in soon to investigate the matter.

He didn't know if he would still be allowed to stay here and wipe the walls. It would be such a loss if he had to leave.

When he returned to the wall, he found that the cloth he had left behind was missing. It had been stolen.

The next day, Zuo Cheng arrived at the place.

He was surprised as soon as he came in. The people here were actually mining.

It was no wonder no one wanted to go back and rest.

But he didn't ask about it. After all, these people had made great contributions, and they could do as they pleased.

"Where is Jiang Hao?" Zuo Cheng asked the people around him.

"Senior Brother, your arrival was too sudden. We didn't have time to inform Junior Brother Jiang. He should be over there by the wall," Zheng Shijiu said awkwardly.

Indeed, it was too sudden. They didn't know someone was coming until they had already arrived.

"I'll go take a look," Zuo Cheng said.

This time, Jiang Hao, as the manager, had made a considerable contribution.

However, just as Zuo Cheng walked inside, he saw Jiang Hao diligently wiping the wall clean. 'What's going on?'

"Junior Brother Jiang is here wiping the walls. He must have found something here," Zheng Shijiu said.

Zuo Cheng was a considerate person who paid attention to people's words.

He decided to go about his own affairs to avoid embarrassing the people here and Jiang Hao.

Then, he left. He had to go back and report to Elder Baizhi..

Chapter 509 - 509: He's Wiping the Wall Clean?

"Do you know what it is?" Baizhi asked as she held the crystal sphere.

"It should be a Life Core Bead. Although it's only a part of it and the technique is extremely ancient, it is somewhat similar to the present ones," Zuo Cheng said.

He reported to her as soon as he left the Sea Fog Cave.

"Do you know the function of this Life Core Bead?" Baizhi asked.

"It's still uncertain. We need to find the altar first," Zuo Cheng said in a low voice. "With the help of the Sea Patrol Beasts and the thieving sea monsters, there is a possibility of finding the location. But since this thing exists, it means that there are others inside the Sea Fog Cave." Baizhi nodded. "Who discovered this Life Core Bead?"

"Jiang Hao," Zuo Cheng said.

Baizhi was surprised. She was starting to suspect that the person behind Jiang Hao had deliberately arranged this.

"What is he doing inside?"

Zuo Cheng hesitated for a long while. "He's wiping the walls clean."

Elder Baizhi was momentarily stunned. She thought she had misheard. "What?"

"He's wiping the walls clean," Zuo Cheng said.

Elder Baizhi fell silent.

Zuo Cheng felt awkward. He had supposedly been wiping that wall for a month now and hadn't found anything.

They could only assume that he was bored and was just doing something for the sake of it.

Elder Baizhi asked for some more information and then let him leave.

The situation in the Sea Fog Cave was serious, and she needed to ask the Sect Master's opinion.

"Wiping the wall clean?" Hong Yuye's voice was indifferent as ever, but this time, she sounded slightly surprised.

Baizhi could understand her reaction. A Golden Core Realm cultivator wiping the walls clean in a cave looked and sounded strange no matter how one looked at it.

"Perhaps the person behind him orchestrated this. The stranger the behavior, the more likely it is to have a deep meaning."

Hong Yuye glanced at Baizhi. Then, she picked up the crystal sphere. "

Baizhi seemed to have thought about this and immediately voiced her opinion, "The Life Core Bead comes from the depths, but we don't know where it came from exactly. Whoever did it had the strength to set up a powerful formation. Logically, it wouldn't be easy to steal the Life Core Bead. I have three guesses. One, they intentionally released it to lure us in, but the probability of that is low, as we have already entered the Sea Fog Cave. They could have attacked us anyway. Two, it's a warning to us that was passed via Jiang Hao's hands. Currently, there are no serious conflicts between us, so this is not impossible. Three, the people inside were unable to guard the Life Core Bead, which confirms that they either lack strength or manpower. The previous arrangement has confirmed their strength, so the more likely one should be the latter."

At the Hundred Flowers Lake, under the pavilion, Hong Yuye raised her cup of tea after looking at the crystal sphere.

“This Life Core Bead is linked to a certain person. Once activated, it can absorb and contain certain things. More importantly, if this thing is incomplete, it will be weaker.”

Baizhi lowered her head.

The first possibility could be ruled out.

So, it was either the second or the third. This needed her to investigate further.

The second could not be verified, so she needed to observe the abilities of the thieving sea monsters.

If their abilities were indeed extraordinary, then the third possibility could be confirmed.

But the situation still required finding the altar.

“How is the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower doing?” Hong Yuye handed the crystal sphere to Baizhi.

“Jiang Hao has asked Xiao Li of the Cliff of Broken Hearts to take care of it in his absence. Its growth remains unaffected. This disciple is somewhat special, but we cannot trace her origins. Should we conduct a large-scale search?” Baizhi asked. “I can confirm that she is not a spy or a traitor.”

“No need.” Hong Yuye shook her head.

Baizhi was not surprised. Apart from Jiang Hao, it seemed that none of the others needed special investigation. As long as they weren't spies or traitors, they could be left alone.

Only Jiang Hao, who had been under suspicion all along and had no evidence against him, needed continuous investigation.

“The cooperation with the overseas people has brought some information about the overseas. We learned a lot about Feng Hua of the Great Thousand God Sect,” Baizhi said. “According to their account, the Great Thousand God Sect has undercover elders. Their goal is to trade with others and then solicit and make connections. Feng Hua is most likely an undercover elder. There seems to be a way to find him, but it will take some time.”

Hong Yuye nodded. “Anything else?”

After that, Baizhi reported some matters regarding The End of All Things, along with some things worth paying attention to. This included the royal family’s marriage alliance.

However, Hong Yuye did not say much about it.

After Baizhi left, the entire Hundred Flowers Lake fell quiet once again.

The only sound was that of the gentle breeze that rustled the flowers.

Sitting in the pavilion, Hong Yuye picked up her teacup and took a sip. Her beautiful eyes moved as she stared in the direction of the Sea Fog Cave.

Deep inside the Sea Fog Cave, there was an altar in the mist, and above it were two figures.

“The tentacles caused trouble.” “That is something we can’t help. Their abilities have increased.”

“I’ll go and retrieve the item.”

“T already sent someone- We’ll have news soon.”

“I don’t know if it has fallen into the hands of the Heavenly Note Sect. If it’s with them, it will be difficult to get it back.”

“Hopefully, it hasn’t fallen into the hands of the higher-ups.”

“I need to figure out an alternative. Prepare yourself for the worst. If the item falls into the hands of the higher-ups of the Heavenly Note Sect, they will find this place easily.”

“I’ll make preparations.”

Zuo Cheng came and went, and although Jiang Hao knew about it, he could only pretend not to know.

As a Golden Core Realm cultivator, he couldn’t possibly sense when someone like Zuo Cheng arrived.

Although others knew that he had a relatively keen perception, Zuo Cheng was not an ordinary cultivator and couldn’t be sensed just with a keen perception. So, continuing to wipe the wall was the best option for him right now.

It was late February.

Technically, they should be heading back to rest, but Jiang Hao had informed Zheng Shijiu that he was going to stay back.

It seemed like the others were doing the same.

They wanted to make more income with the ores.

Jiang Hao also profited a bit but not by a lot. However, something was always better than nothing.

After a few more days, Jiang Hao suddenly put down the cloth.

He felt that something was approaching within the fog.

It wasn't like the faint presence of the thieving sea monsters but something very strong.

It was almost similar to his cultivation realm.

"It's coming from the direction of the thieving sea monsters. Although there are sect members there, none are at the Soul Ascension Realm."

After a moment of hesitation, Jiang Hao made a decision. He couldn't let whoever it was come here.

If they were coming for the Life Core Bead, everything here would be destroyed, and he might be forced to intervene.

This would have a significant impact on him afterward.

'I need to figure out if stronger individuals will be coming. If they are...'

With a reluctant glance at the wall, Jiang Hao knew he might have to leave this place.

Even though there were many bubbles here, it would be better to head back to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower in the face of danger.

Jiang Hao sighed and walked out the door. His departure went unnoticed.

The strongest here were only at the Golden Core Realm. It was not easy to track the whereabouts of someone in the later stage of the Soul Ascension Realm..

Chapter 510 - 510: Your Plan Has Failed

A man looked ahead from the sea fog.

He saw a stronghold in the distance, and the trace of the Life Core Bead was there, but it wasn't very noticeable.

It meant that the Life Core Bead had been transferred.

'The situation is worse than I expected. I wonder who they handed the Life Core Bead to. If it was handed over to someone outside the cave, then I'll have to go back and report it.'

As for this stronghold, leaving a few survivors would suffice. He could clear out the rest. It would prevent the people here from leaking their information.

'First, I need to determine their strength.'

After sensing the people there, he suddenly paused.

He took a step back, pulled out his spear, and faced the attack head-on.

Clang!

A strong impact dispersed the sea fog.

Both sides retreated a bit.

'That was close. If I had discovered it a step later, I would have been heavily injured.'

The man holding the spear stood there in shock.

Jiang Hao was surprised. He couldn't use his full strength if he wanted to remain discreet.

But as someone who had mastered the nameless manual, how was he discovered by this person?

His intention was to severely injure the person first and then ask questions later.

Now, that seemed impossible, but it was still okay. The person was in the same realm as him. They were both in the late stage of the Soul Ascension Realm.

With the help of his divine abilities, he had a good chance of winning.

It was a pity that this person was too sharp. Otherwise, he could have drawn him into the Heavenly Cauldron.

“How did you discover me?” Jiang Hao asked in confusion.

He wanted to assess the situation first.

The man in front of him appeared to be in his early thirties and was dressed in the same white color as the sea fog.

He had long hair which was tied up and was floating in the air.

Jiang Hao had chosen to attack precisely because of his attire and demeanor. He was sure that this person wasn't someone from their sect or from the overseas group.

“How did you manage to conceal yourself?” Tong Lu asked.

It was unbelievable that there were people in the sea fog who could hide better than them.

Both remained silent, and Jiang Hao knew that this person had no intention of answering his question.

But that didn't matter.

"Sir, what are you doing here?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Why are you stopping me?" Tong Lu asked.

Jiang Hao lowered his head and thought for a moment.

In an instant, he felt movement from the person.

It seemed like the opponent wanted to catch him off guard. Jiang Hao was prepared. His gaze shifted to the opponent.

"Divine Might."

A third eye opened within his primordial spirit.

His power burst forth.

Tong Lu, who was launching an attack, hesitated. He felt an invisible fire ignite within his primordial spirit, and pain spread throughout his body.

This sudden attack shocked him. This person had broken through his primordial spirit defense in an instant.

How could such strength be found in someone at the late stage of the Soul Ascension Realm?

He suppressed the pain with his strength.

The meteor was like a shadow passing by him.

At the same time, he evaded the attack, but one of his hands remained in place.

Not even a drop of blood had fallen.

How was this possible?

In his astonishment, the meteor came again.

Although he reacted again, his other hand remained in place.

The meteors kept appearing, and Tong Lu continued to evade.

When he came to his senses, he found that he was already pinned to the wall by a spear.

His limbs didn't obey him.

This strange sensation terrified him. It must be the doing of the person in front of him. He was too fast.

'Late stage of the Soul Ascension Realm... Are you kidding me?!'

Thud!

He fell to the ground.

Jiang Hao appeared in front of Tong Lu.

"Just kill me."

Faced with such a powerful enemy, Tong Lu despaired.

Jiang Hao didn't attack him. Instead, he used his Daily Appraisal.

Before, the sea fog had affected his vision. So, he had been unable to appraise the person.

[Tong Lu: A member of the Heavenly Spirit Tribe. He is also a Saint Bandit. He awoke from the deep sea in the late stage of the Soul Ascension Realm. He came out this time to find one of the Life Core Beads associated with Shangguan Hengyu. In order to ensure the successful theft of the royal clan's fortune, he is resolute and will not reveal any information. He has already begun to burn himself and is ready to drag you to the netherworld.]

"Heavenly Cauldron."

In an instant, Jiang Hao's divine power enveloped them.

His hands were pressed against the opponent's head as he spoke in a deep voice. "Tong Lu. A member of the Heavenly Spirit Tribe and a Saint Bandit.

Here to steal the Life Core Bead... I'm sorry, but it seems your plan has failed."

Tong Lu looked at Jiang Hao in disbelief. "You..."

In the next moment, the Heavenly Cauldron enveloped everything.

Boom!

A powerful force shattered the divine power.

At this moment, only Jiang Hao was where he had been before. He wasn't injured, but Tong Lu was already gone.

He had left nothing behind.

Jiang Hao lowered his head and sighed.

"I thought saying those things would unsettle him and his aura, but it was of very little use... It's fortunate that I used my divine ability to envelop everything in the end. Otherwise, it would have been dangerous."

Jiang Hao decided to clean up the surrounding area to avoid leaving any obvious traces.

After that, he returned to the stone wall of the stronghold to continue wiping it.

He could think about what had just happened while wiping the walls clean.

When he wanted to find the cloth, he realized it was gone again.

'These thieving sea monsters are indeed extraordinary. Even though they are under our control now, they can still steal like this.'

He felt that a lot of the ores outside would be stolen soon.

Shaking his head, he began to wipe the wall.

At least now I know that the Saint Bandits awoke from the depths of the sea and are actually the Heavenly Spirit Tribe.'

Everything before had been just speculation, but now, it was confirmed.

One thing was certain: the Life Core Bead was very important to them.

‘The Heavenly Note Sect would have decided to do something by now. If they send someone, it should be safe to stay here a little longer. If not...’

Jiang Hao made a decision.

He would wait for three more days.

If the Heavenly Note Sect didn’t send anyone in after three days, he would leave.

Fortunately, when it was time to rest, he could leave for a few days and be more cautious afterward.

Outside, Zheng Shijiu’s group seemed to have sensed a powerful aura. They were nervous.

However, nothing happened.

It made everyone vigilant. They immediately sent someone out to inform the seniors.

Jiang Hao continued to wait.

Deep inside the Sea Fog Cave, the man who had been arranging the personnel for the task suddenly froze.

He looked solemn.

“What happened?” the man next to him asked while preparing his backup plan.

“Tong Lu is dead,” said the other man.

The man next to him paused for a moment. “I see. It was only to be expected. After all, we were planning to go after them..”