

A Record 401

Chapter 401: True Flame Sect

Several days later, on Sea Fig Island.

A streak of azure light approached the island from afar, then faded to reveal a burly male figure.

The man was none other than Han Li, but he had disguised himself as an unremarkable-looking middle-aged man with a dark complexion.

He hovered in mid-air in a still manner as he inspected his surroundings with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, and right at this moment, an egg-shaped blue light barrier appeared over the island down below.

Immediately thereafter, an opening appeared in the light barrier, and before Han Li had a chance to do anything, a voice rang out from within the light barrier.

"Come in, Tianyu."

Han Li raised an eyebrow, then descended into the blue light barrier, following which the opening was instantly sealed, and the light barrier itself also vanished shortly thereafter.

There was a hemispherical space that was no more than 1,000 feet in size beneath the light barrier, and the air temperature was quite high.

Upon entering the space, Han Li was surprised to find a group of cultivators that were completely unfamiliar to him.

However, there was a black-robed elderly man who was looking at him with a smile, and standing beside him was a woman in a yellow dress.

It didn't take long for Han Li to figure out that these two were none other than Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni, and just like him, they had also adopted disguises.

"Sorry to keep you waiting, Martial Uncle. I was delayed a little on the way here," Han Li said as he cupped his fist in an apologetic salute while taking a glance at the other people present.

Standing behind Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni were nine cultivators dressed in fiery red Daoist robes, each with an extremely lifelike fire raven embroidered onto the sleeve, and it seemed that they were all from the same sect.

There was an unnatural flush on the faces of all nine cultivators, and they were also giving off formidable fire-attribute spiritual power fluctuations, indicating that they were all using fire-attribute cultivation arts.

The nine cultivators were led by a trio that consisted of an elderly man with red hair and a red beard, a physically-imposing, bare-chested man, and a middle-aged woman who appeared to be in her forties.

Their auras weren't as formidable as Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni's, but the three of them were clearly all Golden Immortals, and the elderly man's cultivation base was slightly more advanced than the other two.

"Come here, Tianyu. These are all fellow daoists from the Ancient Cloud Continent's True Flame Sect, and they'll be accompanying us into the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor. This is Sect Master Xu Yangzi, and these two are Elder Zhen Yun and Elder Lu Lan. Fellow daoists, Tianyu is my nephew, and he's a very alert young man with a decent cultivation base, so he should be of some help to us in the immortal manor," Daoist Hu Yan introduced with a smile.

"Gu Tianyu pays his respects to the seniors of the True Flame Sect," Han Li said as he cupped his fist in a respectful salute.

He had heard of the True Flame Sect before.

On the Ancient Cloud Continent, it was considered to only be below the top three sects, and its members were particularly renowned for their mastery of fire-attribute cultivation arts. However, for some reason, its members very rarely left the sect, and they kept a rather low profile, so the sect wasn't as renowned as it should've been.

Xu Yangzi gave Han Li a slight nod, then turned back to Daoist Hu Yan as he asked, "Isn't it a little premature to be discussing what happens after we enter the immortal manor when we don't even know where the entrance is right now, Fellow Daoist Gu?"

As for the two elders, Zhen Yun and Lu Lan, both of them merely took a glance at Han Li before looking away.

Han Li wasn't bothered by this, and he made his way over to Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni before standing behind them.

"I'm sure the three of you must've already heard about that piece of news that was released in the Transient Guild. Perhaps the entrance of the immortal manor may not actually be there, but at the very least, we have a lead to pursue," Daoist Hu Yan replied with a faint smile.

"It's a great sign of trust that you approached us with the Infernal Frost Scenic Painting and offered to let us accompany you into the immortal manor. For that, we should be extremely grateful, but at this point, we've already searched through the entire Black Wind Sea without being able to find any leads, and there's no evidence to back up this piece of news, so I'm afraid I'm not very optimistic about its validity."

"While it's true that this piece of news is unsubstantiated up to this point, regardless of whether its true or not, we should still go and take a look on Red Moon Island," Yun Ni said.

"Pardon me for being blunt, but just like you said, no one knows if this piece of news is true or not, and there's a chance that someone intentionally spread this rumor and set up a trap on Red Moon Island for people to fall into. If that's the case, then we'd be making a grave error by going to the island," Zhen Yun said with a shake of his head.

Lu Lan's brows were tightly furrowed as she chimed in, "Exactly. There's a chance that this could be a trap set by none other than the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, so it's best to proceed with caution."

"The Infernal Frost Immortal Manor only emerges once every several tens of thousands of years, and in particular, someone discovered an entirely new area within it last time. There's a very good chance that

this area holds High Zenith Pills, which are immensely beneficial to anyone attempting to reach the High Zenith Stage.

“Otherwise, the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace wouldn't have gone to such great lengths to conceal the entrance. This is an opportunity that'll perhaps never come around again. Are you really willing to just back down like this?” Daoist Hu Yan asked as his brows furrowed slightly.

Xu Yangzi's expression changed slightly upon hearing this, and he replied, “Well... I haven't made any concrete decisions yet, I'm just saying that we should proceed with caution and take our time to make a decision.”

Zhen Yun and Lu Lan didn't say anything further, but it was clear that they were still rather doubtful about the situation.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this.

These Golden Immortals from the True Flame Sect were clearly tempted by the allure of the treasures in the immortal manor, but they weren't displaying any courage or decisiveness in this situation. If this was the personality of their sect master and elders, then it was no wonder that the sect had always kept such a low profile.

“I understand that you're concerned about the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace. It's true that if we run into them in the immortal palace, we'll be no match for them. However, ever since the Blaze Dragon Dao incident, there's been a great deal of discontent building against the Immortal Palace.

“According to my knowledge, many powers, including the Vast Flow Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect, have been very displeased with the Immortal Palace's handling of the Blaze Dragon Dao situation and in particular, their concealment of the immortal manor's entrance.

“Essentially, they've made themselves public enemy number one, and I predict that all of those powers will definitely be sending people to Red Moon Island,” Daoist Hu Yan said.

"If the entrance of the immortal manor really is below Red Moon Island, with everyone joining forces against the Immortal Palace, there's no way they'll be able to contend with all of us. Even if this is a trap, it'll be impossible for them to trap us all, so what do we have to fear?" Yun Ni added.

"What you're saying does make a lot of sense," Xu Yangzi mused as he stroked his own beard, seemingly tempted by what he was hearing, and the same applied to Zhen Yun and Lu Lan as well.

Even if they were to disregard the rumor that there were High Zenith Pills in the immortal manor, all of the other precious treasures inside were already extremely alluring to them.

"We don't have much time left, so you'll have to make a decision fast, fellow daoists. Are you really willing to just let this opportunity slip through your fingers?" Daoist Hu Yan asked.

A slightly conflicted look appeared in Xu Yangzi's eyes.

"Of course, we can't just go there recklessly. Instead, we have to establish a plan in advance," Daoist Hu Yan continued.

Han Li took a glance at the True Flame Sect cultivators, then smiled as he asked, "I'm sure you already have a plan prepared, right, Martial Uncle?"

Daoist Hu Yan merely smiled in response, then swept a sleeve through the air to remove the surrounding restriction.

After that, a ball of blue light flew out of his sleeve, then transformed into a blue flying carriage with a rather peculiar appearance. There was a cross-shaped windmill on both the front and the back of the carriage, and it was radiating dazzling light while also giving off formidable spiritual power fluctuations.

"This carriage is something that I obtained from the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor many years ago, and it has an exceptional concealment effect, so we should be a lot safer if we take this carriage to Red Moon Island," Daoist Hu Yan said.

Han Li examined the carriage closely to find that it was refined from some special spirit materials, and there were countless complex and profound spirit patterns engraved onto its surface, giving off faint water law fluctuations.

Thanks to his Heavy Water True Axis, he was quite sensitive to water law fluctuations, and he could sense that the law fluctuations emanating from the carriage were more geared toward concealment.

Han Li decided to lead by example, flying onto the carriage before everyone else, while Xu Yangzi hesitated for a while longer before also doing the same.

The two elders and the other six True Immortal cultivators of the True Flame Sect quickly followed suit, flying onto the carriage as well.

Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni exchanged a smile before also flying onto the carriage.

After landing on the carriage, Daoist Hu Yan made a hand seal, and a burst of misty blue light emerged to envelop the entire carriage, instantly concealing both its physical form and its aura, making it completely undetectable.

Chapter 402: Entrance

Immediately thereafter, the flying carriage descended into the sea down below at Daoist Hu Yan's behest.

Upon entering the sea, the blue light emanating from the carriage instantly completely fused as one with the surrounding seawater, and it was as if the carriage had become a part of the sea.

The carriage then shot forth through the water as a streak of light, while Xu Yangzi praised, "This flying carriage of yours is indeed extremely profound, Fellow Daoist Gu. It looks like the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor really does contain some exceptional treasures."

"You're far too kind, Fellow Daoist. If we can enter the immortal manor, I'm sure all of you will be able to reap some exceptional spoils," Daoist Hu Yan replied with a smile.

"I'm looking forward to it," Elder Zhen Yun said with a smile.

"Hopefully, the entrance of the immortal manor really is beneath Red Moon Island, and we manage to enter the immortal manor without any incident," Lu Lan said.

A faint smile appeared on Daoist Hu Yan's face, and he didn't speak any further as he gently stomped a foot down onto the flying carriage, upon which it accelerated even further.

The carriage was traveling rapidly through the water in a wraith-like manner, and it wasn't causing any physical disturbance or displacement of water.

The fish and the demon beasts in the sea continued to swim around and forage for food, completely oblivious to the carriage's passing.

Han Li was inspecting his surroundings, and he was also quite impressed with the carriage.

The craftsmanship of this carriage was exceptional, and the person who had refined it clearly had outstanding mastery over the laws of water as well, so it was indeed very safe taking this carriage through the sea.

However, judging from the immortal spiritual power fluctuations that it was giving off, it was most likely quite taxing on Immortal Origin Stones as well. It seemed that Daoist Hu Yan was making an investment here so that the True Flame Sect cultivators would be willing to accompany them.

Han Li looked around momentarily before sitting down with his legs crossed in a corner of the carriage, then closed his eyes to meditate.

As for the other True Immortals of the True Flame Sect, all of them also did the same after the excitement and ty of the carriage wore off.

Sea Fig Island wasn't far away from Red Moon Island, and this carriage was extremely fast, so it only took them around two days to arrive at their destination.

Instead of directly reaching the island, the carriage stopped in the sea several hundred kilometers away.

Everyone on the carriage had already risen to their feet, and they were observing the enormous island up ahead in silence.

"I didn't think this island would be so massive. Even if that rumor is true, it won't be easy to find the entrance of the immortal manor on such a huge island," Daoist Hu Yan said as his brows furrowed slightly.

The Infernal Frost Scenic Painting wasn't going to help them in this situation, and in order to remain covert, they couldn't use their spiritual sense to search for the entrance, either.

Given those circumstances, searching such a huge island was indeed going to be quite a difficult task.

Xu Yangzi and the others were all looking at one another, and it was clear that they were also at a loss for how to proceed.

"Let's go around the island and search its border. Perhaps we'll be able to make some discoveries," Yun Ni suggested.

"I suppose that's better than nothing."

Daoist Hu Yan couldn't think of any better strategies, so he decided to adopt this idea, and the carriage set off once again at his behest.

Meanwhile, everyone was using their own covert abilities to scour the surrounding area.

Two beams of blue light that were several feet in length emerged from Han Li's eyes as he inspected his surroundings, and Xu Yangzi's brows instantly furrowed slightly upon seeing this.

"Don't use your abilities recklessly! If you expose us, we'll all be in grave danger! Besides, with your paltry cultivation base, it's not like you'll be able to contribute anything anyway."

"I understand your concerns, Senior Xu Yangzi, but this is a spirit eye ability of mine that doesn't give off any aura, so you can rest assured," Han Li replied with a smile.

"Don't worry, Fellow Daoist Xu Yangzi. If Tianyu wants to help, then why don't we give him the opportunity?" Daoist Hu Yan said with a smile.

Xu Yangzi didn't say anything further upon hearing this, and Daoist Hu Yan gave Han Li a slight nod, indicating for him to continue.

With the speed of the blue flying carriage, they were quickly able to make it halfway around Red Moon Island, but no one had discovered anything.

Xu Yangzi's expression had darkened once again, and Zhen Yun and Lu Lan were also beginning to look rather uneasy.

Right at this moment, Han Li's expression changed slightly as he hurriedly said, "Please stop here for a moment, Martial Uncle."

Daoist Hu Yan raised an eyebrow upon hearing this, and the flying carriage instantly drew to a halt at his behest.

At the same time, a layer of rippling blue light appeared over its surface, and it was once again indistinguishable from the seawater around it.

Mere moments later, a streak of light shot forth from afar from the left, then continued toward the seabed without pause, vanishing out of sight in the blink of an eye.

"That spirit eye ability of yours is quite impressive, Tianyu," Daoist Hu Yan praised.

"You're far too kind, Martial Uncle, I was only lucky to have been looking in the right direction," Han Li replied in a humble manner.

Xu Yangzi's eyelid twitched slightly, clearly feeling a little embarrassed to have been proven wrong like this, but he still cast his gaze toward the streak of light like everyone else.

"Perhaps the entrance is down there... Tianyu, can you see a little further?" Yun Ni asked.

Han Li took a deep breath as he channeled his Brightsight Spirit Eyes with all his might, but unfortunately, the sea here was too deep for him to see the bottom, and he could only turn to Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni with a resigned shake of his head.

"We've already come here, so some degree of risk is unavoidable. I think we should go down and have a look," Daoist Hu Yan suggested after some contemplation.

Yun Ni nodded in agreement, and Han Li naturally offered no objections, either.

"What do you think, Fellow Daoist Xu Yangzi?" Daoist Hu Yan asked as he turned to Xu Yangzi's trio.

The three of them exchanged a glance, following which Xu Yangzi also nodded in agreement with this proposed course of action.

With that, Daoist Hu Yan made a hand seal, and the blue flying carriage swiveled around before descending toward the seabed.

The sea here was extremely deep, and even after flying for a long while, the flying carriage still hadn't reached the seabed.

Furthermore, there were countless deep rifts and trenches on the seabed here, presenting a very complex terrain that resembled a mountain range.

A hesitant look appeared on Daoist Hu Yan's face, and he was no longer able to sense where the streak of light had gone.

He exchanged a glance with Yun Ni, in response to which she gave a shake of her head.

He then turned to Xu Yangzi's trio with an inquisitive expression, but it was clear that they were just as lost as he was.

"He went down that trench, Martial Uncle," Han Li said as he pointed at a giant trench not far away.

An elated look immediately appeared on Daoist Hu Yan's face and he asked, "What is this spirit eye ability of yours? How is it able to allow you to see so far?"

At the same time, he was making a string of hand seals, and the blue flying carriage immediately flew toward the trench that Han Li was pointing at.

"You think far too highly of me, Martial Uncle. There's no way my spirit eyes can see that far, it's just that the ability allows me to see spiritual power fluctuations, and I was able to see some of the traces that person left behind," Han Li explained with a smile.

At his current cultivation base, he was able to see faint spiritual power traces even without combining his Brightsight Spirit Eyes with his Law Destruction Eye.

"Even so, it's quite remarkable that your spirit eye ability was able to detect such faint spiritual power traces," Yun Ni praised.

Xu Yangzi's trio was also forced to re-evaluate Han Li upon hearing this, and Han Li merely gave them a modest smile in response.

At this point, the flying carriage had already flown deep into the trench.

The terrain here was also extremely complex, without countless tunnels and passageways that led to unknown places.

These passageways seemed to have been formed naturally, but it was unclear how they had arisen.

A peculiar look appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

During the Gong Shuhong assassination mission, he had remained on the island the entire time, so he was unaware of the complexities present beneath the island.

Han Li continued to work with Daoist Hu Yan, with the former using his spirit eye ability to follow the spiritual power traces, while the latter controlled the flying carriage.

Some places that they had to pass through were quite narrow, only several feet wide, but the carriage was able to expand or shrink at will, and all of the cultivators onboard were also able to manipulate their own bodies through various means, so this was no obstacle for them.

Close to an hour passed by in the blink of an eye, and the blue flying carriage continued to traverse slowly through the water.

The rock tunnels on the seabed were blue in color, resembling ice crystals, and they were giving off wisps of spiritual qi, indicating that they were similar in constitution to some spirit materials.

It was extremely dark this deep in the sea, and the only source of light came from the faint blue radiance emanating from the rock tunnels.

Han Li continued to inspect his surroundings with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, and at this point, he could detect many spiritual power traces, as if many people had come here before.

He immediately revealed this observation to Daoist Hu Yan and the others, and everyone was elated to hear this.

The fact that so many people had recently passed through this area indicated there was a very good chance that the entrance of the immortal manor was up ahead.

Daoist Hu Yan remained patient as he continued to slowly advance the flying carriage through the water, and after traveling for a while longer, bursts of rumbling suddenly began to ring out up ahead, as if there were a battle taking place.

Everyone was even more encouraged upon seeing this.

"It should be just up ahead!"

"Looks like that piece of news was true, after all."

"Don't let your guard down, everyone. We still can't be sure yet, so let's not get complacent," Daoist Hu Yan cautioned as he made a hand seal, and the flying carriage accelerated slightly.

Chapter 403: Seal

As the flying carriage continued onward, the rumbling up ahead grew louder and louder, and all of the nearby seawater was also churning incessantly.

At the same time, the rock tunnels were beginning to tremble, and chunks of rocks of different sizes were occasionally clattering down from above.

Lights of different colors were flashing through the space up ahead, and at the same time, bursts of spiritual sense were sweeping forth from all directions in a blatant fashion, making no attempt at subtlety and secrecy.

This was certainly not something that Han Li and the others had expected to see.

The flying carriage continued onward, reaching the end of the rock tunnel in the blink of an eye.

Up ahead was an enormous underground cave, the roof of which was riddled with countless blue stalactites, and it seemed that this was a naturally forming karst cave that was several dozen kilometers in size.

At this moment, there were also dozens of cultivators gathered in the cave, all of whom were viciously bombarding a certain part of the cave with attacks.

They were collectively attacking a dense black light barrier, beyond which one could just barely make out the entrance of a cave. There were some cultivators standing deep within the opening of the cave, but it was impossible to see them clearly due to the black light barrier in the way.

One spirit treasure after another crashed into the black light barrier, causing it to shudder incessantly, and it was unclear whether this cave had been artificially fortified or if it was this resilient to begin with, but it remained completely unscathed despite the powerful shockwaves released by the barrage of attacks.

"How dare you seal the entrance of the immortal manor!"

"The Infernal Frost Immortal Manor doesn't belong to your Northern Glacial Immortal Palace! Remove these restrictions right now!"

Some of the cultivators were yelling to vent their fury as they continued to rain down attacks upon the black light barrier.

Han Li and the others were ecstatic to see this, and Daoist Hu Yan flipped a hand over to produce the Infernal Frost Scenic Painting.

As soon as the painting was summoned, the blue light radiating from it instantly brightened before pointing in the direction of the black light barrier. Due to the restrictions, it seemed that the painting was only able to detect the entrance of the immortal manor from very close proximity.

"It looks like the entrance of the immortal manor really is here!" Daoist Hu Yan said as he stowed his Infernal Frost Scenic Painting away, then cast a fervent gaze toward the black light barrier, and Xu Yangzi and the others were also looking very excited.

Han Li was also quite elated, but not as much as the others, and he quickly calmed down before turning his attention to the other cultivators in the cave.

There were 34 cultivators present, all of whom were at or above the True Immortal Stage.

They were dressed in different attire and split up into three factions, the most eye-catching one of which was situated at the edge of the cave.

The group consisted of around a dozen blue-robed cultivators, led by a benevolent-looking middle-aged man.

This man was none other than the master of the Vast Flow Palace, Luo Qinghai.

As for the people standing beside Luo Qinghai, Han Li had no recollection of any of them aside from an effeminate young man.

The Vast Flow Palace cultivators were the most formidable faction of the three, with four mid-Golden Immortal cultivators alongside Luo Qinghai, who was at the late-Golden Immortal Stage.

In the face of such a formidable lineup, Han Li's group was completely outmatched.

On top of that, the majority of the rest of the Vast Flow Palace cultivators were at the late-True Immortal Stage.

After taking a brief glance at the Vast Flow Palace cultivators, Han Li turned his attention to the other two factions, one of which was dressed in black robes, each of which had a skull design embroidered onto the chest.

This group also consisted of around a dozen cultivators, led by an elderly man with pockmarks all over his face, a petite young woman whose features were concealed behind a veil, and two other men, one tall and one short.

The pockmark-faced elderly man wore a vicious expression as he glowered his surroundings, while the veiled young woman's entire body was enveloped within rings of translucent azure light.

As for the other two men, the taller one was over 20 feet in height and had an extremely imposing physique, giving him the appearance of an impregnable fortress on legs.

The shorter of the two was less than five feet tall with stubby arms and legs that gave him a rather comical appearance, but he possessed an extremely solid physique, much like an iron weight.

Despite the enormous disparity in the statures of the two men, their facial features were very similar in appearance, and it seemed that they were brothers.

All four of them were Golden Immortals, with the pockmark-faced elderly man at the mid-Golden Immortal Stage, while the other three were at the early-Golden Immortal Stage, and the rest of the group were naturally all True Immortals.

The final group had a similar number of people to the other two factions, and they were all dressed in very strange attire. Regardless of whether they were male or female, all of them were wearing short vests with black bandanas around their heads. Furthermore, it seemed that they were not of the human race.

There were four Golden Immortals among them as well, namely an elderly man with a dark complexion, an elderly woman with freckled skin, and a pair of physically-imposing men with blank and wooden expressions, as if they were puppets.

The four of them were holding a golden cane each, all of which were riddled with peculiar golden patterns while also giving off formidable auras that were resonating with one another.

At this moment, the latter two factions in the cave were attacking the black light barrier, while the Vast Flow Palace cultivators were merely observing as bystanders.

Meanwhile, Luo Qinghai was occasionally glancing down into the underground space beneath the cave entrance, seemingly waiting for something.

After their initial excitement, Daoist Hu Yan and the others gradually calmed down after assessing the situation.

Xu Yangzi hesitated momentarily, then asked in a quiet voice, "Should we reveal ourselves now or continue observing like this?"

"Seeing as there aren't any traps here, I think we should reveal ourselves. Otherwise, if we're somehow discovered, that would put us in a bad light. Having said that, this is not the right place to be revealing ourselves," Daoist Hu Yan replied, following which the blue flying carriage beneath his feet flew back a little through the rock tunnel at his behest.

Immediately thereafter, he made a hand seal, and the carriage rapidly shrank down before flying back up his sleeve, thereby revealing everyone.

"Let's go."

Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni led the way forward, and Xu Yangzi and the others immediately followed along.

As soon as they re-entered the cave, everyone's attention was immediately drawn to them, including several pairs of eyes in the underground space beneath the black light barrier.

Luo Qinghai took a glance at Han Li's group, following which a hint of disappointment flashed through his eyes, and he quickly averted his gaze.

The other two factions temporarily ceased in their attacks before turning to Han Li's group as well.

Meanwhile, Daoist Hu Yan and the others feigned surprised expressions and stopped not far away from everyone else.

The pockmark-faced man put on a hideous smile as he approached Han Li's group, and after taking a glance at Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni, he greeted, "I didn't expect to see you here, Fellow Daoist Xu Yangzi. Who are these two fellow daoists? I don't recall ever meeting them before."

As for Han Li, he was just a True Immortal, so he naturally didn't attract much attention from the elderly man.

All of the other black-robed cultivators also approached Han Li and the others behind the pockmark-faced elderly man.

"Long time no see, Fellow Daoist Chen. These two are good friends of our True Flame Sect, and they've come to explore this Infernal Frost Immortal Manor with us. Fellow Daoist Gu, this is Sect Master Chen Pi of the Ghost Wail Sect," Xu Yangzi introduced.

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon hearing this. The Ghost Wail Sect was a sect on the Ancient Cloud Continent that was comparable in power to the True Flame Sect.

Its members were proficient in all types of ghostly and devilish cultivation arts, and they had a notorious reputation, often killing others to take their souls for the sake of cultivating certain ghostly abilities and even going as far as to completely slaughter some smaller sects, for which they had always been frowned upon by the Blaze Dragon Dao.

However, the sect was situated very far away from the Blaze Dragon Dao, so as long as they didn't do anything to harm the Blaze Dragon Dao's interests, there was naturally no incentive for the Blaze Dragon Dao to target them.

"I've heard much about the Ghost Wail Sect. My name is Gu Yan, and this is my Junior Martial Sister, Gu Ni. Both of us are itinerant cultivators," Daoist Hu Yan said with a smile, while Yun Ni merely nodded at the Ghost Wail Sect cultivators in silence.

"It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, fellow daoists," Chen Pi said.

He seemed to be eager to recruit Xu Yangzi, Daoist Hu Yan, and the others as allies, and the feeling was very much mutual, so the two sides quickly struck up a pleasant conversation.

As for the group of foreign race cultivators, they remained standing on the spot in silence, displaying no intention of approaching Han Li's group.

"Could it be that the entrance of the immortal manor is in there?" Xu Yangzi asked as he cast his gaze toward the cave beneath the black light barrier.

"That's right. The people from the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace are all in there, and they've set up a restriction to seal the entrance so that they can keep it to themselves! Other people may be scared of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, but I'm certainly not scared!

"You came at just the right time, Fellow Daoist Xu Yangzi. Our three factions should work together to blow this restriction open and give the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace what they deserve!" Chen Pi said with a cold smile.

"Three factions? Are you counting in those people over there?" Daoist Hu Yan asked as he cast his gaze toward the foreign race cultivators.

"Precisely. They're cultivators of the Southern Dawn Race from the westernmost border of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region. They don't mean any disrespect, they simply don't like to interact with people outside of their own race," Chen Pi explained.

Daoist Hu Yan wasn't bothered at all.

All races were generally quite apprehensive toward those of other races.

However, as long as there wasn't any animosity beyond that, Daoist Hu Yan certainly wasn't opposed to working with those Southern Dawn beings.

Chapter 404: Impasse

"Truth be told, I've already communicated with them earlier, and they're also very unhappy with what the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace has done here, so they'll definitely be receptive to the idea of

forming a temporary alliance with us. The restriction set up by the Immortal Palace is very resilient, but if we can get 10 Golden Immortals attacking the same spot on it at once, we'll surely be able to break through it," Chen Pi said.

Xu Yangzi's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this, and he turned to Daoist Hu Yan for a verdict.

A hint of surprise flashed through Chen Pi's eyes upon seeing this, and he was forced to reassess the status of Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni in the group.

"The Vast Flow Palace cultivators are also here, why haven't you joined forces with them to break this restriction?" Daoist Hu Yan asked.

"They're a major sect that has no eyes for other sects and races beneath them, so they're naturally unwilling to work with us," Chen Pi replied with a resigned expression.

Daoist Hu Yan was silent for a moment upon hearing this, then swept a sleeve through the air, releasing a burst of gentle light that instantly formed a light barrier, encompassing the surrounding area within a radius of over 100 feet.

After setting up the light barrier, Daoist Hu Yan said, "Sect Master Chen, in my opinion, it's best for us not to break this restriction for now."

Chen Pi's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this. "Oh? Why do you say that, Fellow Daoist Gu?"

"The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace's actions have already incurred widespread outrage from all of the powers that have gathered in the Black Wind Sea in search for the immortal manor. If our three factions join forces to break the restriction now, that'll be sure to pit us in a direct conflict against the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and even if we can keep them at bay, we'll only be benefiting others," Daoist Hu Yan explained.

A contemplative look appeared on Chen Pi's face upon hearing this.

"I think that we should take a more patient approach. There's still some time until the opening of the immortal manor, and the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators won't be able to simultaneously enter the immortal manor while also defending the restriction here.

"The location of the immortal manor's entrance was leaked quite some time ago, so it's only a matter of time before all of the powers assemble. Once that happens, surely the Immortal Palace wouldn't dare to continue to oppose everyone," Daoist Hu Yan continued.

"Fellow Daoist Gu is right. This is not the right time to be breaking the restriction, and the Vast Flow Palace cultivators are most likely hanging back precisely for this reason. They would be ecstatic to see us engage in a direct battle against the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators while they look on from the sidelines. Luo Qinghai is a sly old fox, and this is what he likes to do best," Xu Yangzi chimed in with a nod.

Chen Pi's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing this. "That's a good plan, Fellow Daoist Gu. It seems I was too eager to strike. I was so infuriated by the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace's actions that I was determined to foil their plans, even if it meant that I lost the chance to enter the immortal manor myself, but it appears there's no reason to make such a sacrifice."

"You're far too kind, Fellow Daoist Chen," Daoist Hu Yan replied in a modest manner.

Chen Pi and Daoist Hu Yan chatted for a while longer before the former departed and flew back to the group of Southern Dawn beings, where he began communicating with the four Golden Immortals.

The pair of imposing men displayed no reaction to what they were being told, but the elderly man and the elderly woman's expressions changed slightly upon hearing what Chen Pi had to say.

The two of them then nodded in agreement with Daoist Hu Yan's proposed course of action, and they refrained from continuing in their assault on the black light barrier.

All of a sudden, it had become very peaceful in the cave.

Luo Qinghai took a glance at Daoist Hu Yan as a peculiar look flashed through his eyes.

"It looks like someone with an ounce of intelligence has finally arrived, Palace Master," the fair-skinned scholar remarked as he approached Luo Qinghai.

Even though Daoist Hu Yan had just set up a restriction to prevent others from eavesdropping on their conversation, it was very apparent what had just transpired.

"This is not a bad development. It may not necessarily benefit us for them to recklessly break the restriction, so let's just continue waiting and observing," Luo Qinghai said in a contemplative manner.

"Indeed, Palace Master. It would be best to wait for everyone to arrive and force Xiao Jinhan to remove the restriction," the fair-skinned scholar said.

Luo Qinghai merely smiled in response.

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Behind the black light barrier was a cave, which led into a spacious area, one in which all of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators were situated.

At this point, the cultivators on the stone pillars had already stopped what they were doing and flown down from the pillars.

However, the array was still functioning to encompass the gate of light.

Aside from them, there were also some cultivators dressed in Black Wind Island attire, including Lu Jun, Lu Yuqing, and several of the Black Wind Island elders.

At this moment, everyone was standing with their heads lowered, not daring to make even the slightest sound. Meanwhile, Xiao Jinhan was glowering at everyone with a furious expression, and there was a cloud of black mist swirling around his body, giving off a fearsome aura of malice.

"Who can explain to me what's happened here? How was the location of the immortal manor suddenly leaked without any explanation?" Xiao Jinhan asked in a cold voice.

None of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators could offer a response.

Xiao Jinhan turned his gaze to Deputy Palace Master Xue Ying.

Xue Ying hesitated momentarily, then said, "All of the people who are aware of the entrance's location are gathered here right now, and the restriction set up cuts off all communication with the outside world, so there shouldn't be any way for the information to have been leaked."

"Then why don't you explain to me how those people have shown up outside?" Xiao Jinhan demanded as he turned to Xue Ying with a sharp gaze.

Xue Ying's complexion instantly paled slightly, and she was at a loss for how to respond.

"This is the one task that I assigned to all of you, yet you've still managed to make a complete mess of things!" Xiao Jinhan spat in a cold voice.

After a tense silence, Lu Yue said in a feeble voice, "I believe that there are only two possible explanations, Palace Master."

"Go ahead," Xiao Jinhan prompted.

"The first possibility is that one of us leaked this information," Lu Yue said.

A cold gleam flashed through Xiao Jinhan's eyes upon hearing this.

"That's impossible! All of the cultivators of our Northern Glacial Immortal Palace that were sent here are absolutely loyal and trustworthy. On top of that, even Golden Immortals like you and I are unable to send any information to the outside world through the restrictions here," Xue Ying immediately objected with furrowed brows.

"I'm also certain that everyone here is reliable and trustworthy, so there's only a very slim chance of this being the case," Lu Yue said.

"What's the other possibility?" Xiao Jinhan asked.

"The second possible explanation is that the Reincarnation Palace already discovered the entrance of the immortal manor well in advance, and they were the ones who leaked this information," Lu Yue replied.

Everyone's expressions changed slightly upon hearing this, while Xiao Jinhan's brows furrowed slightly in contemplation.

The black mist swirling around his body slowly dissipated, and the menacing aura in the air also faded, much to the relief of everyone else.

"We've been able to lead the Reincarnation Palace on one wild goose chase after another, pursuing a series of false entrances, but now that I think about it, things may have gone a little smoothly. The Reincarnation Palace has been able to contend with our Immortal Palace for many years, so they shouldn't be this incapable.

"I think they must've already seen through our intentions, and they've only been pretending to fall for our ploys in order to lure us into a false sense of security," Lu Yue continued.

Everyone immediately began to discuss this theory.

"Be quiet!" Xiao Jinhan yelled, and everyone instantly fell silent again.

"Regardless of exactly what happened, there's no use in speculating now. Keep doing what you need to do, and I'll deal with the rest," Xiao Jinhan said in an indifferent voice, having calmed down again.

With that, everyone returned to their original posts, including Ouyang Kuishan and the dao lords, who returned to the tops of their respective stone pillars.

A few people also made their way over to the black restriction at the entrance of the cave before sitting down with their legs crossed.

Meanwhile, Xiao Jinhan cast his gaze outward with a cold look in his eyes, and it was unclear what he was contemplating.

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Meanwhile, the cave outside was completely silent.

Han Li was observing everyone as he stood behind Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni.

Worm 3's objective was also the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, so perhaps they had already arrived here. However, it was impossible to tell as all of the Reincarnation Palace cultivators also had Transient Guild masks that could conceal their appearances and auras.

He was inspecting everyone in the cave closely, trying to spot some telltale signs, but his efforts proved to be futile.

Right at this moment, Han Li's expression suddenly changed slightly as he cast his gaze outside, and a hint of foreboding suddenly welled up in his heart.

Daoist Hu Yan noticed the change in Han Li's expression, and he asked through voice transmission, "What is it?"

"I think someone else is coming," Han Li replied.

Daoist Hu Yan cast his gaze toward the entrance of the cave upon hearing this, just in time to see a silver-robed woman appear amid a flash of silver light.

The woman took an expressionless glance at everyone else in the cave, then slowly made his way inside.

Her arrival created a small stir among everyone in the cave, and even Luo Qinghai's eyes narrowed ever so slightly at the sight of her arrival.

Chapter 405: Assembled

A hint of wariness flashed through Han Li's eyes as he observed the woman.

Even with his tremendous spiritual sense, he was unable to detect her cultivation base, and he had only ever experienced this with Xiao Jinhan and Baili Yan. Not even Luo Qinghai had been so unfathomable in his eyes.

He observed the woman for a while longer, then closed his eyes to meditate.

The woman was none other than Qu Ling, and there was a small golden pouch hanging from her waist.

The pouch was glowing with spiritual light, and there were several peculiar patterns on its surface, giving off a burst of law fluctuations.

Right at this moment, the pouch twitched ever so slightly, and Qu Ling's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this as she brushed a hand over the pouch in a subtle fashion.

A ball of silver light appeared over the palm of her hand before quickly vanishing into the pouch, upon which it fell still again.

All of a sudden, Han Li's eyes sprang open as a hint of shock flashed across his face, and he hurriedly lowered his head to conceal his expression.

Right at this moment, Qu Ling raised her head as she swept her gaze across everyone in the cave.

At this moment, everyone was also observing her, and as soon as anyone's gaze met hers, they immediately felt a sharp pain in their eyes, as if they had been pricked by a needle.

Most of the people present hurriedly withdrew their gaze, and some with lesser cultivation bases couldn't help but give muffled groans, as if they had suffered some internal injuries.

Some of the Golden Immortals present were rather displeased to see this, but they didn't say anything.

Luo Qinghai's brows furrowed slightly, and he said, "I wasn't expecting to see you here, Fellow Daoist Qu Ling."

Just now, two of the Vast Flow Palace's True Immortals had suffered some internal injuries from their brief eye contact with Qu Ling, and this was not good news for their imminent venture into the immortal manor.

"You're constantly in seclusion, yet even you've come here, so why can't I be here?" Qu Ling countered as she took an indifferent glance at Luo Qinghai.

"The Infernal Frost Immortal Manor doesn't belong to our Vast Flow Palace, so of course you're free to come here as you please, but isn't it rather unbecoming for someone of your status to be intimidating these juniors?" Luo Qinghai asked with a faint smile.

"If you keep these juniors in check so that they don't go around gawking at others like idiots, perhaps I wouldn't have to discipline them in your stead," Qu Ling replied with a cold sneer.

The other Golden Immortals of the Vast Flow Palace immediately flared up with rage, yet Luo Qinghai raised a hand to stop them before they could say anything.

"You're right, Fellow Daoist Qu, these juniors were indeed at fault for being so rude. It seems like you've advanced even further in your cultivation since we last met. I must admit that I'm very impressed," Luo Qinghai said with a faint smile.

Qu Ling offered no response, taking a glance at the black restriction before finding a place to stand in the cave.

Luo Qinghai was completely unbothered by this, and his smile remained unchanged as he averted his gaze in a calm manner.

"Who is this woman, Senior Hu Yan? It seems like even Luo Qinghai doesn't dare to provoke her," Han Li inquired through voice transmission.

"Her name is Qu Ling, and she's quite an enigmatic figure, but she's also very renowned in this immortal region. She already reached the late-Golden Immortal Stage over 100,000 years ago, and it seems that her cultivation base has advanced even further since then," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly upon hearing this.

"Despite her lofty cultivation base, what's actually most fearsome about her is the vast array of spirit beasts and spirit insects in her possession. On top of that, she has a very cruel and unpredictable personality, and even the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace wouldn't want to make an enemy out of her. If you run into her in the immortal manor, then make sure to stay away, and do not provoke her no matter what you do," Daoist Hu Yan continued.

"I'll be sure to keep that in mind," Han Li replied.

Half a day passed by in the blink of an eye, and some of the people in the hall were beginning to grow rather agitated again, particularly the cultivators of the Ghost Wail Sect.

Chen Pi's gaze was flashing back and forth between the entrance of the cave and the black light barrier, and right at this moment, an ecstatic look appeared on Chen Pi's faces as another group of cultivators arrived.

They were none other than the cultivators of the Dawn Fall Sect, led by their sect master and Feng Tiandu.

"Welcome, Elder Feng, Sect Master Qi. I've already been waiting here for you for quite some time," Luo Qinghai greeted with a warm smile.

"You arrived quite early, Palace Luo, and you've brought with you quite a formidable entourage. It looks like you're determined to get your hands on some precious treasures in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor," the Dawn Fall Sect Master remarked.

"I wouldn't even dare to consider competing against the two of you. I've only brought these juniors with me on this occasion to broaden their horizons, so rest assured, you won't be facing any competition from me," Luo Qinghai replied with a smile.

"You're still as modest as ever, Palace Master Luo," the Dawn Fall Sect Master chuckled, clearly completely unconvinced by Luo Qinghai's words.

Meanwhile, Feng Tiandu remained silent as he swept his gaze across everyone else in the hall. He had changed into a clean gray robe, and he was still zombie-like in appearance, but he already appeared far more normal than before, and the chains around his body had also disappeared.

All of a sudden, his gaze fell upon none other than Qu Ling.

"Long time no see, Fellow Daoist Qu," Feng Tiandu said with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Qu Ling merely nodded in response.

Han Li was quite taken aback to see this.

Qu Ling had displayed a great deal of arrogance to everyone else in the cave, including even Luo Qinghai, yet she was far more restrained in the face of Feng Tiandu.

Having said that, it seemed that this was for good reason as Feng Tiandu's cultivation base felt just as unfathomable as Qu Ling's to Han Li.

"Senior Hu Yan, are these people from the Dawn Fall Sect?" Han Li asked through voice transmission.

"That's right. The man with the scar on his face is the sect master, Qi Tianxiao. He's always kept a low profile, so he's not all that renowned. The one standing beside him is Feng Tiandu, the grand elder of the Dawn Fall Sect, and he's a much more renowned figure in our Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

"Feng Tiandu, Dao Lord Baili, and Xiao Jinhan are considered to be the three most formidable Golden Immortals of our Northern Glacial Immortal Region, but for some reason, he went into seclusion tens of thousands of years ago and hasn't come out since then, but it seems that he's finally come out of seclusion for this occasion," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Han Li's heart stirred slightly upon hearing this.

He was carefully observing Feng Tiandu, and for some reason, he felt a sense of familiarity in Feng Tiandu, as if he had seen him somewhere before.

Right at this moment, Feng Tiandu seemed to have sensed Han Li's gaze, and he turned to look at Han Li.

Their eyes met, and Han Li instantly felt a chill run down his spine. He felt as if Feng Tiandu were seeing right through him, laying him completely bare and exposed.

Han Li hurriedly averted his gaze, while Feng Tiandu observed Han Li for a while longer with a peculiar look in his eyes before also looking away, turning his attention to the black restriction in the cave.

"Are the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators in there right now, Palace Master Luo?" Feng Tiandu asked.

"That's right," Luo Qinghai replied with a nod.

Feng Tiandu observed the black light barrier for a moment, then raised a hand, and a streak of black light shot out of the palm of his hand like an arrow before striking the black light barrier in a flash.

The streak of light wasn't remarkable in appearance at all, and it wasn't even all that bright, but the impact caused the black light barrier to shudder violently, sending ripples surging over its surface.

Countless specks of black light appeared on the light barrier to form a nine-grid array, and a burst of peculiar force emerged, quickly settling the ripples on the light barrier.

"This is the Nine Heavens Profound Array. Looks like Xiao Jinhan is indeed responsible for this," Feng Tiandu remarked as he turned to Luo Qinghai.

"Indeed, Elder Feng," Luo Qinghai replied with a smile.

"This restriction is certainly not easy to break, but given the combined powers of yourself and the other elders of your Vast Flow Palace, you're definitely capable of breaking this restriction, so why have you still not done so, Palace Master Luo?" Feng Tiandu asked.

"You think far too highly of me, Elder Feng. Besides, seeing as all of us want to enter the immortal manor, we should all contribute our efforts to breaking the restriction," Luo Qinghai replied with a smile.

"I suppose you're right, Palace Master Luo. What do you think, Fellow Daoist Qu?" Feng Tiandu asked as he turned to Qu Ling, in response to which she only gave a silent nod.

"Alright, in that case, let's not waste any more time with idle chatter. Everyone, let's all join forces for now and force the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace to remove the restriction so we can all enter the immortal manor. After that, we all go our separate ways. What do you all say?" Feng Tiandu declared as he swept his gaze over everyone else in the cave.

Everyone immediately expressed their agreement to this proposal, and with that, Feng Tiandu rose up into the air before descending in front of the black restriction.

All of the other Dawn Fall Sect cultivators hurriedly followed along, as did the cultivators from the other powers gathered in the cave.

Han Li was naturally among them, but he intentionally lagged behind a little, situating himself in a discreet corner near the back of the crowd.

An immense collective aura was emanating out of everyone's bodies, placing tremendous pressure upon the black restriction.

The very space was trembling in the wake of the enormous spiritual pressure, and even the entire cave was beginning to rumble.

The black restriction was rippling incessantly as Feng Tiandu declared in a cold voice, "Xiao Jinhan, your plan to keep the immortal manor to yourself has been foiled. Remove this restriction right now. Otherwise, we certainly wouldn't mind doing so by force!"

The black restriction continued to ripple, but remained in place.

Chapter 406: Come In

"Fellow daoists, it seems that the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace is determined to defy us to the end, so there's no need for us to hold back any longer. Let's combine our powers and break this restriction by force!" Qi Tianxiao declared in a cold voice.

Everyone in the cave had been frantically searching for the entrance of the immortal manor over the past few years, and as a result, they had developed a great deal of resentment toward the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace. Hence, they were more than happy to heed Q Tianxiao's rallying call.

"Are we just going to leave it at that, fellow daoists? The Immortal Palace needs to suffer the consequences for what they've done! Not only are we going to break this restriction, we should kick them out of here and relegate them to the fate of not being able to enter the immortal manor, just like what they tried to inflict upon us!" Chen Pi yelled.

Everyone immediately fell silent upon hearing this, while contemplative looks appeared on the faces of all of the most formidable Golden Immortals present.

Generally, everyone tried to get along with the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and it was often referred to as the leading power of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, but that was only due to how formidable the Immortal Palace was and the fact that there were generally no conflicts of interest between the Immortal Palace and other sects.

However, the Immortal Palace had put its ambition on full display in the wake of the Blaze Dragon Dao incident, and their sealing of the immortal manor entrance was a move that encroached upon the rights of everyone, so it was no wonder that they had become widely condemned.

Luo Qinghai, Feng Tiandu, and all of the other Golden Immortals were clearly moved by the idea.

They didn't know how many people the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace had sent to the Black Wind Sea, but there was no way that they would be a match for all of these formidable powers combined, so kicking the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace out was certainly a possibility.

Luo Qinghai and Feng Tiandu exchanged a glance with one another, and right as they were about to say something, the black restriction suddenly began to ripple and quiver.

Immediately thereafter, the nine grids reappeared on its surface one after another, while the ripples became more and more pronounced.

A few moments later, all of the nine grids abruptly lit up with dazzling radiance, but the light faded just as abruptly as it appeared, following which the entire black restriction was also lifted, revealing the dim cave beyond.

Everyone was already prepared to lash out, but all of a sudden, it was as if they had punched into a wall of cotton, and they began to exchange bewildered glances at one another, at a slight loss for what to do.

Immediately thereafter, a voice rang out from within the cave.

"Come in, fellow daoists."

Having seen Xiao Jinhan in person back in the Blaze Dragon Dao, Han Li could tell that this was Xiao Jinhan's voice.

Luo Qinghai, Feng Tiandu, and the other prominent Golden Immortals present exchanged a few glances, then made their way into the cave.

Even Qu Ling decided to follow behind Luo Qinghai and the others after a brief moment of contemplation.

All of the True Immortals present immediately followed along, and that naturally included Han Li, who was trailing along behind Daoist Hu Yan.

Before long, everyone had entered the cave.

Not only had the black restriction at the entrance of the cave been lifted, the entire array around the blue gate of light had also disappeared, but the nine stone pillars were still standing.

Without the seal in place, the blue light radiating from the gate had become several times brighter than before, and it was also giving off a glacial aura interspersed with formidable bursts of spatial power.

The glacial aura and the spatial power intertwined while the blue light within the gate surged violently, looking as if it were about to erupt out of the gate altogether.

At the same time, the world's origin qi above Red Moon Island was also churning violently, forming a series of balls of dazzling radiance before exploding amid bursts of dull rumbling.

The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators were situated near the gate of light, observing the cultivators making their way into the cave, and they were led by Xiao Jinhan, who was standing with a warm smile on his face, as if he were a hospitable host welcoming his guests.

Han Li was standing in an obscure corner, and after a quick count, he discovered that there were around two or three dozen Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators present, close to half of whom were Golden Immortals.

What was rather surprising to him was the three dao lords, including Ouyang Kuishan, were also present.

As for the rest of the Immortal Palace cultivators, they were either at the late-True Immortal Stage or at the pinnacle of the True Immortal Stage.

The Northern Glacial Immortal Region was clearly far more formidable than any single other power present, and it was certainly worthy of its title as the premier power of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

However, with so many power joining forces, the collective lineup of cultivators was significantly more formidable than that of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace.

All of a sudden, Han Li noticed a group of black-robed figures standing beside the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators, among which were Lu Jun and Lu Yuqing.

He hurriedly ducked behind a physically-imposing man standing in front of him upon seeing this.

The disguise that he had adopted using his Transient Guild mask could fool others, but Lu Yuqing had shown that she was able to identify him through her innate ocular ability.

"Please pardon our intrusion, Palace Master Xiao," Qi Tianxiao said with a hint of a mocking sneer on his face.

Meanwhile, Feng Tiandu, Qu Ling, Luo Qinghai, and the others were all scrutinizing Xiao Jinhan in silence.

"It's so good to see so many of my old friends here. My sincerest apologies for not coming out to greet you sooner," Xiao Jinhan said with a faint smile.

Feng Tiandu clearly wasn't in the mood for small talk, and he said in a cold voice, "Let's not waste any time here, Palace Master Xiao. I'm sure you heard the discussion that we had outside, right?"

"I take responsibility for all of my actions, so all of you can do anything that you please. Our Northern Glacial Immortal Palace is fully prepared to bear the consequences," Xiao Jinhan replied in a calm manner.

Meanwhile, all of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators had placed their hand on their storage tools, and they weren't displaying any fear at all.

"Do you think that we wouldn't dare to go through with our plan, Palace Master Xiao?" Qu Ling asked as a cold gleam appeared in her eyes.

"Your combined powers do indeed exceed that of our Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, but I suggest you think before you act. These stone pillars form an array that can be detonated at any that I please.

"The resulting explosion won't be able to destroy the entrance, but it'll certainly be sufficiently powerful to destroy the space near the entrance. As for what'll happen to the entrance itself, you're free to speculate on that," Xiao Jinhan said in an indifferent voice.

Qu Ling's expression darkened slightly upon hearing this, and everyone else also became rather hesitant about how to proceed.

Before anyone had a chance to say anything, Qi Tianxiao yelled, "You think an empty threat like that is enough to stop us?"

"If you don't believe me, then you're free to give it a try," Xiao Jinhan replied in a calm and composed manner.

Meanwhile, Feng Tiandu and the others were communicating to one another through voice transmission.

"Fellow Daoist Feng, you're one of the top array masters of our Northern Glacial Immortal Region. Can you tell if those stone pillars really are capable of doing what he claims?" Luo Qinghai asked.

"Even I don't recognize all of the runes on these pillars, but my experience tells me that this is indeed an extremely formidable array, and if it were to be detonated, the consequences would be catastrophic," Feng Tiandu replied.

"What a sly bastard that Xiao Jinhan is. Are we just going to let them off the hook?" Qi Tianxiao asked in a disgruntled voice.

"It'll take a very long time to unravel this restriction, and if a battle breaks out, we definitely won't be able to prevent him from detonating those stone pillars. Our top priority is to enter the immortal palace, so it looks like we have no choice but to adopt a more peaceful approach. Let's see what he says first," Feng Tiandu said.

Luo Qinghai, Qi Tianxiao, Qu Ling, and the others were silent for a moment, then nodded in agreement.

"You've gotten the better of us this time, Palace Master Xiao. We'll settle for a peaceful resolution," Feng Tianxiao said.

None of the other Golden Immortals said anything, but it was clear that Feng Tiandu had the authority to speak on their behalf.

Qu Ling began to make her way off to the side, and all of the True Immortals gathered in that direction hurriedly dispersed to give her a wide berth.

The other powers were feeling rather indignant, but seeing as the Vast Flow Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect had already given up on pursuing this matter, they naturally weren't so foolish as to oppose the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace on their own. Even Chen Pi and the group of Southern Dawn beings had fallen silent at this point.

A subtle hint of relief flashed through Xiao Jinhan's eyes upon seeing this, and he said with a faint smile, "The Infernal Frost Immortal Manor is enormous and filled with countless treasures. Even though it's emerged many times in the past, the treasures in it still show no signs of running out. All of us have come here for the immortal manor, so why ruin the peace with a pointless conflict?"

"You've been here for the longest out of all of us, when do you think the immortal manor will descend, Palace Master Xiao?" Feng Tiandu asked.

"It'll definitely descend in two more days at most. However..."

"What is it?" Feng Tiandu asked.

"In order to reassure everyone, I've already withdrawn the restrictions at the entrance of the cave, but it would be best to keep the entrance of the immortal manor somewhat sealed. Otherwise, we'll be faced with a difficult predicament if the profound glacial qi within erupts outward," Xiao Jinhan replied.

As soon as his voice trailed off, the blue light within the gate abruptly began to churn and rumble, following which a thick pillar of blue light erupted out from within, rising up directly toward the heavens.

The air temperature in the entire cave instantly plummeted drastically, and a layer of blue ice crystals quickly spread over the entire area.

Everyone hurriedly conjured up layers of protective spiritual light upon seeing this while flying away from the gate of light as quickly as they could, and the ice crystals spreading over the cave were also promptly shattered under everyone's collective efforts.

However, the glacial qi within the pillar of light was so formidable that some of the weaker True Immortal cultivators present still suffered some internal injuries from the infiltration of glacial qi into their bodies.

All of the Golden Immortals present hurriedly unleashed secret techniques or released spirit treasures to protect their entourages, and the entire cave erupted into a chaotic frenzy.

Chapter 407: A Request

The pillar of blue light continued to erupt outward for close to 20 seconds before slowly fading, and only then did the disturbance in the gate of light subside.

"It seems like the entrance really does need to be somewhat sealed. I think each of the powers present should send out a representative and have them join forces to seal the entrance. That way, everyone can rest assured that there won't be any foul play afoot," Feng Tiandu suggested.

"I concur," Luo Qinghai immediately chimed in.

No one else raised any objections to this proposal, and each of the factions sent out a Golden Immortal representative, with the exception of Qu Ling, who was on her own.

Han Li's faction sent out Xu Yangzi, and in total, there were six Golden Immortals surrounding the blue gate of light as they chanted an incantation while hovering in mid-air.

Lights of different colors erupted out of their bodies, then intertwined to form a rainbow-like cage of light that encompassed the blue gate.

The light on the surface of the gate instantly began to shudder erratically while releasing shockwaves that were invisible to the naked eye in all directions. The cage of light still hadn't fully taken shape yet, and it began to tremble violently in the face of the shockwaves, looking as if it could shatter at any moment.

However, it was ultimately stabilized as everyone sped up their incantation, but a burst of residual shockwaves was still able to sneak through before spreading outward in all directions.

The weaker True Immortals in the cave were unable to stand their ground in the face of these shockwaves, and they were forced all the way back to the cave wall before finally steadying themselves.

As a result, the originally orderly formation of cultivators in the cave had become a little chaotic.

Han Li was able to withstand the shockwaves, but in order to blend in and not draw any attention to himself, he pretended to stumble back to the cave wall as well.

From there, he observed the six Golden Immortals around the gate of light, and a thought suddenly sprang into his mind.

According to Daoist Hu Yan, there were a total of eight Infernal Frost Scenic Paintings, yet there were only seven powers present, so was there one missing?

All of the Golden Immortals present were sly old foxes who had lived for countless years, so there was no way that they hadn't noticed this. Hence, they must've simply refrained from mentioning this matter for some reason.

While Han Li was deep in thought, a familiar voice rang out beside him.

"Brother Liu!"

Han Li was immediately snapped out of his train of thought, and he turned to discover none other than Lu Yuqing standing not far away from him, sneaking glances at him with a hint of a smile in her eyes.

It seemed that in the wake of the orderly formation of cultivators being broken up by that burst of shockwaves, Lu Yuqing had taken the opportunity to sneak over to his side.

A resigned look appeared on Han Li's face as he sighed through voice transmission, "I should've known I wouldn't be able to hide from you."

"I wasn't expecting to see you here, Brother Liu. Are you also interested in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor?" Lu Yuqing asked.

"Of course I am, given the abundance of precious treasures in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor. However, we belong to different factions at the moment. It looks like Black Wind Island is currently a subsidiary power to the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, so surely it's inappropriate for you to be approaching me like this," Han Li replied.

"It's fine, Brother Liu. We've only been brought here to prevent us from leaking the location of the immortal manor's entrance. Now that the news has already been leaked, our presence here is completely superfluous. On top of that, the situation is a bit chaotic right now, so no one will be paying any attention to us," Lu Yuqing said.

Han Li offered no response to this.

Lu Yuqing hesitated momentarily, then continued, "Brother Liu, there's something I wanted to ask you. Time is of the essence, so I'll keep things brief."

Han Li was rather taken aback to hear this, but his expression remained unchanged as he prompted, "Go ahead."

"I also want to enter the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, and I'm hoping that the faction that you belong to can bring me along," Lu Yuqing declared in a direct and straightforward manner.

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, then asked, "Isn't your Black Wind Island a subsidiary power of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace? Why don't you ask them to take you with them?"

"Are you not aware that each Infernal Frost Scenic Painting can only grant 12 people access into the immortal manor? With such a limited number of spots, there's no way that the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace would be willing to take me with them," Lu Yuqing said in a slightly self-deprecating voice.

"I was indeed unaware of that," Han Li replied.

Having said that, prior to this, he had already noticed that all of the each of the factions present seemed to have consisted of 12 people, but he hadn't thought much of this as there had been other things on his mind.

"You and I are acquaintances, and I really want to help you, but as you can see, all 12 of our spots are already occupied, so I'm afraid I won't be able to help you," Han Li replied.

He was already taking quite a significant risk on this trip, and after seeing so many Golden Immortals here, he was even more determined to keep a low profile. He had decided that he was just going to play it safe and help Daoist Hu Yan obtain what he wanted in exchange for the next three levels of the Mantra Axis Scripture.

Han Li was confident that he would be able to secure a spot from Daoist Hu Yan, but in doing so, he would have to offend the True Flame Sect, and that was not a desirable outcome for him.

"Don't be in such a hurry to refuse, Brother Liu, I can be more of a valuable asset than you think. Our Lu Clan actually discovered the entrance of the immortal manor even earlier than the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and at the time, we obtained a stone plaque from here that contains a part of the immortal manor's map and some other information.

"As I'm sure you're aware, the immortal palace is fraught with peril. If you bring me along, I'm willing to share my knowledge with you," Lu Yuqing said.

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up slightly upon hearing this.

They were venturing into the immortal manor completely blind, so it would indeed be a lot safer if Lu Yuqing could act as a guide for them.

Han Li was silent for a moment, then asked, "Are you telling the truth?"

"I'm willing to swear a vow. If I'm lying to you here, then let me be racked with inner demons and suffer a terrible death," Lu Yuqing vowed in a solemn voice.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li nodded in response. "Alright, in that case, I can relay your request to the leader of our group, but I can't guarantee whether he'll agree or not."

"I knew I could count on you, Brother Liu!" Lu Yuqing said with a faint smile, seemingly completely unconcerned.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, but he still approached Daoist Hu Yan before relaying what Lu Yuqing had told him through voice transmission.

An ecstatic look instantly appeared in Daoist Hu Yan's eyes after he heard what Han Li had to say. "What? She has a map of the immortal manor?"

"I've met her on several past occasions, so I know her decently well, and I think she's telling the truth," Han Li replied.

Daoist Hu Yan was silent for a moment, then nodded in response. "In that case, let's bring her along."

"What about the True Flame Sect?" Han Li asked in a hesitant voice.

"Leave them to me," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Han Li nodded in response, then turned to Lu Yuqing and informed her of what had just transpired through voice transmission.

An elated look appeared in Lu Yuqing's eyes, and she gave Han Li a slight nod from afar before returning to the group of Black Wind Island cultivators.

At this point, the restriction set up by the six Golden Immortals around the gate of light had already been fully established, and a thick rainbow light barrier had appeared over the blue gate.

Glacial qi was surging violently within the gate of light, but the light barrier remained firm and resolute, standing against the waves of glacial qi without any trouble. It seemed that his restriction was even more formidable than the one that the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace had set up here earlier.

"As expected of a master of arrays like yourself, Fellow Daoist Feng, this restriction of yours is quite profound," Xiao Jinhan praised as he cupped his fist in a salute.

"You're far too kind, Palace Master Xiao," Feng Tiandu replied in an indifferent voice, then sat down with his legs crossed somewhere in the cave.

All of the other Dawn Fall Sect cultivators immediately sat down around him.

Meanwhile, Xiao Jinhan glanced at Feng Tiandu for a moment longer before returning to the group of Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators.

The other factions in the cave were also waiting for the immortal manor to descend, and with so many people present, the cave was virtually entirely filled.

Xu Yangzi had also returned to the group, and Daoist Hu Yan approached him to exchange a few words.

After hearing what Daoist Hu Yan had to say, Xu Yangzi was initially quite disgruntled, glowering at Han Li with a furious expression, but as Daoist Hu Yan continued, the fury on Xu Yangzi's face gradually faded, and in the end, he gave a reluctant nod.

Han Li heaved an internal sigh of relief upon seeing this, then closed his eyes to meditate.

Two days passed by in the blink of an eye.

The gate of light in the cave had swelled to over twice its original size, and the patterns on its surface had become extremely clear, making it seem as if it really were a spatial gate that led to another world.

Hovering within the gate of light was a ball of blue light that was churning violently and giving off radiant blue light.

A spatial passageway could be seen within the ball of light, but it was unclear where it led to.

At this point, everyone in the cave had already risen to their feet and were intently scrutinizing the gate of light, which was trembling incessantly.

The nearby space was also buzzing and trembling, causing the entire cave to shudder and sway.

The rainbow cage of light around the gate was still standing, but it was clearly being overwhelmed.

The six Golden Immortals rose up into the air once again at Feng Tiandu's instruction before attempting to fortify the cage of light, but their efforts proved to be futile as the light radiating out of the blue gate was becoming brighter and brighter, slowly forcing the rainbow cage outward.

All of a sudden, the ball of blue light within the gate abruptly swelled to several times its original size, virtually filling the entire blue gate while fluctuating in size in an unstable fashion.

At the same time, waves of rippling blue light erupted out of the gate, and all of the space in the wake of the rippling immediately blurred and warped.

Before long, the rainbow cage was completely shattered, and the six Golden Immortals around it were instantly sent flying back, but they were already prepared for this outcome, and they were able to escape injury by activating some protective secret techniques.

"There's not much time left, so there's no need to continue," Feng Tiandu said as he stared intently at the gate of light.

Right at this moment, the entire gate of light exploded violently amid a resounding boom, transforming into a ball of radiant blue light.

A projection of a series of mountains, rivers, palaces, and pavilions appeared deep within the ball of light, but it was unclear what location the projection was depicting.

Chapter 408: Entering the Immortal Manor

The ball of blue light was slowly revolving while hovering in mid-air, and rays of translucent blue light were emanating from within alongside a cloud of faint white mist. The scene within the ball of light was already rather indistinct, and it was made even more obscure by the layer of faint mist.

After a brief silence, someone yelled in an excited voice, "There it is!"

Their excitement was contagious, and everyone else's eyes immediately lit up.

Han Li swept his spiritual sense toward the ball of blue light, and his soul immediately shuddered violently. It was as if a rumbling thunderclap had rung out directly beside his ears, and his expression remained unchanged, but he hurriedly withdrew his spiritual sense in alarm.

At the same time, he could see that the complexions of many of the people present had also paled slightly, clearly indicating that they had also suffered some backlash after extending their spiritual sense toward the ball of blue light.

Han Li's spiritual sense was comparable to a Golden Immortal, yet even he had suffered some minor degree of backlash, so the other True Immortals were naturally only going to fare worse. As for the Golden Immortals present, they were able to avoid substantial backlash, but it seemed that they weren't able to make much inroads with their spiritual sense, either.

"Fellow Daoist Luo, Fellow Daoist Feng, why don't you two go on ahead?" Xiao Jinhan offered with a smile.

"We couldn't do that, Fellow Daoist Xiao. Your Immortal Palace has done such a good job of protecting the entrance up to this point, the right to enter the immortal manor first should be reserved for you. Wouldn't you agree, Fellow Daoist Feng?" Luo Qinghai jibed.

Feng Tiandu's expression remained unchanged, and he merely gave a cold harrumph in response.

Before Xiao Jinhan had a chance to respond, Qu Ling interjected, "If the three of you are unable to reach a consensus, then I'll go first."

She then pulled out her Infernal Frost Scenic Painting and gave a gentle shake, upon which a vast expanse of light surged out from within to envelop her entire body before carrying her into the ball of blue light.

Everyone faltered slightly upon seeing this, following which a hint of agitation began to spread through the crowd.

Han Li looked on with a contemplative expression as Qu Ling vanished into the ball of blue light.

Xiao Jinhan turned to Xue Ying and the others, then instructed, "All of you, come with me. The rest will stay here."

He then summoned his Infernal Frost Scenic Painting, and a burst of blue light surged forth to envelop himself, as well as eight Immortal Palace cultivators and the three dao lords of the Blaze Dragon Dao.

Immediately thereafter, the group flew into the ball of blue light, vanishing in the blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Immortal Palace cultivators and the Black Wind Island cultivators remained outside.

After all of the Immortal Palace cultivators had entered the immortal manor, Luo Qinghai offered for Feng Tiandu to go ahead, but the latter remained unmoved. Hence, Luo Qinghai called upon the cultivators of the Vast Flow Palace before summoning his Infernal Frost Scenic Painting, and before long, they had also flown into the ball of blue light.

Only then did Feng Tiandu take a glance at Qi Tianxiao, and the latter instructed the Dawn Fall Sect's cultivators to assemble before flying into the ball of blue light as well.

At this point, the number of cultivators present had been reduced by around half, and the remaining factions were naturally all raring to go.

Chen Pi spoke briefly with the Southern Dawn beings, then made his way toward Han Li's group again.

"Fellow Daoist Gu, I think we should let the Southern Dawn beings go in first, and our Ghost Wail Sect will go in after them. Once we're in there, we'll wait for your group to come in so all of us can explore the immortal manor together," Chen Pi said.

"That sounds like a good plan, Fellow Daoist Chen," Daoist Hu Yan replied with a smile.

Chen Pi could see that the Southern Dawn beings had already entered the ball of blue light, and he hurriedly said, "Alright, then we'll be going ahead."

Following the departure of the Ghost Wail Sect cultivators, Daoist Hu Yan said to Han Li and the others, "Looks like it's our turn."

Xu Yangzi gestured for everyone to gather together, and there was still a hint of displeasure in his eyes as his gaze swept over Han Li and Lu Yuqing.

"The immortal manor is filled with treasures, but also fraught with peril, so after we get in there, let's do our best to stay together and not get separated," Daoist Hu Yan cautioned.

He then pulled out an Infernal Frost Scenic Painting of his own, and it released a burst of blue light that swept up everyone before flying into the blue entrance.

In the instant that they entered the ball of blue light, Han Li felt a burst of buzzing ring out beside his ears, immediately following which all of his senses virtually completely faded, leaving only a hazy consciousness behind.

It was an indescribable sensation that was very disconcerting, but thankfully, everything returned to normal after less than 20 seconds.

As Han Li's senses gradually recovered, he heard the sound of howling wind blowing past his ears.

He was greeted by the sight of a pristine white world that was covered in snow, and the entire surrounding area was filled with glacial qi. On the distant horizon were countless giant tornadoes that stood like pillars between heaven and earth, presenting an awe-inspiring sight to behold.

A layer of azure light appeared over his body to keep the wind and snow at bay, but he could still feel a bone-chilling sensation seeping into his body.

He looked around to find that the factions that had previously entered the immortal manor were already nowhere to be seen.

Lu Yuqing had conjured up a layer of protective spiritual light as well, but a layer of frost had already appeared over her eyelashes, and she exclaimed, "It's so cold..."

The crimson robes being worn by the True Flame Sect cultivators were glowing brightly, and waves of heat were surging out from within, but even so, they weren't faring much better.

Xu Yangzi and the other Golden Immortals were doing just fine, but the other True Flame Sect cultivators were all shivering uncontrollably.

"Please use your scenic painting to shelter everyone, Fellow Daoist Gu," Xu Yangzi said as he turned to Daoist Hu Yan.

Daoist Hu Yan nodded in response, then flipped a hand over to produce his Infernal Frost Scenic Painting, which unfurled in front of him.

Immediately thereafter, a spherical light barrier emerged from the painting to encompass everyone.

As soon as the light barrier appeared, the sound of the howling wind instantly subsided, while the unbearing bone-chilling sensation was also kept at bay.

"The Southern Dawn beings and the Ghost Wail Sect cultivators are nowhere to be seen," Yun Ni remarked.

"There's no integrity or reliability to speak of when it comes to a bunch of ghostly cultivators and foreign race beings. They most likely already departed on their own as they didn't want to fall behind everyone else," Elder Zhen Yun sneered.

"I don't think that's the case. Chen Pi took the initiative to approach us earlier, and I think he was earnest about forging an alliance. Compared with the likes of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, the Vast Flow Palace, and the Dawn Fall Sect, our individual factions are far too vulnerable, so it's necessary for us to band together. Hence, I don't think they would've gone back on their word just to get ahead of us," Xu Yangzi said with a shake of his head.

Han Li turned to Daoist Hu Yan as he said, "I can sense some traces of spatial power in the snowstorm here. Perhaps they were teleported elsewhere against their will."

"I also think that's a possibility," Daoist Hu Yan replied. "Seeing as we can't find them for now, let's leave this area first. In any case, we must proceed with caution. Make sure to stay by my side and do not leave this light barrier from the Infernal Frost Scenic Painting."

Everyone immediately gave affirmative responses to this.

Right as Daoist Hu Yan was about to set off, Han Li's voice suddenly rang out beside his ears through voice transmission.

"Senior Hu Yan, I've already entered the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor with you, so would you be able to give me the next three levels of the Mantra Axis Scripture now?"

Daoist Hu Yan faltered slightly upon hearing this, then grumbled, "Isn't it too early to be asking for compensation? We've only just entered the immortal manor and haven't even done anything yet!"

"But you promised that you would give me the fourth level of the cultivation art upon entering the immortal manor," Han Li replied with a smile.

Daoist Hu Yan was familiar with Han Li's personality, so he wasn't bothered by this, and he removed a storage pouch strapped to his waist before handing it to Han Li as he said, "The immortal manor is a very dangerous place, so here are some life-saving treasures. Make sure you don't lose them."

Han Li hurriedly accepted the storage pouch, then briefly examined its contents with his spiritual sense before putting on a facade of gratitude and excitement as he said, "Thank you, Uncle."

No one was suspicious of this, thinking that this was just a routine precautionary measure.

"Which direction should we go in? Everything looks the same here," Han Li said as he stowed the storage pouch away.

He had just tried to examine the surrounding area with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, but no matter where he looked, he saw nothing but a vast expanse of snow and ice.

Daoist Hu Yan's brows furrowed slightly as he turned his gaze to his Infernal Frost Scenic Painting, trying to find the right way forward when all of a sudden, Lu Yuqing pointed in a certain direction and said, "There seems to be an exit over there."

Everyone turned to the direction that she was pointing in, and sure enough, there was an indistinct ball of blue light in the extremely far distance, something that would've been impossible to spot unless one were to look very closely.

Han Li knew that Lu Yuqing possessed a special ocular ability, so he wasn't all that surprised. However, he had previously looked in that direction, but hadn't seen any speck of blue light, so it seemed that it had only just appeared.

A hint of bewilderment appeared in Daoist Hu Yan's eyes as he took a glance at Lu Yuqing. After all, even with his eyesight as a Golden Immortal, he had failed to notice the speck of blue light.

Hence, everyone began to travel in that direction under the protection of the spherical light barrier.

Chapter 409: Separated

As they drew closer and closer, the speck of blue light expanded further and further, and Han Li and the others were gradually able to see the entire thing.

It was indeed a blue spatial vortex, and it was releasing very similar energy fluctuations to the vortex that they had just entered through.

All of a sudden, the space up above abruptly shuddered, following which all of the snowflakes in the sky were rendered completely stationary.

Immediately thereafter, the snowflake converged to form a giant snow dragon that was over 1,000 feet thick, swooping down upon everyone with tremendous power.

A resounding boom rang out as the blue light barrier around everyone was struck by the snow dragon and was violently shattered. The wind and snow that surged into the broken light barrier had become extremely violent, and it split up everyone in different directions before hurling them high up into the sky.

The power released by the exploding snow dragon was so fierce that an extremely violent windstorm was swept up, and everyone was frantically trying to steady themselves in mid-air, but they were unable to do so, and the gusts of ferocious wind sent them flying away in different directions.

Bright azure light emerged over Han Li's body as his Thunderstorm Wings appeared on his back, and he flapped them with all his might, doing everything in his power to stabilize himself.

He was just about to search for Daoist Hu Yan when he spotted a black shadow hurtling rapidly toward him, following which he felt a soft body wrap itself around him.

Han Li had only just barely managed to steady himself, but the impact of having someone else crash into him tipped him off balance once again, and he fell involuntarily into a gust of ferocious wind.

The world spun rapidly around him, and he didn't get a chance to see who it was that was clinging to him before he fell unconscious.

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On a vast and windy snowland.

The space in this area was far more stable than in the previous area, and the landscape was riddled with massive cedar trees that were covered in snow.

There were around a dozen figures standing in front of a cluster of cedar trees, and they were led by none other than Deputy Palace Master Xue Ying of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace.

Even though they were standing together, it was clear that there was some division among them. The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators were all gathered together, while the three dao lords of the Blaze Dragon Dao were standing a bit further away.

"The immortal manor will only be open for a year, why is it that Palace Master Xiao hasn't come to meet up with us?" Ouyang Kuishan asked as he took a glance at the snowland around him.

"We wouldn't have to act so urgently if the location of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor's entrance hadn't been leaked," Xue Ying said in a cold voice.

It was clear that she was suspecting the three dao lords of leaking the location of the entrance.

Ouyang Kuishan's expression darkened slightly upon hearing this, and he gave a cold harrump before falling silent.

"The palace master is taking care of the people entering the immortal manor after us. He's going to send them into the spatial storm to separate them, and that'll make them much easier to deal with. Even if any of them dare to oppose us, we'll be able to divide and conquer them, rather than having to face them all at once," Xue Ying explained.

The three dao lords exchanged a glance with complex looks in their eyes upon hearing this.

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There was a nameless gray desert that was covered in gray pebbles of different sizes. The desert was completely devoid of vegetation, and there were patches of snow littered across the landscape.

At the center of the desert was a winding channel that had seemingly been bored into the ground over time by flowing streams of melted snow, and there were some ponds of different sizes inside, the surfaces of which had all been frozen solid.

Laying beside the channel on the trunk of a fallen cedar tree were a pair of unconscious figures, one male and one female.

The man was laying face-down on the ground, so it was impossible to glean his appearance, while the woman was extremely beautiful.

At this moment, the woman's arms were wound firmly around the man's waist, while her face was pressed tightly against his side, presenting a rather intimate sight to behold.

Right at this moment, the man suddenly shuddered before regaining consciousness.

He turned over before getting up into a seated position, then began inspecting his surroundings with a slightly disoriented look on his face.

The man was none other than Han Li in disguise, and at this moment, there was no one else with him aside from the young woman that was clinging to his side.

Daoist Hu Yan, Yun Ni, and the others were all nowhere to be seen.

"Fellow Daoist Lu..." Han Li called out as he patted the woman on the shoulder with a layer of azure light over the palm of his hand.

The woman was none other than Lu Yuqing, and she gave a muffled groan before also regaining consciousness.

After taking a glance at Han Li, she inspected her surroundings with a dazed expression while massaging her own temples as she asked, "Where are we, Brother Liu?"

Han Li didn't immediately reply. Instead, he began to inspect his surroundings with his spiritual sense and his Brightsight Spirit Eyes.

A short while later, he withdrew his gaze as he said, "We're definitely still in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, but I don't know exactly where we are."

"Where is everyone else? Why are we the only ones here?" Lu Yuqing asked with a puzzled expression.

"It seems like we were attacked earlier and swept up into a spatial storm that separated everyone. It appears we're the only two to have ended up here," Han Li replied with a wry smile.

Only after hearing this did Lu Yuqing recall how she had clung desperately to Han Li in a blind panic during the storm, and a faint blush immediately appeared on her face.

"What do we do now?" she hurriedly asked in order to mask her own embarrassment.

Han Li fell into deep thought upon hearing this. The original plan was for everyone to travel together, so he still didn't get a chance to ask Daoist Hu Yan about the internal layout of the immortal manor.

"I scoured the area with my spiritual sense just now, and there are no clear spiritual power fluctuations nearby. However, the further we go in that direction, the lower the air temperature becomes," Han Li said as he pointed in a certain direction.

"In that case, that's where we should go. That should be the first area of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, the Light Frost Region," Lu Yuqing said.

"How do you know about this, Fellow Daoist Lu?" Han Li asked as he turned to Lu Yuqing with a puzzled expression.

"As I said earlier, our Black Wind Island discovered the entrance of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor even earlier than the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and even though we've been ordered to keep everything about the immortal manor secret, my father still conducted a great deal of research into the immortal manor in advance," Lu Yuqing explained.

A peculiar look appeared on Han Li's face as he asked, "In that case, was it your father that leaked the location of the immortal manor's entrance in secret?"

This was not just a completely baseless theory from Han Li.

Black Wind Island had guarded the entrance of the immortal manor for the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace for many years, yet they had received no reward at all for their efforts, and not even a single one of the Immortal Palace's 12 spots had been granted to them.

As a result, Lu Yuqing had no choice but to implore Han Li to request a spot for her from Daoist Hu Yan, and only then was she able to enter the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor.

Lu Yuqing was terrified to hear this, and she hurriedly waved her hands as she denied, "Please don't make such damning accusations, Brother Liu! We wouldn't dare to do something like that. If the Immortal Palace pins the blame on us, then our entire island runs the risk of being wiped out!"

Han Li had no intention of pursuing this matter, and he smiled as he reassured, "Don't worry, I was just curious. I didn't mean to cause any alarm."

The location of the immortal manor's entrance being leaked was a positive development for Han Li, and he didn't care who it was that had leaked this information. Even though he had joined forces with Daoist Hu Yan and the True Flame Sect, they still couldn't compare with the likes of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect.

In the wake of the location of the entrance being leaked, many powers had been able to get involved, thereby completely muddying the waters, and that could only benefit people like Han Li.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li took a glance into the distance, then swept a hand through the air to summon an azure flying boat with four azure wings on either side.

"Let's go. There's no point in staying here any longer," he said to Lu Yuqing, then flew onto the spirit boat.

Lu Yuqing nodded in response before also springing up into the air and landing on the flying boat behind Han Li.

The flying boat then sped away as a streak of azure light at Han Li's behest.

There was a blanket of dark clouds hanging in the sky at a low altitude, giving the entire area a rather oppressive atmosphere.

It was a very bleak and desolate area with no living creatures in sight, nor any sounds to be heard aside from that of the passing wind.

After flying for a few minutes, snowflakes suddenly began to drift through the air. Initially, the snow was quite sparse, but as they continued onward, the snowfall became heavier and heavier.

At the same time, the environment beneath them gradually began to change. As they left the gray desert behind, they arrived on a vast ice field.

The clouds in the sky had darkened significantly, and the snowflakes drifting through the air also appeared significantly heavier than before, falling from the sky thick and fast.

Thankfully, this area wasn't filled with the same intense cold as the initial area that they had arrived in upon entering the immortal manor, and the layers of protective spiritual light over their bodies were sufficient to keep them warm.

Chapter 410: Snow Lion

Due to the dark clouds and heavy snowfall, visibility on the ice field was extremely low, and even though Han Li couldn't detect any clear spiritual power fluctuations with his spiritual sense, he could never be sure where there were any unforeseen hazards lurking in this alien environment.

The snowfall was gradually becoming heavier and heavier, and visibility certainly wasn't improving.

The azure spirit boat was flying through the air quite slowly at Han Li's behest, and the wings on either side of it were releasing a layer of azure light that enveloped the entire boat, as well as Han Li's duo.

Dense flurries of snow were falling upon the azure light barrier, only to be kept at bay, and the heavy snowfall didn't have much of an impact on the advancement of the spirit boat.

"This snowstorm is rather strange. My spirit eye ability is severely limited here. Can you see a bit further with your Illusory Ghost Eyes?" Han Li asked with slightly furrowed brows.

"I'm not able to see very far, either. On top of that, my spiritual sense is also being disrupted as well, and I'm only able to just barely detect things several kilometers away at most," Lu Yuqing replied with a shake of her head.

Han Li nodded in response. As the snowfall became heavier and heavier, he also found his spiritual sense being severely limited, and his sensory range was also fluctuating in an inconsistent manner.

After flying for several dozen more kilometers, Han Li suddenly pointed in a certain direction down below as he said, "There seems to be something over there."

"It seems to be some type of palace," Lu Yuqing mused as she turned in that direction.

The rooftops of a series of pavilions and tall pagodas could just barely be made out deep within the snow.

"Let's go down and take a look," Han Li said, and the spirit boat swooped directly downward at his behest, arriving in front of the cluster of buildings.

Only after the spirit boat was stowed away and the two of them landed on the ground did they discover that the snow here wasn't as deep as they had imagined. It only just barely reached their ankles, and beneath their feet were solid stone slabs.

After taking a moment to inspect their surroundings, they began to trudge over the snow-covered plaza deeper into the cluster of buildings.

Standing directly in front of them was a red archway that was several dozen feet tall. It had only two pillars, and it wasn't particularly ostentatious. There was a thick layer of snow on top of the archway, and the characters inscribed on it were rather indistinct, making it impossible to tell what had been written.

Only after getting close to the archway did Han Li and Lu Yuqing notice that its pillars were riddled with runes, but the spiritual qi that they contained had already completely run out, indicating that they no longer served their original purpose.

The two of them didn't linger here for long, passing through the archway before arriving in front of a large palace with a resting hill roof.

From the outside, the palace appeared mostly intact, with only one half of its gate missing. The stone staircase in front of the entrance was under the eave, so no snow had fallen upon it. However, there was a deep black mark on its surface, as if someone had cleaved it in half with some type of weapon.

"I can understand the presence of runes on the pillars of the archway, but why are there runes on their stone steps as well?" Lu Yuqing asked with a perplexed expression.

"If I'm not mistaken, this area was mostly encompassed within a concealment array, and the archway, these stone steps, and some of the bricks on the plaza collectively served as the core of the array, but they've clearly been destroyed," Han Li mused.

"Are you saying someone came here before us?" Lu Yuqing asked in a quiet voice as she took an uneasy glance at her surroundings.

"The spiritual qi in the array here has already completely faded, so the array had to have been destroyed a very long time ago. I'm presuming someone came here during a previous occasion of the immortal manor's emergence before destroying the array and taking whatever treasures were in here," Han Li replied.

Lu Yuqing was quite relieved to hear this, but also a little disappointed that the treasures here were already gone, and she said, "In that case, let's keep going and not waste any more time here."

"There's no hurry. There should be many places like this in the immortal manor, and we could encounter the same type of array going forward. If we examine how the array here was set up, we'll be able to save a lot of time bypassing further arrays of a similar nature if we encounter any," Han Li said.

"You're right! Why didn't I think of that? You're much more experienced and thoughtful than I am, Brother Liu," Lu Yuqing said with a hint of admiration in her eyes.

Han Li merely smiled as he made his way up the stone steps, then strode into the palace through the semi-destroyed gates.

Meanwhile, Lu Yuqing trailed along behind him in a cautious manner.

The palace was completely empty, and there were several holes in the roof that snow was falling through, but the snow dissipated on its own before it could land on the ground.

After emerging from the back door of the palace, Han Li and Lu Yuqing were greeted by the sight of several more palaces and a three-story pavilion. Just like the palace from before, there wasn't any clear damage, and everything inside had already been looted.

"Let's go."

Standing at the foot of the pavilion, Han Li summoned the azure spirit boat again, then called out to Lu Yuqing, and the two of them continued on their journey.

The snowfall up ahead was still quite dense and heavy, and the deeper they progressed into the ice field, the more clusters of buildings that they encountered. The largest one of them was over 10 times larger than the one they had first encountered, while the smaller ones were just individual pavilions and pagodas, and it seemed that was where the servants stayed.

However, all of them had already been looted, while the restrictions around them had been destroyed.

Han Li wasn't surprised by this at all, but Lu Yuqing was pouting in disappointment, seemingly quite dismayed.

Fortunately, their journey proved to be quite peaceful thus far, and they didn't encounter any other people or demon beasts.

The two of them continued deeper and deeper into the ice field, and the snowstorm was gradually becoming more and more ferocious, while their spiritual sense was also being more and more heavily restricted, to the point that even Han Li's spiritual sensory range had been cut down to only a few dozen kilometers.

After flying over a short snow-covered mountain range, Han Li spotted another cluster of buildings situated in a valley up ahead.

He alerted Lu Yuqing to this, then directed the spirit boat into the valley.

As they drew close to the valley, they saw a snow-covered stoned lion that was several dozen feet tall, standing to the left of the valley's entrance. There was another stone lion on the right, and it was also covered in snow, but this one was laying on its side.

After descending in front of valley, Han Li made his way over to the stone lion on the left before brushing away the snow on it to reveal a series of complex runes that were slightly different from the ones that he had seen earlier, but he could tell that they were roughly the same type of restriction.

"The restrictions here have already been destroyed, so it looks like we won't have to enter the valley," Lu Yuqing mused with a disappointed expression.

Han Li was just about to respond when his brows suddenly furrowed slightly, and he grabbed onto Lu Yuqing's shoulder before hurtling back in retreat until his back hit the rock wall behind him.

All of a sudden, the stone lion that was laying on the right side of the valley's entrance abruptly sprung to life, springing up from the ground before sending a massive paw crashing down toward Han Li and Lu Yuqing with tremendous force.

A thick layer of snow fell off the stone lion's body, yet there was nothing under the snow aside from more snow, and it was as if it were a snow beast that had a body of ice and snow.

Only in the instant right before it reared up from the ground was Han Li able to detect that it wasn't just a lifeless stone lion as it seemed.

Han Li raised a fist, and a layer of azure light appeared over it as he threw a punch directly upward.

An azure fist projection tore through the wind and snow before clashing against the paw of the snow lion, and a resounding boom rang out as the paw exploded into a cloud of snowy mist upon contact with the fist projection.

Before Han Li had a chance to withdraw his fist, his brows furrowed slightly, and he could feel a burst of intense chill seeping into his fist, upon which a layer of white frost instantly appeared over his knuckles.

He hurriedly withdrew his fist in alarm, and in the meantime, a blue vortex was taking shape on the snow lion's raised front paw.

Bursts of fierce suction force were emanating out of the blue vortex, sucking in all of the surrounding snow.

As more and more snow surged into the vortex, the destroyed front paw of the snow lion was mostly healed in the blink of an eye.

"That's not a puppet or anything like that, Brother Liu, it's a frost beast that's unique to this immortal manor. If you don't shatter the frost core in its body, it'll be able to keep drawing upon the snow in the area indefinitely to heal its own wounds, making it near unkillable!" Lu Yuqing hurriedly said.

"Frost core? What's that?" Han Li asked while staring intently at the recovering frost beast.

"It's an extreme frost crystal that's nurtured in the body of the beast. It's a bit like a demon beast's demon core, and it's commonly found directly behind a snow beast's eyes," Lu Yuqing hurriedly replied.

Han Li immediately focused his gaze on the blue eyes of the snow lion upon hearing this, following which an azure flying sword shot out of his sleeve, reaching the left eye of the snow lion in a flash.

The frost beast didn't appear to be very intelligent, and in the face of the oncoming flying sword, it swatted directly at it with its front paw, the same one that was still yet to make a full recovery.

The flying sword was very fast, but it wasn't imbued with much power. However, in the instant that it came into contact with the paw of the snow lion, a flurry of swordlight erupted forth in all directions like a blooming sword lotus flower, instantly destroying the entire leg connected to the snow lion's paw.

At the same time, a streak of azure sword qi shot straight through the snow lion's left eye, cleaving its head in half.

A sharp clang rang out as the tip of the flying sword pierced into the blue crystal that was around the size of a human head, but it was only able to penetrate around an inch into the crystal.

Traces of white light were surging over the crystal, and a flurry of snow instantly converged toward the snow lion's head.