

Another World 1661

Chapter 1661: Metaleater Mouse

Zhao Hai returned to the Space and then went to the processing machine to take a look. Currently, the processing machine isn't making anything. Instead, it was recycling the trash in the valley.

Seeing that nothing significant happened, Zhao Hai returned to the villa. Upon entering, he discovered Laura and the others looking at a screen.

Shown on the screen was the Black Tiger Gang's mountainous territory. The flat parts of the mountains were filled with various medicinal fields. However, these fields didn't change the faces of the mountains too much. Cultivators understand that plants require specific mountainous conditions to grow.

There were also small cities built on some mountains. But in terms of scale, they can't really be called cities, it was more appropriate to call them mountain towns. The disciples in these towns not only grow plants or mine, they can also do other tasks. For example, they can explore the mountains and dig up some wild herbs or find some good ores. Then they would go to the contribution hall to exchange them for points.

What surprised Zhao Hai was the fact that he hadn't seen a faith servant until now. The name of faith servant was a name common in the Great World of Cultivation. Although the name might sound pleasant, faith servants were mindless people who only knew how to pray.

Although faith servants were mindless beings, they were very important to any force in the Great World of Cultivation. Faith servants can provide faith power and any group that doesn't have a supply of faith power would never be able establish a foothold.

Zhao Hai asked Laura and the others to look around. First, so that they can understand more about the Black Tiger Gang's domain. And second, to find these faith servants. Finding these faith servants was one of Zhao Hai's interests.

Now, he has scoured through all of the Black Tiger Gang's domain. However, he hasn't seen a shadow of these faith servants. This caused Zhao Hai to be confused. He didn't know where the Black Tiger Gang hid these faith servants.

As for information about faith servants, Zhao Hai still has nothing. This was because he was only investigating the Outer Sect at this point. These Outer Disciples don't even know about faith servants. This caused Zhao Hai to be disappointed.

However, Zhao Hai didn't take it to heart. The reason he looked for these faith servants was because he wanted to see what they were like. He didn't need them to provide him with faith power. After all, he can't even use up all the faith power that the Space was giving him.

The more Zhao Hai knew about the Black Tiger Gang, the more startled he was. The sect's territory was really huge. The land area exceeded Zhao Hai's expectations. The Black Tiger Gang's lands were as big as Asia back on Earth, maybe even bigger.

It must be known that the Black Tiger Gang was one of the hundreds of sects in the 9 Provinces of the Great World of Cultivation. For such a sect to occupy a large space wasn't something that Zhao Hai expected.

The Space has yet to map the entire territory of the Black Tiger Gang, but it was almost finished. This was good news for Zhao Hai. When he's free, he can go to any place that the Black Tiger Gang is in control of.

Laura and the others were also quite glad. This was because there were special places in the Black Tiger Gang's territory. In comparison to the sect's population, the land under their hand was very large. It can be described as a vast area with very few people inside. In the future, they would be able to move around the Black Tiger Gang's territory. This was definitely good news for them.

Seeing Zhao Hai return, Laura turned her head and said, "Wash up quickly. You stink to high heaven. Really, why would you move the trash yourself?"

Zhao Hai knew that he didn't stink at all. Laura and the others just don't want him to work so hard, so Laura said this on purpose. He couldn't help but laugh as he lifted Laura up and said, "Come, let's go wash up together." After he said that, he turned and ran towards the hot spring. This caused Laura to squeak.

After taking an affectionate bath, Zhao Hai returned to the villa with Laura. Megan and the others proceeded to tease Laura, which caused Laura's face to turn pink.

When Zhao Hai entered, Cai'er immediately said, "Young Master, something is happening outside."

Zhao Hai's expression turned serious as he asked, "Did someone come?"

Cai'er shook her head and said, "It's not a person. Look, it seems like a mouse." After she said that, she gestured towards the screen. Showed on the screen was a silver-white mouse. The mouse's fur had a metal-like sheen. It wasn't large at no more than 20 meters long. The ears of the mouse were very big and circular. The tail was slender and it had two beady eyes. It looked lovable.

But seeing the claw and teeth of the mouse, Zhao Hai knew not to take it lightly. The claws and teeth of the mouse were bright silver and shone like the sun.

Zhao Hai knew that the claws weren't only dazzling, they were also dangerous. Zhao Hai just saw the mouse tear apart a magic artifact with its claws with almost no effort. One could see from this point how terrifyingly sharp its claws were.

More and more of these mice appeared in the valley before they flooded the valley. Seeing this, the scalp of Laura and the others couldn't help but tingle.

At this moment, there was a commotion among the group of mice. Zhao Hai and Laura couldn't help but stare. They saw eight large mice half a meter long, carrying a huge metal plate.

These eight mice looked exactly like the others but they were much larger. Each of them were holding metal rods that supported the large plate. The plate looked like an artifact but was damaged. There was a meter-long mouse lying on the plate. There were some pill dregs on the plate which the mouse chucked into its mouth as though they were peanuts.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but be shocked. He turned his head to Laura and said, "Laura, pinch me. What's that? Are the mice having a meeting?"

Laura and the others were also shocked as they looked at the mice. They shook their heads as they continued to look at the image on the screen.

At this time, the mice stopped, then the big mouse on the plate slowly stood up. Seeing the mouse stand up, Laura and the others couldn't help but burst into a giggle. The mouse looked very cute.

The large mouse was really cute. First of all, its silver-white hair was very smooth. The mouse was also fat, like a big toy. Because it was fat, its face was round and it looked funny. No wonder Laura and the others giggled.

Zhao Hai also couldn't help but smile. At this moment, the big mouse made another move. It put its claws on its waist as it began to squeak towards Zhao Hai's cave.

Zhao Hai and the women had perplexed expressions on their faces as they looked at the big mouse. They didn't know what it was trying to do. After squeaking for a while, it discovered that nobody was listening to him. It couldn't help but become annoyed. It jumped up and down on its plate as it waved its claws around, making a louder sound than before.

Laura and the others laughed. The big mouse now looked like an angered child right now. It stamped its foot in front of the other rats as though throwing a tantrum.

Zhao Hai also smiled, he turned to Laura and said, "I'll go take a look at what these mice are trying to do. You can also go out if you want."

Laura and the others nodded. They were also interested and wanted to take a look at what this fat mouse would do.

Seeing that they agreed, Zhao Hai nodded before the group disappeared and then appeared outside Zhao Hai's cave residence. Upon arriving at the Ignored Valley, the mouse was still jumping and squeaking. When it saw Zhao Hai and the others appear, it jumped even more and its squeaks became louder.

Zhao Hai didn't know what this mouse wanted. But this mouse seemed intelligent. Therefore, Zhao Hai adjusted his spiritual force and sent it towards the large mouse.

When the big mouse felt Zhao Hai's spiritual force, it stopped for a moment. Then the mouse sent his own spiritual force forward. Zhao Hai received the thought and understood the message that the mouse wanted to send. The large mouse was saying, "Kid, who are you? Where's the old man?"

Zhao Hai stared. He didn't expect the big mouse to know the previous watchman. It must be known that the old man was the only person in the Ignored Valley for a long time.

However, Zhao Hai didn't ponder on it for too long. He immediately replied, "The old man left, I'm now the one making the decisions here."

A reply came before long, "Making the decisions? It seems like the old man didn't inform you. This place is the territory of our Metaleater Mice Clan. You will never be able to make decisions here."

Zhao Hai stared, he looked at the large mouse and said, "You're the Metaleater Mice? Strange, why are you eating pill dregs?"

"You talk too much. These things contain spiritual qi, so naturally we can eat them. Let me warn you, everything here is the property of the Metaleater Mouse Clan. You're not allowed to steal our things."

Hearing the big mouse, Zhao Hai began to understand. This big mouse saw him taking things from the Ignored Valley, so he came over to protest.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile, he looked at the big mouse and said, "I don't care if this place is your territory. I can do whatever I want here."

Hearing Zhao Hai, the big mouse was angry as it squeaked loudly. The big mouse's squeak was followed by the squeak of the other mice. Their collective noise was terrifying.

Zhao Hai wasn't afraid of these mice. This was because he couldn't feel any danger from the big mouse. In other words, the mouse couldn't be his opponent.

After that, the large mouse extended its claws and then attacked. With their leader attacking, the mice behind also charged in.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare. It seems like these mice wanted to kill him by flooding over him. He couldn't help but smile. He waved his hand as an uncountable number of silver needles appeared. These needles proceeded to weave themselves into a metal net and covered the entire mouse swarm. Even the large mouse wasn't let off.

The big mouse was stunned when he realized that he was captured. Then there was a hint of contempt on its fat face as it opened its mouth and bit the net. The other mice did the same thing as well.

A smile couldn't help but appear on Zhao Hai's face. Cracking sounds could be heard before the mice were squeaking in pain.

Zhao Hai and the women laughed. This was because the mice had just broken their fangs biting liquid silver.

The only one that was quiet was the large mouse. It was aware how strong his teeth were, but the net had no damage at all. There wasn't even a small indication that it had been bitten.

This caused the big mouse to panic. Although it only used a portion of its strength, it was still very confident in its teeth. Thirty percent of his strength was able to break anything in this valley. It didn't expect to meet something that it couldn't bit through.

This big mouse became anxious. It bit the net once more using eighty percent of its strength, but the result was the same, the net was undamaged. The big mouse bit one last time, now using all of its strength. However, it was useless, the net was still undamaged.

The big mouse was now panicking. He continued to bite the net despite getting negative results. At this time, Zhao Hai waved his hand, sending the net as well as the captured mice into the Space.

As the big mouse entered the Space, a prompt was heard, "Aggressive entity detected. Subjugating. Entity has been subjugated."

“Mouse-type animals have been detected. It takes metal as well as poison as food. Its teeth are strong and it has great defenses. Extracting unique properties and integrating it to the other animals in the Space. Integration has succeeded.”

Chapter 1662: Mouse Lair

Zhao Hai looked at the big mouse in front of him. The mouse was being groomed by Laura and the others. It still looks cute, but its eyes had become more docile.

Zhao Hai looked at the big mouse and said, “What kind of beasts are your race? What level does it belong to?”

The reason why Zhao Hai talked normally to the big mouse was because he found out that the mouse was very smart. Its intelligence was no worse than a human’s. Its only flaw was that it doesn’t have a humanoid form.

The big mouse immediately replied, “Replying to Young Master. Our Metaleater Race doesn’t have any levels. Even among beasts, we have no division. This is because the weakest Metaleater Mouse is as weak as level 1 beasts. Almost any cultivator can kill us. However, the most powerful Metaleater Mouse can fight against the most powerful cultivator. Because of this, we aren’t classified to a certain level.”

Zhao Hai nodded and said, “So how strong are you?”

The big mouse proudly replied, “I’m almost a level 4 Beast. Although the levels of beasts are also divided into six, its still a different division from cultivators. My current strength is almost equivalent to a Core Formation Cultivator.”

Hearing the big mouse, Zhao Hai couldn’t help but stare. He looked at the big mouse and said, “Who told you about these things? You probably can’t know it, right?”

The big mouse smiled and replied, “Replying to the Young Master, the old man from before told me about it. Since nobody comes to the valley, the old man gets bored. So after he discovered us, he chatted with me and told me about these things.”

Zhao Hai can feel that although the big mouse was referring to the previous watchman as an old man, there was a sense of respect in its words.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright. Now that the Metaleater Mice has entered the Space, you will be my subordinates in the future. But I hope that you keep staying in the Ignored Valley. You can eat all you can, but if you can discover rare materials, you have to send it to the Space. Once its sent to the Space, we would have more ores. Then you can eat as much of it as you want in the future."

Hearing this, the big mouse replied, "I understand, Young Master. I'll have the children keep an eye out. Actually, we don't eat too many metals. Generally, the higher the level of the metal, the more we can't eat it. Only when we reach higher levels can we eat them. We can eat the majority of the metals in the valley, but we also have some metals that we can't digest. We can only stockpile these metals. I wonder if these metals can be sent to the Space?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "We can bring those things in. But are they dirty?"

The big mouse shook its head and said, "Young Master can rest assured. We usually eat pill dregs but we don't expel toxins from our bodies. Our bodies refine those toxins and concentrate them to reinforce our claws and teeth."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, let's go and see the metals you've stockpiled." The big mouse nodded and then Zhao Hai led him out of the Space.

Zhao Hai followed the big mouse to their mouse lair. To be honest, Zhao Hai was surprised when he saw the mouse lair. The lair was so expansive that it already surrounded the Ignored Valley. Although the entire lair wasn't as big as the hive he saw in Fabio Planet, it was more civilized. It was designed well and decorated like a human settlement. There were granaries and even some places for social activities.

The big mouse proceeded to introduce its underground kingdom. He also showed the proud history of the Metaleater Race. To be honest, the metaleater mice haven't stayed in the valley for a long time. Moreover, this big mouse was the first leader of the Ignored Valley's metaleater mice. It can be said that the metaleater mice in the Ignored Valley were brought up by the big mouse.

Seeing such a megastructure, Zhao Hai couldn't help but commend the big mouse. Who would have thought that this ridiculous looking guy could create such a big underground kingdom. It truly surprised Zhao Hai.

Before long, they arrived at the storage area. The storage didn't contain food for the metaleater mice. Instead, inside were the metals that they couldn't digest. The metals weren't in shards. Instead, they were arranged neatly.

In any case, Zhao Hai didn't care if they were arranged messily. He didn't have to touch them with his hands. Actually, the mice weren't that dirty. The metaleater rats were a wonder of biology. They were like machines that absorb metals as fuel. But because metals also have their own grades, there were metals that the mice couldn't digest.

Zhao Hai waved his hand and sent the metals to the Space. To his surprise, there were more than a hundred types of metals.

Zhao Hai looked at the big mouse and said, "I'll be taking those things away. Remember what I said. Don't show up at normal times. If I leave the Ignored Valley, keep an eye on my residence."

The big mouse nodded and said, "Young Master can rest assured. We'll follow your orders." Zhao Hai nodded and then waved his hand to release the other metaleater mice.

The mice were now Zhao Hai's subordinates. But to Zhao Hai, these mice had little use. So he might as well place them back in the valley.

Actually, the mice have transformed after passing through the Space. There were metals that they could now absorb which they couldn't before.

Zhao Hai turned around to leave the lair. He carefully observed the lair as he went out. After looking through it, he realized that the lair wasn't dug randomly. The paths inside have become a formation. The formation seems to have a certain protective function. Moreover, people couldn't detect the lair using their spiritual force.

After confirming his theory, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stop. In the beginning, he thought that since there were a lot of garbage around the lair, some of the junk might have an effect of blocking spiritual force. But in the end, this wasn't the case. The big mouse noticed Zhao Hai stopped, ran over and asked, "Young Master, is there a problem?"

Zhao Hai looked at the big mouse and asked, "Your lair seems to be a formation. When did you learn?"

The big mouse stared, then it shook its head and said, "Replying to the Young Master. I didn't study any formations."

Zhao Hai frowned, he looked at the big mouse and said, "Why did you decide to dig your lair like this?"

The big mouse replied, "This is something that every metaleater mouse must learn. When every mouse is born, they learn how to dig a hole. Building a lair is an instinct of our metaleater race. After countless years of development, we discovered that digging our lair like this makes us survive more."

Zhao Hai nodded. After multiple years of survival, the metaleater mice have made a lot of lairs. And over the years, they ended up with this kind of lair. It could be said that this formation was wholly made by the entire metaleater mouse race.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "You go back to what you're doing. I'll go have a look around." The big mouse nodded before running over to the other mice and directing them to work.

Looking at the big mouse issuing orders with its claws, Zhao Hai couldn't help but grin. He took out some transforming clouds and gave them to the big mouse. Later on, it could use them to sit down.

The big mouse was naturally happy. It immediately ordered its underlings to bring the metal plate over. Then he placed the transforming clouds on top of it.

Zhao Hai nodded before he turned around. The lair was very big. In addition to the large caverns, there were smaller tunnels that smaller mice could crawl through. These tunnels were as small as a fist, Zhao Hai couldn't get in at all. Zhao Hai took out his silver needles and scanned the entire lair.

After the entire lair has been scanned, Zhao Hai said goodbye to the big mouse and then returned to the Space.

Just as he returned to the Space, Zhao Hai saw Cai'er and the others looking at the screen. On the screen was a projection of the entire Metaleater Mouse lair.

Seeing Zhao Hai come back, Cai'er immediately said, "Young Master, look at this. This mouse lair is a natural three-dimensional formation."

Zhao Hai stared, "Three-dimensional formation?"

Cai'er nodded and said, "Right, a three-dimensional formation. Normally, formations that we use are drawn on a flat plane. Although the effect of the formations are three-dimensional, the formation itself was two-dimensional. This three-dimensional formation isn't only externally defensive, it also has defenses inside. And if a part of the formation was destroyed, the entire formation wouldn't shut down."

Hearing Cai'er, Zhao Hai became interested. It must be known that even if high-level formations would be fine being damaged, low-level formations would become completely useless once a part of it was destroyed. This was the first time that Zhao Hai heard of three-dimensional formation, and it caused him to be curious.

Chapter 1663: Three-dimensional Formation

Formations are one of the things that a cultivator cannot do without. Formations play very important roles in a cultivator's daily life. If they want to build a cave residence, they would need a formation. Formations can defend them as well as help in cultivation.

However, formations used by cultivators were two-dimensional. They centered on formation disks and had formation flags as its nodes to generate a field. Once this field was formed, it means that the formation has been successfully arranged.

Through various runes and positioning, formations would create their fields. The fields also absorb the surrounding energy in order to strengthen themselves or release it in another form. These were the most basic principles of formations.

Because of these principles, destruction of a node of the formation would affect the field produced. Thus, this setup should not be destroyed.

High-level formations were somewhat immune to this. Even if one or two nodes were destroyed, they would still function. High-level formations use very advanced materials. Sometimes, a node would be composed of two formation flags or a formation flag would count as two nodes. In this case, even if the formation was damaged, there would be backup nodes or formation flags to carry the formation's functions. However, this doesn't guarantee that the formation would be at its full power.

However, formations that were this resilient were rare. This was because manufacturing such formations needed advanced-level materials and high-level cultivators. Both of which were difficult to get at the same time.

On the other hand, three-dimensional formations had far more nodes than two-dimensional formations. This meant that its power would be greater. Also, this meant that even if a lot of nodes were destroyed, the formation could still retain the majority of its function.

Looking at all kinds of data regarding three-dimensional formations, Zhao Hai was speechless. He didn't expect the metaleater mice to make a three-dimensional formation that cultivators struggled with for countless years. Now, cultivators calling themselves the apex beings has become somewhat of a joke.

Actually, Zhao Hai thought that this was incorrect. There's nothing wrong with humans becoming the apex cultivators. But it was just that humans have their focus on a lot of things. Take formations, for example, there were a lot of formations which were related to every aspect of their life. Naturally, they wouldn't have the energy to study three-dimensional formations.

The metaleater mice were different. They inadvertently focused themselves on developing their lair. For many years and without stopping, they kept improving their lair before they were able to make a three-dimensional formation. Their attention has never been diverted.

Zhao Hai turned his head to Cai'er and said, "Can we turn ordinary formations into three-dimensional formations?"

Cai'er frowned and said, "That would be difficult, but its possible. Young Master, take a look at this. The formation has a lot of nodes. If you look closely, each room in the lair is a node and the pathways are the lines. Arranged in this way, they make up the entire formation."

Then Cai'er took out a formation blueprint and said, "This is a formation that we normally use. Because it is two-dimensional, there are fewer nodes. Moreover, the lines aren't complex. It can be said that three-dimensional formations are many folds more complicated compared to two-dimensional formations. Researching three-dimensional formations will be very difficult."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Take your time. I believe that these three-dimensional formations would be very useful to us." Cai'er nodded. She also knew how three-dimensional formations would help them.

Naturally, Zhao Hai wouldn't let them study on their own, he would also participate. Although he was a little behind the others when it came to researching formations, his knowledge was enough for him to become an expert in the outer world.

Since nobody comes to the Ignored Valley, Zhao Hai's time was very relaxed. Originally, he thought of exploring the Black Tiger Gang's territory. But now his plans were delayed because of the three-dimensional formation.

However, Zhao Hai didn't mind it. He was charmed by the three-dimensional formations. He looked like a kid who had discovered a new toy to play with.

The research went on for two months. Zhao Hai went back to the Space several times. At the same time, he sent Zhang Hao materials and pills that he had recycled.

Zhang Hao didn't feel that anything had changed in Zhao Hai. In fact, to any cultivator, Zhao Hai's situation was a dream.

Cultivators require materials and pills in their cultivation. With Zhao Hai placed in the Ignored Valley, he essentially has unlimited materials and pills to use. If Zhang Hao had the ability, he wouldn't want to leave.

Zhao Hai didn't turn everything into useful materials. This was because there was no need to do so. If he gave too many materials, then Zhang Feng might turn his attention back to him. Because of this, Zhao Hai wasn't too anxious. He just sent back some herbs and basic materials to Zhang Feng.

After two months, Zhao Hai finally was able to get a grasp on three-dimensional formations. Just like what Cai'er said, three-dimensional formations weren't easy. Even with the Space's capabilities, it still took two months before progress was made.

Making three-dimensional formations was like wanting to draw a cylinder out of a circle drawn on the ground. It wasn't an easy task.

The Space has the Universal Scanner, and with the Space's innate analytical ability, they were finally able to turn the formations that they have into three-dimensional formations.

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Zhao Hai was currently in the Space, standing in front of the Hell King's ship. Beside him were Laura and the others. All of them were looking at the Hell King's Ship as if waiting for something.

After some time, Zhao Hai opened his mouth and said, "Begin." Cai'er nodded and then waved her hand. Before long, white light began to cover the Hell King's Ship.

As the light moved, the formations in the Hell King's Ship were upgraded to be three-dimensional. Zhao Hai and the others wanted to see what changes would happen to the ship.

Before long, the white light vanished. The Hell King's Ship was still present, no changes could be seen from outside. Zhao Hai turned his head to Laura and the others and said, "Let's go up and take a look." Then the group proceeded to fly towards the Hell King's Ship.

The group immediately felt the changes the moment they started up the Hell King's Ship. The ship has become faster and more flexible. Additionally, it consumed less energy. In the past, if the Hell King's Ship wanted to go at full speed, it would need to consume fifty percent of the Yin-Yang Lightning Pond's storage. But now, it would only consume five percent.

Ten times reduction! For cultivators this reduction was very huge. A ten times reduction in energy consumption meant that the ship's capabilities had increased ten times!

What does a multiplication of ten mean? It was enough for a normal Immortal Stage cultivator to go against Dao Avatar-stage cultivators. This was an increase of an entire stage!

If two experts of the same level battle and then one of them has an attack that was ten times as strong, then wouldn't they win immediately? If this news were to go out, cultivators would go crazy.

Zhao Hai experimented more with the Hell King's Ship. Not only was the ship's speed better, its defenses and impact strength has increased as well. Most importantly, the cannons of the ship have become stronger.

After trying out the ship for some time, Zhao Hai and the others returned to the villa. Cai'er immediately played the recording of the Hell King's Ship. Beside the video were data regarding the ship's operation.

Cai'er pointed towards the numbers and said, "Young Master, ever since we upgraded the Hell King's Ship, the energy consumption has decreased by ten times, the speed doubled, the defenses increased by five times, the agility tripled, and its offensive capabilities has increased by six times. And this is under normal operation and not at its full state. We succeeded!"

Looking at Cai'er's excited expression, Zhao Hai was happy as well. He smiled and said, "We succeeded. Hahaha. Good, fantastic!" Laura and the others also cheered. This was the fruit of their labor.

Meg looked at everyone and said, "I'll go prepare some delicious food. We have to celebrate." After she said that, she ran to the kitchen. Meg has also been working in the past two months. Moreover, her knowledge about formations wasn't low. She also needed to take care of everyone. In these two months, she was the one who worked the hardest.

Seeing Meg prepare the food, Laura and the others immediately went to help. Zhao Hai looked at the women and smiled. Zhao Hai knew that the past two months were one of their happiest times. This was because besides giving Zhang Hao the materials and pills, Zhao Hai spent most of his time inside the Space.

Before long, a table of dishes has been prepared. Zhao Hai and the others sat down and ate. Although they stayed together every day, they still had endless things to talk about. The atmosphere was very good.

After eating their meal, the group went to the hot spring to relax. They ate fruits and wine as they soaked in the warm water. Cai'er looked at Zhao Hai who was being massaged by Megan and said, "Young Master, what do you plan to do next?" Her question attracted everyone's attention.

Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "I plan to close up."

Chapter 1664: Closing Up For Half A Year

"Close up? Brother Hai, why would you close up?" Laura looked at Zhao Hai, confused.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Now that we have these three-dimensional formations, it's time to upgrade my faith power gathering formation. I also have the five elements killing formation as well as the stellar transformations great formation. I need some time to turn these into three-dimensional formations. Then I want to see how much they changed."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Laura and the others understood. Laura nodded and said, "You might as well. I believe there would be great benefits for you once you turn them into three-dimensional formations."

Zhao Hai nodded, "If I was in the Ten-thousand Realm Battlefield, I could say that nobody would be my opponent, but this place is different. There are too many powerful experts here. The reason why I'm so strong in the Ten-thousand Realm Battlefield is because I have faith power. I no longer have this advantage here. My biggest ace is about to become useless. If I want to make a name for myself in the Great World of Cultivation, I need to improve my strength. Moreover, I cannot be with Zhang Feng for the rest of my life. I'm not a human processing machine."

Laura and the others nodded. No matter where they are, strength spoke the loudest. If you were weak, then even if you can make pills and refine artifacts, you would only become a tool for others. Only through strength could one dictate their own destiny.

Zhang Feng might have been good to Zhao Hai, but he sent Zhao Hai to the Ignored Valley. If Zhang Feng becomes stronger in the future, he would treat Zhao Hai better. This was because of the benefits that Zhao Hai could give him.

Zhao Hai also understood Zhang Feng's intentions, but he wasn't swayed by it. Zhao Hai doesn't want to lose his freedom and become a human machine for the rest of his life.

Laura nodded and said, "Then are you going to close up in the Ignored Valley? Do you need anything?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "There's no need to prepare anything. I will close up underneath the Hundred Spirits Tree. We'll station an Undead outside my residence to receive Zhang Hao."

Laura nodded and said, "Alright, then we'll take care of it. You can go into seclusion without worries." Zhao Hai nodded. Then he closed his eyes and enjoyed Megan's massage. Before long, he fell asleep.

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Zhao Hai sat calmly underneath the Hundred Spirits Tree. He was currently focused on the Faith Power Gathering Formation inside his body.

The faith power gathering formation has been perfectly integrated into the small avatar inside Zhao Hai's body. The avatar was now turned gold by the faith power. An extremely thick stream of faith power was constantly pouring in.

Zhao Hai used his spiritual force to inspect the faith power gathering formation. Then he slowly transformed it into a three-dimensional formation.

Since his body has been baptized by faith power, the process wasn't very difficult. However, Zhao Hai was still very careful. After all, this was his own body.

As Zhao Hai cautiously upgraded the formation, the faith power gathering formation began to change its appearance. It became more and more three-dimensional. Then upon setting up the final node, the formation has successfully been upgraded.

The moment the formation was done, a golden light as dazzling as the sun flooded the surroundings. Although Zhao Hai was controlling the formation with his spiritual force, he still had the urge to close his eyes.

After the golden light vanished, Zhao Hai saw a small sun appear on his avatar. The golden sun lit up a hundred times stronger than the original two-dimensional formation.

Along with the upgrade, faith power began to permeate through Zhao Hai's body, slowly nourishing it. Seeing this happen, Zhao Hai didn't know what to do. The three-dimensional formation was just as big as the original formation. However, he can still enlarge it slowly, making its effects stronger and stronger.

The faith power gathering formation inside Zhao Hai's body wasn't at its optimum state. There was still a big room for improvement. So Zhao Hai began to make some improvements to the formation.

Time passed as Zhao Hai was immersed in improving his faith power gathering formation. He was unaware of the outside situation.

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Zhang Hao arrived at the Ignored Valley feeling somewhat strange. In his past few visits, Zhao Hai looked absent-minded. It seemed like he was thinking about something. But after asking Zhao Hai, he said that he was alright, which caused Zhang Hao to be puzzled.

Zhang Hao decided that if Zhao Hai kept being like this, then he would report it to Zhang Feng. After all, Zhang Feng treated Zhao Hai with importance. Zhang Hao didn't dare neglect anything about him.

Before long, Zhang Hao arrived in front of Zhao Hai's cave residence. All of a sudden, Zhang Hao felt that something wasn't right. This was because even if Zhao Hai had been absent-minded, he would still greet Zhang Hao every time. But this time, he wasn't there.

Just as Zhang Hao thought about this, he discovered someone outside Zhao Hai's residence. This person was very tall and huge. Looking at the person, Zhang Hao couldn't help but be surprised. Wasn't this Zhao Hai's opponent in the Life and Death Arena? Didn't he die? Why was he here?

Zhang Hao stopped and then looked at the huge figure. It didn't take long for him to discover that something wasn't right. The man was filled with death energy. This meant that this wasn't a living person, but an Undead.

Zhang Hao heard that Zhao Hai had a lot of Undead. It seems like this huge man has also been turned into Undead.

Zhang Hao couldn't help but be curious so he continued walking. As he arrived at the entrance, the huge warrior bowed and said, "I have seen Sir Zhang Hao. This one has been ordered by the Young Master to stay here."

Zhang Hao looked at the huge man's ugly face and couldn't help but feel awkward. He didn't expect an Undead to talk to him naturally.

But since the huge man addressed him, there seems to be something going on. He looked at the huge man and asked, "Where's Little Hai? Did something happen?"

The huge man replied, "Replying to Sir. Young Master is currently in seclusion. Therefore, he left me here to guard. He instructed me to give this to you."

Zhang Hao looked at the spatial bag that was handed over and nodded. He looked at the huge man and said, "Why did Little Hai suddenly go into seclusion?" Zhang Hao didn't think of entering the cave residence. He knew that a cultivator in seclusion couldn't be disturbed. Otherwise, an accident might occur.

The huge man replied, "This one doesn't know. I only followed the Young Master's instructions."

Zhang Hao nodded and said, "Good, then I won't disturb him. But you're the only one here. What if something happens? Does he need me to send people over?"

The huge man shook his head and said, "The Young Master never said anything about this. I don't know."

Zhang Hao didn't know what to say. But he shook his head and said, "Forget it. I'll take care of this matter." After he said that, he turned around and went to the transmission formation. He knew that he should tell Zhang Feng about this. Seclusion wasn't a small matter.

Zhang Hao immediately went to see Zhang Feng. Zhang Feng was already at another Life and Death Arena. Although the coordinates of the transmission formation was different, it didn't deviate by a lot.

After going out of the transmission formation, Zhang Hao immediately went to Zhang Feng. Recently, Zhang Feng has been full of energy and was very eager to work. Because of Zhao Hai, he was able to win over several Inner Disciples as well as Outer Disciples. But all of this was done in secret, people outside had no idea.

Zhang Feng knew clearly that the most important thing for him right now was to stay low-key. He cannot let anyone know about the resources he currently has. If people knew that he had a lot of materials and pills on hand, they would certainly trace their origins. When the time comes, Zhao Hai will be exposed. And this wasn't what Zhang Feng wanted to see.

Zhang Hao stopped outside Zhang Feng's room and said, "First Senior Brother, I'm here." Zhang Feng replied, "Little Hao, you're back. Come in." Zhang Hao nodded and then pushed the door before walking in.

After entering the room, Zhang Hao gave Zhang Feng a salute. Zhang Feng waved his hand and said, "Don't be too polite. How is Little Hai?"

Zhang Hao replied, "Reporting to First Senior Brother. Little Hai is currently in seclusion. He only has an Undead guarding his cave residence. The Undead also handed me this." After he said that, he took out a spatial bag.

Zhang Feng took the spatial bag and took a look inside. There were several times more materials and pills inside. He took away the spatial bag and then said, "Why did Little Hai suddenly seclude himself? You've been seeing him, did he mention it to you?"

Zhang Hao shook his head and said, "He didn't say anything. However, in my past few visits, I felt that he has been absent-minded. But after I asked him about it, he said that he was alright. Moreover, I asked Elder Huo. Nobody has been there since Jin Zhengyin, so there shouldn't be a problem. But this time, he suddenly went into seclusion. I really don't know what happened."

Zhang Feng frowned and said, "I found someone to ask about Little Hai. It seems like he's a cultivation fanatic and he secludes himself often. It should be the same this time."

Zhang Hao thought for a moment and said, "First Senior Brother. Do you think Little Hai ate some pills in the valley? This might be the reason he closed up."

Hearing Zhang Hao, Zhang Feng stared. Then he said, "That's possible. Little Hai cultivates a lot. It might be related to him. Alright, let's leave him be. Pay attention to him and don't let anyone come to disturb his seclusion. That Sima Yin Long might still be interested in Zhao Hai. Pay close attention." Zhang Hao nodded and then said his goodbyes before leaving.

When Zhang Hao left, Zhang Feng took out a jade sword message and then sent word to a trusted subordinate. He ordered his people to pay attention to the matters involving the Ignored Valley. He wanted them to act as Zhao Hai's protectors.

Zhao Hai was unaware of these things. He was now currently reinforcing the faith power gathering formation in his body. But no matter how much he improves it, the flow of faith power still maxes out. This caused Zhao Hai to be helpless.

Any formation has its limit and Zhao Hai has pushed the gathering formation to its maximum potential. Currently, the nodes of the formation were a hundred times more than the original two-dimensional formation. The amount of faith power he receives is much larger than before, but he still maxes out. From this point, one could see how much faith power Zhao Hai currently has.

After enhancing his faith power gathering formation to its limits. Zhao Hai slowly opened his eyes and let out a long breath. He could feel the abundance of faith power in his body. Moreover, the flow was more convenient. This caused him to be very happy.

Now that the faith power gathering formation has been improved, Zhao Hai shifted his focus on the Stellar Transformations Formation. This formation contained stars that constantly shifted. It was a very strange formation that was constantly changing.

The Stellar Transformation Great Formation was also two-dimensional. Although he can shift the stars, it lacked cosmic effect. After all, the stellar cosmos wasn't a two-dimensional plane. The positions of the stars themselves were three-dimensional.

Upgrading the Stellar Transformations Great Formation to a three-dimensional formation was even more difficult. The formation was currently on the cube on top of Zhao Hai's avatar. Zhao Hai was now trying to turn the formation into a three-dimensional one.

The Stellar Transformations Great Formation was more complicated compared to the Faith Power Gathering Formation, so it has more nodes. Expanding this formation would result in much more nodes.

This was a colossal project. Fortunately, Zhao Hai actively used the Stellar Transformations Great Formation for a long time, so he was more familiar with it. After a period of time, Zhao Hai finally let out a long breath. The Stellar Transformation Great Formation has finally been upgraded. Moreover, Zhao Hai maximized the formation to its limit. It took Zhao Hai around two months to complete it.

After dealing with the Stellar Transformations Great Formation, Zhao Hai shifted his attention once more to the Five-element Killing Formation. It must be said that the Five-element Killing Formation was as complicated as the Stellar Transformation Great Formation. There were even aspects of the Five-element Killing Formation that were more complex than the Stellar Transformation Great Formation.

Zhao Hai enhanced the Five-element Killing Formation non-stop. Unknowingly, another two months passed and Zhao Hai finished upgrading the formation. With the Five-element Killing Formation finished, Zhao Hai's seclusion was also finished. All in all, his seclusion lasted for half a year.

Zhang Feng frowned in his room. Zhao Hai has been in seclusion for half a year. Because of this, he hasn't been receiving materials and pills for six months. This threw a wrench in his plans...

However, Zhang Feng didn't blame Zhao Hai for this. After all, seclusion was important to any cultivator. What Zhang Feng was worried about was that Zhao Hai would suffer problems. It was good that the Undead outside Zhao Hai's cave residence were still there. Otherwise, Zhang Feng would worry a lot.

But Zhang Feng still worried about when Zhao Hai would go out. If Zhao Hai closed up for several years, then it would have a huge effect on his plans.

As he was thinking of this, Zhang Feng heard Zhang Hao's voice outside, "First Senior Brother, Little Hai sent a letter. He's out of seclusion."

Zhang Feng stared and he quickly stood up. He didn't wait for Zhang Hao to come in as he immediately walked out. Then he said, "Follow me." Then the two went to the transmission formation. Before long, the two arrived at the Ignored Valley.

The two appeared at the Ignored Valley and saw Zhao Hai waiting for them. Upon seeing the two, Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Zhao Hai has seen the Senior Brothers."

Zhang Feng smiled at Zhao Hai and said, "Good, you've progressed well. It seems like your seclusion has been effective. Let's go in and have a talk." Zhao Hai nodded, then he invited the two into his residence.

After settling down inside the residence, Zhang Feng turned to Zhao Hai and said, "I was worried about you. I didn't expect you to suddenly close up. Next time you should send a word to me. I'll send you a protector."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Thank you Senior Brother. Actually, I had a sudden enlightenment this time, so I couldn't stop myself from closing up. Senior Brother can rest assured, I will inform you next time."

Zhang Feng nodded and said, "That would be best. From what I can see, you've benefited a lot from your seclusion. This is very good. You should place cultivation as your first priority."

Zhao Hai nodded. Then he looked at Zhang Feng and said, "Senior Brother, can you find me some manuals related to formations? I want to take a look. It might be useful to me."

Zhang Feng stared for a moment, then he nodded and said, "There's no problem. There's a special manual in the sect that has very good formations. I'll ask them to send it over. Why do you need to study them? Do you plan to refine some artifacts?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I don't have such plans. I just like to study formations."

Zhang Feng nodded and said, "Alright, I will send them to you. But you have to take care. You can't delay your cultivation because of this." Zhao Hai nodded.

Zhang Feng added, "You've been in seclusion for six months. In two months, there will be an Outer Sect competition. You need to prepare well. Don't be too eye-catching in the competition, but don't lose too badly. Understand?"

Zhao Hai was also aware of the Outer Sect Competition. In fact, in the Black Tiger Gang, whether it be the Outer Sect, Inner Sect, or the Core Disciples, all of them would compete. Generally, the competition was annual. The top ten Outer Disciples can enter the Inner Sect while the bottom ten of the Inner Sect would have two chances. If they became the bottom then for three consecutive competitions, then they would be downgraded into Serving Disciples. Meanwhile, the top ten Serving Disciples would be promoted to the Outer Sect. The top ten Inner Sect Disciples would also be promoted to be Core Disciples. And Core Disciples wouldn't be demoted.

Core Disciples were richly taken care of by the sect. If they fell to the Inner Sect, then their cultivation would slow down. Their level might even decrease. This was a loss that the Sect wouldn't let happen.

But although the Core Disciple competition wouldn't demote a Core Disciple, it would still affect their allowance. The final ten Core Disciples would have the same allowance as the top ten Inner Disciples. As for the top ten Core Disciples, they would have the right to construct a mountain residence and use a tiger ship.

The Black Tiger Gang has millions and millions of Serving Disciples and Outer Sect Disciples. The struggle to reach the top ten of this pile was an intense struggle. What Zhang Feng was telling Zhao Hai was to aim for the top ten but not belong to them in the end.

Zhao Hai also didn't want to be in the top ten. It wasn't that he didn't want to struggle nor did he think that he wasn't strong enough, he just thought that it wasn't the right time.

If he entered the Inner Sect the first year he arrived at the Great World of Cultivation, he would certainly attract a lot of attention. This would bring no benefit to him.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Senior Brother can rest assured. I understand what I should do."

Zhang Feng turned to Zhang Hao and said, "Little Hao, you don't need to work too hard this time. When the time comes, I will directly promote you to the Inner Sect. You don't have to worry."

Zhang Hao stared, then his expression lit up as he bowed and said, "I thank Senior Brother." Zhang Feng nodded. It was possible for him to promote Zhang Feng to the Inner Sect, this was because he has a mountain residence himself.

In the Black Tiger Gang, once Core Disciples got their mountain residence, they were allowed to recruit a thousand Serving Disciples, three hundred Outer Disciples, and one hundred Inner Disciples. Also, every year, they have the power to promote ten Serving Disciples to the Outer Sect and promote three Outer Sect Disciples to the Inner Sect. They even have the right to promote one Inner Sect Disciple to a Core Disciple, after careful scrutiny by the sect. As for the promotion of an Outer Disciple to the Inner Sect, there was no need to inspect.

Besides Elders who have their own mountains, only the top ten Core Disciples and Zhang Feng have this power. This power also gave them the opportunity to win people over.

It must be said that apart from being able to use a tiger ship, Zhang Feng has the same benefits as the top ten Core Disciples. This was the reason why the top ten Core Disciples targeted him. It was also the reason why Zhang Feng was going against the top ten Core Disciples.

In Zhang Feng's opinion, since he was fully capable of becoming one of the top ten Core Disciples, he should have the right to use a tiger ship. But since he couldn't use one, this caused him to be envious of the top ten Core Disciples, which increased his hatred towards them.

For the top ten Core Disciples, Zhang Feng was just the top Inner Disciple. He doesn't have the right to have his own mountain residence. However, he was actually bestowed with a mountain. Wasn't this a provocation to the top ten Core Disciples? Because of this, the hatred between both sides became deeper and deeper.

Zhang Feng turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, because of you, the Ignored Valley has become important to me. So I have to keep you here. But don't worry, I definitely won't trap you in this place. I will promote you to the Inner Sect soon. I'm not someone who would kill the donkey after unloading the grains."

Zhao Hai bowed and said, "Senior Brother, I understand."

Zhang Feng looked at the time and said, "In two days, I'll have Little Hao send you the formation manual. I can't stay here for a long time, I also have to be careful."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Senior Brother can rest assured, there won't be any problems here." Zhang Feng nodded before he stood up.

Looking at the two people leaving through the transmission formation, Zhao Hai waved his hand as Laura and the others appeared beside him. Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, you want to study the formations of the Great World of Cultivation?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Of course. The Great World of Cultivation is a cut above compared to the lower realms. The formations they use are certainly more powerful. If we make their formations three-dimensional, it would be very useful for us."

Laura nodded. Then she asked, "Why did you call us over?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "What, don't you feel it troublesome to stay in the Space all the time? I plan to take you out to play. The Black Tiger Gang's domain is so big. It shouldn't be difficult to find a fun place to go."

Hearing, Zhao Hai, Laura and the others stared before they laughed. Cai'er said, "Young Master, we must go to the Seven-colored Flower Valley!" Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, then we'll go to the Seven-colored Flower Valley."

The Seven-colored Flower Valley was a forbidden area within the Black Tiger Gang's domain. It was a huge mountain valley. Inside this valley were seven-colored flowers. These flowers weren't as big as Cai'er's true body. However, the poison within these flowers was terrifying. Core Formation cultivators would be poisoned and die if they were to inhale this poison. Such poisons were very rare. This was also the reason why the valley was deemed as a forbidden area by the sect.

Naturally, being "forbidden" was merely a title. People would still come to the valley from time to time. Most of these people were at the Core Formation Stage. They would pick flowers in order to concoct poison.

The Seven-colored Flower Valley has already been mapped by the Space. Cai'er immediately liked the place when he saw it. So upon hearing that Zhao Hai wanted to go out and place, she quickly proposed to go there. Naturally, Laura and the others wouldn't decline.

Zhao Hai waved his hand as the group vanished and then reappeared near a valley. The valley was indeed enormous. From side to side, the valley spanned several kilometers. The valley was surrounded by tall mountains that blocked the cold air. Because of this, the valley was warm all throughout the year.

Due to the climate, the valley was filled with beautiful flowers. Nobody would want to leave the place. And if you were below the Core Formation Stage, then you definitely wouldn't be leaving this place.

As the group appeared at the valley, a prompt was immediately issued by the Space. It said that the valley was full of poisonous gas and that they were poisoned. Fortunately, an antidote was quickly made.

They have seen the scenery inside the Space. But after seeing it with their own eyes, Laura and the others couldn't help but cheer. Then they flew all over the valley as they looked at the flowers. They looked like beautiful butterflies.

Although the flowers in the valley were poisonous, they were very fragrant. Moreover, the fragrance wasn't thick, it was mild and very nice to the nose. Naturally, if you cannot get rid of the poison, this fragrance would be your end.

Looking at the women, Zhao Hai smiled as he stood on the side. His view of the valley has become akin to a painting. It could be described as poetic.

Chapter 1666: Becoming Friends

There was a tall mountain whose peak was filled with white snow. It was silent and lifeless.

Suddenly, the snow moved as a small white head burrowed out of the ground. It was a snow mouse. The snow mouse ate insects and moss to live. They were one of the few animals that can survive on the cold mountain.

Suddenly someone's voice was heard, "Brother Hai, this place is beautiful. It would be a good spot for barbecue. Why don't we rest here?"

Another voice was heard, "Looking at the view, it's really a good place for a barbecue."

The snow mouse was terrified. It quickly burrowed into the snow and never appeared again. At this time, a transparent building fell into the ground. Looking inside the house, one could see several people inside surrounding a brazier. They had iron skewers in their hands that had meat on them. They were currently pointing the skewers towards the hot brazier.

Naturally, these people were Zhao Hai's group. The house was made using Liquid Silver. The group has been playing around the Black Tiger Gang's domain. Naturally, they went to desolate places so nobody could see them.

Today, Laura proposed having a barbecue. Meg and the others also began to prepare. Then they chose a place with good scenery to enjoy their meal. In the end, they decided to look at a snowy place while eating barbecue.

As they were roasting their meat, Laura turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, the Outer Sect competition will start in one month. Do you need to prepare?"

Zhao Hai drank the ice cold beer in his hand as he smiled and said, "What preparations do I have to do? You should have seen the strength of the Black Tiger Gang's Outer Sect. Besides those who arrived at the Foundation Establishment stage, everyone else is at the spirit refining stage. Although they're stronger compared to other cultivators, they don't have faith power. If I were to prepare against them, then I would become a bully. What I need to prepare is how I should act during the battles."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Laura and the others couldn't help but smile. Zhao Hai's present strength could win against Inner Disciples, not to mention these Outer Disciples. If he were to be serious against these people, then he would just be bullying them.

The group continued to eat barbecue and chatted. They were very carefree. At this moment, Cai'er suddenly said, "Young Master, there's someone. A cultivator."

Zhao Hai stared, then he asked, "Only one person? How strong are they?"

Cai'er knit her brows and said, "It should be the Spirit Refining Level, or Core Formation. From what it looks like, this person isn't from the Black Tiger Gang."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright. You go back to the Space first. I'll stay behind to see why a Core Formation Cultivator dared to go into the Black Tiger Gang's domain." Cai'er and the others nodded before their bodies flashed and returned to the Space. Only Zhao Hai was left. He took back the house and sat cross legged in mid-air. He had a cup of wine in his hand but he didn't drink.

Before long, Zhao Hai saw someone's shadow from a distance. This person also detected Zhao Hai, but he didn't stop. Instead, he sped up towards Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai didn't move and just looked at the person's direction. So before long, the person appeared in front of him. When he saw this man, Zhao Hai understood why Cai'er said that he wasn't from the Black Tiger Gang. This man was dressed in red cultivator robes and also had red hair. He was quite handsome, but his face showed an arrogant expression.

But as he looked further into the person, Zhao Hai was surprised. This was because he couldn't feel any danger from this person nor did he feel any hostility. Zhao Hai also noticed that the person's arrogant expression seemed fake. It shouldn't be this person's usual behavior.

The person was also observing Zhao Hai. He wanted to see Zhao Hai's reaction. It must be known that his current behavior was a standard for the Roaring Flame Sect. It should be known that the Roaring Flame Sect and the Black Tiger Fang were in conflict. Whenever disciples of these two sects meet, unless there was a huge gap in strength, the two sides would fight. Killing one another was normal.

The man wanted to see how Zhao Hai would react upon seeing him. Would he fight immediately or run away?

Surprisingly, Zhao Hai continued to calmly sit cross-legged in place. He had a slight frown but had no hostility in his face. The man couldn't help but be curious about Zhao Hai. He couldn't help but want to provoke him.

With an arrogant expression, he laughed loudly and said, "I didn't expect to meet a kid from the Black Tiger Gang just as I got out of the Valley of Fire. Kid, I'll let you go if you kowtow to me."

Zhao Hai looked at the man and then smiled as he said, "Brother, stop pretending. You don't know how to act at all. I'm afraid you're not even from the Roaring Flame Sect."

As soon as the man heard Zhao Hai, his expression couldn't help but pause. He thought that Zhao Hai was bluffing him, but it doesn't seem to be the case. Zhao Hai had a smile on his face. He definitely wasn't bluffing.

The arrogant look on his face disappeared. He looked at Zhao Hai and asked, "Who are you? How can you tell that I'm pretending?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Simple, your body doesn't exude any hostility. Moreover, although you look arrogant, it's clear to me that you're acting. Because of this, I concluded that you're not from the Roaring Flame Sect. If you were, then it's impossible that you won't be hostile towards me."

The man looked at Zhao Hai, then after some time he laughed and said, “Hahaha. Good. Good. I’m from the First Darkness Hall, Han Buli.”

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, “Handyman Hall, Zhao Hai.”

When Han Buli heard Zhao Hai, he couldn’t help but be surprised. He said, “Are you really from the Handyman Hall? No, there are only old Elders in charge of the Hall. With your strength, you can’t be an elder. You should be in the Outer Sect. Almost all Outer Disciples of the Handyman Hall are stewards. But you don’t look like a steward. Moreover, a steward isn’t free enough to go to a place like this to drink.”

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, “Handyman Hall’s Watcher of the Ignored Valley, Zhao Hai.”

“Ignored Valley? You’re the watchman of the Ignored Valley? How is that possible? When can the Ignored Valley’s watchman be so free? If you leave, what would happen to the trash? If you don’t take care of the trash, you will be punished.”

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “I know dark magic and can turn people into Undead. Leaving two Undead in the Ignored Valley to take care of the trash is enough.”

Han Buli understood. Then he laughed loudly and said, “Brother, I didn’t expect you to have such capabilities. Everyone regards the Ignored Valley as a place of exile. But here you are. It has become a good place for you. Hahaha. With the Undead to take care of the trash, you can do whatever you want. Right, Brother, how did you get stuck at the Ignored Valley?”

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “I have been careless and offended someone. Haha, Brother, come over and have a drink.” After he said that, Zhao Hai took another glass and took out a bottle of wine. He filled the glass and handed the wine over to Han Buli.

When Han Buli saw Zhao Hai’s action, he was slightly stunned. Then he looked at the glass of wine and finally took it. He raised the glass towards Zhao Hai and said, “Cheers!”

Zhao Hai was surprised. He didn't expect this man to receive and drink his wine. They weren't familiar with each other. Among cultivators, even brothers of the same sect would guard against each other. Not to mention two people who just met. The man's actions truly surprised Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai watched the man drink the wine and said, "Aren't you afraid that I have poisoned the wine? We just met. You're really courageous."

Han Buli looked at Zhao Hai and then smiled as he answered, "Don't you know what the Darkness Hall does? We're all trained to detect poison. Just a look and we can tell. We have also undergone anti-poison training. Ordinary poison cannot affect us."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I really don't know much about the Darkness Hall. Actually, I'm a Battle Slave. I just finished my first battle. But since I offended someone, I was sent to the Ignored Valley. I really am unaware of the matters of the sect."

Han Buli stared at Zhao Hai and said, "You're a Battle Slave? And your sent to the Ignored Valley after your first battle? Is this possible? Isn't there a rule that Battle Slaves need to win 10 battles? How did you become an Outer Sect Disciples after just one battle?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I don't know, I offended some people. Moreover, I'm quite strong. It won't be difficult for me to win 10 battles. It's better to deal with me early so that nobody would notice my disappearance."

Han Buli knit his brows. This wasn't something that a First Darkness Hall Disciple can solve. Although he also had some influence, someone who can promote a Battle Slave to the Outer Sect ahead of time wasn't to be trifled with either. He can't meddle in this matter.

Zhao Hai looked at Han Buli and said, "Brother Han, I hope that you don't tell anyone about today's matter. Otherwise, there will be huge trouble. After today, I'll ask Brother Han to forget our meeting."

Han Buli looked at Zhao Hai, he smiled bitterly as he nodded and said, "Alright, I won't tell anybody. But I think it's good to stay in the Ignored Valley. Even if someone comes to replace you, you won't accept it, won't you?"

Han Buli looked at Zhao Hai while Zhao Hai looked at Han Buli, then the two suddenly laughed. Zhao Hai poured Han Buli another glass of wine. Then the two raised their cups and took a drink. Sometimes, becoming friends was that simple.

Chapter 1667: Nascent Soul Expert

Meeting Han Buli was just an accident and he didn't take the matter seriously. Therefore, he didn't reveal too much. Even if Zhang Feng found out about this meeting, he probably wouldn't do anything. Zhao Hai said that he had offended Zhang Feng, but he didn't say that he had joined Zhang Feng's camp.

However, Han Buli's personality made Zhao Hai glad. Han Buli seems to be someone who doesn't scheme. However, Zhao Hai doesn't know if this was Han Buli pretending. It would need some time before Zhao Hai would consider him as a friend.

The two continued to sit on the snowy mountain as they drank and chatted. They talked about general matters of the gang. They didn't talk about any sensitive matters, but they still had a lot to talk about.

Zhao Hai didn't ask Han Buli about his appearance. This was because he was aware that Han Buli was from the Darkness Hall. Each person belonging to the Darkness Hall were shrouded in mystery. Their duties were very important.

Even so, the conversation between the two was very friendly. It must be known that finding a friend in the Great World of Cultivation wasn't easy. There weren't a lot of people who could chat like the two of them.

As the two chatted, they suddenly felt a powerful aura from a distance. Their expressions changed. This aura clearly belonged to a powerful expert, at least the Nascent Soul Stage. From the direction that the aura was coming from, the expert should be an expert of the Roaring Flame Sect.

Moreover, this person was very good at hiding his location. He didn't show his aura before he was close to the two of them. The reason this person revealed his presence was because he believed that Zhao Hai and Han Buli wouldn't run at this distance.

Han Buli's complexion changed. Then his entire form changed and turned into a person wearing black clothing. His hair also turned black. His handsome face turned ordinary. No matter who looks at him, they would never believe that he was from the Roaring Flame Sect.

Zhao Hai looked at Han Buli in surprise. He didn't know what technique Han Buli used. It could actually change a person's appearance in an instant.

Han Buli noticed Zhao Hai's surprise. He smiled faintly and said, "This is my true appearance. It seems like the other party came for me. You leave while I block him. I have the means to get out on my own."

Zhao Hai looked at Han Buli and then smiled as he said, "We'll work together. We might not even get into a fight with him. Let's see his intentions first. Then we'll talk about what to do after that."

Han Buli stared, he didn't expect Zhao Hai to be this confident. He didn't say anything. Before long, the Nascent Soul Expert appeared not far from the two.

The Nascent Soul Expert was around 100 meters away from Zhao Hai and Han Buli. This expert had red hair and wore red clothing. He looked very much like a Roaring Flame Sect cultivator. His blood red eyes showed how mad with anger he was.

The Nascent Soul Expert viciously stared at the two and said, "One of you killed my grandson. Tell me who it is and I'll give you a reward. If you don't, I will kill both of you."

Zhao Hai looked at the Nascent Soul Expert, then he smiled faintly and said, "Senior, there must be an understanding. This is the Black Tiger Gang's domain. Both of us came here to drink. We would have no time to kill your grandson."

Han Buli bowed and said, "I have seen Senior Firecloud. We just came here to see the snowy scene. We didn't meet your grandson."

The Nascent Soul Expert Firecloud sneered and said, "I don't think you know, but in order to prevent the Black Tiger Gang from infiltrating the Roaring Flame Sect, we installed warning formations all around the valley. Everyone who went to the valley would have tracking powder on them. Whether you entered the

valley or not, the tracking powder can tell. This old man has been chasing that powder all this time. And you actually dared to lie to me. I really don't know if you want to live or die."

Hearing this, Zhao Hai and Han Buli stared, then their expressions changed. It seems like this matter won't become amicable.

Zhao Hai looked at Firecloud, then he sneered and said, "So what if you caught up, are you sure that you can kill us?"

Firecloud laughed and said, "Reckless kid. This old man will teach you what happens if you annoy a Nascent Soul Expert." After he said that, Firecloud made a move and sent a huge fiery-red palm towards Zhao Hai.

Seeing Firecloud's action, Zhao Hai coldly snorted as he pulled his arm and sent a punch forward. Han Buli also took out two black daggers. These daggers seem to absorb the light around them, there were no reflections.

When he saw Han Buli's weapons, Firecloud's expression couldn't help but change. His eyes burned with killing intent as he angrily roared, "Kid, you really killed my grandson. I want you dead!" He waved his hand and took out a big flag. The entire flag was red. As it waved with the wind, it roared like an infernal flame.

At this time, Zhao Hai's punch connected with the red palm that Firecloud sent. A huge explosion was heard and energy began to disperse into the surroundings.

The same time, Firecloud shook his flag. A sea of fire appeared in front of Han Buli. Han Buli crossed his daggers in front of him to protect himself.

Although Firecloud was attacking Han Buli, he was also paying attention to Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai was able to break Firecloud's palm attack. As he looked at Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but be surprised.

It must be known that Firecloud was a true Nascent Soul Expert, and one of the top Nascent Soul Experts of the sect. Even his casual attacks held the power of an ordinary Core Formation Cultivator.

And from what he can sense, Zhao Hai was just at the Spirit Refining Stage. He shouldn't be able to take any moves from Firecloud. Who would have thought that Zhao Hai would be able to break the palm with just one punch.

While Firecloud was looking at Zhao Hai, Zhao Hai also made his move. He waved his hand as ten thousand swords appeared and encircled Firecloud. Zhao Hai was currently using the three-dimensional Stellar Transformations Great Formation.

Seeing that Zhao Hai wanted to deal with him using a sword formation, Firecloud couldn't help but sneer. In his position, sword formations at Zhao Hai's level were useless.

However, he soon discovered his mistake. As he was covered by the sword formation, he felt that he had been enveloped by an entire universe. All kinds of stars, planets, and meteorites were around him. These heavenly bodies seem to emit powerful energy that was suppressing him.

Firecloud was surprised. He felt threatened by the sword formation. He didn't expect it to be like this. He waved his flag as fire appeared around him and then attacked the planets. At the same time, a large Flame Demon appeared. This was Firecloud's Dao Avatar.

Dao Avatars, especially those belonging to Nascent Soul Experts, were very powerful. They towered at 100 meters tall and were fully solid. The flame demon burned with a golden flame and it had a trident in its hands. It roared upwards and breathed fire from its mouth, directly hitting four planets.

Firecloud was thinking of breaking Zhao Hai's sword formation. But he didn't expect the planets to have their own defensive shield that blocked the Flame Demon's attack.

Firecloud couldn't help but concentrate. He didn't expect Zhao Hai to be this formidable. His Dao Avatar actually couldn't break through.

Firecloud has underestimated Zhao Hai's sword formation. Zhao Hai's formation was not the same as average sword formations that cultivators use. Not only was it a three-dimensional formation, each sword of the formation also had a yin-yang lightning pond inside. The yin-yang lightning ponds were responsible for providing energy to the swords. Also, Zhao Hai reinforced his swords with faith power. Such a formation couldn't be easily broken.

Firecloud wasn't the only one who was surprised, Han Buli was the same. Since Firecloud was focused on Zhao Hai, naturally he wouldn't care about Han Buli. Because of this, the fire that was attacking Han Buli has vanished. Han Buli saw Zhao Hai and Firecloud's techniques. He didn't expect Zhao Hai's sword formation to cover a Nascent Soul Expert.

At this time, Zhao Hai turned to Han Buli and said, "You leave first. I can't maintain this for long. I'll withdraw after you leave."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Han Buli knew that there was no time to talk. He immediately said, "Alright, be careful." Then he turned around and flew with all of his strength. Han Buli was very fast. In a blink of an eye, he could no longer be seen.

Zhao Hai turned his head to Firecloud who was stranded inside the formation. He didn't lie to Han Buli. He knew that his sword formation wouldn't be able to deal with Firecloud. Firecloud would be trapped for a while, but after some time, he would be able to break out.

Now that Han Buli left, Zhao Hai no longer needed to trap Firecloud. It was time to run away.

But just to be sure, Zhao Hai erased all traces including the tracing powder that Han Buli left behind. Then he waved his hand and sent everything to the Space.

Firecloud was mad! He didn't expect a Nascent Soul Expert like him to be trapped inside a sword formation by a Spirit Refining kid. He would be shamed if news got out.

Firecloud roared angrily. The Flame Demon also roared into the skies. It waved its trident and destroyed the planets that surrounded him. But much to Firecloud's surprise, although a lot of planets were destroyed, the formation was still operating.

Firecloud was stunned. He doesn't understand. A lot of planets were destroyed, and yet, the formation was still operational! It's strange.

Naturally, this was the property of three-dimensional formations. Even if you destroy half of its nodes, the formation would still function. Firecloud's attack destroyed a third of the nodes, so the formation was still standing.

Just as Firecloud was stunned, the planets returned to their original position. The formation recovered, it was as though it had never been damaged.

Firecloud's attack just shifted the flying swords from their position. These swords were made from liquid silver. Firecloud's attack wasn't enough to destroy them.

Seeing the formation restore itself, Firecloud's expression turned serious. He waved his hand as he used a technique. The Flame Demon roared and then swept the void. A huge crack appeared next to the Flame Demon. Like an erupting volcano, crimson flames spewed out from the rift. When the flames got in contact with the planets, the planets immediately turned to ash. Every time a flame hits a node, Zhao Hai would immediately retrieve his silver sword. Although the swords weren't damaged, they could no longer be reused in the formation. This was because the flames were slowly consuming the formation. More and more flying swords were squeezed out as the flames continued to spew out.

Zhao Hai knew that his formation would be broken. Although the sword formation was broken through, Zhao Hai was still happy. Being able to trap a Nascent Soul Expert for some time, it was clear that three-dimensional formations were formidable.

Seeing his formation being broken and Han Buli already far away, Zhao Hai no longer had the mood to accompany Firecloud. He waved his hand and received his flying swords.

Firecloud was glad as he continued to break the formation. Then suddenly, the formation vanished. The surroundings were quiet. There were no formations, no flying swords, and no enemies. There was nothing. Firecloud was left blankly staring at the snowy mountain.

Firecloud immediately understood that he had been played. Zhao Hai has run away. Firecloud was angered once more. He couldn't help but roar in anger, "I'll tear you to shreds sooner or later." Then he moved and returned to the Roaring Flame Sect. Now that Han Buli and Zhao Hai have left, experts from the Black Tiger Gang will soon arrive. If he was still present, then he would not be able to run away.

Chapter 1668: Black Tiger Gang's Darkness Hall

Zhao Hai sat in the Space looking at the raging Firecloud, he couldn't help but faintly smile. If he fought against Firecloud with all of his strength, it wouldn't be obvious who would die. But he didn't want to expose his strength ahead of time. Therefore, he didn't make a move.

Through this battle, Zhao Hai was able to evaluate his strength. In a glance, he was indeed not an opponent of those monsters in the Nascent Soul Stage. But if he used all of his cards, it would be impossible for Nascent Soul Stage Experts to kill him.

Nascent Soul Experts were already regarded as powerhouses in the Great World of Cultivation. Zhao Hai was relieved. In any case, he knew that he had the strength to protect himself.

Zhao Hai took out a jade sword message. After recording some contents, he released it out of the Space.

Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, do you really want to be friends with Han Buli? He's from the Darkness Hall, and they're responsible for spying in the Black Tiger Gang. Aren't you afraid that he would report you?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "What can he do if he reports it? What does he know? He only knew that I offended Zhang Feng. Then I left Undead to manage the Ignored Valley so that I can go out and play around."

Laura nodded and said, "That's also right. Brother Hai, Firecloud's last move seems to cut the void. Can that move reach the Space?"

Zhao Hai knit his brows. To be honest, Firecloud's move that cut the void was scary. His greatest ace was the Space. If the people of the Great World of Cultivation can cut the void and reach the Space, then things would be dangerous for him.

Zhao Hai calmed down after some time as he said, "We can only take one careful step at a time. The Great World of Cultivation is too complicated. A Nascent Soul Expert can already cut through the void. The more powerful they are, the more likely they would be able to discover the Space. When that happens, we would no longer be safe. We need to be more careful."

At this time, Cai'er said, "I think we're still safe. The Space is different from the Great World of Cultivation's void. The Space belongs to Young Master alone and it already has its own laws. It can be said that it doesn't exist in the same place as the void of the Great World of Cultivation. It should be impossible for these experts to enter the Space through cutting the void."

Zhao Hai replied, "We still need to be careful. After all, the Space is our greatest secret. We absolutely cannot expose it. We can't risk it."

Cai'er nodded. She also knows how important it was to keep the Space a secret. This was the most valuable card that they have. Therefore, she didn't oppose what Zhao Hai said.

Zhao Hai turned to Cai'er and said, "Did you place a silver needle on Han Buli?"

Cai'er nodded and said, "I did. You can rest assured."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Pay attention to him. When he reaches a special place, immediately withdraw the needle. There are a lot of experts in the Great World of Cultivation. Since the Darkness Hall specializes in spying, they should also have measures to prevent them from being spied upon. I'm afraid they would discover the silver needle. We would rather not know about them than let them suspect us."

Cai'er nodded, "I understand. It's better to lose than to not wake up. Is that right?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Right. Before we find out if the experts of the Great World of Cultivation could really penetrate through to the Space, we need to be careful."

Cai'er nodded, "Young Master, would you really follow Zhang Feng's instructions in the competition? Now that Han Buli knows how strong you are, wouldn't he have some suspicions?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "He won't. The only thing he knows is that we're afraid of Zhang Feng. Therefore, it's understandable for us to hide our strength. Perhaps he might even believe in me more."

While Zhao Hai and Cai'er chatted, Han Buli received Zhao Hai's jade sword message. Han Buli was now in a secret hideout of the Black Tiger Gang. Because this place wasn't far from the Roaring Flame Sect,

the Darkness Hall created a hideout. This was also to prevent people from the Black Tiger Gang from accidentally killing experts who were in disguise.

It was impossible for normal members of the Black Tiger Gang to know of this hideout. The people who knew were either from the Darkness Hall or those with special status. Han Buli was both, so he naturally knew about the hideout.

After leaving the battle, Han Buli flew to the hideout at his quickest speed. And since he had an agreement with Zhao Hai, Han Buli didn't reveal that Zhao Hai stayed in order to stall Firecloud. He just told the people in the hideout that a Nascent Soul Expert from the Roaring Flame Sect has been spotted going into the Black Tiger Domain.

If it were other people who made the report, the hideout might not have cared. However, this was Han Buli, so they didn't have a choice. He had enough status in the sect to not be ignored.

Han Buli was from the Black Tiger Gang's Han Clan. Only a few people outside the Black Tiger Gang knew about the Han Clan. Even in the Black Tiger Gang, not many people know about this family.

The Great Han Family was as old as the Black Tiger Gang itself. But this family has one characteristic. Their members had been members of the Darkness Hall for generations. It was precisely because of this that they had been very secretive.

Although not a lot of people knew about the Han Clan, those who did were afraid of them. This was because the clan's influence on the sect was very strong.

Since the Han Clan has always been in the Darkness Hall, their forces have been deeply ingrained into every corner of the hall. It can be said that the Darkness Hall had become the personal power of the Han Clan. Despite this, the Han Clan maintained a very good relationship with the Black Tiger Gang's leaders. In case there was a contention for the position of Gang Leader, the Han Clan always stayed on the sidelines. Because of this, the Han Clan wasn't suppressed by the sect.

Han Buli was a special existence in the Han Clan. He's the Clan's third Young Master. However, since his talent wasn't very good, he ate countless pills until he reached the Core Formation Stage. A person like him couldn't survive in a cruel family, yet Han Buli was alive and well. Moreover, in the Han Clan, almost everyone gave him face.

This wasn't to say that the Han Clan were a kindhearted folk. In fact, the internal competition within the Han Clan was something that ordinary people couldn't imagine. The reason Han Buli managed to gain a foothold in the Han clan despite being a Core Formation Stage was his ability, Morph Presence.

Morph Presence was the product of combining a divergent ability and a technique. This allowed Han Buli to turn into another person instantaneously, including their temperament. Moreover, there were no flaws in his disguise. Most importantly, no matter how strong the expert was, they wouldn't be able to see through Han Buli. Because of this one ability, Han Buli became a formidable figure in the Darkness Hall.

The Darkness Hall was in charge of espionage and assassination. With an ability to change his appearance, there was no information that cannot be obtained nor a person who can't be assassinated. Therefore, the Han Clan placed great importance upon Han Buli.

The people of the hideout knew how irreplaceable Han Buli was to the Han Clan. Naturally, the Nascent Soul Expert in the hideout knew about this. So when he heard Han Buli's report, he immediately became nervous. He immediately accompanied Han Buli and went out to the place where Firecloud and Zhao Hai were fighting.

But just as Han Buli left the hideout, Zhao Hai's jade sword message arrived stating that he was safe. Although Han Buli was surprised by Zhao Hai's strength, he still followed the Nascent Soul Experts towards the battlefield.

Before long, the two arrived at the snowy mountain. Naturally, the place was deserted. Besides the disturbed spiritual qi in the surroundings, nothing else can be seen.

The Nascent Soul Expert closed his eyes. After feeling the fluctuations in the surroundings, he frowned and said, "It's really someone from the Roaring Flame Sect. It might be that old bat Firecloud. But you said that he was following you. Who in the sect fought him? This aura is unfamiliar. I'm sure I haven't encountered it before."

Han Buli certainly wouldn't reveal that it was Zhao Hai. He shook his head and didn't make a noise. The Nascent Soul Expert knit his brows and said, "Why would that Firecloud run over here?"

Han Buli turned to the Nascent Soul Expert and said, "This might be because of me. This time, I went to the valley to do a mission. Unfortunately, I failed. As soon as I began to act, someone found out and tried to kill me. I immediately ran away after killing that person."

The Nascent Soul Expert nodded and said, "It seems like the Roaring Flame Sect has taken precautions. Recently, we've lost contact with several spies we placed in the valley."

Han Buli nodded, "I'm already suspicious of this matter. I'm about to make a report. Martial Uncle, I won't stay here any longer. I'll go back immediately."

The Nascent Soul Expert nodded and said, "Go, your duty is more important." Han Buli nodded and then turned around and left. Before long, he passed through the transmission formation and returned to the headquarters of the Darkness Hall.

The Darkness Hall was a very mysterious group. A lot of people in the Black Tiger Gang knew about the Darkness Hall, but only a few of them knew where its headquarters was located. This also made people curious about the Darkness Hall. What they didn't expect was that the Darkness Hall's headquarters was located in a city!

Chapter 1669: Darkness Hall

Han Buli appeared in a very ordinary courtyard. There were several buildings in the courtyard with the tallest one being a three-storey building. The building didn't look big. There were also cultivators wearing ordinary clothes going in and out of it. It looked completely nondescript.

On the top of the building was a sign saying "Prospecting Hall". Under the sign were three words saying "Rare Metals Branch".

The Prospecting Hall was a very common division of the Black Tiger Gang. And it wasn't one of the main halls of the sect. Its main purpose was to issue prospecting missions, keep records about the mineral veins of the sect, and detect new mineral veins.

It could be said that the Prospecting Hall was the most unnoticed Hall of the Black Tiger Gang. People would immediately lose interest upon hearing the name Prospecting Hall.

But what nobody knew was that the Prospecting Hall's Rare Metal Branch was the location of the sect's Darkness Hall Headquarters.

The Rare Metals Branch still issues prospecting missions and receives intel about rare metal mines. Their operation was no different to the other Halls.

Due to this, people from the Darkness Hall who enter weren't suspected. Others would only think that these were informers that brought back information. Han Buli was used to coming to this place, so he just walked towards the building.

Before long, he entered the small building. On the first floor were several windows with setups that looked the same as banks. This was a huge place for cultivators to take missions.

Han Buli didn't stay in this hall but instead took the staircase on the side. As he walked towards the staircase, Han Buli was followed by envious looks.

The first floor was where the missions were issued while the second floor was where the missions were handed in. In the eyes of these people, Han Buli was here to hand in his task.

On the second floor were a hall and two rooms. The two rooms were marked as the handover office. The doors of the two rooms were closed. There were two rows of chairs outside the rooms where people could sit down and wait. If they wanted to hand in their missions on these two rooms, they could only do it one by one.

As for the hall, it was like the first floor where windows were set up. There were staff members sitting on the opposite side tasked with receiving the missions. The hall handled the ordinary missions such as ore samples and information about mines. At the same time, it registered the person who handed the mission over.

The two rooms, on the other hand, handled the more important missions. Inside the rooms were Elders that received missions of high importance. Because of this, only very few people entered the two rooms. Most of the people went to the hall to handle their matters.

After Han Buli arrived on the second floor, he looked towards the two rooms. There were no people waiting outside but the light outside the door were red, which meant that there were people inside. Instead of walking around, he sat down and closed his eyes, recalling his encounter with Zhao Hai.

Han Buli was certain that his meeting with Zhao Hai wasn't intentional but a pure coincidence. But he was still worried. He was prepared to check Zhao Hai's details using the clan. He wanted to be sure.

To be honest, Han Buli was quite fond of Zhao Hai. Both of them hit it off very well. Although they didn't know each other for a long time, he wanted to make Zhao Hai his friend.

But because of Han Buli's status, he couldn't just casually make friends. This was because his relationships would affect his clan. Therefore, he needs to be careful.

At this time, a sound of a door opening was heard from one of the rooms. Then a cultivator walked out. The cultivator wasn't very strong and he looked very ordinary. After he came out, he immediately walked downstairs.

Han Buli stood up and walked towards the room. The person guarding the room didn't block Han Buli. Naturally, he recognized Han Buli, so he gave him a nod.

Han Buli returned the nod and then entered the room. The room wasn't that different from the outside. There was also a window inside that had a person on the other side. Inside was another door leading to a smaller room, it was so small that nobody could tell what was inside.

Han Buli nodded to the staff member before entering the small room. There was nothing inside the room beside a transmission formation. Han Buli stood on the formation and he disappeared after a flash of white light.

The next moment, Han Buli arrived inside another hall. One could see at a glance that this place was underground. Although there were daylight formations above, the place was very dry. There were also columns supporting the entire hall.

Just as Han Buli stepped out of the formation, a cultivator immediately arrived beside him. The cultivator looked at Han Buli without saying anything.

Han Buli knew the rules, so he immediately took out his jade token. Unlike the white jade token of the others, Han Buli's jade token was purple.

Seeing the jade token in Han Buli's hand, the cultivator nodded and then left. All this time, the cultivator didn't speak.

Han Buli was used to the person's mannerisms. He took his jade token back and then walked into the hall. There were a lot of people in the hall being busy with their own matters. People would be seen speaking here and there, but the overall environment was quiet.

Upon seeing Han Buli, one of them laughed and said, "Little Buli, how did you do? Were you successful?"

Han Buli looked at the person and then he smiled and said, "Third Brother, I don't want to talk about it. I failed. I have something to report to Third Uncle, so I won't stay here." The man nodded and then patted Han Buli's shoulder to comfort him before going away.

Han Buli continued walking forward and before long he arrived outside a cave residence. Most cave residences wouldn't have large entrances, but this one did. It looked like an entrance to another Hall. Han Buli entered the residence. Inside was a middle-aged cultivator. He sat behind a table as he read the contents of a jade slip.

Seeing Han Buli, the middle-aged man couldn't help but smile as he said, "Little Buli, how are you? Did you succeed in your mission?"

The middle-aged cultivator was Han Buli's third uncle, a Nascent Soul Expert. Moreover, he was the Hall Master of the Darkness Hall. Ever since Han Buli was little, the two had a good relationship.

Han Buli embarrassingly patted his head and said, "I've disappointed Third Uncle. I failed this time."

Han Buli's third uncle lightly frowned and said, "You failed? Alright, it doesn't matter. As long as you return safely."

Han Buli followed up, "Third Uncle, I was discovered by the Roaring Flame Sect immediately. I killed the person who saw me but I didn't expect him to be the grandson of the Roaring Flame Sect's Elder Firecloud. He chased me down, almost killing me."

As soon as he heard Han Buli, his third uncle knitted his brows and said, "You were found out as soon as you got there? With your ability, you should have been able to infiltrate. Something's wrong."

Han Buli replied, "Third Uncle, I heard from Firecloud that the Roaring Flame Sect has established several warning formations on the Inferno Valley. Moreover, they employ tracking powder to see who passed through the tracking formation. This is the reason why I was discovered."

Hearing this, Han Buli's third uncle couldn't help but stare, "Firecloud said that? That old bastard, why would he tell you this?"

Han Buli also briefly talked about his encounter with Zhao Hai and fighting against the enemy with him. Then he said, "Third Uncle, if the Roaring Flame Sect used tracking powder, things would get complicated. Even sending jade sword messages would be difficult."

Han Buli's third uncle nodded and said, "It seems like we need to find a way to break through their measures. Right, Zhao Hai, you said that he's reliable?"

Han Buli replied, "I don't know his status, but Third Uncle should send people to find out about his details. If he's reliable, then I want to become friends with him."

Han Buli's third uncle nodded and said, "We should do that. According to you, Zhao Hai is a talent. If the clan can win him over, it would be good for us. Alright, you go back, I'll deal with this matter." Han Buli nodded before he turned around and left.

Seeing Han Buli leave, Third Uncle took out a jade sword message and sent his message inside. After sending the jade sword message out, he said, "Zhao Hai, huh, interesting."

What Han Buli didn't know was that his Third Uncle already had a deep understanding about Zhao Hai. This was because Luo Ying of the Sky Tower was actually a person from the Darkness Hall. The Darkness

Hall's information about Zhao Hai is richer compared to the rest of the Black Tiger Gang. Even Zhang Feng didn't know Zhao Hai more than the Darkness Hall.

Zhao Hai's actions in the lower realms entered Third Uncle's attention. He also knew how uncommon Zhao Hai's strength was. Moreover, he has Faith Power. But Zhao Hai seems to have no method to make a Dao Avatar. Half of the reason why Zhao Hai was chosen by the Sky Tower was his capabilities, while half was because of Han Buli's Third Uncle. He didn't expect Zhao Hai to get to know Han Buli this early. It was truly interesting.

Third Uncle had his people check up on Zhao Hai's conditions in the Black Tiger Gang. As for Zhao Hai's identity, he had no suspicions at all.

Chapter 1670: Internal Struggle

Zhao Hai didn't know about Han Buli's movements. Although he had a silver needle on Han Buli's body, it was quickly removed as soon as he entered the Prospecting Hall's building.

Zhao Hai knew clearly that Han Buli wouldn't enter the Rare Metal Branch for no reason at all. The place clearly has relations with the Darkness Hall. If this was the case, then liquid silver would most likely be detected. He would rather not know what Han Buli was doing than be suspected.

With that done, Zhao Hai was now preparing for the competition. With the event one month away, Zhao Hai needed to prepare.

These days, Zhao Hai practiced in the Space. He wasn't practicing how to kill the enemy but instead how to act out his battles. He wanted to be ranked in the middle of the Outer Sect. So he needed to perform well, otherwise people would suspect him.

If people knew what Zhao Hai was preparing for, then they would definitely spit out blood. Others were going all out to increase their strength before the competition. Then there was Zhao Hai, practicing how to act.

Time passed and the competition was getting closer. Han Buli didn't look for Zhao Hai all this time but instead chose to send him jade sword messages. Zhao Hai also knew that people had been inquiring

about him. Zhao Hai didn't care. In any case, besides him, Zhang Hao, Zhang Feng, and Elder Hu, nobody knew that he went under Zhang Feng's wing. Therefore, the relationship between Zhao Hai and Zhang Feng would certainly be kept a secret.

A week before the competition, as Zhao Hai was practicing inside the Space, the transmission formation of the Ignored Valley lit up. Then Zhang Hao appeared.

Zhao Hai left the Space and immediately met Zhang Hao, "I have seen Brother Zhang. Brother, why did you come?"

It has been four days since Zhang Hao's last visit. Therefore, there should still be a couple of days before his return. Zhao Hai didn't expect him to come early.

Zhang Hao smiled faintly and said, "First Senior Brother was worried about the competition, so he had me come over to see you. Right, take this, it's all of the formation diagrams that First Senior Brother managed to find. Take a look. First Senior Brother worked hard to get all these, you should use it well."

Zhao Hai's expression lit up as he accepted the jade slip that Zhang Hao handed over. Then the two walked to the cave residence. As the two were walking, Zhang Hao turned to Zhao Hai and said, "First Senior Brother gave these formations to you, but you still have to focus on cultivation. As cultivators, our strength is our foundation. Senior Brother also said that if it's too difficult to recycle waste materials, you can make less. Just don't delay your cultivation."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I understand. Please tell Senior Brother Zhang that I know what to do. After the competition, I'll send a gift to Senior Brother."

Zhang Hao stared and asked, "A gift to Senior Brother? What do you want to give?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "It's still an idea. After I make it, I'll tell you." After he said that, the two entered the cave residence and sat down.

Zhang Hao frowned as he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you shouldn't play around. Senior Brother doesn't lack anything. If your cultivation is delayed because of your gift, Senior Brother wouldn't appreciate it."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Senior Brother Zhang can rest assured. I know what I'm doing."

Zhang Hao looked at Zhao Hai. He didn't say anything for some time before he nodded and said, "Then I wouldn't bother you about this anymore. About the competition, how are your preparations?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Don't worry, I made my preparations. I can guarantee that I won't be last, but I won't get a high position as well."

Zhang Hao nodded, then he said, "I'll leave that to you then. Senior Brother will not treat you badly."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he said, "How is Senior Brother doing now? Did he manage to pull people over?"

Hearing Zhao Hai, Zhang Hao couldn't help but sigh as he said, "He managed to pull people in, but in secret. Moreover, he couldn't get powerful experts. You must know that First Senior Brother is only the First Inner Disciple. His status is still lower than the top ten Core Disciples. This is his biggest disadvantage."

Zhao Hai knitted his brows and said, "Why wouldn't First Senior Brother become a Core disciple? As long as he becomes a Core Disciple, he would be able to publicize his action against the top ten Core Disciples."

Zhang Hao shook his head and said, "It's not simple. You're not aware of the situation in the Black Tiger Gang. Behind every core disciple is a huge clan or a large power. These groups are intertwined with the Black Tiger Gang and it's not easy to move them. The Gang Leader might seem like his words are law, but in fact his decisions are dictated by these huge groups. For the sect, these groups are too big to lose. They've already become the pillars that supported the Gang Leader's throne."

After he said this, Zhang Hao stopped, then he continued, "The current Gang Leader is First Senior Brother's Martial Uncle. Back when First Senior Brother was still at the Dao Avatar Stage, his master was plotted and killed by the people from the Roaring Flame Sect. From then on, the Gang Master was responsible for teaching First Senior Brother. Although the two didn't have a master-disciple relationship, they were master and disciple in reality. Because of this, First Senior Brother doesn't want these large groups to impede the Gang Master's plans for the sect. Therefore, he went on the opposite side of the top ten Core Disciples."

Zhao Hai nodded. This matter wasn't unusual. Groups existed inside a sect. When these groups grow to a certain level, their large tails would eventually hit the walls of the sect. It's even possible that they would replace the sect master. This happens all the time in the Great World of Cultivation.

The contention inside the Black Tiger Gang seems to have reached its peak. The major groups were beginning to misbehave and act on their own. They also began to make unreasonable demands to the Gang Leader. Naturally, the Gang Leader doesn't want to be controlled by these groups and become a puppet. Their clash naturally affected the sect. The struggle between Zhang Feng and the top ten Core Disciples was a superposition of the struggle between the Gang Leader and these large groups.

Zhang Hao sighed and said, "The Gang Leader originally wanted to divide these groups, winning some of them while dealing with the others. But he didn't expect these groups to be united against him. His plan didn't work. In the end, he can only push First Senior Brother's status up and bring the battle to the disciples."

Zhao Hai also sighed. He can imagine how hard it was for Zhang Feng. For these large groups to openly confront the Gang Leader, their influence was certainly huge. Zhang Feng fought against the core disciples that were supported by these large groups. One could imagine how difficult it was.

Zhang Hao added, "Little Hai, you're crucial to First Senior Brother's plans. Therefore, First Senior Brother cannot show you to the Black Tiger Gang. We can't let you be too eye-catching. You need to be hidden so that you can play the biggest role."

Zhao Hai nodded. The Black Tiger Gang was different from the Hundred Treasures Realm. Back in the Hundred Treasures Realm, the reason Zhao Hai could openly recycle materials was because the Hundred Treasures Realm was united. The Black Tiger Gang was different. The sect wasn't united at all. If his ability was revealed, both sides would certainly go all out to get him. If they fail to win him over, then they would definitely try to kill him. They would adopt the mentality of "If we can't have him, then nobody can have him".

Zhang Feng wanted Zhao Hai to lay low so that his abilities wouldn't be discovered. And to make people be less suspicious, Zhang Feng released word that Zhao Hai offended him. This way, these huge groups wouldn't hunt Zhao Hai down.

Zhang Hao continued to chat with Zhao Hai for some time before he left. As Zhang Hao disappeared from the transmission formation, Zhao Hai pondered about the future of the Black Tiger Gang. But his thinking about this was hazy, he didn't know how the Black Tiger Gang would turn up.

The Black Tiger was quite chaotic. There was constant infighting within the sect while there were strong enemies outside. If it continued, the future of the Black Tiger Gang would be bleak. This was something that Zhao Hai didn't want to see.

However, Zhao Hai doesn't have the means to fix this at this time. If it was the lower realms, then he could definitely use his overwhelming strength to establish order. But in the Great World of Cultivation, Zhao Hai was just a small person among big clans. Zhao Hai even had to worry about the Space being discovered. In this case, how could he possibly change the Black Tiger Gang.

After thinking about it for a while, Zhao Hai still didn't have any ideas what to do. In the end, Zhao Hai could only shake his head and give up thinking. He understood that the reason why he couldn't think of anything was because he wasn't strong enough. In the Black Tiger Gang, he was a nobody. He was merely a Battle Slave that was promoted ahead of time. If people knew that he wanted to change the Black Tiger Gang, they would definitely laugh at him.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile when he thought of this. He no longer bothered himself with this matter. He returned to the Space in order to practice his acting.

Seven days passed in a blink of an eye and it was the Outer Sect competition of the Black Tiger Gang. On this day, disciples like Zhao Hai were called over to participate. In the meantime, Elder Hu would take charge of the Ignored Valley.

Elder Hu doesn't need to attend the competition. He's an Inner Sect Disciple and his cultivation also wouldn't advance. He can only work until he gets old. Naturally, he wouldn't need to participate in any competitions.

Elder Hu already knew that Zhao Hai was going to participate, so when he saw Zhao Hai he wasn't surprised. Instead, he nodded and said, "You're an Outer Sect Disciple, so you need to participate. If you do well, then you can leave this place. If you don't place well, then you need to come back. I'll have some disciples take over your post in the Ignored Valley." Zhao Hai nodded before he turned around and left. Elder Hu waved his hand as he called five Serving Disciples over. These disciples begrudgingly went to the transmission formation in order to watch the Ignored Valley.

The Black Tiger Gang's Outer Sect Competition would be held at a mountain inside the Black Tiger Gang's domain. The mountain was called Mount Xingtai. There are no resources on this mountain. Besides rocks, nothing else could be seen on the mountain. Seeing the mountain's state, the sect sent people to transform it into a martial stage. This way, the sect can hold competitions on it. All around the mountain were platforms both large and small.

The mountain was initially used as an Internal Life and Death Arena of the sect. But later on, the sect banned life and death battles. Because of this, the mountain eventually became a place for competitions. The Serving Disciples, Outer Disciple, and Inner Disciple competitions all happen on the mountain. Only the Core Disciple Competition was held in a different place.

During competitions, other people were allowed to come and watch. Even if you were a Serving Disciple, you can still come over and spectate.

Due to the large population of Outer Disciples, the competition would last 15 days. The elimination system was used to determine who fights who. The Outer Disciples were also divided into 50 divisions. It was a grand occasion for the Outer Sect.

When Zhao Hai arrived on the mountain, a large number of people were already present. Outer Disciples would then draw lots in order to know which division they would be in. Battles would start within these divisions. Only after you defeat all the other people in your division would you enter the final round.

Zhao Hai was assigned to the fifth division with a number of 78. Zhao Hai didn't pay much attention to his number. After receiving his number, he went to the stone platform and then sat down, waiting to be called.

Before long, all participating Outer Disciples received their numbers and the competition was about to begin. Before the competition began, the outer sect steward appeared. This Elder was in charge of all the Outer Sect Disciples. This person held great power. But actually, he didn't manage the Outer Sect very much. After many years, the outer sect of the Black Tiger Gang formed their own groups. And if one looks closely, one could see the shadow of the Inner Sect on these groups. And these Inner Sect backers were also backed by either the major factions in the sect or some core disciples. Because of this, the Outer Sect Steward has little hold over the outer disciples.

But since his position was the Outer Sect's Steward, the Elder still has to show themselves today. The current Black Tiger Gang's Outer Sect Steward was surnamed Chen. He has gray hair with a radiant smile on his face. He looked easy to get along with.