

Cultivating with Top Enlightenment

Chapter 16: Chapter 16 Scripture Pavilion

"Master, I have something else to give you."

Taoist Longshan looked over curiously and saw Ning Qi handing over a prescription.

An improved version of the Body Tempering Powder.

"In my free time, I thought the original Body Tempering Powder had room for improvement, so I made some modifications. The effect is more than doubled compared to before."

Taoist Longshan was stunned, then overjoyed.

He didn't doubt Ning Qi's words.

With the True Martial Stance as precedent, Taoist Longshan accepted it quickly.

The True Martial Stance was already an incredible delight, and this improved Body Tempering Powder is visibly beneficial to the True Martial Sect, enough to allow True Martial disciples to grow even faster. It enriches the foundation of the sect—a treasure of unparalleled value!

Taoist Longshan looked at Ning Qi with gratitude in his eyes.

At this moment.

He sincerely felt.

Perhaps bringing Ning Qi to the True Martial Mountain years ago was the wisest decision of his life.

With a disciple like this, what more could one ask for?

"Jiu, if you have any needs, feel free to tell your master. Since you are now a True Martial Path Guardian, you can freely use any resources of the True Martial Sect in the future."

Taoist Longshan said solemnly.

The True Martial Path Guardian remains hidden, the absolute trump card of the True Martial Sect, naturally enjoying excellent treatment.

Not to mention Ning Qi's contributions to the True Martial Sect.

At this point, Taoist Longshan had completely abandoned his prior thoughts. Just after closing his session, he was still thinking about planning a path to Martial Saint for Ning Qi to not waste his talent. However, upon seeing Ning Qi's monstrous talent, he changed his mind.

For such a genius, the best way to teach is to provide abundant resources and let him grow freely.

There's no need to intervene in other areas.

Otherwise, if he misguides him, Taoist Longshan would never forgive himself.

Ning Qi felt slightly excited in his heart, not expecting these benefits after becoming a Path Guardian.

What did he long for the most?

It must be the Scripture Pavilion of the True Martial Sect.

Inside, there are not only various martial arts secret manuals but also numerous Taoist scriptures, geomancy, and medical books.

In the past, even though Taoist Longshan was very fond of him, he could only view part of it. After all, without rules, nothing can be achieved; even the many true disciples with better treatment must pay attention to contribution and cannot take freely. Otherwise, the sect will inevitably decline or even perish in the long run.

"Master, can I live in the Scripture Pavilion in the future?" Ning Qi asked expectantly.

It takes time to borrow and read each time; otherwise, he might as well move there.

Although the True Dragon Stance can be considered an unparalleled stance skill, Ning Qi is still not satisfied. If he uses the many martial arts in the Scripture Pavilion as a foundation, perhaps he can create an even more formidable stance skill.

If he could transform the whole Scripture Pavilion into his foundation, Ning Qi's growth path would undoubtedly be smoother.

Even though full-level insight is powerful, it also requires constant self-cultivation.

Taoist Longshan paused momentarily, not expecting Ning Qi to ask for such a condition.

He thought for a moment and said:

"Living in the Scripture Pavilion might be inconvenient; you won't be able to practice freely. How about this? I'll have someone build a new residence for you near the Scripture Pavilion, where it's quiet and undisturbed. You can go to the Scripture Pavilion to read books if you feel like it and practice in your own residence."

Ning Qi was overjoyed; this was naturally better.

"Thank you, Master!"

"However, the vast scriptures in the Scripture Pavilion, you must not be dazzled by them. You need to grasp the right measure."

Taoist Longshan smiled slightly.

"No other requests?"

"Not for now."

"Then mention them in the future when you think of them."

He motioned Ning Qi to sit down.

"Since you're here today, I might as well talk to you about the checkpoints on the Martial Path, an experience from many years as your master."

"The Body Tempering Eight Realms, skin, flesh, tendons, and bones are the outer four realms, while organs, marrow, blood, and spirit are the inner four realms. When inner and outer combine, it is perfection..."

"In the outer four realms, Bone Refining is the most critical, as it is the bridge connecting inner and outer..."

"In the inner four realms, Refining Spirit is the most dangerous and requires the most patience..."

Taoist Longshan talked enthusiastically.

He only spoke from his experience, leaving it up to Ning Qi how much he could apply.

Ning Qi listened intently.

This unreserved teaching was precisely what he needed most and could help him avoid detours.

At this moment, Ning Qi already had a series of spiritual insights appearing in his mind, and suddenly he realized there were several imperfections in the True Martial Stance he had created earlier.

The sunset's glow slanted, and master and disciple discussed together.

Like a painting.

...

Time passed leisurely by.

Ning Qi had already stepped into the Great Success in Refining Flesh, with the strength of eight hundred jin in one arm, quite exaggerated for a three-year-old child, but reasonably normal given that the Flesh Refining Realm naturally increases strength. Coupled with the unparalleled foundation built by Ning Qi's True Martial Stance, it was even more remarkable.

And today.

Ning Qi was packing his things.

The residence at the Scripture Pavilion was finally ready.

Third senior sister Ye Qinghe and fourth senior brother He Yan, along with fifth senior brother Jiang Baishan, came to help.

"Tsk tsk tsk, Jiu, be honest, are you secretly the master's illegitimate child?"

Ye Qinghe teased while packing, pinching Ning Qi's cheeks.

Ning Qi rolled his eyes and pushed her hand away.

"Third Senior Sister, if you have the guts, say that to the master."

He Yan and Jiang Baishan exchanged glances, both smiling wryly.

If it were them, they wouldn't dare to say such things.

Ye Qinghe, being the only female disciple among the Nine Great True Inheritors, was greatly cherished by Taoist Longshan, but to really say such things in front of him would still result in transcribing scriptures as punishment.

She wrinkled her nose, voicing the thoughts that He Yan and Jiang Baishan shared.

"Humph, why else would the master allow only you to live by the Scripture Pavilion and instruct us not to disturb you when practicing martial arts?"

All three felt a bit jealous.

They thought their master was a bit biased but mostly wanted to tease Ning Qi.

Ning Qi's eyes lit up, smiling as he said:

"Do you really want to know?"

Three pairs of eyes looked over simultaneously.

"Because I'm an unparalleled genius!"

Ning Qi hoisted his pack, leaving the three with the back of a Long Aotian character.

Ye Qinghe and the others were dumbfounded, feeling a bit annoyed, but then they exchanged smiles:

"Arrogant little Jiu."

Although they felt a bit envious, they didn't feel imbalanced. Ning Qi's talent was evident to all, and many true disciples had subtly started to see Ning Qi as the future of the True Martial Sect. Besides, they had watched Ning Qi grow up day by day, considering him like a younger brother.

Soon.

The four arrived at Ning Qi's new residence.

Ye Qinghe and the others couldn't resist teasing again, gave some advice, and then left.

"Jiu, take care of your cultivation; you can reach out to us anytime if you need anything."

Ning Qi watched them leave, then started looking around his new home, feeling joyful inside.

The courtyard was spacious and quiet, located behind the Scripture Pavilion, where normally no one would disturb him.

He looked towards the distant Scripture Pavilion, excitement gradually filling his eyes.

To him, that was the foundation for immortality.

Chapter 17: Chapter 17 Bone Refining Perfection

Next.

Ning Qi's life gradually stabilized.

Since moving to his new residence, being close to the Scripture Pavilion made him flourish.

He practiced martial arts daily, and during his free time, he immersed himself in the Scripture Pavilion, voraciously absorbing its nutrients and transforming them into his own foundation.

Thanks to this.

Ning Qi felt as if he had divine aid when contemplating martial arts principles, even more so than before.

Due to Taoist Longshan's instructions, the other senior brothers rarely came to disturb him, and Ning Qi enjoyed this. He didn't feel bored at all; with his full potential perception, the joy of cultivation was infinitely magnified, allowing him to savor every moment.

Being alone pleased him very much.

It was much better than his previous life.

Moreover, his master and many senior brothers and sisters did not ignore him; they just didn't visit as frequently as before, to avoid disturbing him.

Ye Qinghe was still the one who visited the most.

Whenever a senior brother went down the mountain, they would always bring gifts for Ning Qi, delivered by her. However, the variety of these gifts gradually unified, becoming mainly books.

Everyone knew.

The little junior brother loved to read, often staying in the Scripture Pavilion without coming down.

However.

What made Ning Qi sigh secretly was that his eighth senior brother was not as close to him as before.

Later, Qin Yun came to Ning Qi's new residence once, but stayed only briefly, spoke some words about cultivation, and then left, never to return.

They would only see each other during festivals when all the True Disciples gathered. Naturally, when they met, Qin Yun would still smile, and if he went down the mountain, he would bring books back for Ning Qi. However, there was a discernible sense of estrangement.

Ning Qi roughly felt.

The eighth senior brother seemed a little envious of him, perhaps due to his talent or the master's favoritism.

He could only feel helpless; no matter how gifted he was, he couldn't control other people's thoughts.

He could only keep a low profile as much as possible.

He spent most of his time in the Scripture Pavilion and his own yard cultivating.

Occasionally, he would observe nature alone.

Slowly, this ninth disciple of the True Martial Sect became increasingly mysterious to many Outer and Inner Sect disciples.

...

In the blink of an eye.

Nearly a year passed.

Ning Qi was four years old.

In the Scripture Pavilion, a short figure in a white Taoist robe read the ancient texts with hands behind his back, muttering to himself.

"This Tiger Slaughter Fist is quite interesting. If one can grasp the intent of the Tiger Slaughter, it can captivate the heart and soul, making it a truly exquisite technique."

Ning Qi's eyes showed slight admiration.

In the spin of his thoughts, he had already comprehended the Tiger Slaughter Fist, and even extracted its essence to integrate it into the True Martial Fist he created.

Stance Skill is a Body Tempering method. Although it includes attack techniques, it is somewhat inferior compared to martial arts that specialize in offense.

Therefore, in his spare time, Ning Qi practiced some offensive techniques, eventually creating this all-encompassing, unparalleled True Martial Fist, which could be deemed invincible in the Body Tempering Realm.

Although he sought the path of longevity.

He also needed Path Guardian techniques.

Otherwise, having only the realm but no protection would inevitably lead to being slain.

Fist technique, body technique, sword and blade techniques, he dabbled in them all, with his main practices reaching a realm unimaginable for normal people.

Over the year, he had grown immensely.

Reading the ancient texts every day, he had read at least one tenth of the Scripture Pavilion's books, transforming them into his own foundation. In terms of martial arts knowledge, even Gang Essence Realm experts might not compare.

Ning Qi placed the Tiger Slaughter Fist manual back, stretched, and let his thoughts drift afar.

"In a year, I've already achieved Bone Refining Perfection. Thus, the Body Tempering Outer Four Realms are completely perfect. Now, with just one arm, I exert five thousand pounds of force, much more solid than my senior brothers' foundations; when they reached this realm, it was only three thousand pounds."

"But this is still not enough; this is not the perfect foundation I envision."

"One year to achieve the Outer Four Realms; to achieve Inner Four Realms Perfection and then Unity of Inner and Outer, stepping into the Inner Essence Realm might take another two years, meaning at six, I would step into Inner Essence."

"Compared to normal people, this speed is already extremely fast, but I can be even faster."

Ning Qi's gaze extended outside the pavilion.

In fact, a month ago, he could have stepped into the Refining Organ Realm, but he chose not to break through.

Sometimes, going slow is for the sake of speed.

"Over the past year, besides practicing martial arts, I spent much of my energy creating the Stance Skill. Perhaps due to reaching a limit, creating this Stance Skill took much longer than I expected."

"However, it's almost there. The essence of Stance Skill holds no secrets in my eyes. After understanding over a hundred Stance Skills, in a few days, this Supreme Stance Skill will surely succeed!"

Ning Qi's eyes were full of anticipation.

In his imagination, above the unparalleled Stance Skill lies the Supreme Stance Skill.

If he could succeed, he was confident that in a year, he would manifest Inner Strength and step into the Inner Essence Realm.

The difference would be great. This is also why he didn't break through to the Refining Organ Realm for now; if he broke through in haste now, he would have to spend more time when recreating his foundation with the Supreme Stance Skill, but if he only redoes the Outer Four Realms, it's much simpler.

"Observing the manifold phenomena of the world for inspiration; although the True Dragon is extremely powerful, ultimately it's just one of the phenomena."

"If time can be saved, then it's good to save some."

Ning Qi turned around and picked up a book beside him.

"Miscellaneous Records of Snow Plum Manor."

He gently caressed it but didn't open it.

He knew what was written inside.

The chivalric tales of Young Master Ye Ning Ye and the Plum Blade Jiang Xuemei, founders of Snow Plum Manor.

And at the end was a brief sentence.

"In the twenty-seventh year of Yongxin, Snow Plum Manor was slaughtered by a mysterious force, leaving no survivors, to great sorrow."

This was brought back and placed in the Scripture Pavilion by the eldest senior brother during his travels two years ago.

Ning Qi took a slow breath.

"Back then, Lord Feng retreated because of the master, likely not having a realm higher than the Primordial Core Realm, most probably Gang Essence's Second Realm Jade Liquid Realm."

"Gang Essence Realm has a lifespan of four hundred years; just hope you don't get killed by someone else."

If possible.

Ning Qi still wanted to tackle it himself.

He felt that when he reached the Gang Essence Realm, it shouldn't be a big problem to crush that person.

Setting down the miscellaneous records, Ning Qi's gaze turned outside the pavilion.

As expected, a familiar lazy voice sounded.

"Jiu, ready to depart?"

Ye Qinghe pushed the door open, with a look of "Of course, you're here" on her face.

Looking at the vast sea of books in the Scripture Pavilion, she felt overwhelmed.

"You're about to leave, yet you're still here reading; might as well call you a bookworm!"

Ye Qinghe bent over, touching Ning Qi's face with her jade green fingers.

Ning Qi habitually slapped her hand away, smiling as he said:

"Didn't you just arrive?"

"Let's go."

Ning Qi took the initiative to walk outside.

"It's rare Jiu that you want to go out once, today, I, your senior sister, must take you for a proper tour, don't sulk."

Ye Qinghe was getting excited.

Ning Qi shook his head and chuckled.

The Supreme Stance Skill he envisioned is related to the manifold phenomena of the world, typically only observing the clouds, snow, mountains, and waters in some safe places on True Martial Mountain. Recently, he felt the need for a catalyst, so he thought of walking to the outskirts of True Martial Mountain.

However, the outskirts of True Martial Mountain haven't been cleared, inevitably there's the flow of exotic beasts, so for safety, Ning Qi called on Ye Qinghe as a ready-made bodyguard.

He cherished his life, and didn't assume that having reached Bone Refining Perfection made him invincible and able to roam freely; if he encountered a powerful exotic beast, he'd be doomed.

Unexpectedly, Ye Qinghe was more excited than he was.

Chapter 18: Chapter 18: Long in the Cage

The True Martial Mountain lies at the border of Qing State and Yun State, piercing the sky like a sharp sword.

After Taoist Longshan chose this place to rebuild the True Martial Sect, he thoroughly cleared the mountains. Although some wild beasts remained, they posed no great threat and could serve as a means of training for the disciples.

But today, Ning Qi planned to go to the outer mountain ranges of the True Martial Mountain, where it was more dangerous.

In this world, there are powerful beasts known as Exotic Beasts, among which the strong ones can even rival Celestial Beings, able to move mountains and summon rain, earning the title of Beast King.

Although the area outside the True Martial Mountain isn't as exaggerated, it's still safer to have a skilled person accompany you.

The two of them leapt through the forest.

Ye Qinghe's eyes showed a curious expression.

She felt her junior disciple's body technique was swift and graceful, keeping up with her completely without losing composure. Although she hadn't exerted her full strength, it was still astonishing.

"Jiu, Master must be giving you special lessons again!" Ye Qinghe pouted.

Ning Qi smiled slightly:

"I created this myself. If you want to learn, I can teach you."

Ye Qinghe chuckled, thinking Ning Qi was joking.

The two stopped at a cliff's edge.

The cliff was so high that the bottom was unseen; clouds and mists steamed around, interwoven with sunshine, showing a rainbow of colors.

Ning Qi's eyes lit up, and amid Ye Qinghe's surprised gaze, he slowly sat cross-legged, becoming engrossed in watching the shifting clouds.

"The clouds are formless, shapeless, gathering with the wind, dispersing with the wind..."

Ye Qinghe watched beside him, feeling puzzled. She imitated Ning Qi's cloud-gazing but only felt it was ordinary mist, pretty but nothing more.

She wanted to ask but feared disturbing Ning Qi.

After a long time.

Ning Qi's body trembled, and he slowly stood up, his eyes seeming to shine with spiritual light.

Ye Qinghe quickly asked:

"Jiu, what were you doing just now?"

"Watching the clouds."

"The clouds at the edge of the True Martial Mountain are much prettier, yet you came here to watch."

"Some are similar, some are different."

"They all look like clouds to me. What's different?"

"Your perception isn't sharp enough."

Ye Qinghe was instantly annoyed.

Sometimes what her junior disciple said was really infuriating, but she couldn't refute him.

Watching Ning Qi walk away, she hurriedly caught up.

But soon, she saw Ning Qi sitting down before a peculiar stone again.

The stone stood several people's height, seemingly shaped like a human.

"What's he doing now?" she thought to herself, smiling wryly.

Moments later, Ning Qi stood up again, his mind shining even brighter.

This time, Ye Qinghe didn't ask. Her junior disciple had always been unique.

She just chatted about other things with Ning Qi.

Subsequently.

Ning Qi would occasionally stop to observe.

Whether it was clouds among the cliffs, strange stones, exposed roots and stems, mountain winds, or even a leaf or a piece of mud...

To Ye Qinghe, these things seemed ordinary, yet Ning Qi would stop, even sit cross-legged and become engrossed.

She could only hold her forehead and smile wryly.

It's incomprehensible, truly incomprehensible.

She knew Ning Qi surely wasn't doing something meaningless.

And Ning Qi indeed gained a lot.

Having been in confinement for so long, returning to nature was refreshing.

The things here weren't much different from those on the True Martial Mountain, but the key was the mindset. The change of environment gave Ning Qi a different feeling.

He felt this excursion was the right choice.

The supreme stance skill was almost formed in his mind.

"Jiu, should we go find something more interesting to see?"

Ye Qinghe gently asked after Ning Qi cleared his mind.

Though she felt Ning Qi was comprehending something, she worried he might become a bit odd staying alone for too long.

Ning Qi returned to his senses, seeing Ye Qinghe bored to death:

"Sure!"

A moment later.

They pushed through the foliage, peeking with mischievous eyes to see two black snakes entwined wildly, not fighting but engaged in something more intense.

Ye Qinghe was at a loss.

"Jiu, you find this interesting?"

"Of course, it's the origin of life,"

Ning Qi replied earnestly, watching intently, engrossed once more.

Ye Qinghe was helpless.

But it's more interesting than staring at rocks. She occasionally muttered, as if controlling the two snakes from afar.

Soon after, Ning Qi was content, and they quietly left.

Thereafter.

Ning Qi seemed to have a determination with beasts.

Ye Qinghe led him through the forest.

Constantly observing various fierce beasts and even Exotic Beasts closely.

The roar of a tiger in the forest.

A hawk hunting a rabbit.

Ants moving nests.

Wolves hunting as a pack.

...

Such scenes left Ning Qi fascinated.

Of course, such close observations occasionally led to trouble.

For instance, they once encountered a Blood-horned Wolf Exotic Beast, capable of battling an Inner Essence Realm Martial Artist. If Ning Qi had encountered it alone, he would have had to retreat temporarily.

They also encountered a few weaker Exotic Beasts.

Fortunately, Ye Qinghe was there.

Effortlessly subduing them.

Ye Qinghe felt exhausted, but seeing the smile on Ning Qi's face, she let go of her complaints and gave Ning Qi's cheek a rub, stopping just short of a peck. She used to kiss him when he was a baby, but since Ning Qi gained some ability to act, he firmly refused.

Ye Qinghe felt a twinge of emotion.

Her junior disciple was growing up so fast.

Unknowingly.

The sky was already filled with the setting sun.

Ning Qi looked up, full of spirit.

In contrast, Ye Qinghe looked thoroughly drained.

It was so boring!

If it weren't for sipping wine to sustain herself, she'd probably have collapsed by now.

Ning Qi chuckled:

"Senior Sister, let's head back."

Today's goals had been achieved, with great gains.

He was confident that within three days, the supreme stance skill would be perfected.

He just needed to sort it out after returning home.

"It seems there'll be more opportunities to travel and witness the world and the bustling life."

Ye Qinghe's eyes lit up, she jumped up, grabbing Ning Qi to leave.

Ning Qi couldn't help but smile, playfully promising Ye Qinghe:

"Rest assured, Senior Sister, when your junior brother becomes invincible, I'll find the finest wine in the world for you!"

Ye Qinghe laughed with satisfaction:

"I'll hold you to that, then!"

Then.

She paused, her lips curling, her eyes sparkling.

"I'm not thinking about being the world's best for now; why not get me some Monkey Wine first?"

Ning Qi also perceived the commotion ahead.

That unique howling clearly revealed the presence of Long-armed Apes.

The Long-armed Apes with their agile arms brewed Monkey Wine with a distinctive flavor. Just thinking about it, a sparkle appeared at the corner of Ye Qinghe's mouth.

The two stopped.

They both were taken aback.

Instead of the expected Long-armed Apes emerging from the forest, a snow-white ape appeared—only a head taller than Ning Qi, with long arms. Upon seeing Ning Qi and Ye Qinghe, its eyes betrayed a human-like panic.

Ning Qi's eyes showed curiosity.

Then.

A few black-furred Long-armed Apes rushed out of the forest, glaring fiercely at the white ape. Upon seeing Ning Qi and Ye Qinghe, they showed no restraint, baring their teeth, looking ferocious.

Ye Qinghe crossed her arms and shifted her gaze from the white ape to Ning Qi lazily:

"Jiu, Senior Sister is tired. Why don't you teach these little monkeys a lesson?"

Chapter 19: Chapter 19: Already Honest

Ye Qinghe had no intention of making a move.

The long-armed apes were not exotic beasts; they could be considered fierce creatures to ordinary people, but not much of an issue for martial artists.

She wanted to be lazy.

Moreover, she was curious about Ning Qi's current strength.

Back when he first entered the martial path, Ning Qi's monstrous talent left a deep impression on her. She thought that with her junior brother's talent, he should at least have reached great success in the Flesh Refining Realm by now, maybe even perfection.

With such strength, dealing with a few long-armed apes shouldn't be a problem.

Ning Qi met Ye Qinghe's smiling gaze and shrugged slightly.

"Alright."

He always used Ye Qinghe as a bodyguard, which made him feel a bit guilty. But who made his earlier promises so tempting? Now that the opportunity to get monkey wine was presented to him, he had to take it. Besides, it was a simple task, a way to reward his senior sister for coming along to protect him.

Ning Qi glanced at the white ape.

Then he stepped forward slowly.

The white ape, sensing the situation, immediately appeared behind the two of them. When it met Ye Qinghe's gaze, it bowed repeatedly in a flattering manner, only to receive a rolling of eyes from her, making it scratch its head awkwardly.

At this moment.

Seeing Ning Qi step forward, several long-armed apes bared their teeth fiercely, letting out low growls.

As Ning Qi took two more steps, one of the long-armed apes had already lifted a rock and hurled it, the sound of it slicing through the air loud and forceful. All the long-armed apes came to attack. These were aggressive beasts that would attack even if Ning Qi and Ye Qinghe did nothing.

Ning Qi lightly tapped his foot, slightly sidestepping to dodge the flying stone gracefully, catching Ye Qinghe's attention.

What surprised her even more came next; she saw Ning Qi reach out, grab a long-armed ape's arm, and throw it away with Buddha's Elephant Throwing, making the long-armed ape appear weightless.

Nonetheless, the sight of Ning Qi's small figure compared to the size of the long-armed ape was somewhat strange.

Bang!

The sound echoed from the impact as it crashed into a tree trunk.

The long-armed ape whimpered, unable to rise.

Ning Qi charged into the group of long-armed apes like a tiger among sheep, sending them flying into the forest with each grab.

Behind him, the white ape shivered uncontrollably; this human child was so ferocious.

Ning Qi's expression remained indifferent.

With his current strength, dealing with long-armed apes was no different than an adult fighting a child.

After finishing these, Ning Qi didn't pursue further but instead looked ahead.

Ye Qinghe also looked in that direction, her expression changing slightly.

A deep roar sounded, and a pitch-black figure approached from afar, standing upright like a long-armed ape, but much stronger, with bulging muscles that seemed explosive. In particular, its pair of arms was as black as iron, resembling massive hammers.

Iron-Armed Ape!

This was an exotic beast, a variant of long-armed apes, with astonishing strength. Each arm weighed at least a thousand pounds, with iron arms unparalleled in toughness. The best among them could even battle a Bone Refining Realm expert.

Ye Qinghe instinctively stepped forward but then fell back.

Her eyes held a hint of curiosity. Ning Qi had been too relaxed earlier; she realized she might have underestimated her junior brother.

Might as well use this Iron-Armed Ape to see his limits and hone his combat skills.

However.

Her mind was fully concentrated, ready to intervene if Ning Qi was outmatched. She wouldn't let Ning Qi get hurt in the slightest.

Ning Qi also showed some eagerness.

He hadn't fought many times. Occasionally, when feeling itchy or to test his martial arts, he'd find some beasts in True Martial. But he had never encountered an Iron-Armed Ape of this level.

The Iron-Armed Ape was daunting, and its eyes were fierce. It glared at the distant white ape, then repeatedly roared, signaling Ning Qi to leave its territory.

Ning Qi ignored it.

In the next moment.

The Iron-Armed Ape attacked without warning.

Grabbing a tree trunk, it leaped and pounced, descending from above with immense momentum, its iron arms crashing down like hammers, accompanied by a piercing wind, making one's scalp tingle.

Ye Qinghe's expression tightened; this Iron-Armed Ape was no ordinary creature.

Her inner strength was already mobilized, ready to strike at any moment.

Ning Qi's young figure appeared no more than an ant's in the face of the Iron-Armed Ape, yet his expression was unchanged.

He extended his hands, without any unnecessary moves, merely pulled and embraced, catching the iron arm in his arms. Then, like a tyrant reborn, he lifted the entire Iron-Armed Ape and smashed it down.

Boom!

The forest shook, leaves fell.

"It's quite sturdy?"

With another swing to the right, the Iron-Armed Ape was utterly defeated, its once ferocious expression now dazed, feeling as if all its bones were dislocated.

The distant white ape shivered, its fur standing on end.

Ferocious!

So ferocious!

Ye Qinghe was left speechless, her gathered inner strength dissipating, almost causing self-inflicted wounds.

She had considered many possibilities but never expected this one. The sight of the young boy hurling the ape made her question reality, almost wondering if she was dreaming.

Is this really her four-year-old junior brother?

Ning Qi's voice pulled her back from her thoughts:

"Hey, big guy, my senior sister wants to drink monkey wine. Offer us the monkey wine, and I'll spare you once."

Ning Qi stood on the Iron-Armed Ape's shoulder, asking, which made Ye Qinghe feel touched. This junior brother was indeed worth doting on.

The Iron-Armed Ape was dizzy, its arm muscles near tearing, fearfully looking at Ning Qi, completely not understanding what he was saying. Exotic beasts had some intelligence but didn't necessarily understand human language.

Seeing Ning Qi ready to strike again, the Iron-Armed Ape howled in panic.

From a distance, the white ape quickly dashed over. It first bowed repeatedly to Ning Qi, then pointed to itself and the Iron-Armed Ape as if indicating it would do the communicating.

Ning Qi looked surprised.

This white ape seemed like an exotic beast, yet it was incredibly weak and couldn't even defeat a few long-armed apes. If it were an ordinary beast, it was too clever, understanding human speech.

He nodded slightly.

The white ape bowed respectfully, then, when Ning Qi wasn't watching, kicked the Iron-Armed Ape in the face.

The damage wasn't high, but the insult was immense.

Ning Qi heard the commotion behind and laughed.

This little white ape was quite amusing.

The Iron-Armed Ape was furious, its nose crooked, but it dared not retaliate.

The white ape stood proudly, hands on its hips, then gibbered with various gestures, and Ning Qi clearly saw reluctance on the Iron-Armed Ape's face before it finally gave in, knowing survival was better than losing its life.

Completing its task, the white ape excitedly rolled and jumped before Ning Qi and Ye Qinghe.

Ning Qi smiled slightly:

"Lead the way."

This translator was quite impressive.

The two followed the Iron-Armed Ape and the white ape into the forest.

Ye Qinghe finally had time to ask Ning Qi, speaking in a low voice as if afraid of disturbing anyone:

"Jiu, be honest with me. What realm are you in now?"

Ning Qi thought for a moment and replied:

"Bone Refining."

He didn't mention he had achieved Bone Refining Perfection, fearing it might shock Ye Qinghe.

Bone Refining Perfection was still Bone Refining, right? That wasn't lying, was it?

Ye Qinghe was dumbfounded.

A year's time, reaching the Bone Refining Realm?

What an unparalleled prodigy!

Now she understood why their master had cautioned them not to question their junior brother too much about his martial training.

Turns out it wasn't to protect the junior brother, but to protect them!

Ye Qinghe looked at Ning Qi's innocent face with a wistful gaze.

She resolved to never ask again!

Chapter 20: Chapter 20: Ice Silkworm Strength

On Ape Peak.

Ye Qinghe happily sipped the Monkey Wine filled in the gourd, her pretty face glowing with a blush, dispelling all her previous gloom.

"Hiccup."

She hiccupped and mischievously said to Ning Qi:

"Jiu, this Monkey Wine is a good thing, drink more of it, it will greatly benefit your Bone Refining."

Ning Qi looked at Ye Qinghe's body filled with bamboo tube wine bags, and couldn't help but hold his forehead.

However, it was true that during his foundational refinement, Monkey Wine would accelerate the process.

He turned to glance at the Iron-Armed Ape and many Long-armed Apes. He clearly saw the lament in their eyes.

This had been their accumulation over the years, but now it was swept away by Ye Qinghe.

"Thanks, monkeys! I'll visit you next time when I have the chance!"

Ye Qinghe waved her hand to the monkeys behind her.

The group of apes was moved to tears.

Ning Qi smiled and shook his head; sometimes his senior sister truly had a mischievous nature, acting impulsively.

The Little White Ape also carried several bamboo tubes on its body. It turned around and made faces at the apes, gloating in their misfortune.

Upon seeing Ye Qinghe and Ning Qi moving further away, it hurriedly caught up.

The little creature exemplified the art of borrowing influence to the fullest.

"Alright, Little White Ape, give us the bamboo tube now, and we'll take our leave."

Ning Qi said with a smile.

The White Ape suddenly panicked.

It scratched its ears and cheeks, jumping up and down, desperately trying to express something.

Ye Qinghe watched with keen interest.

Ning Qi quickly understood its meaning; with his perception, it wasn't hard to deduce from the recent exchange between the White Ape and Iron-Armed Ape. He said in curiosity:

"You're saying, there's something you want to give us, asking us to follow you?"

Upon hearing this.

The White Ape was overjoyed, nodding repeatedly. If not for the bamboo tubes on its body, it would have somersaulted.

Ning Qi and Ye Qinghe exchanged a glance.

Both saw the curiosity in each other's eyes.

Anyone with eyes could see the peculiarity of this White Ape; although it wasn't an Exotic Beast, it seemed just like one.

"It's still early, should we take a look?" Ye Qinghe said, intrigued.

Ning Qi looked up at the sky; although the sun was setting, there was still time before darkness fell completely.

"Let's go."

The White Ape became even more excited and hurriedly led the way.

The two humans and one ape maneuvered through the forest, with the White Ape occasionally glancing back, seemingly worried they might leave suddenly.

Soon.

The White Ape stopped before a cave, signaling for them to enter, as if returning home.

Ning Qi and Ye Qinghe glanced at each other; Ye Qinghe raised her guard slightly and stepped in first.

The cave was somewhat dark. Ye Qinghe lit a firestick to see the inside clearly.

Ordinary, with nothing peculiar.

She felt a bit disappointed.

Originally, she thought a chance encounter was upon her.

But soon.

Her eyes brightened.

The White Ape was fumbling around in some corner, and then came over holding something. As it got closer, they realized it was a roll of parchment.

"Is this really a chance encounter?"

Ye Qinghe laughed.

Ning Qi found it quite amusing too, not expecting the White Ape to bring a surprise.

Both of them looked at the parchment.

Immediately attracted by the three characters at the start.

"Ice Silkworm Strength."

"This is a Stacking Strength Skill."

Ye Qinghe's interest grew stronger, reading line by line. Ning Qi was also watching, reading even faster, but since he hadn't yet reached the Inner Essence Realm, this cultivation technique wasn't useful to him. It could only enhance his foundation.

A moment later.

Both came back to their senses.

"Ice Silkworm Strength, once the force is formed, it's continuous and bone-chilling. Moreover, the senior who created it ingeniously got inspiration from the ice silkworm's cocoon breaking and rebirth, each rebirth signifying another stacking of strength."

"Nine rebirths equal nine stackings, achieving Great Success in the Divine Skill, hard to find a match in the same realm."

"Wonderful!"

Ye Qinghe couldn't help but exclaim, her eyes shining with admiration.

This Ice Silkworm Strength is in no way inferior to the True Martial Sect's several top Stacking Strength Skills, even surpassing them in thought.

But then, her eyes showed regret.

"Unfortunately, this parchment only has the first three stages."

If it was a complete nine-stage Ice Silkworm Strength, this would indeed be a significant fortune, but with only three stages, its value is greatly diminished.

"Little White Ape, is there only this piece of parchment?"

Ye Qinghe asked expectantly.

The White Ape shook its head.

Ye Qinghe sighed in regret but soon smiled; to receive such fortune was already quite good, even if not usable, the feeling of surprise was immensely satisfying.

She looked at the White Ape with kinder eyes.

Good ape.

Ning Qi also felt a little regret, but not much.

When he ascends to the Inner Essence Realm in the future, he can attempt to complete this incomplete Ice Silkworm Strength, possibly even surpassing the original version.

Instead, the intent behind the Ice Silkworm Strength surprised him.

Both were in high spirits.

"Thanks, Little White Ape."

Ning Qi stored the parchment, planning to place it in the Scripture Pavilion later, to enrich the sect's foundation.

The White Ape grinned excitedly.

Then pointed further inside the cave.

Both grew more curious.

They continued forward.

Unexpectedly, the cave was so winding and deep, the further they went, the more they could hear a muffled sound.

At the end.

A water curtain filled with rainbow light appeared, with vines hanging down.

The roaring sound came from beyond the water curtain.

The White Ape took off the bamboo tube from its body and placed it on the ground, then cheered excitedly, swinging along the vines, and rushed through the water curtain in front of their eyes.

Both were startled.

Then on the opposite side, a faint sound of the White Ape calling came through.

Ye Qinghe was eager to try.

"I'll go first."

She laughed heartily, without using the vines, just a light tip on her toes, she soared over like a swallow.

"Jiu, hurry up, it's beautiful here!"

Ning Qi no longer hesitated; he too didn't use the vines, exerting on his toes like a tiger crossing a stream.

Once past the water curtain, he found himself standing on a stone platform.

A whole new world appeared before him.

Beside him, waterfalls plummeted, sunset angled in the sky, water and light merged here, creating a magnificent spectacle.

In the distant sky, birds soared, and vast vistas stretched far and wide, displays of boundless expanse.

Ning Qi gazed at this scene, as still as a sculpture, his mind bursting with spiritual enlightenment.

Initially captivated by the scene, Ye Qinghe's attention was then drawn by the White Ape's calls; looking over, she saw the White Ape excitedly pointing at the red fruit on a small tree by the water cliff. Ye Qinghe couldn't recognize what exotic fruit it was.

"Could this red fruit be the reason the White Ape is so intelligent?"

She instinctively thought, noticing two more small trees below, but they were barren.

Soon Ye Qinghe understood the White Ape's intention.

"You sly White Ape, pretending to give me a secret technique, actually wanting me to help you pick the red fruit."

She couldn't help but laugh.

Also feeling that the White Ape was overly innocent, if it were more cunning, it wouldn't have risked both losing the lady and the soldiers.

But Ye Qinghe was clearly not such a person.

She exerted her force lightly, then gracefully picked one red fruit, tossing it to the White Ape.

The White Ape's eyes carried gratitude, it bowed in thanks, then hurriedly ate the red fruit.

Under Ye Qinghe's astonished gaze, the White Ape's fur seemed to flash with a peculiar light, becoming even smoother and pure white.

She couldn't resist wanting to share this oddity with Ning Qi.

Turning to look, the call on the tip of her tongue stopped abruptly.

Because she realized.

Her little junior seemed to have entered a marvelous state.