

Medical M 1561

Chapter 1561 Who Dares to Move!

The statement from Murica was issued.

It was not until then that all the countries in the world recalled that everyone from Huaxia seemed to have survived the war in Zhongdong.

Almost all the people assigned to Zhongdong by all other countries, including Murica, had been dead, leaving not a single one to survive.

So far, no one yet knew about the situation on Huaxia's side.

However, from the exposed photos of the scene, there were indeed no Huaxianese among the corpses all over the ground.

This meant...

Huaxia was the winner of the greatest benefit.

Why could Huaxia become the biggest beneficiary? Shouldn't they be guarding the battlefield? Shouldn't the Huaxianese be the first ones to be blown up by the missiles?

But why didn't any of the Huaxianese die?

At this thought...

All the countries started to target Huaxia at once.

They all issued statements, requesting Huaxia to give an answer.

On the surface...

The high-level officials of Huaxia blocked all the countries outside. No one knew what had happened at the scene, and they had to wait until everything was over to discuss it.

However, Huaxia directly sent out a message in secret.

“Come and fight us, if you can!”

Apparently...

The higher-ups of Huaxia didn’t take the threats from various countries seriously at all. They particularly admired John Doe and the others in their hearts, “Guys, well done in this battle!”

No one had expected that...

The experts assigned by various countries were all killed.

This was undoubtedly a great loss for other countries, but Huaxia didn’t lose a single soldier. In terms of the situation of the world, the victory in this combat meant that the national power of other countries had declined, and that of Huaxia hadn’t changed, but it could naturally become the strongest one.

The higher-ups of Huaxia were very satisfied at this point.

Soon...

The reply to all countries in secret from Huaxia spread widely among the major countries.

Hearing such words...

All the countries were furious.

They finally understood that Huaxia would not be as peaceful as before. They also realized that Huaxia showed their true colors this time.

In a rage...

All the countries did not intend to just stop like this. For a time, they held emergency meetings one after another, starting to discuss assigning a second group of people.

...

In Zhongdong...

In a forest...

A Murican in a white tuxedo drove into the forest at a high speed and got to the entrance of the military base in the forest. The moment the car stopped, he immediately jumped out of the driver's seat and rushed to the command room of the military base in exasperation.

"Fire! Keep firing!

"Fire all the remaining missiles. Blow up this group of Huaxianese to death. All of them!"

As soon as this Murican man rushed into the command room, he shouted angrily and kept urging the operations to fire all the missiles.

Just then...

“Who dares to move!”

A loud shout suddenly sounded.

In the entire command room, everyone shivered. They immediately turned to look.

At the door...

A Huaxianese in a military uniform stood straight and walked in, followed by two men in Huaxianese tunic suits.

This Huaxianese was a middle-aged man, exuding a sort of majesty all over.

At the sight of the Huaxianese man...

In the military base...

The general from Ahanf was stunned, and so was the Murican man in a white tuxedo, as well as all the soldiers.

“Huaxia is only 100 kilometers away from here. There is an army of Huaxia stationed in Beijiang, which borders on yours. Try it and see whose missiles are faster, yours or ours!”

The middle-aged Huaxianese man glanced at the general from Ahanf. Then he turned his head to look at the Murican man in front of him.

“Do you think your car runs faster, or our plane flies faster? If I give you one hour’s time, can you run back to Murica?”

Hearing that...

The Murican in a white tuxedo suddenly broke out in a cold sweat in shock.

This was clearly a death threat.

Moreover...

Did he say only one hour?

Not daring to delay even half a minute, the Murican man did not dare to say an extra word. He immediately lowered his head and ran toward outside the military base. He rushed out and drove the car to escape like crazy.

As he knew...

If he couldn't escape, he would die here, with no doubt.

On the way...

"Sir."

As he drove at lightning speed, he took out his cell phone, dialed the phone number in Murica, and reported, "The plan has failed!"

With that...

He immediately hung up the phone. Then he booked a direct flight to Murica quickly.

After booking the flight ticket...

He made another call.

“Hello?”

When the phone was connected, a Huaxianese man’s voice was heard from the other end of the phone.

Hearing this familiar voice...

The Murican man shivered.

Sure enough...

He was calling the general of the Ahanf military base. He didn’t dare to take action openly, but he had already made a backup plan. Therefore, before leaving, he attempted to have the general give the order to launch another missile so as to blow up all the people from Huaxia.

But it was totally out of his expectations.

It was the middle-aged Huaxianese man who picked up the phone.

“Your current location is on the way to the airport. It takes ten minutes to get to the airport by drive. It has been eight minutes since you left the military base. That is to say, at the usual driving speed, you’ve got two minutes left. Are you sure you want to use these two minutes to talk to me over the phone?”

The Murican man felt his throat go dry and couldn’t help rolling his Adam’s apple.

“In fact, you can make this call when you arrive at the airport or after you return to Murica safe and sound. I will be here waiting for your call at any time.”

With that...

The middle-aged Huaxianese man hung up the phone.

Then...

The Murican man understood.

The Huaxianese man had been determined not to leave the military base. Distinctly, his purpose was to prevent another missile from being fired from the military base.

There was no other choice.

So the Murican man had to get rid of all the bad ideas in his mind. He even threw away his cell phone for what the Huaxianese man had just said.

It was because the only thing on him that could be located was his cell phone.

In Murica...

When the high-level officials of Murica were informed of the failure of their plan, they immediately get started contacting the officials of other countries to discuss how to deal with Huaxia's rapid growth in power.

Before long...

Under the call of Murica...

The six major countries, Anglan, L'hexagone, Rashk, Ispan, Deburg, and Itali, each sent a representative to attend a video conference held by the high-level officials of Murica.

During the meeting...

The representatives of the six countries first targeted Murica, but in the end, they couldn't gain any advantage from Murica.

At last, they reached a consensus that Huaxia was the biggest beneficiary, and the hatred for Huaxia once again surged in their hearts. They began to declare that they must make Huaxia pay the price, no matter what.

Nevertheless...

This time, every country suffered significant losses.

Especially Murica...

Other countries lost two or three S-class experts each, but five Murican S-class experts were dead.

Those were S-class experts!

They were not average talents.

An S-class expert was selected among more than a thousand cultivators who had been cultivated for decades.

So many S-class experts died at a time, which was a big loss for all the countries. It was a particularly distressing thing.

After all...

An S-class expert was equivalent to a national resource. If he died, the resource would be gone. Therefore, all the representatives of the countries were very angry. However, after they saw the powerful strength of Huaxia, they did not dare to show off anymore.

They could not afford further losses if they sent S-class experts to Zhongdong again and they were killed by Huaxianese.

In the end...

The representatives of the seven countries discussed and decided that each country would send two experts more to Zhongdong.

If they could obtain Laozi Relic eventually, these seven countries would divide it equally.!

...

Somewhere in Zhongdong...

“What a big scene!”

Lord Virtuous sat on the sofa with a tablet in his hand. He stared at the popular pictures posted on the underground-force forum on the screen.

Through these pictures...

He saw the situation at the scene very clearly, and he could even imagine the tragic scene.

“Let them fight each other fiercely. So we don’t need to take action. Haha...”

Speaking of that...

Lord Virtuous clenched his fist and said in a deep voice, "Fight however you want to, as long as John Doe is still alive. It'll be fine as long as you leave John Doe to me.

"I will make him wish he were dead!"

With that...

"Sizzle!"

Lord Virtuous suddenly stood up.

He motioned with his hand and said with a cold expression, "Let's go, heading for Laozi Relic.

"John Doe, just wait to die!"

...

In Laozi Relic...

After knocking back the Warrior Mercenaries, Fang Qiu closed his eyes again to recover.

In the meantime...

His Divine Consciousness had been covering the area within 60 kilometers around him. In case anything happened unexpectedly, he could realize it in the first place.

Fortunately...

After the Warrior Mercenaries retreated, no one else approached.

Some undefinable time later...

Fang Qiu opened his eyes again.

Right now...

There were already a lot of people moving around. After this period of recovery, coupled with the drugs they had prepared in advance, the injuries on them were almost healed, and their internal Qi was almost fully restored.

Fang Qiu was first woke up.

Then the others also woke up one after another.

When they woke up...

They got up successively.

"Everyone, have you recovered well?"

Fang Qiu asked when everyone woke up.

Everyone nodded.

"Good."

Seeing that everyone confirmed it with a nod, Fang Qiu nodded with a smile. He walked to the side of the pool and picked up a pebble from the ground. Without anyone noticing, he threw out the pebble

with a swoosh, and shot into the bottom of the lake, where it hit the stone tablet engraved with the character “Tao”.

“Boh!”

There was a light sound.

The sparkling rippled gate of the ruins rose from the pool again, quickly spread out above the pool, and began to roll the characters in the Tao Te Ching.

Others gathered around one after another.

This time...

No one continued to try to find a way to enter the relic but shifted their eyes to John Doe.

John Doe had mentioned that he should have found the method to go in.

And now...

The gate of the ruins appeared once again. Whether the method John Doe found was right or not, he could try it now.

However...

When everyone was looking at him...

Fang Qiu kept staring at the rolling characters on the gate of the ruins, looking for the entrance.

Chapter 1562 Three Moves of “Ren”

“Here it comes!”

Fang Qiu suddenly reached out his hand and pointed at the gate of the ruins. Then he moved and rushed straightly toward the gap of the missing character “Tao”, instantly rushing into the ruins.

Everyone saw this scene.

They immediately fixed his eyes on that position.

They noticed that...

One character was missing there!

It was not until then that everyone came to a sudden realization.

They had overestimated the difficulty of deciphering the method of entering the gate of the ruins. In fact, it was only a matter of characters. As long as they could find the gap of this missing character, the entrance would be found.

No wonder John Doe could find it so quickly.

After realizing it...

They started to enter it quickly and orderly.

The best way to protect the relic was to let everyone enter it so that no one else could find its entrance.

Previously...

When the missiles exploded, a lot of stones were blasted into the pool and sank to the bottom.

In this way, it could be very confusing. Even if others found a way to open the gate of the ruins, they would have to spend a lot of time to find the method to enter. By the time then they found it, Fang Qiu and the others would have already taken away all the treasures in the relic.

The four gurus from the Sword Sect and Master Numinous took the lead to enter the relic.

Followed by the four patriarchs.

Then...

He Gaoming and the others, as well as people from the eight factions and sixteen sects, entered the Laozi Relic.

In terms of headcount, John Doe was the one who brought the most people, which were more than 30 brothers in total. The four patriarchs all came alone. And the eight factions and sixteen sects each sent fewer than 10 people.

Therefore, this group of people entered very quickly.

It only took one minute.

Everyone entered the relic.

As everyone entered, the gate of the ruins disappeared between Heaven and Earth.

...

“Mmm! The Qi of Heaven and Earth here is so rich!”

“This is paradise! How could the Qi of Heaven and Earth be so rich? It’s like air, filling up every corner.”

“What is this place?”

“Is this the relic left behind by Laozi?”

“To my surprise, Laozi has such a talent! Are the ancient sages all so powerful?”

When they just entered the relic, everyone was dumbfounded.

Among them...

Many people had never entered the ancient ruins, especially people from the eight factions and sixteen sects.

Now, it was their first time, and they were lucky to enter such a luxurious Laozi Relic. They couldn’t imagine that it was completely different from the ancient ruins they had heard of.

It was a lot more luxurious than their imaginations.

With a closer look...

They found that this was a world surrounded by white clouds and mists.

Above was the sky that was within reach. At such a close distance from the sky, people felt as if this place was suspended in the air tens of thousands of meters above.

Looking up in the distance...

The bluish-waved vast ocean was connected to the horizon.

In the azure sky, dense golden characters were flowing above like water flow.

With a closer look...

It was the entire contents of the Tao Te Ching!

Around them...

The ethereal music sounded relaxing as if it could soothe their nerves and purify their hearts.

Then They turned their heads to look around.

It came into everyone's sight.

In the distance, there were various golden-printed talismans flowing and flickering in the air, just like the breeze in this space, flashing away.

Around them...

Whether it was near or far, the vortex of the Qi of Heaven and Earth could be seen with the naked eye. It was just like an embryonic tornado, rotating a few circles in the air before fading away naturally.

In the immortal aura shrouding about, everyone vaguely saw the legendary cranes flapping their wings and flying in the distance.

Watching one scene after another...

Everyone fell into it. They were shocked and excited, feeling enjoyable and dreamy.

At the very front...

Fang Qiu, who entered the relic first, had been looking up at those big characters in the air.

He had been staring at the sky since he entered the relic at the very beginning.

Noticing John Doe's action, the four gurus from Sword Sect, the four patriarchs, Master Numinous, and Sword Fanatic also looked up, but they saw nothing except for the Tao Te Ching.

Of course...

They didn't ask either.

After all, it depended on personal serendipity. Even if they were eager to ask, they would have to wait until John Doe finished watching it. If they interrupted John Doe, it would be a great sin for them.

What did Fang Qiu see?

He saw the third move!

Sure enough...

Fang Qiu saw the third move after the Great Hand of Destruction and the Great Hand of Formlessness!

He didn't know why.

As soon as he entered this place, he saw the third move in the air. When he found it, he couldn't help but shudder.

However...

The others didn't seem to have noticed it at all.

"Is it a must to have learned the moves of the Great Hand of Destruction and the Great Hand of Formlessness to see the third move?"

Fang Qiu guessed inwardly.

In fact...

Learning martial arts was similar to studying at school.

If one had not studied the textbooks of primary school and middle school, he could not comprehend the textbooks of high school. Even if one could know what was on the surface, he could not understand the in-depth points at all.

It seemed that...

That should be the case.

But...

The characters in the air kept floating, so Fang Qiu couldn't combine the third move in advance for the time being. There was only one character "big" popping up in his mind!

As for what characters after "big", he would probably have to wait until the third move was completely combined before he would know.

Everyone was lost in thought.

All of a sudden...

A loud sound was heard from the air.

“Are you Huaxianese? If you are not, retreat quickly!”

The voice abruptly spread to their ears.

Everyone was shocked.s

Before anyone could answer, a stream of extremely domineering Qi of Heaven and Earth was produced suddenly and injected into everyone’s bodies. After quickly circulating a few times, it quietly dispersed.

As this Qi of Heaven and Earth dispersed...

The voice in the air sounded again.

“Since you are Huaxianese, you can go in.”

As soon as the voice faded...

Heaven and Earth returned to calmness.

Shortly after...

Everyone exclaimed.

“What was that just now?”

"I felt a stream of Qi of Heaven and Earth run through my body. It's very domineering. If it hadn't dispersed, it would have had my body smashed into pieces!"

"What a domineering Qi of Heaven and Earth!"

"Fortunately, we are all Huaxianese."

"Looks like that Laozi had set up this barrier when he left the relic behind. Only Huaxianese can enter safely. As for non-Huaxianese, they will be attacked by the domineering Qi of Heaven and Earth in their bodies just now and even be burst!"

Hearing that...

Everyone nodded in agreement.

The situation they had just experienced could prove it.

But...

At this thought, everyone looked at each other and smiled bitterly.

They did not expect that Laozi would have kept such a card up his sleeve.

If they had known earlier, they would not have spent so much effort outside. Instead, they could have brought everyone in and let the Qi of Heaven and Earth that produced in their bodies kill all the foreigners.

"Let's go."

Fang Qiu motioned with his hand, leading the group of people forward.

However...

They had just taken a few steps.

Suddenly, a black shadow appeared ahead.

Everyone took a closer look.

It was a huge shadow, which rode on a Black Ox to come over from afar. They looked carefully at the head of the shadow. However, they couldn't see the face of the shadow, no matter how hard they tried.

When the shadow rode on the Black Ox leaped over everyone's top heads and was about to go further...

"Roar..."

An inexplicable vibration sound was heard.

Between Heaven and Earth in front, a huge city wall-like building suddenly appeared!

Upon closer inspection, it looked exactly the same as Hangu Pass in reality.

The most amazing thing was...

There were guards watching at the entrance to the Hangu Pass.

The guards stopped the shadow riding on the Black Ox outside Hangu Pass.

When Fang Qiu saw this scene...

His eyes suddenly lit up.

“This is the story about Laozi going west out of Hangu Pass,” Fang Qiu thought.

It was recorded in an ancient Huaxianese book.

Laozi once wanted to leave Hangu Pass heading west. However, the military officer of Hangu Pass, Yin Xi, learned about this. He used his authority to have Laozi stay and write a book for him.

In the end, Laozi left behind the Tao Te Ching to Huaxia.

Up ahead...

The shadow riding on the Black Ox was exactly Laozi.

Just then...

The shadow ahead had finished writing the book, and meanwhile, he started to lecture the Tao Te Ching to Yin Xi.

When Laozi was giving the lecture...

Everyone was surprised to realize that they could hear Laozi.

Then...

Everyone was overjoyed.

They were all ears.

Even though they couldn't understand it, everyone heard each word clearly. Lao Zi, the shadow, was lecturing on the Tao Te Ching. It was just that they didn't understand what it meant. They only knew those characters.

However...

When everyone was listening attentively...

With Laozi's voice, the Qi of Heaven and Earth began to wash everyone's bodies on the scene over and over again.

Feeling such a comfort, everyone listened more carefully.

But at the very front...

Fang Qiu had a different feeling from everyone else.

Perhaps it was because of the gap in terms of strength. Fang Qiu sensed that there was a stream of Qi of Heaven and Earth constantly washing his meridians and Dantian.

When his meridians and Dantian were being washed, he clearly heard the contents of the Tao Te Ching.

Besides...

Most importantly...

When Fang Qiu listened attentively, a chapter on a technique named "Ren" popped up in his mind.

The first move was called “Great Hand of Destruction”.

The second move was called “Great Hand of Formlessness”.

And the third move was called “Great Hand of Nihility”!

With the appearance of this technique, Fang Qiu immediately comprehended the third move.

The characteristic of the Great Hand of Destruction was “convergence”, and the characteristic of the Great Hand of Formlessness was “scattered”, yet the characteristic of the Great Hand of Nihility was “non-exist”!

It was a so-called non-exist.

However, in Fang Qiu’s opinion, it was more like a domain.

That was to say...

With the third move, Fang Qiu could fully control the area within a radius of ten kilometers. In this area, whoever Fang Qiu’s opponent was, could not absorb the slightest bit of Qi of Heaven and Earth. Whoever it was, had no choice but to use his internal Qi to confront Fang Qiu.

However, Fang Qiu could absorb the Qi of Heaven and Earth endlessly.

Moreover, this move could assist Fang Qiu to speed up the absorption.

Speaking of the third move...

It was equivalent to offering Fang Qiu an endless energy supply and helping Fang Qiu cut off his enemy's energy attack at the same time. With the characteristics of the second move, the Great Hand of Formlessness, once it hit the enemy, it could weaken the enemy's strength by half. Moreover, in the case of being unable to recover, it could finally attack with the Great Hand of Destruction.

Fang Qiu realized that...

This set of techniques was simply a cage sure-kill method.

Once Fang Qiu mastered all three moves, it would become a cage around him within a radius of ten kilometers. Thus, no one could get out of it.

While being shocked...

Fang Qiu clearly saw a shadow in his mind performing the three moves of "Ren".

Chapter 1563 The Heavenly Ladder Appears

Fang Qiu finished watching the entire set of demonstrations.

Fang Qiu memorized all three moves in his mind from beginning to end, and at the same time, he practiced once in his consciousness space.

As of now, Fang Qiu had learned all three moves of "Ren".

When Fang Qiu broke away from his consciousness space, Laozi happened to finish his lecture.

The other people present came to their senses one after another.

Just now...

Everyone benefited a lot from Laozi's teaching of the Tao.

They slightly sensed it and felt that the internal Qi in their body had been purified and that the impurities had been removed. At this moment, those who couldn't see a higher level actually had a faint feeling that they could make a breakthrough so as to see a hope to go further.

Such a feeling pleasantly surprised everyone.

Unexpectedly...

They had just entered the relic, and they could obtain such great benefits.

Filled with joy...

They started to discuss it.

"I feel that my whole body is much lighter."

"Likewise. Even my internal Qi is several levels purer than before. I feel completely different from before."

"Although I've benefited so much, it's a pity that I didn't understand anything just now."

"Me either. I only heard those words, but I don't understand the meaning of those characters at all."

"I heard it too. The full text of the Tao Te Ching sounds very mysterious. I've tried my best to understand the meaning of those characters. However, no matter how hard I tried to think, I couldn't understand it."

“It’s good enough to hear it. Although all this is not real, what shows in front of us is indeed a picture of Laozi lecturing the Tao Te Ching.”

“What a sage of the ancient times! Immortals can connect to Heaven.”

Everyone was amazed.

However...

Fang Qiu, who was standing at the forefront, was immediately surprised when he heard the conversation among the crowd.

“Didn’t anyone else see ‘Void’? Did they really not see the third move at all?”

Fang Qiu was puzzled.

Fang Qiu turned his head and swept across everyone at the scene. He noticed that everyone was talking about it respectively and that no one mentioned “void” at all!

In other words, no one saw it at all.

Fang Qiu took a light breath.

Fang Qiu turned around again and looked in the direction ahead.

In his sight...

The huge shadow riding the Black Ox suddenly turned his head and glanced in the direction of Fang Qiu. His face was still in a blur, and he seemed to smile at Fang Qiu.

Following that...

The shadow quietly dissipated.

The lofty Hangu Pass, which was formed by the rich Qi of Heaven and Earth, also dissipated with the shadow.

“Shall we ... continue to move forward?”

Master Numinous stepped forward and asked Fang Qiu.

Up ahead...

Immortal auras swirled around.

That was the area of the bluish-waved vast ocean.

That was neither an ocean nor water.

Instead, there were streams of bluish energy flow, which were just like waves on the surface of the water, rippling back and forth in that area. They looked so beautiful that no one could bear to destroy them.

“Let’s go.”

Fang Qiu nodded with a smile and said, “Since we’ve come in, it doesn’t make sense if we don’t move forward.”

“But...”

Master Numinous raised his eyebrows and said, "I wonder if there is any hidden danger in the area ahead. The bluish waves look beautiful, but who knows whether they are to confuse us or not?"

"I don't think so."

Fang Qiu shook his head and said, "This is a place that only Huaxianese can enter. If we are not allowed to move forward, we should have been stopped when we just entered but not wait until now. Even if there is something stopping us, it will certainly not kill us. At most, it will select some metahumans to move forward.

"If you're worried, how about I go in and have a try?"

With that...

Fang Qiu glanced at the group. Then he strode straight into the bluish-waved vast ocean.

Everyone fixed their eyes on John Doe.

As it turned out...

Nothing happened to John Doe.

John Doe was standing there safe and sound. They could tell from his expression that he seemed to be enjoying himself.

"It's full of the Qi of Heaven and Earth, which can wash out my body."

Fang Qiu called out.

He Gaoming, Sword Fanatic and the brothers, who had been impatient of waiting for a long time, immediately walked in.

In the meantime...

The others also entered successively when they saw this.

As expected, as soon as they entered, they found that the blueish waves, which were as vast as the ocean, were indeed all formed by the Qi of Heaven and Earth. Once they were in it, the Qi of Heaven and Earth helped wash out their bodies.

Although the effect was not strong, it was also good for them.

It was precisely because the effect was not strong that no one wanted to stay to cultivate or improve. Instead, they continued to move forward behind John Doe.

After a short while...

Under John Doe's guidance...

The group arrived at the center of the bluish-waved vast ocean.

Fang Qiu was about to move on.

All of a sudden...

"Buzz..."

A gust of wind flow of the Qi of Heaven and Earth swept over, rushed to the front of Fang Qiu, and instantly gathered and spun into a basketball-sized vortex.

It was similar to those small tornadoes they saw when they first entered the ruins, which appeared in all directions and flashed away.

But There was a difference.

Those small tornadoes would naturally dissipate after spinning a few circles.

However, the small vortex in front of them showed no signs of dissipating. Instead, it became bigger and bigger with spinning, and the surrounding Qi of Heaven and Earth quickly surged over.

Just a while later...

An enormous vortex was formed a few meters in front of Fang Qiu.

Oddly...

The wind flow ahead was violent, but they did not hear any sound of wind. It was as if it were a silent film. Until the enormous vortex was formed and fixed, there was finally a sound.

It sounded like the ethereal sound of wind chimes from the void of Heaven by themselves.

The ethereal melody continued.

It was so refreshing for everyone to hear.

Following the appearance of the ethereal melody, a huge Heavenly Ladder suddenly extended out in the enormous vortex ahead, all the way up into the sky.

Upon a closer look...

The enormous vortex had turned into a flat surface, and like a floor, it supported the entire Heavenly Ladder.

The Heavenly Ladder was incomparably grand and magnificent.

Looking up from below...

Everyone couldn't help but feel themselves as insignificant and inferior as fireworks and dust.

"Heavenly Ladder!"

Everyone quickly stepped forward.

They looked up at the huge Heavenly Ladder carefully.

And they saw...

On one side of the Heavenly Ladder, two lines of words condensed by the Qi of Heaven and Earth appeared.

It read: "Heavenly Ladder.

"One who ascends the Heavenly Ladder can change from a mortal to an Immortal."

Seeing these two lines of words.

Everyone on the spot was shocked.

"Ascend to the Heavens. This is the path to reach the Heavens. This is the path of changing from a mortal to an immortal!"

Someone shouted excitedly.

While being shocked...

Everyone moved and hurriedly rushed toward the Heavenly Ladder.

However...

Fang Qiu realized that when he was in the bluish-waved vast ocean, he could fly but always felt a little difficult. He looked toward his brothers. Sword Fanatic was as same as him, and He Gaoming and the others were even slower.

“How long will the Heavenly Ladder last?”

This question came into Fang Qiu’s mind.

Fang Qiu and Sword Fanatic looked at each other. Then they waved their hands at the same time, activated their internal Qi, and rushed toward the Heavenly Ladder, followed by the more than 30 brothers.

Before long...

Soon, they got to the front of the Heavenly Ladder with He Gaoming and the others.

At this time, the four gurus from the Sword Sect, Master Numinous, and the four patriarchs had stepped across to the Heavenly Ladder one by one.

In merely a single step, they all vanished.

“Brothers, let’s go.”

He Gaoming shouted, then laughed and made a hold fist salute to his brothers before striding across.

Soon, all of the brothers stepped across to the Heavenly Ladder.

“Brother John Doe, I have to go.”

Sword Fanatic made a hold fist salute to Fang Qiu.

“How about we go together?”

Fang Qiu responded with a smile.

Then...

Fang Qiu stepped onto the Heavenly Ladder with Sword Fanatic.

“Clatter.”

He took a step up.

Fang Qiu had thought that everything in front of him was fake, for he witnessed others vanish when they took a step onto the Heavenly Ladder. So he thought that others must have entered a certain Mysterious Realm that existed in this area.

But to his surprise...

His first step landed steadily when he stepped onto the Heavenly Ladder.

He found himself really standing on the Heavenly Ladder.

But...

All the people around him had disappeared.

Under his feet...

It was the first step of the Heavenly Ladder, which he had just seen.

Fang Qiu turned his head and looked around.

Suddenly, the scene before Fang Qiu began to change.

With a loss of attention, everything before him had changed to snow white, and the step under his feet was also covered with a thick layer of snow. Fang Qiu did not speak, but his breath turned into hot air and appeared in front of his eyes. Without his notice, the surrounding temperature had dropped to the point that made him feel chill.

In front of him, there were some snowflakes falling on the wide steps. It snowed not heavily, but it felt quite real.

“Is this the Heavenly Ladder?”

Fang Qiu was curious.

Without hesitation...

He stepped onto the second step.

There was no sudden change in the scenery before him. However, when he stepped onto the second step, Fang Qiu distinctly felt that the temperature became even lower.

Standing on the second step, Fang Qiu felt even colder than winter on the first step.

In addition to the thick snow on this step, Fang Qiu saw a few icicles on the vertical sides of the step, just like the icicles hanging on the eaves in the countryside in winter.

Fang Qiu continued to move forward. He stepped onto the third step.

When he took that step forward...

Fang Qiu suddenly felt like his whole body was being pricked by needles.

He felt frozen to the bone. In addition to thick snow, the icicles on the vertical sides of the step had also been frozen into cubes, and they were especially thick.

It left Fang Qiu with the impression that they couldn't be broken even if he wanted to smash them hard.

"Why is it getting colder and colder?"

"If the temperature keeps dropping like this, won't people freeze to death?"

Fang Qiu murmured to himself.

Of course...

For Fang Qiu, such chill was nothing. He just felt a little bit cold, but he was worried about his brothers.

“These brothers are not even gurus. If it continues to get colder and colder, where can they reach?”

Thinking of this, Fang Qiu shook his head.

Then Fang Qiu moved on, stepping onto the fourth step.

Strangely...

When he took that step forward...

Fang Qiu saw that the snow all over the floor had turned into ice water, gurgling on the ground, and the thick layer of ice on the vertical surface of the sides of the step had melted.

The temperature rose slightly, and a faint breeze blew over.

“Eh?”

“Is this ... that Spring comes after Winter?”

Fang Qiu was slightly stunned. He thought it back carefully. He seemed to have suddenly recalled something, and his eyes lit up.

He realized it.

Each of these steps seemed to represent a solar term.

The first step represented Winter Solstice, so it snowed.

The second step represented Minor Cold. The third step represented Major Cold. And the fourth step represented the Beginning of Spring!

Then, the next step should represent Rain Water.

At this thought...

Fang Qiu immediately strode up to the fifth step.

Chapter 1564 The 24 Solar Terms

“Tick, tock, tick, tock...”

The spring breeze suddenly stopped, and it was drizzling.

As Fang Qiu stood on the fifth step, some subtle changes in the scenery came into his sight. Just like the transition from morning to noon, it could not be more natural. There was a drizzle in the air, which gently fell on him. With the spring breeze blowing, Fang Qiu could feel that millions of lives on the earth were sprouting and growing.

Fang Qiu moved forward to the sixth step.

It came to the next solar term, Insects Awaken.

Following that, it came to Spring Equinox, Qingming, Grain Rain, the Beginning of Summer...

In this way, Fang Qiu strode up step by step.

And the surrounding scenery kept changing with his footsteps.

It was as if he had entered a tunnel of time.

With every step he took, Fang Qiu saw different scenery in various places. There were rising and falling suns and moons, rising purple Qi, frost-like moonlight, spring breezes blowing willows, burning summer sun, cool autumn wind, and the biting cold winter!

As every scene passed by...

Fang Qiu saw different things so as to develop different moods.

Fang Qiu didn't gain great enlightenment, but he improved his mental state.

Of course...

Most importantly, in addition to improving his mental state, Fang Qiu noticed that there would be a bright light spot in his body forming on his spine, with every step up he took.

It was like lighting a lamp. Every floor of steps he went up would light up a lamp.

Finally...

Fang Qiu stood on the twenty-fourth step.

It came to the last solar term, Heavy Snow.

In his surroundings between Heaven and Earth, a gust of cold wind blew again, and the weather gradually changed from autumn's coolness to winter's coldness. There was already a bit of snow drifting about in the air.

Even though it snowed lightly, Fang Qiu could distinctly feel the arrival of winter.

He took this step.

Fang Qiu was still in the thought about what he would see next.

Just then, everything before him returned to its original.

He saw himself standing on the Heavenly Ladder. The scenery around the Heavenly Ladder, which was the first thing he saw, disappeared, and everything was back to normal.

Fang Qiu turned his head and looked around.

Still, there was no one around him.

However, when he looked into the distance, he was surprised to see the others. They were still climbing up on the first 24 steps.

Fang Qiu was confused.

Fang Qiu extended out his right leg and continued to move up.

But...

When he had just stepped onto the 25th step...

“Crack...”

Fang Qiu saw a scene with his own eyes.

Without a sound...

He saw that the ladder under his right foot was cracked completely.

It was like a silent film, from beginning to end.

Before Fang Qiu could stand up and walk to the 25th step, the ladder under his right foot suddenly fell apart, sank down piece by piece, and an incomparably huge space rift quickly formed under his feet.

This space rift seemed to be about to devour everything.

Fang Qiu retracted his right foot in a hurry.

He was going to fly up and continue to move forward.

However...

When he activated all the internal Qi in his body, he found that he seemed to be suppressed firmly by a sort of enormous pressure. No matter how hard he tried, he could not fly.

In the face of such a situation, Fang Qiu couldn't help frowning.

The current situation was out of his expectations.

Didn't it say that one could change from a mortal to an immortal by ascending the Heavenly Ladder?

Right now, the Heavenly Ladder fell apart.

Did it mean the path of changing from a mortal to an immortal was gone?

Fang Qiu swept around.

He realized that he really had no way out.

Without other choices...

Fang Qiu had to give a wry smile and calmed down. Then he started to study the light spots on his spine.

Since these light spots were caused by climbing the path to the Heavens, there must be some reason for their existence.

Fang Qiu sat cross-legged on the ground.

Fang Qiu closed his eyes and observed with his Divine Consciousness.

As it turned out, these light spots were very strange. They didn't seem to be tangible, but they did exist on his spine.

Fang Qiu observed for a while.

Then he began to try to activate these light spots on his spine.

Surprisingly...

These light spots were connected into a line in an instant and turned into a beam of light, rushing straightly to the Baihui acupoint and then down to his face. But, when they got to his nose, they stopped abruptly.

No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't activate them further.

Fang Qiu took a closer look.

Surprisingly, the part between his nose and his throat was broken.

In this situation...

Fang Qiu couldn't help frowning. Then he began to control this beam of light, trying to have it forcibly sprint over.

At the beginning of the sprint, Fang Qiu distinctly felt a particularly deep obstacle, which made him feel that the beam of light could not rush through.

However...

He did not give up.

When the beam of light didn't move, he continued to activate it. When the beam of light moved, he used even more force to activate it. Regardless of whether he could succeed or not, Fang Qiu continuously tried, holding back a breath, rushing and rushing again.

His eyes had been closed.

Therefore, Fang Qiu didn't see that the space around him gradually changed while he kept trying to sprint.

The broken and collapsed Heavenly Ladder was constantly being repaired.

One step at a time, the fragments of the Heavenly Ladder, which had fallen into the space rift earlier, flew out of it one by one, returning to their original positions.

And meanwhile...

In Fang Qiu's body, the beam of light that had rushed to his nose was pressing down bit by bit.

Outside, the Heavenly Ladder was quickly being repaired to the last step.

However...

When the last step was about to be connected...

Suddenly...

All the steps, which had just been connected, fell apart with a bang.

Once again, it collapsed into millions of pieces and fell into the space rift below.

Fang Qiu did not give up.

He tried several times in a row. When he was about to break through, the beam of light suddenly shrank back as if it had received a rebound of something.

"Phew..."

Fang Qiu opened his eyes and wiped the sweat that covered his forehead.

He happened to see the steps collapsing ahead again.

"Is it broken again?"

Seeing this...

Fang Qiu seemed to have realized something.

Although he failed in rushing through this time, he seemed to have learned something.

But...

He couldn't explain it.

"Is it because the part of the human body is broken so as to fail in breaking through?"

"So, if we make up for it, can modern people overcome the shackles of a guru?"

Fang Qiu murmured inwardly.

Then Fang Qiu smiled bitterly.

All of a sudden...

"Uh?"

A figure showed up next to Fang Qiu, attracting Fang Qiu's attention.

Fang Qiu took a closer look.

He recognized that it was Master Numinous.

When Fang Qiu was about to stand up and say hello to Master Numinous, another figure suddenly showed up. It was Diwu Mingchuan.

Following that, the four patriarchs, Sword Fanatic, He Gaoming, and the brothers, showed up.

Not long after...

All showed up.

Including everyone from the eight factions and sixteen sects.

The Heavenly Ladder was quite wide, so it appeared particularly loose, even though everyone gathered here.

“Everyone is here.”

Fang Qiu said with a smile.

Everyone smiled and nodded at Fang Qiu with hold fist salute.

“Brother John Doe, what have you seen along the way to ascend the Heavenly Ladder? How about we exchange information to see if we have seen the same things?”

Master Numinous said with a smile.

“I’ve spent a year ascending the first 24 floors of steps.”

Fang Qiu didn’t intend to hide anything. He said honestly, “I got started with Winter Solstice and ended with Heavy Snow. I’ve experienced the 24 solar terms. It is exactly one year.”

“Likewise.”

He Gaoming immediately stood up and said, "I thought it was arranged by the ancestors, who wanted me to go through the four seasons, letting us know that life is just a cycle of reincarnation."

Hearing what He Gaoming said...

Everyone laughed out loud.

"Looks like everyone has experienced the same thing."

Master Numinous nodded and said, "We all have experienced the 24 solar terms."

"Haha, do you think you are asked to do a reading comprehension question?"

Sword Fanatic patted He Gaoming on the shoulder and laughed.

Hearing that...

He Gaoming immediately smiled awkwardly.

Aside...

A guru from Sword Sect stood out, pointed to the space rift in front, and asked, "What's up ahead?"

The group immediately looked forward.

"It's the Heavenly Ladder."

Fang Qiu said, "When I arrived here, it was already broken. However, there was a way to repair it, but it was very difficult."

“What’s the solution?”

The guru of Sword Sect immediately inquired.

“I don’t know whether you have noticed or not. When we experienced the first 24 steps, a light spot would appear on our spines every time we went across a step. If I’m not mistaken, each of you should have 24 light spots on your spine.”

Hearing that...

Master Numinous, the four patriarchs, the guru of Sword Sect, and Sword Fanatic, all nodded knowingly. Some of the others also nodded to echo, while part of the others did not notice this at all.

In this case...

Those who didn’t notice it at all closed their eyes to check.

It turned out that they did have 24 light spots on their spines.

“Before you guys arrive here, I tried to connect these light spots together, only to find that they turned into a beam of light. However, this beam of light will stop when it reaches a specific position. As long as we try our best to control this beam of light to rush through that specific position, the broken Heavenly Ladder can automatically get repaired.

“I tried in this way just now, but I failed.

“Now, since everyone is here, let’s work together and have another try.”

Hearing that...

Everyone immediately agreed and sat down cross-legged.

With John Doe's reminder, no one closed their eyes. Instead, they opened their eyes to face the space rift ahead while trying to activate the light spots according to what John Doe had reminded them of.

Fang Qiu also sat down and began to try for a second time.

Everyone worked together.

The fragments of the Heavenly Ladder in the space rift ahead quickly rose and began to repair.

Everyone was amazed.

That was exactly as they expected.

They immediately worked harder and began to speed up the repair.

However...

It cost too much energy, so when they saw that the Heavenly Ladder started to get repaired, they all closed their eyes and devoted themselves to activating the light spots.

With everyone's great effort together...

The Heavenly Ladder was getting repaired rapidly. In the blink of an eye, it had reached the last step.

Unexpectedly...

When the last step was about to be repaired successfully...

The step, which had just been repaired, suddenly began to shake quickly in silence. Then, the newly repaired Heavenly Ladder began to crack and fall constantly.

It seemed that they hadn't succeeded yet.

After a while...

Everyone opened their eyes one after another. They looked at each other and then shook their heads with a bitter smile.

Chapter 1565 It Is Magpie Bridge!

With bitter smiles on their faces...

Everyone turned to look at John Doe, who was sitting in the forefront.

Surprisingly, they saw that John Doe had not opened his eyes yet, but he kept making his effort.

When they looked up again...

They looked at the space rift in front of them.

In their sight, the Heavenly Ladder above the space rift had been repaired to the final stage. It was only a little bit away from being completely connected.

Many places were constantly shaking with gravel falling down, but overall, it was good. The entire frame of the Heavenly Ladder was still there. It had not collapsed yet.

Under the hard work of John Doe, shadows on the last bit of incomplete area were continuously being connected.

Even if it went on very slowly.

John Doe had always insisted and had no intention of giving up.

At this critical moment...

Everyone got nervous.

They were cheering for John Doe inwardly. They hoped that John Doe could succeed in completely repairing the Heavenly Ladder.

It fell silent at the scene.

Everyone shifted their eyes back and forth between John Doe and the Heavenly Ladder.

Every time a small part of the Heavenly Ladder was repaired, they clenched their fists excitedly.

But...

When only a fist-sized piece of the Heavenly Ladder was left that was about to be completely repaired, the whole Heavenly Ladder suddenly began to shake wildly.

Seeing this, everyone instantly tensed up!

“Come on!”

“No! No collapse!”

“It gonna be fully repaired. John Doe will succeed.”

Everyone clenched their fists to cheer for John Doe.

For them, since John Doe made his appearance in Wulin, there had been nothing that he couldn't do.

This time...

He could do it, too.

Everyone trusted him, and they all knew that John Doe possessed the strength to do it.

However...

Whether the Heavenly Ladder could be repaired or not, did it have anything to do with his strength?

No one knew the answer. They could do nothing but watch in horror while waiting.

Yet...

When everyone clenched their fists and thought that John Doe could do it, the shaking Heavenly Ladder suddenly shattered like glasses unexpectedly.

It just happened without any sound or sign at all.

Just like that, it shattered.

As this scene appeared...

Everyone's tense heart became relaxed in an instant.

The difference was...

Along with the relaxation, everyone's faces were full of regret.

They could do nothing but smile bitterly.

They had tried it themselves, so they all knew how difficult for John Doe to hold on to such an extent.

All of them turned their heads and looked at John Doe, ready to comfort him.

But...

When they looked at John Doe, they were surprised to see that John Doe had not given up yet.

With his eyes closed, John Doe kept working hard. Even though his forehead was covered in sweat, he didn't stop.

Unfortunately, the Heavenly Ladder, which had been repaired more than half with great difficulty, was already shattered.

No matter how hard John Doe tried, he could not repair the Heavenly Ladder perfectly.

Everyone sighed.

But no one made a sound, for they dare not disturb John Doe.

After all, John Doe was working so hard and fighting for them!

All of a sudden...

“Eh?”

Master Numinous made a sound.

Fang Qiu turned his head and looked around in surprise. He saw wisps of Qi of Heaven and Earth gathering in his direction as if they were attracted by something.

With a closer look...

It turned out that they were the fragments of the Heavenly Ladder after it was broken.

These fragments were like many shadows. They gushed out enormous attractions, attracting the surrounding Qi of Heaven and Earth.

As Master Numinous made the sound “Eh?”, everyone fixed their eyes on the repairing Heavenly Ladder.

And they all noticed the change.

They didn’t even have time to inquire when the Qi of Heaven and Earth merged with the shadows of the fragments of the Heavenly Ladder.

Then...

Under everyone’s gaze...

The changes started. Like a mass of something irregular, it constantly changed its shape.

In the end, it turned into a magpie.

Following that, it turned into more magpies, one, two, three...

In the blink of an eye...

The sky above the space rift, where the Heavenly Ladder was supposed to be, was swarming with magpies.

These magpies were whispering to each other, but they couldn't make a sound.

However, they quickly set up a bridge in the sky above the space rift with their actions.

It was a Magpie Bridge.

With the appearance of the Magpie Bridge...

The Heavenly Ladder was connected!

"He... Did he succeed?"

A person asked in great shock.

Then...

Everyone turned their heads to stare at John Doe, who remained sitting cross-legged on the ground with his eyes closed, in shock.

At the same time...

John Doe suddenly shuddered all over.

He had broken through!

And he saw it.

He gritted his teeth and held on for so long, but the beam of light still stopped in his nose and couldn't break through his Renzhong acupoint.

After the beam of light connected to the Renzhong acupoint with great difficulty, instantly, it went straight to the Yinjiao acupoint at lightning speed. Then it went straight down to the lower Dantian.

After that, it passed through the Huiyin acupoint, to the Changqiang acupoint, and then to the Governing Meridian on the spine.

At this very moment...

Fang Qiu felt that his whole body had been opened up, and the Ren Meridian and the Governing Meridian formally connected to form a perfect circulation.

His whole body felt comfortable. In addition, Fang Qiu felt that his mental state had improved a lot.

The most important thing was that the feeling of being suppressed above his head seemed to have disappeared completely.

In his Dantian...

The shadow of the flower started getting ansty. Fang Qiu felt that it had been accelerated and was developing to formation at a very urgent speed.

With these feelings, Fang Qiu distinctly realized that from today on, his cultivation process would become much easier, and his cultivation of Flower Core Formation would be smoother in the future.

At this thought...

Fang Qiu enjoyed the feeling of comfort that Ren Meridian and Governing Meridian were integrated for a little while. Then he gently exhaled and opened his eyes.

When he just opened his eyes...

Fang Qiu noticed that everyone's eyes were focused on him.

"John Doe, what's going on?"

Master Numinous hurriedly inquired.

Fang Qiu smiled slightly, but he did not answer.

Instead, he stepped forward.

He walked toward the opposite side of the Magpie Bridge in a hurry.

Everyone followed closely behind him.

Before long...

The group crossed the Magpie Bridge.

Then they came below a new Heavenly Ladder.

As soon as they crossed the Magpie Bridge, they felt like something was rippling through their bodies. It was as if they went through a new washing, but it was very weak.

Fang Qiu was taking the lead.

However, he lost his balance and almost backed out.

The washing he felt seemed to be very strong, much stronger than what others felt.

The force came very suddenly, but Fang Qiu felt very refreshed and comfortable when it washed over him.

“Everyone, let’s move on.”

Seeing the new Heavenly Ladder, Fang Qiu said to everyone, Then he stepped up and continued to climb the Heavenly Ladder.

...

Outside the relic...

“Find the area right below the gate of the ruins as soonest as possible.”

As soon as Lord Virtuous arrived, he immediately gave the order.

Apparently...

The Nirvana Organization was very experienced in searching for clues about the relic.

“My Lord, it’s in this area.”

Before long...

A man in black came to report.

He pointed to the area that had been burned by the missiles.

“Search!”

After confirming the area, Lord Virtuous flew over in person and ordered a search.

The dozens of men in black, who came with Lord Virtuous, immediately began to search carefully, checking every inch of the land in this area.

“My Lord, do you think they have already entered?”

A man came to the side of Lord Virtuous and asked.

With a closer look...

This man was tall and burly, about forty years old. He looked like a rough man.

If Fang Qiu were here, he would definitely recognize that this man was Second Venerable at the Nirvana Organization!

“If they hadn’t entered yet, could they have turned into air and disappeared in Zhongdong?”

Lord Virtuous said.

“But, there are so many of them, and they had just ended the war with the allied countries. How could they find the method to enter the relic so quickly?”

Second Venerable asked.

“That means the method to crack the gate of the ruins is very simple. We don’t have to think about it in a complicated way.”

Lord Virtuous smiled.

And so did Second Venerable.

Over there...

The men in black searched everywhere like crazy.

However, after searching for a long time, they found nothing.

Lord Virtuous also noticed this. Intuitively, he felt that there seemed to be something wrong. They had been looking for it for so many days, but they couldn’t find it yet.

In confusion...

Lord Virtuous began to look around.

His subordinates had searched all the places but could not find anything, so Lord Virtuous had to shift his eyes to the only place that had not been searched.

It was precisely that extremely muddy pool.

His subordinates had already searched the entire area, and the only place they hadn't searched was the pool.

"Whoosh!"

Lord Virtuous moved and flew over in person, directly jumping into the pool.

His internal Qi overflowed and completely squeezed out the water flow.

He dived deeper while checking.

Soon, Lord Virtuous got to the bottom of the pool. He saw a deck of rocks piled at the bottom.

He waved his right hand.

A stream of internal Qi swept over.

The gravel, which was not buried under the ground, was swept away by Lord Virtuous' internal Qi, leaving only the unique stone tablet.

He looked over.

Shockingly, the character "Tao" was inscribed on the stone tablet.

"Sure enough, it's here."

Lord Virtuous narrowed his eyes and immediately rushed over. He pressed his hand on the stone tablet, looking for the method to open the gate of the ruins. Unexpectedly, as soon as he touched the stone tablet, a layer of energy fluctuation rippled out of the stone tablet, rushing toward the sky above the pool.

“It’s that easy?”

Lord Virtuous was dumbfounded. He didn’t expect to find the gate of the ruins so easily.

He flew out of the pool.

Lord Virtuous looked at the light curtain of the gate of the ruins and got started to study how to crack it.

Of course...

Lord Virtuous had known in advance that the characters on the gate of the ruins were adopted from the Tao Te Ching, so he had the Tao Te Ching ready at hand.

When he saw the light curtain...

Lord Virtuous immediately remembered the stone tablet engraved with the character “Tao” under the pool.

“Is it so simple to crack?”

“Is it because the prompt given is very clear?”

“Could it be the character ‘Tao’?”

With this in mind...

Lord Virtuous began to flip through the Tao Te Ching to search for places with the character “Tao” in it. As a result, he found that there were too many “Tao” to count clearly.

With no other options...

Lord Virtuous had to start from the beginning to compare all “Tao” one by one.

Chapter 1566 84,000 Thoughts!

In the ruins.

Under Fang Qiu’s guidance, they continued to climb the Heavenly Ladder.

Standing in front, Fang Qiu took a step towards this brand new section of the Heavenly Ladder, under everyone’s gaze.

After a step on the stair...

He found everything around completely changed in an instant.

It was foggy.

The thick white fog covered everything up, making it impossible to see the situation clearly, as if he were in total chaos.

And he was in the midst of it.

Without even having the time to see the surroundings clearly, Fang Qiu’s mind went blank suddenly, or rather, he had lost his consciousness, not even knowing who he was.

It seemed that this space had a special ability to make everything return to zero and become empty.

He had lost consciousness.

But his heart was still beating.

Fang Qiu could hear clearly his heart pumping, where a desire was struggling madly and trying to break free.

The desire gave him endless power for some unknown reason!

The restless heart dictated how he acted.

Again...

Everything around him completely changed in an instant.

As the thick white fog dispersed, people suddenly appeared in the originally desolate and empty space, one after another, and in the blink of an eye, the crowd of people filled the entire space.

“Help us, help us!”

“As long as you die, we’ll live.”

“You’re going to save all of us by killing yourself.”

“Are you going to save us or not?”

Miserable cries for help came one after another.

Then...

The scene changed again upon these cries for help.

After a closer look...

Directly in front of Fang Qiu, the earth suddenly caved in, and bright red magma surged out from the west. The magma was constantly boiling, which spurted clouds of suffocating steam to him. It was a kind of depressing fear that made people couldn't help but back away.

At the same time...

Thousands of people, just like Fang Qiu, were standing on the edge of the crater.

Every single one of them had indifferent expressions on their faces, with their eyes full of supplication. They kept moving forward, and upon every step, some of them would fall off the crater.

At the moment of their falling, the indifferent expressions on their faces suddenly disappeared, replaced by panic and fear, as loud cries for help rang out.

"Help me, help me!"

Seeing this, Fang Qiu, whose mind was blank, suddenly felt as if his heart had been pricked by a needle.

"How? How can I save you?"

Fang Qiu asked.

“Jump.”

All the people standing at the crater cried to Fang Qiu, “Jump. If you die, we can live.”

Fang Qiu turned his head woodenly.

Looking at the boiling magma and the hot steam surging from the crater...

He was terrified to the extreme.

But...

What was more terrible than fear was that the needle was ruthlessly and painfully piercing into his heart.

That feeling was even more unbearable than death.

Swoosh!

Fang Qiu no longer hesitated.

He spread his arms, closed his eyes, leaned forward, and quickly fell towards the magma.

Hot steam.

Almost before he fell, his clothes and hair were burned off, and the moment he touched the magma, his flesh even melted in an instant, revealing his bones.

Instantly...

Irresistibly, Fang Qiu showed a look of pain on his face.

However...

There was a splash.

He fell into the magma entirely.

The powerful and dreadful temperature made him instantly evaporate!

He, was dead!

But...

He could still see the magma, the space, and also everything he wanted to see. However, he felt no pain, and did not have to make a choice.

Gradually...

It became dark.

A beam of light descended from the sky, shining on his body.

Everything before him changed.

The magma, the crater, and the crowds all disappeared.

Around him...

It was unbearably dark and quiet.

Fang Qiu turned around to observe his surroundings.

All of a sudden...

He saw something.

It was a thought which occurred to him from nowhere.

It came immediately after the look, and then it kept enlarging and enlarging. He didn't want to have it, but this thought had been running in his mind all the time, and he couldn't stop it at all.

He wanted to escape and throw away the thought. He didn't want to keep it.

Then...

He turned his head to search for other things in this space, trying to divert his attention.

He did it.

It was another thought.

Upon the look, the second thought also appeared in his mind. Like the first one, this thought had been constantly enlarging from the moment it appeared.

Neither of the two thoughts stopped, and they were constantly enlarging. Even if he forcefully restrained himself from keeping them, he failed. They were just there.

He tried to divert his attention again, only to see the third thought.

It was followed by a fourth, a fifth, a sixth...

Just like this...

One after another

After some time...

Fang Qiu felt that his head was about to explode. 84,000 thoughts were enlarging infinitely in his mind. His head was stuffed with these thoughts, making him even have no strength to think. A feeling of being almost torn apart overwhelmed him and made his head nearly blow up.

Fang Qiu gritted his teeth, and panted heavily while trying his best to suppress his anger. He clenched his fists, and his nails, which were not long at all, even pierced into the flesh of his palms fiercely.

Around this pitch-black space...

Various thoughts were still appearing one after another. Just like eyes, as long as he saw them, they would rush to him ecstatically and enter his mind.

Fang Qiu had to close his eyes.

As he knew...

If it went on, he would be enslaved by these endless thoughts and become a living corpse, so he had no choice but to close his eyes.

Stay cool.

He needed to stay cool!

He felt his expanding head and also the long-term insomnia. He had absolutely no control over these thoughts.

Fang Qiu took a deep breath.

He made a decision.

He would neither avoid nor face them.

Since these thoughts were enlarging on their own, then he could set them free and allow them to grow.

Finally, when he heaved a long sigh of relief, Fang Qiu suddenly felt something.

It seemed that...

He had clearly experienced it before.

As if accompanied by a cool breeze, he took a deep breath and exhaled deeply.

When had it happened before?

Fang Qiu thought of it。

It had happened when he was experiencing the Start of Autumn during the twenty-four stairs of the previous section.

At that time...

White Dew had just passed, and the lingering heat of summer was still present, but a cool breeze was already blowing in the air.

He sighed because he realized that the seasons passed too quickly. The scorching sun of summer hadn't even descended yet when the cool breeze of autumn arrived. But the appearance of the cool breeze seemed so fitting, sweeping away all the heat during summer and bringing an incomparable sense of comfort.

Fang Qiu recalled that scene.

He saw countless withered yellow parasol leaves falling with the wind.

Back then...

He only lamented about time.

But now, as he reminisced about that scene, Fang Qiu suddenly had an epiphany.

“The autumn wind scatters fallen leaves in piles and sweeps them back and forth countless times. Finally, after an easy laugh, it fades back and leaves them into ashes on the ground!”

Fang Qiu smiled.

He opened his eyes.

He was no longer afraid of this pitch-black space, the countless pairs of eyes hidden in the shadows, as well as the thoughts represented by these eyes.

Thoughts, actually, never came and never went.

Let them arise! Let them perish!

The smile on the corner of his mouth widened.

All those eyes representing thoughts in the surrounding space closed, and silence returned. It's empty here again.

The 84,000 thoughts in his mind also vanished.

Everything returned to its original state.

Emptiness.

However...

Just as Fang Qiu was about to take a short rest...

The third trial had arrived.

The scene in front of him changed again.

It was a scene of daily work, with tasks that needed to be done, conflicts, and social interactions.

Fang Qiu, whose mind went blank, integrated himself into daily life and lived a normal life.

Every day...

He insisted on getting up, running, and going to work at the same time.

No matter how busy he was, he would not hesitate at any moment.

After that...

When Fang Qiu lived such a life, some changes gradually took place in the small world. He made a lot of money and became a successful person. More and more money kept rushing to him, both legally and illegally. In the end, Fang Qiu only took the portion that rightfully belonged to him.

As time passed...

Fang Qiu got the clue.

He was being put on a trial.

The first trial was a test of his physical prowess and benevolence.

The second trial tested his spiritual force and self-reliance.

The third trial was a test of his living habits, of his resistance to wealth, women, fame and delicacies, and of his ability to get up and work when he was exhausted and had the chance to enjoy the comfort of lying in bed.

The scenes unfolded.

One after another.

A multitude of temptations grew from every dirty corner, like tentacles, trying to drag Fang Qiu into the darkness.

However, Fang Qiu remained unmoved throughout.

He did what he should do, got what he should get, and never touched anything unlawful!

One year passed.

The small world collapsed when there was not the slightest deviation from his norm during the year.

This time...

No change took place in the world. Neither the original fog nor the darkness and silence returned.

Fang Qiu was still alive in the world.

But...

He was no longer a person who had lived healthily for an entire year. Instead, he was a person lying on the bed, in a state of near death.

He knew clearly that he was going to die.

He could feel his soul trembling, as well as the panic and fear in his heart in the face of death.

His body began to ache, and the thoughts in his mind began to reappear. The desire in the bottom of his heart grew wildly.

Everything that had been perfectly solved by him came back to him when he could least resist them.

Chapter 1567 To the Top of the Heavenly Ladder

“Am I going to die?”

Lying in bed, Fang Qiu felt the pain in his body, the swelling of his head, and the fear of imminent death, while looking at the ceiling with a pale face.

He knew clearly that he was going to die.

However...

He had experienced death once long ago.

Was the imminent death more painful and terrifying than jumping into the magma of tens of thousands of degrees?

No.

So, he smiled.

Even though he was very panicked and scared, even though he couldn't help shedding tears, even though he had always wanted to stand up and call for help, he didn't do anything and remained quiet.

He thought of the various conceptions advocated by Confucianism.

Only by knowing what you should achieve can you have strong aspirations.

Only when you have strong aspirations can you stay calm and patient.

Only when you stay calm and patient can you be at peace with yourselves.

Only when you are at peace with yourselves can you think carefully.

Only when you think carefully can you get achievements!

The truth, he had learned from the book The Great Learning in the thatched cottage in the Zengzi ruins, came to Fang Qiu's mind.

Because he had already understood it, Fang Qiu instantly put everything down in such a situation.

Then...

Fang Qiu found himself motionless.

It was as if everything in the world had nothing to do with him. The pain, as well as everything he could feel, had vanished.

Lying on the bed, he seemed dead.

But...

He was not.

He was still conscious.

Under the guidance of his heart and the perception of his consciousness, Fang Qiu felt that his body seemed to have melted directly into half-black gas and half-white aura.

Yin and Yang!

Then, they began to merge with each other.

The black gas and white aura mixed together into something gray. Everything around was gone, leaving only a mass of chaos.

For an unknown period of time...

Fang Qiu's consciousness had been wandering in this mass of chaos.

He saw nothing and felt nothing.

He couldn't even feel that time glided past.

That feeling could be described in a similar situation where a mental patient stood next to a big tree and told it that he was a tree, and then became the tree he was imagining.

Time made no sense to him.

Similarly...

Time was nowhere in the chaos. Fang Qiu felt like his consciousness was something necessary but useless in the chaos.

Actually...

The only thing he could do was to watch the mass of chaos transforming.

And nothing, but the mass of gray chaos, was before him.

However...

Just as he was about to lose all his emotions while watching...

Some changes took place in the chaos, all of a sudden.

After a closer look...

An extremely tiny golden spot of light actually appeared within the mass of gray chaos.

Then, the spot of light immediately began to grow, bit by bit. Although slowly, it was indeed growing, just like a flame.

As time went by, it grew larger and brighter.

Eventually, the mass of chaos completely turned golden, shining and dazzling.

“Is it internal Qi?”

Fang Qiu sensed a particularly familiar aura.

He found that...

The golden glow turned out to be internal Qi.

Exactly, it was the same as the golden internal Qi that had once appeared in his body!

At this moment, Fang Qiu suddenly felt a tremor throughout his body, as if a surge of energy, like an electric current, was flowing into his body.

Then...

He woke up

He opened his eyes.

And he found himself back in the ruins, standing on the steps of the Heavenly Ladder.

He realized that the golden internal Qi he had lost before had been completely replenished, and it had even tripled from its previous maximum!

After a brief inspection, Fang Qiu was exceptionally delighted.

He had never expected to gain such great benefits from ascending the Heavenly Ladder this time.

Filled with joy...

Fang Qiu stood up.

He discovered that he was standing at a high point on the Heavenly Ladder, just one step away from the top. With one more step, he would reach the top!

However...

Fang Qiu was not in a hurry to take that step.

Instead, he looked around and surveyed the surroundings.

To his surprise...

he found that there was no one else standing on the same step as he was.

When he looked down, he saw that everyone else was standing below at different steps of the Heavenly Ladder. Among them, it was Master Numinous who was standing at the highest step, only two steps away from Fang Qiu.

It seemed that all of them had already awakened, and each of them had a bitter smile on their face.

“You all?”

Fang Qiu was confused.

“We didn’t make it through.”

Master Numinous shook his head and said, “This section of the Heavenly Ladder is too challenging. I only made it this far, but you passed all of the trials.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Fang Qiu also thought of the various trials he had just gone through.

Those trials were nonexistent and meaningless to him. As long as he did what he usually did, he could overcome them easily.

However...

It was different for the others.

Fang Qiu had long lost any desires for wealth, women, or power. None of them held any allure for him.

And as for his habits, it went without saying.

He had adhered to those habits consistently for decades.

Since when he began martial arts training, he had become accustomed to a supremely healthy lifestyle. So, even when faced with hardships and fatigue, he did not feel the slightest pain. Instead, he naturally believed that was what he should do.

But for others, it was not that simple.

To maintain the same habits every day was almost impossible.

For the masses...

There would be times when they felt tired and sleepy.

And at such times, they needed to rest, making it impossible for them to persist at all.

For the same thing...

To persist for a day was considered perseverance, to persist for a month was considered willpower, and only to persist for a year was considered a habit!

Sure enough...

Apart from that...

The most critical point was that everyone had their own obsession.

Under the influence of the obsession, they could not achieve perfection.

Therefore...

They admired John Doe sincerely.

“Go ahead.”

Master Numinous smiled and raised his hand towards the top of the Heavenly Ladder.

“Yes, go ahead.”

The patriarchs of the four great families, who were one step lower than Master Numinous, also smiled and waved their hands to signal for Fang Qiu to go up.

“Come on, you’re almost there.”

He Gaoming and the others shouted, “Once you go up, you will truly achieve immortality!”

“Brother John Doe.”

Sword Fanatic also shouted, “We still have to fight side by side. No matter what, you must take this last step!”

“John Doe.”

The four gurus of the Sword Sect looked at Fang Qiu and said, “This is a rare opportunity, not only for you but also for the whole Huaxia. So go up!”

Hearing these words...

Under everyone's gaze...

Fang Qiu beamed and nodded.

He looked ahead.

The last step of the Heavenly Ladder was at the top of the clouds.

As long as he took this step, Fang Qiu would be able to walk above the clouds and see the scenery beyond the clouds.

"I'm coming."

He whispered in his heart.

Fang Qiu took a step forward, stepped onto the last staircase, and then exerted force with his legs. Immediately, he stood up straight.

His entire body entered the realm of clouds.

He disappeared from the eyes of everyone below.

At the same time...

After he took this step...

The scenery in front of Fang Qiu instantly underwent a tremendous transformation.

He realized that...

The view above the clouds was completely different from what he had imagined.

Before them...

It was a small plain, shrouded in clouds.

And under his feet...

The Heavenly Ladder that he had just stepped on had disappeared as if it had never existed at all.

Looking at this desolate world...

Fang Qiu suddenly felt a strange sensation in his heart.

He waved his right hand.

Those people he couldn't see below the staircase suddenly ascended inexplicably and quickly reached above the clouds.

On the clouds.

Everyone was puzzled.

“How could this happen?”

“How did we come up here?”

“Is this the top of the Heavenly Ladder?”

“We were clearly blocked under the Heavenly Ladder. How did we suddenly come up?”

Everyone was confused.

They looked at each other in inquiry.

In the end...

Everyone’s eyes fell on Fang Qiu.

“What’s going on?”

Master Numinous asked on behalf of the crowds.

“I can’t explain it clearly, either.”

Fang Qiu frowned, shook his head, and said, “After coming up, there was a split second when I suddenly knew that by waving my hand, everyone could come up, so I did it.”

As he spoke...

Fang Qiu recalled his experiences on the Heavenly Ladder.

Fang Qiu guessed inwardly.

On the Heavenly Ladder, everything he had experienced was a baptism.

After burning his physical body, suppressing his thoughts, overcoming his habits, and experiencing death and rebirth, he took just the first step into the immortal world.

Sure enough...

Fang Qiu had never thought that it would be so easy to enter the immortal world.

Even becoming a guru took more than ten or even dozens of years, so how was it possible to easily enter the immortal world just by climbing the Heavenly Ladder?

“Let’s go.”

Fang Qiu waved his hand and led everyone forward.

On this small plain surrounded by clouds, as they walked, they encountered a wall of clouds.

They passed through the cloud wall.

Then, everyone arrived at a new place.

It was still a plain, but there were some buildings on this plain that looked like flower gardens. And on the main gate of this flower garden, there was a sign with ancient characters that read: the Forages Garden.

Because they were all Huaxianese, everyone could understand these three characters.

At the moment when they understood...

They thought of the same thing.

That was, Laozi's mount, Black Ox!

"Forages?"

"Could it be for feeding ox?"

"Did Laozi personally start the Forages Garden?"

Everyone asked with doubt.

While they chatted...

Following John Doe, they walked into the Forages Garden.

As soon as they entered...

Everyone couldn't remain calm anymore.

It was not a forage garden, but a garden full of spiritual herbs!

At this very moment...

They felt that something was wrong.

"Are these spiritual herbs only used to feed Black Ox?"

Were they treated worse than an ox?

With sighs and wry smiles on their faces, they didn't hesitate to pick the herbs!

Chapter 1568 Change the Nationality

Before the gate of the ruins.

“I found it!”

Lord Virtuous analyzed and compared for a long time, finally seeing a spot on the light curtain of the gate of the ruins, where the character, Tao, was missing.

With a thought, Lord Virtuous immediately rushed towards that spot.

Approaching the light curtain of the gate of the ruins, Lord Virtuous gently reached out toward the spot he was staring at.

Then...

His hand actually went straight into the light curtain.

This scene made Lord Virtuous burst into laughter uncontrollably.

Before finding the gate of the ruins, he had speculated that the reason why John Doe and others were able to disappear so quickly was that they had found a way to enter the ruins.

Their ability to quickly find the way to enter the ruins meant that the way was easy to find.

Therefore...

He didn't dare to give it too much thought.

To his surprise, he found the way so easily.

The spot where the character, Tao, was missing indeed allowed entry.

“Everyone, follow me.”

Lord Virtuous shouted and then stepped in.

At the same time...

Second Venerable and dozens of man in black who followed him, all looked at this scene in great surprise, and quickly gathered around at the summons of Lord Virtuous.

Lord Virtuous went in first, followed closely by Second Venerable.

Then the rest quickly followed suit.

Soon, all of them had entered.

They passed through the gate of the ruins.

In the blink of an eye, everyone from the Nirvana Organization had arrived in the ruins.

As soon as they gathered, the gate of the ruins quietly dissipated.

Just like when Fang Qiu and the others came in, Lord Virtuous and his followers saw this space that resembled a fairyland, gazing at the ethereal surroundings.

“Could there still be such a place in the world?”

“Is this a fairyland?”

“The Qi of Heaven and Earth is so abundant here. This place is incredible.”

For a moment...

Everyone couldn't help but exclaim in awe.

In the eyes of Huaxianese, this place was like a fairyland, and even in the eyes of non-Huaxianese, it was also definitely a paradise.

Not only those men in black, but also Lord Virtuous and Second Venerable were stunned by everything in this space.

For one thing, this place was greatly beautiful, resembling a legendary fairyland!

More importantly...

They felt the incredibly rich Qi of Heaven and Earth in the air.

The Qi of Heaven and Earth was so rich that it flowed around them like water.

In addition...

There were all kinds of things condensed by the Qi of Heaven and Earth.

As well as the cranes soaring in the sky in the far distance. They fascinated the group of people.

After some time...

“Wake up! Keep up!”

Seeing that everyone else was immersed in the scenery, Lord Virtuous who was the quickest to wake up, immediately yelled to awaken everyone else from their enchantment with the beautiful scenery.

This group of people began to exchange exclamations and awe with each other.

This was without a doubt the most beautiful and memorable scene they had ever witnessed in their lives.

However...

No one was greedy for the marvelous scenery.

What they truly desired was the treasures hidden within this ruins, instead of the breathtaking scenery and the Qi of Heaven and Earth.

In the exclamations and admiration...

They followed behind Lord Virtuous and hurried forward.

Lord Virtuous was anxious.

He was not familiar with the secret realm of the ruins, so he had no idea what they might encounter inside. But he was certain that the treasures left by Laozi were hidden here.

Those from Huaxia had disappeared for so long, which meant that they had already entered and were likely deep within the ruins, or even they possibly had found the treasures.

Therefore...

He had to catch up.

He had to see what the treasures in the ruins were, and he had to snatch them away from Huaxianese.

And most importantly...

He had to kill John Doe here!

With an urgent desire burning in his heart, Lord Virtuous quickly pressed forward.

However, just as they had taken a few steps...

A loud voice suddenly resounded in the sky.

“Are you Huaxianese? If you’re not, retreat!”

The moment this voice appeared, everyone present abruptly stopped in their tracks, frozen on the spot.

Because they found out...

At the moment when the voice sounded, they had all sensed an extremely domineering Qi of Heaven and Earth surging within their bodies. They didn’t even dare to move for fear that the Qi of Heaven and Earth would directly destroy their internal organs!

The Qi of Heaven and Earth began to circulate within these people’s bodies.

The next moment...

Boom!

A loud bang echoed.

Everyone hurriedly turned their heads to look.

There...

They saw that the source of the loud bang was actually a man in black. Upon the bang, this man's face turned pale instantly. It was as if an immense force was pulling him, and he involuntarily flew back towards the gate of the ruins.

Just as the first person was being blasted away...

More than ten of the men in black were also sent flying at the same time. No one knew if they were dead or alive.

As for the ones from Huaxia among them, they didn't feel anything wrong at all, looking at those who had been sent flying in confusion.

And ahead of them...

Following behind Lord Virtuous, Second Venerable wore relaxed expressions. He was truly a Huaxianese. Although he had sensed the overwhelmingly domineering Qi of Heaven and Earth within their bodies, he did not feel anything wrong.

Because the domineering Qi of Heaven and Earth was extremely gentle. After circling around his body a few times, it gradually dissipated without causing any harm.

After the Qi of Heaven and Earth disappeared from his body, Second Venerable let out a sigh of relief.

Then he turned his head to look around.

Then...

He noticed that in front of him, Lord Virtuous, who had his back turned, as well as the dozens of incapable gurus following closely behind them, remained in place.

This situation relieved him greatly.

After all, they were the most powerful force of the Nirvana Organization in Zhongdong.

If it weren't for the many losses the Nirvana Organization had suffered before at the hands of John Doe, there would be no chance for those ones from Huaxia to occupy this place. Also, the Nirvana Organization would have infiltrated their men into the ruins in advance and taken away all the treasures within.

At the thought of this...

Second Venerable's anger surge uncontrollably.

John Doe.

This time, he would definitely die!

However...

Just as Second Venerable got confident and solely focused on getting the situation here to end quickly so that he could follow Lord Virtuous to catch up John Doe and unleash a massacre...

Lord Virtuous, standing in front of him, suddenly turned around.

“Uh?”

As soon as Lord Virtuous turned around, Second Venerable was dumbfounded.

He clearly saw that Lord Virtuous’s face had turned red from holding his breath, and Lord Virtuous also looked incredibly unpleasant.

At a glance, he knew that something was wrong!

“My Lord Virtuous, what’s wrong with you?”

Second Venerable hurriedly asked.

“I can’t hold on anymore.”

Lord Virtuous gritted his teeth, grabbed Second Venerable’s shoulder, and said, “I’m going to be shaken out by this force. It’s up to you now. I’ll wait outside for you. Be careful!”

“What?”

Second Venerable looked at Lord Virtuous in surprise and said, “Aren’t you also from Huaxia? How could you be shaken out?”

“I...”

Lord Virtuous gritted his teeth and said after a moment of silence, “In order to hide my identity, I obtained citizenship from another country. I thought my Huaxianese bloodline would still work here!”

Hearing this...

Second Venerable's face twitched uncontrollably.

He couldn't believe that Lord Virtuous had even changed his nationality.

The most terrifying thing was...

Although Lord Virtuous had Huaxianese blood flowing through his veins, in this situation, he could still be shaken out just because of changing his nationality.

How did this mysterious and powerful force discover that he had changed his nationality?

Could it be that this force could capture souls?

Could it invade a person's consciousness and search through their memories?

It seemed that...

This was the only possibility.

Otherwise, how could it be so accurate?

"I didn't expect it to be like this!"

Lord Virtuous smiled bitterly.

He really hadn't expected it.

Inside the ruins of Laozi, there was actually such a challenge.

He was also from Huaxia, so he understood the significance of this ban, but even his nationality could be detected, which was truly excessive.

At this very moment...

He regretted it in his heart.

Why?

Why had he changed his nationality?

Huaxianese nationality was something that millions of people had dreamed of but could not obtain. It was the most difficult nationality to acquire in the world. How could he have given it up?

Unfortunately, it was too late for regrets now!

Boom!

A loud explosion sounded.

Even though he was formidably powerful, reaching the Flower Core Formation, he couldn't resist the repelling force of the overbearing Qi of Heaven and Earth. After managing to resist for more than ten seconds, he finally couldn't hold on any longer and was violently blasted away by that mysterious and powerful Qi of Heaven and Earth.

Seeing Lord Virtuous disappear in an instant...

Second Venerable furrowed his brows, knowing that he could only rely on himself from now on.

But...

He was not afraid.

Because he had brought many people with him this time, and even though non-Huaxianese all had been eliminated, almost everyone left was an incapable guru.

Even if he caught up with John Doe and the others, he was not afraid at all.

“From now on, listen to my command.”

After shouting at everyone, Second Venerable waved his hand and immediately led everyone forward.

Just like Fang Qiu and the others...

They had also experienced the cleansing and baptism of the Qi of Heaven and Earth on their bodies, heard Laozi’s lecture and arrived at the center of the boundless blue water, where they saw the appearance of the Heavenly Ladder and began their climbing.

On the Heavenly Ladder.

Their experiences were exactly the same as Fang Qiu and the others.

This first section of the Heavenly Ladder posed no difficulty at all, and it was merely an experience of the twenty-four solar terms.

Therefore...

This group of people quickly passed the twenty-four steps in the first section.

After that, they arrived at the location of the spatial rift and found that there was no path ahead. They had no idea what to do next, so they had to stop and ponder.

Right now...

In the sky, above the clouds...

In the Forages Garden, the crowds had already picked all the spiritual herbs. Due to the abundance of spiritual herbs, they couldn't hold them in their hands at all, so they had to take off their coats or take out their bags to contain the herbs, and then they secured the coats or bags to their bodies with satisfaction.

Fang Qiu also harvested a lot of spiritual herbs. Seeing that everyone had almost finished their picking, he looked around again and confirmed that there was nothing else in the Forages Garden. Only then did he wave his hand to gather everyone and continue to move forward.

Chapter 1569 The Tao Te Ching Bamboo Slips

Under Fang Qiu's guidance...

Everyone walked out of the Forages Garden together, and then walked along a path deeper into the ruins from the entrance of the Forages Garden.

Around them...

The ethereal aura still lingered.

As they continued walking, they suddenly noticed some green grass sprouting beneath their feet, particularly pleasant at first glance. Everyone could clearly sense that these green buds were growing.

Fortunately, there was a path under his feet.

Otherwise, they really couldn't bear to step on these green grass buds.

They walked all the way forward.

They proceeded with caution, afraid of stepping on the tender buds.

As they moved forward...

They noticed a change in the surroundings.

What appeared in front of them was no longer the small plain but a picturesque landscape.

Green mountains emerged in the distant clouds.

Nearby...

A babbling stream flowed through the grass, and the water was very clear.

They followed the stream.

Not long after...

They arrived at the foot of a green mountain.

On a flat ground adjacent to the stream at the foot of the mountain, there was a thatched hut.

The hut appeared simple, similar to the thatched hut in the ruins of Zengzi.

Fang Qiu, who was walking at the front, turned to survey the surroundings and then walked into the thatched hut.

He pushed the door open.

The decoration inside was very plain.

There was only a bed, a futon, and a desk resembling those once used by students in ancient academies. The futon was placed beside the desk, providing an adequate seat.

Upon closer inspection, he noticed three rolls of bamboo slips neatly placed in the upper left corner of the desk.

Apart from that...

The entire thatched hut was empty.

Just then...

Master Numinous and the four patriarchs, the guru of the Sword Sect, and Sword Fanatic all arrived at the door.

Everyone saw everything inside.

“What are these bamboo slips?”

Curiously, Master Numinous walked up and reached out to grab a roll of the bamboo slips.

To his surprise...

As soon as he touched the roll of bamboo slips, his whole body shook violently. He was stunned.

Fang Qiu also walked to the desk, sat down cross-legged on the futon, and reached out for another roll of bamboo slips. As soon as he touched it, his body also shook violently.

Then...

Fang Qiu and Master Numinous quickly withdrew their hands.

“Go ahead.”

Master Numinous gestured, extending his hand.

“Okay.”

Fang Qiu didn't refuse, nodding in agreement, and reached out again, opening the three rolls of bamboo slips and putting them together.

Just as the three rolls of bamboo slips were assembled successfully...

Fang Qiu, still with his hand on the bamboo slips, suddenly froze, completely motionless.

Seeing this, the others furrowed their brows.

They carefully read the characters recorded on these bamboo slips and found that it was once again the complete text of Tao Te Ching.

This was already the third time they had seen Tao Te Ching.

The first time was on the light curtain at the gate of ruins.

The second time was in the sky when they entered the ruins.

Now...

This was the third time.

“Could it be that these bamboo slips also have the effect of cleansing the body and enhancing physical fitness?”

Patriarch Qian asked.

“Perhaps.”

Diwu Mingchuan responded.

“Take it easy.”

Master Numinous smiled slightly and said, “We’ll know once Fang Qiu comes back to his senses. Then, everyone can have a try one by one.”

Hearing this...

Everyone nodded.

Right now...

Fang Qiu was not immersed in any peculiar state of mind. He still lived in the present reality, and he could clearly hear everyone’s discussions.

He didn't move, not because he couldn't, but because he didn't want to.

When these bamboo slips were opened...

He was enlightened.

It was this enlightenment that captured his attention. He sensed that each roll of bamboo slips could release incredibly powerful attacks.

After sensing it...

"Phew..."

Fang Qiu let out a long breath and came back to his senses.

"How was it going?"

"What's going on with these bamboo slips?"

"What did you sense?"

Everyone asked, one by one.

"Everyone, please."

Fang Qiu stood up with a smile, pointed to the bamboo slips on the desk, and said, "I won't say much. You can experience it for yourselves. Let's talk after that."

Upon hearing this, everyone was curious and reached out to touch the bamboo slips.

As soon as they touched...

These gurus immediately were enlightened similarly to Fang Qiu and understood the efficacy of these bamboo slips.

Withdrawing their hands...

They looked at each other.

“Do you all understand now?”

Fang Qiu said with a smile, “So, how should we handle these bamboo slips?”

“Well...”

Master Numinous looked at the crowd around him and realized that there were much more people than he had imagined. Even, considering their power and influence, the three rolls of bamboo slips wouldn't be enough to distribute evenly.

“Perhaps we can divide them into separate collections.”

A guru from the Sword Sect said, “One of them will be collected by the Sword Sect, one by the four great families and the Pear Garden, and the last one by John Doe and Sword Fanatic. What do you think?”

“No.”

Fang Qiu immediately shook his head and said, “This kind of division is unequal and unfair.”

Everyone nodded and agreed.

There was no problem for the Sword Sect to collect one. After all, the Sword Sect was the most powerful force in Huaxia. No one would compete with them for a chance to collect one.

However...

Dividing one roll of bamboo slips among the four great families and the Pear Garden would be difficult.

It would forcibly bring together these five forces. Although the four great families were often mentioned together, they were still four distinct forces, and the Pear Garden was also an independent force.

In such case...

Which one of the five forces should be given the single roll of bamboo slips?

If they handed it over to the Pear Garden, the four great families would definitely not be happy. If any of the four great families took it over, the other three great families would not be happy, and neither would the Pear Garden.

This way of division would be impracticable.

Besides, although John Doe's strength had also been recognized by everyone, and judging from his performance this time and the people he brought with him, John Doe had also entered the ranks of top forces, many people would probably not be pleased to hand one over to John Doe.

After all, there were still eight factions and sixteen sects.

Everyone had determined to face great danger to guard the Laozi Relic before their entering. They had already mustered their courage and offered their protection. Now that they had entered the ruins, they couldn't leave with nothing, could they?

“So, what do you think we should do?”

Master Numinous asked.

“It’s very simple.”

Fang Qiu smiled faintly and said, “All the bamboo slips belong to the Sword Sect!”

Everyone was stupefied.

The four gurus of the Sword Sect were also stunned.

They didn’t expect that John Doe would stand with them.

“Alright, alright, don’t look at me like that.”

Fang Qiu shook his head with a smile and said, “The Sword Sect is the most powerful force in Huaxia and also a national-level force of Huaxia.

“And everyone knows the importance of these bamboo slips. Even if we obtain one, what can we achieve with it?”

...

It seemed to make sense.

These bamboo slips could release powerful attacks, but other than that, they had no other functions. Why did they have to keep them?

“It’s better to hand over these lethal weapons to the government for safekeeping.

“The Sword Sect represents the country, so I trust them.”

Speaking of that...

Fang Qiu looked at the four gurus of the Sword Sect and continued, “Of course, handing over these bamboo slips doesn’t mean that they completely belong to the Sword Sect. After all, they are martial arts artifacts and should belong to the martial arts world. Everyone present has a part of them, but it’s improper to put them on display, so we hand over them to the Sword Sect just for safekeeping.”

“What do you think?”

Finished that...

Fang Qiu glanced at everyone, waiting for their answers.

“Yeah.”

Master Numinous pondered for a moment, then nodded and said, “Yes, handing them over to the Sword Sect for safekeeping is indeed a good idea, but we need a promise from the Sword Sect that if they find any other functions of these bamboo slips, they must inform us as soon as possible. When we need to study and examine them, the Sword Sect can’t keep them hidden.”

“Yes.”

A guru of the Sword Sect stepped forward and said, “We can do it!”

“Good.”

After getting the promise, everyone nodded with satisfaction.

The gurus of the Sword Sect wasted no time.

They immediately put away the bamboo slips.

Just as Fang Qiu had said, the Sword Sect was a national-level force after all, representing the country, so everyone trusted them.

After the bamboo slips were put away...

“Let’s all search around.”

Fang Qiu said, “We just passed through the Forages Garden, and here we have Tao Te Ching. We can probably confirm that this is Laozi’s residence.

“Merely, we do not know if this place is a temporary residence or Laozi’s real residence. Thus, we can find out if there is anything left behind here.”

With that...

Fang Qiu walked out of the thatched hut and began to search around.

The others didn’t hesitate.

They all started searching as well.

To their surprise...

After searching for a long while, no one found anything.

“No remains?”

Fang Qiu also carefully searched around. He had thought that Laozi would have left his remains in this ruins, but he found nothing.

“It seems that this place was just a temporary residence for Laozi.”

Thinking of this, Fang Qiu nodded silently.

Fang Qiu felt even more confused.

Where did Laozi go after transforming into Buddha Shakyamuni? If even his remains were not in this ruins, then where?

On the other side...

The others had the same result and found nothing.

But...

Due to the vastness of this area with mountains and water, everyone decided to search individually.

In no time...

The leader of each faction gathered together and made this decision, which everyone agreed to. Then, they each chose a direction and scattered.

Outside the ruins...

“You scatter!”

Lord Virtuous, who had been thrown out, glanced helplessly and gloomily at the pool, and then immediately shouted at his men in black who had also been thrown out, "Keep a close eye on the situation in all directions. Report to me immediately if there is anything unusual!"

"Yes, My Lord."

As soon as he finished speaking, the men in black immediately dispersed and found their respective positions to quietly surveil the area.

Lord Virtuous found a place to sit down cross-legged, entering into a state of cultivation to restore himself.

He was not injured.

But his internal Qi had been consumed a lot while he resisted the domineering Qi of Heaven and Earth, so he needed to replenish it during this time.

He had to be in his prime to block John Doe!

Chapter 1570 Regathering of People From Other Countries!

Kabur, the capital of Ahanf.

Airport.

In the largest and most luxurious city of Ahanf, planes from various countries around the world were flying towards the airport.

The first to land were the representatives from Murica.

Two Muricans rushed directly to the airport by private plane. As soon as they got off the plane, they were escorted to the airport's VIP lounge to rest and wait.

Not long after...

Two representatives from Anglan also arrived.

They were a young man and a young woman, who looked young but exuded an unfathomable aura from head to toe.

Subsequently, there came representatives from Germmany, L'hexagone, Nihon, SoviETT, and Taily.

These people all had distinct characteristics.

The representatives from Germmany were two individuals dressed in military green overalls, giving off the air of secret agents. In addition to their strong aura, they also carried various small items such as military knives and diamond rings with sharp spikes.

The representatives from L'hexagone were two men wearing tall hats, both of whom had curved mustaches and appeared quite amiable.

The representatives from Nihon were still two wandering samurai.

The representatives from SoviETT were two sturdy young men, instead of the previous three agile and chubby ones.

The representatives from Taily were the most remarkable ones, one of them wielded two battleaxes while the other held a spear taller than a person, resembling an ancient Roman gladiator.

"Hello, everyone."

When these individuals entered the VIP lounge, the two Muricans immediately stood up to greet them.

Everyone turned to look at him.

They found that there was nothing special about these two Muricans. Their complexion was not very pale, and they both appeared quite young.

“Aren’t you from the blood clan?”

The young man from Soviëtt sniffed and asked.

“Who said that the metahuman of Murica must be from the blood clan?”

A young man with blond buzz-cut hair and a diamond earring, said with a smile, “We also have Superman, as well as the Hulk and Iron Man!”

This remark immediately elicited laughter from the representatives of other countries.

“There are remarkable talents in Murica.”

One from L’hexagone came forward in time and said, “However, they rarely intervene. I don’t know their true strength or the nature of their power.”

“You’ll know soon.”

The young man from Murica said with a smile and then said to everyone, “My name is Kim Stiles. You can call me Kim.”

The others nodded in understanding.

“Well...”

Kim said, “I don’t need to know your names, and you don’t need to know the names of my companions. Since I am the leader of this mission, all you need to know is my name. Now, let’s get down to business.”

Hearing that...

Everyone in the VIP lounge, who had been observing and sizing each other up, took their seats.

“I believe everyone is aware of our mission.”

Without hesitation, Kim continued directly, “Since we have received orders from higher authorities and have been dispatched here, I hope that in the time to come, we can all stand together against our common enemy.”

“Sure, no problem.”

A man from Anglan nodded first and added, “I really don’t know how to fight with those from Huaxia if we are not united against them.”

As he finished his words...

The people from other countries also nodded in succession.

They had already known what had happened before and had gained a detailed understanding, so they were well aware of the strength of those from Huaxia.

Especially John Doe!

In such a situation, it was precisely because they feared losses that each country only sent two people over.

If they didn't cooperate, the combat power of the two people would undoubtedly be sending themselves to their deaths in the face of Huaxia.

That was to say...

No matter how arrogant these people were, they had to completely unite as one cohesive force, otherwise, the mission would surely fail.

"As for the treasures in the ruins, we can divide them equally after obtaining them," said Kim.

"Why?"

A man from SoviETT directly stood up and questioned, saying, "Based on all the evidence, it was you, Murica, who incited Ahanf to launch the guided missiles and led the attack on our countries, causing us significant losses. Now, what gives you the right to share the treasures equally with us?"

As he finished his words...

He immediately received agreement from the other countries.

They hadn't even confronted Murica about the missile incident yet, and now the latter demanded an equal share of the treasures. How dare they?

On what grounds?

"This time will be different."

Kim shook his head and said, "Those who died in the past are behind us now, and we are presently all on the same boat. We each have the same number of people now, and we are going to exert the same effort, aren't we?"

“Humph!”

The man from Anglan snorted and said, “That’s true, but it was you Muricans that indeed tricked us and caused us to lose many powerful individuals. We can separate the two matters, but compensation must be given first!”

“Yes, compensation is necessary.”

“If there is no compensation, I would rather not participate in this mission. I can return home now.”

“At worst, no one, but those from Huaxia, can take all the treasures in the ruins!”

For a moment...

People from other countries started demanding compensation.

Then...

Both of the two individuals from Murica were furious.

In their view, the foolish actions committed by those people earlier had nothing to do with them. Why should they sacrifice their own interests to pay off the debts owed by someone else?

However, they were all Muricans.

They were fully aware that the purpose of this group of people was to secure a larger share of the treasures in Laozi ruins. These people weren’t really seeking compensation. Even if they agreed to make some compensation at a national level, these people would definitely not accept it. Ultimately, the issue would still come back to the distribution of the spoils from the ruins.

But...

Even if they knew, what was the point?

In the face of joint efforts from all over the world, what else could they possibly do?

If it was just two people about to leave, it would be manageable, but now each of these people was showing dissatisfaction and deciding to leave.

What they feared the most was...

These people who seemed to be leaving might secretly unite and exclude them.

There was no other choice.

They were furious.

But they could only forcibly suppress it.

After exchanging glances with his companion, Kim finally said, "Well, if we succeed in the end, we will only take one-tenth of the spoils, and the rest will be yours. As for the issue of compensation for you, we can discuss them after this mission. What do you think?"

One-tenth.

There were a total of seven countries represented here.

Splitting the spoils equally would mean that each country could receive one-seventh. If One-tenth for Murica, they did save some for the other countries.

In addition, there was further compensation, which was not bad.

People from other countries also knew that they could push, but they must not push Murica too hard. Otherwise, Murica might find a chance to launch a few sneaky missile attacks, which would escalate the problem.

“Okay, it’s a deal then.”

They looked at each other and nodded in agreement。

“Let’s set off now.”

Kim stood up, took the lead as they all got out of the VIP lounge, and got in a car.

...

In the ruins.

In front of the thatched hut.

After everyone dispersed...

Fang Qiu looked around and finally flew toward the green mountain behind the hut.

He arrived at the mountain top.

Fang Qiu directly released his Divine Consciousness for scanning.

However, he didn’t find anything unusual with the Qi of Heaven and Earth. He even controlled his Divine Consciousness to penetrate underground to search for jade mine, but he found nothing.

“Could it be that there’s no mysterious jade mine underneath the ruins?

“Then where did the Qi of Heaven and Earth come from? How could it be so rich?”

Confused, Fang Qiu speculated, “Could it be that Laozi forcibly confined all the Qi of Heaven and Earth from a mysterious and enormous jade mine here? Or could it be that he directly gathered the surrounding Qi of Heaven and Earth and formed this place?”

At this thought...

Fang Qiu couldn’t help but take a deep breath.

Both possibilities sounded terrifying!

With his current strength, he could only look from afar. It was impossible for him to achieve it.

Since it was confirmed that there was no jade mine, Fang Qiu no longer had a target for searching. Immediately, he began to wander around the mountaintop, inspecting his surroundings.

As he moved forward...

All of a sudden...

He saw a river appearing at the foot of the mountain in the distance.

It was much wider than the stream next to the thatched hut.

Fang Qiu hurried over.

The river was three meters wide.

The water in the river was incredibly clear and transparent, and the entire river was full of the Qi of Heaven and Earth.

Crouching down by the riverbank, Fang Qiu discovered fish in the river, and they were not ordinary fish. At a glance, he could clearly see that the strength of these fish was not weak.

They were almost as powerful as the guardian beasts outside.

In amazement...

Fang Qiu suddenly noticed that in the middle of the river, he could see through the river what was happening beneath the clouds.

He saw that Second Venerable and the others, on the Heavenly Ladder, were trying to find a way to gather the Heavenly Ladder.

“Uh?”

Surprised in his heart, Fang Qiu murmured quietly, “How did they arrive so quickly?”

“It seems that they have been on the Heavenly Ladder for a long time. I wonder when they will be able to break through that spatial rift.

“We don’t have much time left.

“We have to investigate this place thoroughly before they arrive!”

Fang Qiu made up his mind.

He immediately got up and was ready to take action.

Right then...

“Everyone, come here quickly.”

A familiar voice suddenly came from afar.

It was He Gaoming.

He noticed something unusual!

Fang Qiu immediately set off, ready to hurry over.

However, as soon as he took his first steps...

Whoosh!

A loud splash suddenly echoed through the air.

To his surprise...

A big fish leaped high out of the river, with its mouth wide open like a monstrous creature, heading straight for Fang Qiu’s head.

Swoosh!

Fang Qiu swiftly moved his body, dodging the attack and then waved his right hand, attempting to slap the big fish.

However...

The aquatic creature twisted its body in the air, evading Fang Qiu's attack. Then it returned to the river with a plop and quickly dived into the depths of the river.

“It was actually able to dodge my attack.”

Fang Qiu exclaimed in astonishment. He glanced towards He Gaoming and found that many people were rushing over. But he didn't have time to catch up with them. He went straight into the river and quickly chased after the big fish.