

# **I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense**

## **#Chapter 31 - 31 Tianwu Sect Ambush - Read I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense Chapter 31 - 31 Tianwu Sect Ambush**

### **Chapter 31: Chapter 31 Tianwu Sect Ambush**

Li Xiaobai couldn't make out anything unusual in the surroundings.

It was still a jungle, still desolate, and still very quiet.

But the members of the Holy Demon Sect seemed to be on high alert, leaving him puzzled about the operations of these high-level players.

Indeed, it was all because he lacked cultivation.

Li Xiaobai sighed inwardly, but there was nothing he could do about it since he didn't need to cultivate.

"Boss, do you think there are demonic beasts in this forest?"

Chu Xiaoxiao asked, following beside Li Xiaobai. She didn't seem nervous at all.

"It's so quiet here, there probably aren't any," he replied, though he wasn't very sure himself.

"Quiet down, if you don't know, then don't talk!"

The young man with a crew cut was really annoyed, and he hissed angrily, fearing that disturbing a demonic beast would lead to a tough battle.

Li Xiaobai immediately shut his mouth. After all, these people were experienced; not only had they deduced the presence of demonic beasts in the jungle, but they also stopped actions that could disturb them. They were truly professional.

The group fumbled through the jungle for a while before Yin Susu's expression suddenly eased.

"There are no demonic beasts here; they must have been killed by the people from Tianwu Sect," she said.

"See, the boss already said that there were no demonic beasts, and you didn't believe him!" the little lolita said, visibly upset.

"That's because he was lucky. Xiaoxiao, don't be fooled by this guy!" the man with the crew cut said.

"How dare you speak to your senior like that, Xiao Lizi? When you speak to an elder, you should use honorifics. I am a True Disciple of the Sect Leader, several generations your senior, yet you dare to address me by my name without respect for propriety!"

Chu Xiaoxiao said, hands on her hips, fuming with anger.

"Let's rest here for a moment," Yin Susu interjected, cutting off everyone else. Walking too quickly wasn't good, and they were still some distance away from the treasure site.

First, they needed to get their condition in check before setting out with energy.

"Sister Yin, have some water," said the other Holy Demon Sect disciples, immediately coming forward to attend to Yin Susu, offering her water and tea.

"No need," she replied, ignoring the disciples' eagerness and instead walking toward Li Xiaobai.

"Young Master Li, may I ask where you have studied?"

"Self-taught," he answered, immediately understanding she was probing into his background.

"May I inquire as to your cultivation level? Why do I not sense any spiritual energy fluctuations from you?"

"To become a Grandmaster with a single thought is rare among geniuses, but I am one of them," Li Xiaobai declared, sitting upright, his gaze steady, showing not a trace of embarrassment.

"Then, has Young Master Li come to the Divine Beast Mountain Range at the invitation of Zhenyuan Country?"

"It wasn't an invitation. Zhenyuan Country is in distress, very anxious, and dispatched a whole nation's army to request my assistance. My heart goes out to the common people, which is why I came here," he explained.

Yin Susu was speechless, staring straight at Li Xiaobai, her intuition telling her that he was not a simple character.

Li Xiaobai, too, met her gaze expressionlessly, though feeling somewhat uneasy inside, wondering if these people might think of him as a burden and want to shake him off.

After a stand-off, Yin Susu finally backed down. She still could not detect any spiritual energy fluctuations in him, which made him quite intriguing. Could he really be a master?

From a distance, the man with the crew cut watched Li Xiaobai and Yin Susu converse amiably and felt a surge of anger welling up inside him.

The rest of the Holy Demon Sect disciples also grew increasingly dissatisfied with Li Xiaobai.

Sister Yin was like an immortal in the heavens, detached from the worldly affairs. How could she demean herself by mingling with an uncultured cultivator like him?

"Sister Su Su, there's a sprig of spiritual medicine here!"

The voice of the little loli, Chu Xiaoxiao, suddenly came through; this little girl had run off at some unknown point.

Yin Susu felt a jolt of shock in her heart; the Divine Beast Mountain Range was not the same as home—running around here could lead to disaster.

"Xiaoxiao, come back quickly, it's dangerous!"

"The boss already said there are no Demonic Beasts here, what danger could there be?"

The little loli was unperturbed, her greedy nature erupting as she began to dig up the spiritual plant on the surface of the ground.

But it was at that moment, several beams of sword light surged from the ground towards the sky, aiming straight for the little loli who was focused on digging up the spiritual plant.

"Xiaoxiao, be careful!"

Yin Susu's face was stricken with terror, and she immediately rushed over. There were people lying in ambush here, and she had not noticed it until now—a grave mistake.

But it was too late, evidently, those few people had been lying in wait here for quite some time.

"Hahaha, look what I caught today?"

"The Holy Demon Sect's precious disciple is truly heaven-sent to me!"

The leader, a man in a white robe, laughed heartily and picked up Chu Xiaoxiao.

This was the pearl in the palm of the Holy Demon Sect Leader, and now she had been captured alive by him.

Recently, Tianwu Sect and the Holy Demon Sect were competing for a quota to go to Central province, and with Chu Xiaoxiao in hand, the competition just got much easier.

"It's you!"

Yin Susu's almond-shaped eyes were wide with fury.

Li Xiaobai also recognized the other party; he had seen him once in the grand hall of Zhenyuan Country. The opponent was a True Disciple of Tianwu Sect, and seemed to be Zhang Rui.

Back then, the True Disciple of the Holy Demon Sect had even rebutted him a few times, leaving a deep impression on Li Xiaobai.

However, he did not expect that a disciple from such a prestigious sect would stoop to such disgusting behavior.

"If you're smart, Tianwu Sect, let me go. Hear me, I'm under the boss' protection, release me at once, or I'll spare you not!" The little loli struggled ceaselessly.

Yin Susu was very annoyed inside; the Tianwu Sect's behavior was demeaning, and such treacherous acts were truly despicable.

"Li, it's your fault Xiaoxiao got captured. If it weren't for you deceiving Xiaoxiao, she wouldn't have fallen for the enemy's ambush!"

A sly glint passed through the eyes of the crew-cut young man as he seized every opportunity to mock Li Xiaobai. He didn't care about Chu Xiaoxiao's well-being; his only wish was to change Yin Susu's opinion of Li Xiaobai.

"Indeed, you're to blame for Sister Chu's capture, what should your punishment be!"

The other disciples also echoed this sentiment.

"Enough with your noise. Zhang Rui, you're a True Disciple of Tianwu Sect. Aren't you afraid of the Holy Demon Sect settling scores with you in the fall?" Yin Susu frowned.

"If you all die here, who will be left to tattle?" Zhang Rui's eyes narrowed slightly, showing a hint of amusement.

Yin Susu was startled; the enemy was fearless. Did he have some sort of support, or had Zhang Rui already broken through, with a cultivation level surpassing her own?

That was impossible, the Primordial Spirit is not something you can condense just because you want to.

"I'll hold off Zhang Rui later, you take the chance to rescue Xiaoxiao and then run immediately, understand?"

"Understood!"

The crew-cut young man was solemn; he also knew they had encountered a tough opponent this time. Tianwu Sect was crazed to kill them all; he must report this back to his master afterwards.

Li Xiaobai also wanted to participate in the rescue, but the people of the Holy Demon Sect ignored him. After a brief assignment of tasks, beams of sword light took flight, abruptly shooting towards Zhang Rui.

Ouyang Feng and the others had strange expressions on their faces. They were puzzled why, with such formidable strength, the Holy Demon Sect could not see their predecessors.

A few young men in white waved their longswords, creating a web of crisscrossing sword beams as they faced off against Yin Susu and the others.

The air was turbulent in the field, and not a single disciple involved in the battle was below the cultivation level of the Golden Core Stage.

Li Xiaobai was struck by many flying sandstones.

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Attribute Points +100...]

### **Chapter 32: Chapter 32: Truly a Big Shot**

[Defensive Power: Indestructible Golden Body First Revolution (9200/10000)  
Can be advanced.]

He was only eight hundred Attribute Points away from advancing to the next stage.

Li Xiaobai felt a small surge of excitement. Indeed, venturing into the world to gain experience was the fastest way to become stronger. He had only been out for two days, and his defensive power was skyrocketing like a rocket.

He moved forward slightly. The battle situation in the arena was tense, with waves of energy rolling and Spiritual Energy fluctuations shaking the area.

The values on the Attribute Points panel kept jumping.

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Ding! Continuous sword qi attack detected, skill upgrade: Nine Revolutions Undying Sword Intent First Revolution.]

Nine Revolutions Undying Sword Intent First Revolution: The lifelong pursuit of a Sword Cultivator, infusing one's will into the sword. When drawing the sword, one can use Sword Intent to defeat the opponent.

In the arena,

the battle between the two sides had reached an intense peak.

Yin Susu felt that something was amiss. The opponent was not as formidable as she had imagined. Although they were a bit stronger than her, it clearly was not to the extent that they could kill her.

Where then did the opponent's confidence come from?

Could there be a trump card waiting to be played?

"Haha, the disciple of the Holy Demon Sect indeed has some skills. It's just too bad that all of you are going to die here today,"

Zhang Rui struck out with a palm from mid-air, withdrawing from the fight. He flipped his wrist and pulled out a blood-red pearl.

"The Blood Spirit Bead!"

Yin Susu cried out in shock, and the others' expressions changed dramatically as well.

The Blood Spirit Bead was a demonic magic treasure, refined through the blood sacrifice of hundreds, if not thousands, in a cruel manner. When used, it unleashed tremendous power, equivalent to a strike from a Nascent Soul Cultivator.

Given the size of the Blood Spirit Bead, it appeared that thousands of lives had been sacrificed for its making.

"Zhang Rui, you claim to be of a Righteous Sect, yet you resort to such despicable means!"

"If fellow members of the Daoist Sects find out, even Tianwu Sect won't be able to protect you!"

The young man with a crew cut was horrified. With the Blood Spirit Bead in play, they might indeed all die here.

"I have already said that once all of you are dead, naturally, there will be no one left to tell the tale,"

Zhang Rui was very calm, holding the Blood Spirit Bead with full confidence.

"Surround them, don't let anyone escape. Kill them!"

With a wave of his hand, several Tianwu Sect disciples charged toward the direction of Li Xiaobai and the others. They planned to start with the weakest to conserve time.

"Thousand Leaves Hand!"

"Falling Flowers Sword Technique!"

"Starlight Finger!"

A variety of techniques and cultivation methods swept over, but Li Xiaobai was unfazed, and his Attribute Points surged once more.

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Defensive Power: Indestructible Golden Body Second Revolution (0/20000)  
Can be advanced.]

At last, he had leveled up. Li Xiaobai's face was filled with joy. It seemed that with each revolution, the required Attribute Points increased by ten thousand. He still had a long way to go!

The disciples of Tianwu Sect now looked alarmed. They had attacked with full force, yet their opponent did not suffer a single wound. Such strength was terrifying.

"Not good, there's an expert here!"

"Retreat quickly!"

The group rapidly retreated, regrouping back to where Zhang Rui stood.

"Senior brother, there's an expert on the other side. The situation has changed!"



Zhang Rui's eyes narrowed slightly. He had also noticed Li Xiaobai's exceptional ability. To withstand a full-force strike from a Golden Core Stage cultivator with his physical body and remain unscathed was indeed extraordinary.

Yin Susu and the others also retreated back to Li Xiaobai's side, their faces filled with shock.

The little loli was telling the truth, after all, this guy was indeed a big shot!

"Senior, we have offended you before, please don't hold a grudge and lend us your aid!"

Yin Susu made a formal bow and her gaze towards Li Xiaobai became even more complicated.

The flat-headed youth shrank back a bit, not daring to step forward, having been the one most vigorous in berating Li Xiaobai before.

"Small issue, is that bead in his hand really powerful?"

Li Xiaobai immediately got into the zone, drawing hostility first when encountering an enemy, as it had already become an instinctive reaction for him.

"That is the Blood Spirit Bead, forged through the blood sacrifice of thousands of people; it is a sinister magic treasure of immense power."

"How strong is it?"

"Equivalent to one strike from a Nascent Soul Stage powerhouse."

"So-so, I guess."

Li Xiaobai, looking unfazed, walked slowly towards Zhang Rui, pondering how many Attribute Points he could gain if he swallowed the Blood Spirit Bead.

Now that his defensive power had advanced again, blocking an attack from a Nascent Soul Cultivator shouldn't be a problem; he hoped this bead would prove to be powerful.

"If Zhang is not mistaken, you must be a body cultivator, right? Aspiring to follow the ancient deities to achieve sanctity with the physical body," Zhang Rui said indifferently.

"Since you recognize it, then kneel down and scram."

Li Xiaobai stood with his hands behind his back, his aura dominating.

"How arrogant. But you body cultivators only focus on the flesh, and this Blood Spirit Bead of mine targets the spirit sea of consciousness. If you don't want to become an imbecile, you'd better leave now."

"I am an unparalleled genius, blessed with boundless fortune; mere demonic deviants from the outside paths pose no threat to me."

Li Xiaobai spared no effort in boasting and drawing hatred.

"Sharp-tongued kid, I had intended to let you off considering the difficulty of your cultivation, but since you're so oblivious, then you might as well be buried along with them."

Zhang Rui's eyes were fierce as he suddenly activated the cultivation technique, urging the Blood Spirit Bead and throwing it towards Li Xiaobai and the others.

Most body cultivators have a lineage, and even Zhang Rui didn't want to offend those law veins lightly, but since the other party insisted on meddling, he didn't mind sending them on their way.

The Blood Spirit Bead floated in midair, with blood-colored light emerging and a dense, crimson aura enveloping everyone, reeking of blood.

Zhang Rui and several other cultivators urged the Blood Spirit Bead together, causing the sky to surge with wind and clouds, swirling with murderous aura and chilling gusts.

Li Xiaobai frowned, finding the smell of the bead too unpleasant; however, the Attribute Points continued to jump, clearly indicating the blood qi was toxic.

Yin Susu and the others behind him felt overwhelmed the moment they encountered the blood-colored aura; they were only at the Golden Core Stage and couldn't withstand the might of the bead.

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Attribute Points +100...]

After assessing his physical condition, he found no significant issue; an attack from a Nascent Soul Stage cultivator was just that.

Without further hesitation, he walked straight towards the Blood Spirit Bead.

In Zhang Rui's eyes, filled with shock and disbelief, Li Xiaobai slowly extended a hand, plucked the Blood Spirit Bead, then opened his mouth wide and swallowed it.

As the Blood Spirit Bead went down his throat, red light chaotically streaked across his body, the violent spiritual energy rampaging inside him, his blood churning, and Li Xiaobai grunted.

Fortunately, multiple passive skills had strengthened his body, so the bead didn't cause too much tumult.

After letting the rampant blood qi collide inside him for a while, the Blood Spirit Bead was completely transformed into Attribute Points.

[Attribute Points +1100...]

[Attribute Points +1000...]

[Attribute Points: 12000.]

All points on defense.

[Defensive Power: Second Turn of the Indestructible Golden Body (12000/20000) can advance.]

"Hehehe, thanks for the treat."

**I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense  
#Chapter 33 - 33: Swallowing the Blood Spirit Bead  
Whole - Read I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out  
My Defense Chapter 33 - 33: Swallowing the Blood Spirit  
Bead Whole**

### Chapter 33: Chapter 33: Swallowing the Blood Spirit Bead Whole

Li Xiaobai patted his stomach and belched, petrifying everyone present.

"You... you actually ate it?"

Swallowing the Blood Spirit Bead whole, what kind of move was that!

Zhang Rui was scared out of his wits; the Blood Spirit Bead was a gift from an evil sect master and had been refined right in front of him, requiring the lives of over a thousand people to create.

As for its power, he knew it all too well. Even a medium-grade Spiritual Treasure couldn't compare to the might of this single Blood Spirit Bead.

Once its Blood Qi was released, even cultivators at the Nascent Soul Stage would hesitate to face its sharpness head-on, yet Li Xiaobai had just swallowed the bead whole, and nothing had happened to him.

How could this be possible!

"Hmm, it's a bit fishy, not a great taste, but it's quite filling,"

Li Xiaobai savored the experience and offered his serious critique.

A single Blood Spirit Bead could provide over ten thousand Contribution Points, and if he had a few more, wouldn't he ascend to the heavens?

"Do you have any more of these beads?"

The crowd petrified once again.

Yin Susu looked on dumbfounded at everything unfolding before her; this man was too powerful, and she regretted not discovering his true nature sooner.

Having such a high-level expert as an ally could only benefit her Sect and have no drawbacks.

Fortunately, there was still the little girl Chu Xiaoxiao on her side. As long as she kept clinging to Li Xiaobai, there would always be a way to bring the two sides closer.

The eyes of the young man with the buzz cut twinkled with an eerie light, his thoughts unknown.

Ouyang Feng and the others let out a sigh of relief; the senior had made his move, this round was secured.

"Boss, six six six!"

"Boss, quickly take these guys down!"

Little loli Chu Xiaoxiao continuously cheered on, feeling exhilarated by Li Xiaobai's performance.

It was as if she herself had consumed the Blood Spirit Bead.

"This young girl is in my hands; please stand still and don't move. I am a True Disciple of the Tianwu Sect. If you are willing to let us go today, there will be a generous reward in the future!"

Zhang Rui's face was pale; Chu Xiaoxiao was his only bargaining chip left.

"Hehe, no problem, I won't move. You go ahead,"

Li Xiaobai said indifferently.

At the same time, his fingers quietly rested on the hilt of his sword.

Zhang Rui's pupils contracted; the other party was going to kill!

He violently threw the little loli toward Li Xiaobai and then rapidly vanished from the spot with a few swift steps.

"You can't escape."

He caught the little loli with one hand and drew his longsword with the other.

"Nine Revolutions Undying Sword Intent!"

Willpower merged with the sword, a metallic clang resonated through the air, and a golden pressure swept over the entire area, undying and unyielding.

A massive golden sword projection appeared in the void, pointing toward the figures desperately fleeing.

Li Xiaobai felt his consciousness stretch out for a thousand miles, directly piercing into the brows of the retreating Tianwu Sect disciples.

Gentle breezes passed, and several Tianwu Sect disciples instantly became vacant in their gazes. Zhang Rui's entire left arm was cleanly severed as he silently continued to flee.

So this is what Sword Intent feels like, Li Xiaobai realized, as the Sword Intent, shapeless and formless, could sever both spirit and flesh.

No wonder so many chose the path of the sword; this thing was indeed powerful!

"Boss, six six six, I knew you would save me!"

"Boss, you're so strong, I want to be your follower!"

The little loli gazed at the slowly dissipating Sword Intent in the sky, her eyes filled with little stars.

Li Xiaobai's show of strength had shattered her understanding; that move just now felt even stronger than her own master.

Yin Susu and the others were completely dumbfounded. Not only was his physical body unparalleled in strength, but his Sword Intent was also exquisitely mastered. Who was this senior expert?

Among the masters they knew, there seemed to be no one who fit the profile of this senior expert. Could it be some reclusive old monster playing in the mortal world?

"Hehe, just standard procedure,"

Li Xiaobai hadn't expected his Sword Intent to be so powerful, but then again, it made sense, since it was a skill that had been upgraded several levels—its potency could well be imagined.

It was a pity that Zhang Rui had escaped.

Although he had cut off one of the opponent's hands, such an injury could be completely healed with some Secret Techniques and Spiritual Medicine.

Approaching the Tianwu Sect disciples, he waved his hand, and they all had numb expressions with dull eyes.

The Sword Intent from earlier had struck right between their eyebrows, utterly destroying their sea of consciousness. These disciples had become fools, devoid of any intelligence.

"How do you all feel?"

Returning to Yin Susu and the others, Li Xiaobai asked.

"I knew the big shot would save me!" Chu Xiaoxiao exclaimed excitedly.

"Thank you for your assistance, senior. I failed to recognize a true master before, please forgive my earlier blindness,"

Yin Susu was limp and struggled to get up to offer a deep bow of thanks.

The others too were exceedingly grateful. If they hadn't had a powerful individual among them, they might truly have met with disaster this time.

"There's no need for that. Slaying demonic beasts and eliminating demons is within the duty of us cultivators,"

Li Xiaobai said gleefully, enjoying the feeling of being the center of attention.

Just as Yin Susu was about to say something more, a Token at her waist suddenly emitted a dazzling light.

This was a Rescue Token given by a Tianwu Sect master before departure. Using this Token, nearby cultivators could receive a distress signal and rush to assist in a timely manner.

"Someone is in trouble, the location is to the northeast, it seems to be the treasure site I mentioned earlier," Yin Susu said.

"Looks like the treasure site is fraught with danger,"

Li Xiaobai frowned at first but then appeared relieved. Danger was a good thing; it indicated the presence of Attribute Points, worth checking out!

"You all rest here, I will go to the treasure site for the rescue,"

"Big shot, let me go with you!"

The little girl immediately came forward.

"Xiaoxiao, stop fooling around. The senior is on an important mission and can't take you along!" Yin Susu said harshly.

Chu Xiaoxiao clung tightly to Li Xiaobai's leg, refusing to let go. She was convinced that as long as she followed the big shot, she would be able to eat her fill and drink heartily.

"That's right, the mountain range is incredibly dangerous, I can't keep taking you with me,"

"Besides, your fellow disciples are currently incapacitated and need someone to look after them here. If you were to leave them, what would happen if they encountered danger?" Li Xiaobai said with a furrowed brow. Along the way, the little girl hadn't been of much help apart from digging out Demonic Beast inner cores.

Protecting her in a crisis was less efficient than him exploring the mountain range alone.

With his current defensive power, he was more than capable of traversing the mountain range with ease.

Seeing his point, Chu Xiaoxiao had no choice but to hold back. She couldn't possibly leave her fellow disciples in danger.

"I understand, big shot, I will protect my fellow disciples!"

"Then wait here for rescue,"

With that, Li Xiaobai headed toward the direction of the rescue signal and left.

The Holy Demon Sect members were only temporarily weakened. After taking Elixirs and resting for a while, they would be able to fully recover, so Li Xiaobai wasn't worried that Yin Susu and the others would face danger again.

...

At the same time,



In the jungle, a golden glow suddenly erupted from a small river stream, accompanied by a thunderous roar that pierced the sky.

The nearby disciples were all invigorated, their faces filled with greed.

A rare treasure had emerged!

### **Chapter 34: Chapter 34: The Scene of a Large-Scale Murder and Robbery**

Figures flitted among the jungle, swiftly converging towards the location of the golden radiance.

Watching the fleeting shadows around him, Li Xiaobai felt a wave of envy. This ability to fly and burrow on a whim was incredibly practical.

How unlike himself, who still had to run on two legs, and even then, not as fast as the average person.

Fortunately, the treasure site was not far from him, and the demonic beasts along the way had been cleared out by others early on.

Lumbering to the edge of the jungle, he faced a stream. The golden light was bursting forth from the bottom of the murky water, which obscured visibility below.

Countless cultivators were already there waiting.

On the bank of the river, a plump figure was sitting on the ground wailing loudly, with a few corpses laid out in front of him, looking quite pitiful.

Seeing this, the crowd hesitated to vie for the treasures in the river.

Li Xiaobai recognized the weeping fat man at a glance—it was his sixth senior brother, Liu Jinshui.

The plump man was acting again, having procured the corpses of some cultivators to set the scene for his wailing, his tears flowing copiously, making the act seem quite genuine.

"Fellow Daoist, please restrain your grief. May I ask what transpired here with you?" inquired a cultivator.

"There was a treasure emerging from the river. We ventured in to explore it but encountered a demonic beast. In a flurry of urgency, my older brothers got me to shore, but they themselves could never wake up again!"

Liu Jinshui seemed genuinely earnest, and as he spoke, he began to shed tears once more.

The female cultivators around cast sympathetic glances, their hearts softened. Living in a sect where deceit and manipulation were commonplace, such brotherly affection was something they had not encountered in a long time.

"Fellow Daoist, please accept our condolences. We are willing to retrieve the treasure for you, but please enlighten us about the details of that demonic beast."

The cultivator who struck up the conversation was crafty, clearly wanting to snatch the treasure but feigning nobility.

This indeed was a concern shared by many cultivators.

The realm of the demonic beast residing underwater—if it was at the Golden Core stage, it might be worth a try to engage it in a direct confrontation.

"Below us lies a thousand-year-old Dragon Turtle. Its strength isn't great, being only at the Golden Core stage and moves sluggishly. Still, it can spit out toxic liquid. It was because my brothers were caught off guard that they were poisoned," Liu Jinshui explained.

"I see. Don't worry, junior brother. With so many of us here, we will definitely retrieve the treasure and slay the demonic beast to avenge the fallen heroes!"

The cultivator who responded took charge assertively, seemingly full of vigor.

The other cultivators now had a sense of what to expect: a Golden Core stage Dragon Turtle, possessing strong defensive power, sluggish movements, and the ability to release toxic liquid.

Even though it had a certain level of offensiveness, it was not overly challenging. They believed that as long as they were cautious underwater, they could still obtain the treasure.

"Hmm, thank you, fellow Daoists. Please be sure to bring up the treasure for me; it was exchanged for my elder brother's life, after all!" Liu Jinshui said, sobbing mournfully.

"Understood."

A flicker of impatience crossed the eyes of the cultivator who had spoken. Having gotten the precise information they needed about the underwater situation, Liu Jinshui was of no use to him anymore.

The others, looking at Liu Jinshui's foolishly naïve demeanor, flashed looks of scorn. This chubby fellow actually still naively believed that everyone was genuinely helping him.

It seemed he was still rather inexperienced!

Li Xiaobai, hiding in the distance, quietly observed everything before him. He had figured out that the distress signal had been sent by his sixth senior brother, Liu Jinshui.

He had intentionally gathered the crowd here and played the part of a grief-stricken man, clearly scheming something.

Hehe, if senior brother is stirring things up, junior brother must certainly get a share of the action.

The surrounding cultivators grouped together in threes and fives, discussing strategies to contend for the treasure.

These cultivators, with many at the Golden Core stage, all had their small cliques. To them, the most dangerous aspect of contending for the treasure was not the underwater demonic beast but the other cultivators around them.

Murder and looting were common occurrences in the Cultivation World.

Obtaining the treasure was one thing; bringing it out safely was another. To prevent being caught in a situation akin to 'the mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind,' they needed a foolproof plan.

For the time being, the cultivators watched each other, with none daring to be the first to enter the river to fetch the treasures.

Liu Jinshui had quietly left the riverbank and hidden in the jungle.

Li Xiaobai quickly followed, hanging far behind Liu Jinshui, observing his every move.

Intuition told him that this fat man was definitely up to something big.

On the riverbank,

the cultivators were at a stalemate.

"Everyone, guarding against each other here is no solution. Why don't we all dive into the water together? Whoever gets the treasure can rely on their own skills, how about it?"

The cultivator who had previously spoken to Liu Jinshui said.

"I agree, let's see what the treasure is first."

"I have no objections..."

"..."

"Good, since nobody has any objections, I will count to three and we'll all dive in together," the talkative cultivator continued.

"One"

"Two"

"Three"

Not a sound was made, and none of the people present moved. Everyone smiled knowingly.

"Hahaha, it seems that we cultivators have a great understanding of each other. However, just waiting like this isn't a solution. So, to ease everyone's concerns, I will set an example by diving in first."

The talkative cultivator laughed heartily and leaped into the water.

The other cultivators, as if realizing something, their expressions changed.

"Not good, this guy is purposely leading us, keeping us steady on the shore to gain an advantage in the underwater treasure hunt!"

"Quick, follow him. The river stretches long and thin. If he gets the treasure and escapes from the riverbed, the duck that's already in our hands will fly away!"

"Dammit, I thought I was cunning enough, but I didn't expect this Yu fellow to be even more deceitful than I am!"

"This is deep scheming!"

"Really knows how to play..."

Right then, the remaining cultivators no longer hesitated and plunged into the river one after another.

Underwater, there was only a Dragon Turtle. As long as one was careful, it was not a problem at all.

But nobody noticed that the instigator of this incident had silently disappeared without a trace, nor did anyone consider that the fat man might not have been telling the truth.

Money had blinded the cultivators' eyes, and in this tense situation, everyone was too preoccupied to consider much else.

There was only one thought in their minds: find the treasure, grab it, take it away!

On the shore.

A fat man walked out of the jungle with a beaming smile, watching the waves churn on the water's surface, and laughed heartily.

"Hehe, what a bunch of idiots, give them a trap and they'll bury themselves in it, really saves me the trouble."

"Your Spiritual Artifacts and elixirs, I'll kindly accept them!"

"The belongings of over a dozen Golden Core Stage masters, just thinking about it excites me!"

A windfall was within reach, and Liu Jinshui's face flushed with excitement.

However, his expression suddenly stiffened, as a familiar voice came from behind.

"Senior brother, you really know how to play!"

"What deep tricks..."

### **Chapter 35: Chapter 35: The Sixth Senior Brother Sets a Trap, the Willing Take the Bait**

"Junior brother... what wind has brought you here?"

Seeing Li Xiaobai behind him, Liu Jinshui felt very embarrassed; he had finally managed to trick someone, but it seemed he had even tricked his junior brother.

"Hehe, naturally it was the distress signal from senior brother that summoned junior brother here," Li Xiaobai said with a chuckle.

"When did junior brother arrive, and why didn't you give senior brother a heads up?" Liu Jinshui asked.

"Senior brother is a busy man; junior brother didn't want to disturb his important affairs, and deliberately watched from beginning to end. I must say, senior brother's talent is rare in this world."

Li Xiaobai expressed his admiration; his sixth senior brother was truly talented, able to come up with such tricks.

"Junior brother flatters me too much; this world is full of wonders and marvels, which are mostly located in forbidden areas and perilous lands, visible but unreachable. Senior brother is simply helping them fulfill a dream of treasure hunting," Liu Jinshui spoke with conviction.

"Senior brother's broad-mindedness is admirable; junior brother also wishes to contribute a modest effort to the dreams of mankind."

Li Xiaobai gazed eagerly at Liu Jinshui.

"How much 'modest effort' does junior brother wish to contribute?"

"Fifty-fifty?"

"Twenty-eight?"

"Thirty-seven?"

"Deal!"

Li Xiaobai's expression darkened. Dammit, he had said too little.

Indeed, senior brother was one step ahead; there was still so much more for him to learn.

Following Liu Jinshui to the river's edge, the water surface at this moment was covered with thousands of layers of waves, clearly indicating that a fierce battle was unfolding beneath.

"Senior brother, is there really a treasure underwater?"

"Hehe, the only thing placed by senior brother down there is a Soul-Bewitching Array; those so-called flashes of golden light are nothing but illusions," he said with a sly laugh.

"Brilliant!"

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At the same time, in the underwater world.

It had already turned into complete chaos here, and after entering the water, everyone failed to spot the alleged Demonic Beast Dragon Turtle but instead saw a golden array at the bottom of the water immediately.

This array, with its brilliant halo and intense golden radiance, was the source of the extraordinary phenomenon piercing through the water surface.

At the center of the array was a Treasure Box, and evidently, this was the treasure.

The cultivator who had talked with the fat man earlier had a flush face and was panting heavily; he was the first to reach the bottom, and the treasure was right before his eyes, within arm's reach.

Like being bewitched by some magic, his gaze was fixed on the Treasure Box, and his hand involuntarily reached out for it.

The moment his fingers touched the Treasure Box, a 'Plop' sound was heard.

The world spun before his eyes, and he saw a headless corpse slowly collapsing to the floor, his own body...

Underwater, the multitude of cultivators confirmed two things: first, the Demonic Beast Dragon Turtle was not at the bottom of the water; second, the array surrounding the Treasure Box was not dangerous and would not attack anyone entering it, meaning anyone could reach for the Treasure Box inside.

They temporarily set aside the matter of the Dragon Turtle.

What the people now needed to do was not compete for the Treasure Box but prevent others from getting to it first.

And so, the underwater battle began.

With the treasure within reach, everyone was seeing red, eager to survive till the end and retrieve the Treasure Box; but as such desires intensified, the number of deaths increased.

The Golden Core Stage cultivators went on a rampage, killing frenziedly, not distinguishing friend from foe, hurling various Cultivation Techniques and moves forward with reckless abandon. Soon, the bottom was littered with corpses, and the blood dyed the entire water area a bright red color.

Several minutes later,

Only a dozen or so high-level Golden Core Stage experts remained alive underwater, all severely injured; this kind of desperate combat was a case of destroying a thousand enemies while losing eight hundred of their own.

But at that moment, an anomaly suddenly emerged; the golden array at the bottom of the water started to tremble violently, emitting layers of pale yellow light that spread outward.

A faint golden illusion hovered over the water.

"What is this?"

The surviving experts felt something strange with the ripples; they did not sense any threat coming from the undulations of this array.



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"It must be just an illusion created by the formation, it doesn't have any offensive power."

"No, why do I feel a bit dizzy?"

"You have that feeling too?"

"Damn it, I've been feeling dizzy since early this morning, thought I was the only one sick!"

"No, it's this formation that's screwing with us, it's a kind of hypnotic formation, damn it, we've been tricked!"

"It must have been that damn fatso from earlier, definitely him!"

"No need to ask, this treasure is fake too, hurry to the surface!"

"..."

Everyone grew alert and tried to swim upwards, but alas, the more they swam, the heavier their bodies felt, as if they were filled with lead.

The harder they tried, the faster they sank.

Before long, the remaining dozen or so Golden Core Stage experts had their eyes glassy, lying disoriented under the water.

Through their blurred vision, they saw two figures slowly approaching, one fat and one skinny.

"Senior brother, your trick is just brilliant, I admire you so much, but isn't this method a bit against the harmony of heaven? So many people have died underwater, won't people hold us accountable afterwards?"

Li Xiaobai looked at the scene underwater, heart pounding with fear.

He had always heard that people who die underwater don't sink, but float upside-down with their heads down and their feet up, and now he saw that it was indeed so.

It looked eerily unsettling.

"What's the worry? These people were killed by their own greed. If they weren't so obsessed with the treasure, how could they fall for such a simple trap?"

"Don't worry, junior brother, senior brother is quite experienced in this business, there won't be any problems."

Liu Jinshui said cheerfully, beginning to loot the bodies underwater.

The treasure box was entirely empty to start with, and if anyone had bothered to check, this trap would have failed, but these cultivators had to be clever and kill each other first, truly the epitome of stupidity.

Li Xiaobai hurried to follow suit, looting the bodies one by one. It had to be said, the sect disciples who could enter the inner circle had quite a bit of loot on them.

Just in Spirit Stones alone, they looted no less than a few thousand pieces.

Among them were even some medium-grade Spirit Stones.

Spiritual Artifacts and Elixirs were too numerous to count.

It was just a pity they didn't find any higher-grade Spiritual Treasures. If they could have gotten one like the one in the hands of the senior sister, that would have been really awesome.

The Golden Core Stage cultivators, who had fallen into a deep coma, were like fat meat with all their belongings inside their Space Rings. Liu Jinshui swiftly took away their rings without any intent to kill and silence them.

As he put it, he only swindled treasures, not lives.

Back on shore.

The two put out all they had gathered underwater, ready to divide the spoils.

"Junior brother, you're not being honest, I clearly saw you loot bodies of eleven people, how come there's only so little stuff?"

"Senior brother, you're not really speaking the truth either, you almost snatched all the rings from the Golden Core Stage cultivators, how come the loot you've laid out is even less than your junior brother's?"

"Heh heh, the senior brother was a bit muddled for a moment, junior brother, please forgive me."

"Junior brother also accidentally missed a few rings, please review them, senior brother."

After a short tally, both Li Xiaobai and Liu Jinshui's eyes sparkled with surprise, the haul was much larger than they had anticipated.

One hundred and ten stalks of Spiritual Medicine.

Over three hundred bottles of Elixirs.

More than seventy inner cores of Demonic Beasts.

Twenty-one bundles of lower-grade Spirit Stones, five medium-grade Spiritual Artifacts.

"Junior brother, are we rich now?"

"Senior brother, we are indeed rich!"

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