

Refining 91

Chapter 91 – Divert Trouble

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

The dappled sunlight shined through the mountain forests. Two shadows suddenly shot forwards at an astonishing speed, crossing dozens of feet in the blink of an eye. Looking carefully, one could see that they were one man and one woman. They were handsome and beautiful individuals wearing luxurious clothing, but at this time they were in a terribly distressing situation.

Wang Zifeng's arm was wounded. It was unknown what sort of weapon caused this, but black gas lingered around the injury, even as blood dripped down. He tried swallowed recovery pills but nothing was able to stop the blood from flowing. His face was pale white and his normally confident and prideful eyes were now filled with alarm and fear. He often turned to look back, completely flustered.

As for Yun Xueqing beside him, although her face was also pale, she managed to barely maintain her calm. At the very least, she didn't seem on the verge of collapse like he did.

"Damn it all, these demonic path people dare to chase us down! I will surely return this favor twice over in the future!" Wang Zifeng roared as he gasped for breath.

Yun Xueqing sighed inwardly. If he had strength to shout like this, he might as well save it to escape.

Suddenly, the scenery opened before them and massive clouds of fog appeared. The fog enveloped the entire valley that was located between steep mountain cliffs.

Yun Xueqing was surprised. A cultivator was actually living here in secret? From this close distance, she could clearly feel faint fluctuations of an array formation in the fog. She paused, hesitating for a moment. But beside her, Wang Zifeng's eyes suddenly shined with a glorious light.

"This is wonderful! There are some fellow comrades that are living here in seclusion. You and I can take advantage of this array formation to temporarily push back the demonic cultivators!" He flew into the fog.

Yun Xueqing bit her lips and followed him in.

Shua –

As soon as they entered, a powerful restraining power covered them. It wasn't too powerful, making them feel as if their bodies were wrapped in a layer of mud.

Wang Zifeng shouted out loud, "Which fellow daoist is living here? I am Wang Zifeng from the Flowing River Sect and this is my companion! We have encountered trouble and I ask that great expert open the array formation so we can temporarily stay here!"

There was no response.

Yun Xueqing said, "Perhaps the master isn't here."

Wang Zifeng frowned. "At extraordinary times, you can't care about things like this. Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, wait here a moment while I break open this array formation. We can continue speaking after we make our way inside!"

He raised his hand, taking out an object that was round and blue like a drop of water. As he poured his magic power into it, it began to release a water-colored halo that rapidly filled the air with mist.

Wang Zifeng's heart ached. This treasure was called the Riverheart Drop and it was a magic tool renowned for breaking through array formations. By discarding this treasure and then making use of the array formation here, they should be able to momentarily stop the demonic cultivators chasing them from behind. Then, he could retreat safely with Yun Xueqing.

That was right, from the very start he had planned to flee as soon as possible. As a core disciple of the Flowing River Sect, reaching the great dao of Golden Core was an inevitable matter. His life was incomparably precious, so how could he randomly risk it? As for causing trouble for the cultivator living here in seclusion, that wasn't something he cared about at all.

That cultivator could just consider this a stroke of bad luck!

Yun Xueqing frowned. "Senior-apprentice Brother Wang, isn't this the wrong way to do things?"

Wang Zifeng didn't glance at her. "Once this is over, I will come back to apologize and express my thanks." Of course, the premise was that the cultivator was still alive. Looking at the strength of the array formation, this cultivator should be average at best. It wasn't likely that they would survive battling against the demonic cultivator.

Yun Xueqing wavered for several moments, eventually not saying anything. After all, she was also fleeing for her life. However, Wang Zifeng's actions had caused a complete change in her opinion of him. And concerning the matter of her father mentioning marriage to him...she would have to reconsider that.

Buzz –

The fog trembled. It began to swirl around. Wang Zifeng was overjoyed. "Great!"

But at this time, a sudden change occurred.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

The sound of breaking air filled the skies and the fog violently tumbled around. Some objects rapidly approaching from the distance. Before Wang Zifeng's complexion could change, the purple thunder had already arrived. The Riverheart Drop was in essence a water-attribute treasure, so it had no ability to resist in the face of the power of thunder. Wang Zifeng's miserable cries filled the air as his clothes were burnt black and began to emit smoke. His neatly groomed hair began to split apart and rise up like a porcupine!

It was a pitiful scene.

Yun Xueqing shouted out, "Senior, please show mercy!" To be able to utilize such powerful strength of thunder, one had to possess a profound cultivation. She secretly complained in her heart, cursing Wang Zifeng for bringing harm to them both.

Shua –

The light of thunder dispersed. 36 sword phantoms appeared in the fog before spinning around and leaving.

Yun Xueqing breathed a sigh of relief. Luckily for them, the master of this valley wasn't some violent and cruel individual, otherwise it wouldn't be strange if they were both chopped down.

To enter uninvited and try to break through their array formation, in the world of cultivators, this was already an invitation to die.

The fog dispersed from both sides and a figure stepped forwards. Yun Xueqing gathered her thoughts. But, just as she was about to bow in greeting, her eyes widened and filled with shock.

By her side, the charred Wang Zifeng revealed a mouthful of white teeth as if he had seen a ghost on a sunny day.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "Fellow daoist Yun Xueqing, what are you doing here?" He automatically ignored the charred fellow beside her. Although he didn't say anything when he had been cultivating beneath the Radiant Red Wood, he had actually clearly heard everything. And, this brat actually tried to break his array formation; what a hateful fellow!

"F-fellow...fellow daoist Qin Yu..." Yun Xueqing gasped. "You're alive!" As she finished speaking her face flushed red. She waved her hands in front of her. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean that."

Qin Yu smiled. "Some things occurred, so I'm living quite well."

At this moment, he frowned.

Outside the valley, cold and grim roars sounded out. "Those inside, listen well! Hand over those two cultivators, otherwise there won't even be a dog or chicken left alive!"

Yun Xueqing revealed an awkward expression.

Qin Yu's thoughts raced and he soon guessed what was happening. He glanced at Wang Zifeng, his ice cold gazing sending a chill down the man's spine.

This brat, he had actually been thinking of diverting trouble onto him. If it weren't for Yue Xueqing, he wouldn't even care if he lived or died.

"You two go in first and I'll take care of this."

With a flick of his sleeve, the array formation's magic power led the two into the mountain valley.

Pa –

Wang Zifeng and Yun Xueqing landed on the ground, but their surroundings were still blurry. Qin Yu had clearly left the array formation's magic power lingering around them so that they couldn't see what was happening in the valley.

"To think it was Qin Yu! I don't think he will be able to last long. Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, let's hurry up and find a way to leave!" Wang Zifeng said in a low voice. Yet as he spoke, he couldn't help but look deep into the blurry mountain valley.

Yun Xueqing frowned. She said, "Senior-apprentice Brother Wang, it is already a great favor that fellow daoist Qin helps us resist our enemies, so how could you ever consider running away? Even if fellow daoist Qin isn't a match by himself, we still might be able to fight if the three of us join forces!"

Wang Zifeng's expression was blank as he stumbled forwards several steps.

"Senior-apprentice Brother Wang, since fellow daoist Qin doesn't want us to see what is in the valley, we shouldn't do anything reckless."

Bang –

Explosions rang out in the fog above their heads. The light of deep purple thunder spread out, and with a miserable cry, a man that was charred black fell to the ground.

Wang Zifeng shrank back. He had tasted the strength of that purple thunder and knew just what it felt like. He didn't know where Qin Yu had obtained such a treasure that he could control such a powerful strength of thunder. Even this powerful demonic cultivator had been defeated! What a dog shit lucky bastard!

As he thought of this, envy shimmered deep within his eyes. Luckily, he hid it well so that no one could realize it.

Yun Xueqing was surprised. "Thank you, fellow daoist Qin!"

Qin Yu waved his hand. "It was just a minor effort. But, why was this demonic cultivator chasing after you?"

Wang Zifeng jabbed in, "We unintentionally angered him, so he decided to chase us down."

Looking at Yun Xueqing's complexion, it was clear that this matter wasn't so simple. However, Qin Yu had only been casually asking and didn't care much to begin with. But as he looked at Wang Zifeng's appearance that seemed as if he were scared that anyone would ask more questions, Qin Yu suddenly frowned. He turned to Yun Xueqing, "Miss Yun, do you plan on staying here to recuperate, or do you have other plans?"

Wang Zifeng cast a meaningful glance at Yun Xueqing. She hesitated and said, "We will be leaving. If we stay here, we might give fellow daoist Qin more troubles." She spoke with an apologetic expression. The information had been obtained by the two of them, so if Wang Zifeng didn't want to say anything, then it was wrong for her to give anything away too.

Qin Yu nodded. "That's also good. Then, I will open the array formation and see you two off."

With a flick of his sleeve, a channel appeared in the fog, leading to the outside.

The two expressed their thanks and left.

Qin Yu looked down at the man still lying unconscious on the floor. He frowned before immediately composing himself. In the end, casually killing someone wasn't something he should do. He should wait for the man to wake back up before he made his decision. Still, as he thought how his tranquil cultivation had suddenly been interrupted, he couldn't help but wryly smile.

Indeed, the plans of man could never compare to the plans of heaven. There would always be unexpected accidents in this world.

But, Qin Yu never thought that the accidents he encountered would be far more than this. As he tossed the unconscious demonic cultivator to the side, he returned to his room to cultivate. Before he even fully digested several pills, a sharp light flashed in his eyes.

A brilliant light burst out from them!

He rose up. His figure flashed as he flew out from the wooden house.

The wild wolf's single eye was flashing with a cold light. It was staring at a direction in the sky, its hairs sticking up all over its body like sharp steel needles as it roared out repeatedly.

The chicken overlord's expression was far more disgraceful. It was laying prone on the ground, its wings shivering as it covered its head.

Within the ant room, the sound of buzzing wings rang out. With just a thought from Qin Yu, they would fly out to meet their enemy!

Wang Zifeng's face was drained of blood and filled with horror. All of his thoughts were 'I cannot die, I cannot die!' As the valley appeared in front of him, he clenched his teeth and said, "Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, if you want to continue living then let me speak from here on out and don't say anything at all!"

Yun Xueqing looked at him, hesitated, and then slowly nodded. There were still bloodstains at the corners of her mouth.

Wang Zifeng loudly shouted, "Seniors, it's right here!" He pointed a finger, "The person in the valley knows us! After taking away our jade slip he forced us out, and now it is on his body! Moreover, I have confirmed that there must be a peerless treasure in the valley! If several seniors find a harvest, I ask that you spare our lives!"

Yun Xueqing's eyes popped wide open. Her face flushed red. "Senior-apprentice Brother Wang..."

"Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, I am definitely not speaking nonsense. Although we weren't able to clearly see what was hidden within the valley, Qin Yu wasn't able to hide everything. I once refined a Soul Sensing Mouse that has extremely sharp spiritual sensing abilities. The heaven and earth spiritual strength is naturally gathering within the valley, meaning there must be some great treasure there!" Wang Zifeng bowed again and again, "Seniors, what I say is entirely true. You will all understand with a glance."

A middle-aged man with beady eyes and a thin and long face smiled. "You have sold out your savior so thoroughly. Even within my demonic path, this behavior isn't often seen. Brat, you have a good deal of

potential. Good. As long as what you say is true and you don't reveal any of this, then I might be willing to spare your life."

Wang Zifeng was overjoyed.

"Enough. Since we have found where it is, let us not wait any longer. Right now, I still don't know if my disciple is alive!" Gu Shengping coldly said. He stepped forwards and the aura of a seventh level Golden Core erupted. It surged through the land, stirring up wind and dust. He wanted to rip apart the fog with overwhelming strength.

Shua –

The fog parted. Qin Yu's feet fell atop the void. Without expression, he coldly glanced around and then lightly said, "You have all come uninvited. Could it be that you all just want to have a talk in front of my door?"

The aura was completely restrained, without a single trace of it leaking. Although it appeared weak and small, one could actually sense it was as deep and boundless as a sea. Gu Shengping's complexion changed, and the faces of the two men and one woman behind him also revealed surprised looks. They never thought that a master would be living in seclusion in this wilderness.

This wasn't a randomly drawn conclusion. If a person could remain cold and still hide their nature in front of the four of them, they were definitely a master!

And a master was worth respecting.

Chapter 92 – Refusal

Gu Shengping restrained his aura. He asked, "And, may I ask where my good-for-nothing disciple is right now?"

Qin Yu reached backwards. A pitch black form fell out from the valley. "His injuries are heavy, but he hasn't died."

With no dead person, things would be much easier to discuss.

Gu Shengping bent down and probed his disciple. As he did, his complexion sank. He picked the man up and walked to the side. Today, he wouldn't be involved in deciding how things ended.

A tall and strong fellow stepped forwards. His ash black face was calm. "You can call me War Bear. I greet fellow daoist." His voice was as grating as iron on iron, and from the pressure his voice emitted...this person's cultivation...was extremely high!

Qin Yu's look didn't change. "I am Qin Yu."

War Bear cupped his hands together. "May I ask fellow daoist Qin why you interfered in today's matters?"

Qin Yu lightly said, "I am old acquaintances with this young miss." The hidden meaning behind his words was that he was unrelated to Wang Zifeng.

War Bear's eyes flashed. "Then fellow daoist, do you refute that junior's words?"

Qin Yu coldly sneered, "It is a bunch of nonsense!"

War Bear hesitated for several breaths of time. He nodded, "I believe fellow daoist."

Several people furrowed their eyebrows.

War Bear continued to say, "With fellow daoist Qin's cultivation, he should be able to fully view the contents of the jade slip. If he knew what was inside, why would he stay here and wait for us to arrive?"

This explanation was very vague. Gu Shengping and another man and woman looked thoughtful for a moment. Slowly, they also nodded.

Wang Zifeng felt his limbs turn cold, as if he had fallen into an icy lake!

How could things turn out like this?

This wasn't how things were supposed to go. They were supposed to work together and break through the formation before suppressing and killing Qin Yu. Then, they would seize his treasures, and because of disputes over how to divide those treasures, they would fight again, giving him time to escape! But, all of you would just believe a few words from that boy? Based on what, you bastards!?

Wang Zifeng stiffened, his neck becoming straight.

War Bear's eyes gleamed with killing intent. "You dare to deceive us? Junior, you are quite bold!"

Wang Zifeng wailed, "Senior, I didn't deceive you!" His face was full of pleading. "Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, please testify for me, tell them what happened!"

Yun Xueqing bit her lips. She shook her head and said, "Fellow daoist Qin never took the jade slip."

Wang Zifeng's eyes flew open. "You bitch you have killed me! You have killed me!"

War Bear lifted his hand and brought it down.

Whoosh –

Suddenly, the sound of breaking air filled the skies, accompanied with a deep and angry roar. "Who dares injure the disciple I sent!"

Wang Zifeng was like a suffocating fish that was tossed back into the water. His ash white face suddenly lit up once more. He shouted out loudly, "Uncle Qiu, I'm right here! Hurry and save me!"

Qiu He fell to the ground, the imposing aura in his eyes rapidly rising. The aura of a ninth level Golden Core was as heavy as a mountain, and even the air seemed to thicken.

His eyes swept around until they fell on War Bear. "With your cultivation you actually attacked a junior. You have gone too far!"

With the aura of a ninth level Golden Core, these spoken words carried a great weight. The scene immediately fell quiet.

Wang Zifeng bitterly glared at Yun Xueqing. He thought to himself, you cheating bitch, you thought to betray me and place me in a deathtrap, now I'll see just how much you beg me!

Now that his Uncle Qiu had arrived, his cultivation would be able to suppress the entire situation. These demonic path cultivators wouldn't be able to be wildly arrogant anymore!

War Bear frowned. He drew back one step.

Qiu He calmed down. These several people in front of him had considerably strong auras, and he didn't want to provoke them. And now, judging from their actions, they also seemed to fear him a little.

This was also good. No one here had bitter enmities against each other, so it would be good if they could openly discuss the issue and come to an amicable agreement. Why did they have to fight and kill all the time?

With a light cough, Qiu He was just about to say several polite words to set the tone, and then continue onto the matter at hand. But before he could speak, the situation suddenly changed.

Bang –

The ground beneath War Bear disintegrated. The reason he took one step back was actually to gather strength. At this moment when he attacked, his strength was like a raging river that broke through a dam, as violent and deadly as a dreadful flash flood.

With one punch, the potential of a thousand soldiers!

Qiu He roared with surprised anger. He thrust out his palm, magic power tumbling around him. But, he had underestimated the strength contained in that fist. With a dull crack like striking thunder, the cloth covering his arm burst apart, revealing red lines covering the surface of his skin. These were actually tiny blood vessels that had broken apart from the potent vibrating strength.

The ground beneath his feet collapsed. Qiu He was forced back again and again, each step he took causing crushed stones to fill the air, mixed with a terrifying strength that caused explosions to sound out all over. Although he was shocked by how strong his opponent was, as long as he had enough time he could mobilize enough magic power to stabilize himself and then return the favor with a deadly counterattack.

But behind War Bear, Gu Shengping raised his hand in the air and instantly drew a talisman. He waved it, sending it landing on Qiu He's body. This talisman symbol didn't have any killing strength, but it actually possessed a sealing ability, and an even stronger ability to muddle the magic power within a cultivator and impede the revolution of their strength.

Qiu He's magic power was originally impeded, and after he was attacked by the talisman, it completely froze for a moment. He stiffened, revealing a fatal opening.

The daoist with a thin and long face and small beady eyes suddenly moved forwards. Black light flowed out from the ground and then drilled into Qiu He's body as if it were a living creature. Qiu He's eyes instantly darkened and his face filled with pain. Finally, the female cultivator flicked her sleeve and a red ribbon lashed out like a bolt of electricity and returned just as fast. The only difference was that as it returned, it seemed just a little bit more red.

Puff –

Blood burst out from a split neck. A skull split open, causing a flower of blood to bloom in the air.

The ninth level Golden Core Qiu He had died!

And at this time, War Bear rushed forth before coming to a violent stop. Cruel slaughter energy rose up all around him.

He turned around, locking his eyes onto Qin Yu.

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes. Although his expression was dignified, he didn't have the least bit of fear.

Time seemed to come to a halt for several breaths. War Bear finally let out a deep breath of air. As if it were a signal, the heart-shaking oppressive aura in the air began to quietly scatter.

He cupped his hands across his chest and smiled. "Things happened so suddenly. I hope that fellow daoist Qin doesn't mind."

Qin Yu remained indifferent. "Everyone, is this a warning to me?"

Gu Shengping sneered. "And what if it is?"

The atmosphere that had been calming down suddenly became tense again!

Qin Yu's eyes turned cold. "Then, you can all feel free to try!" Although his aura didn't change, a trace of slaughter energy surged out from him. It was thin yet deep, and left the people in the back feeling cold. For such a killing intent to make them feel such dread, it had to come from killing cultivators of the same level, and definitely more than one!

War Bear hurriedly said. "This is just a misunderstanding. Fellow daoist Qin, don't think too much about it!"

Gu Shengping's face turned as dark as water. He coldly snorted and fell silent.

Puff –

Qiu He's corpse fell to the ground. The rank smell of blood curled in the air.

Wang Zifeng seemed as if he had restored himself a little, but now he fell onto his butt, in a trance like he had lost his soul.

Suddenly, he slowly came to the realization that everyone was looking at him. He regained his senses and began to shiver. He cried out, "Don't kill me, don't kill me!"

War Bear frowned. He raised his hand and slapped out. Wang Zifeng's head exploded and he accompanied Qiu He to the yellow springs.

Gu Shengping licked his lips. "There's one more remaining, and she's a very beautiful young woman too. Killing her would be a waste. How about passing her to me so I can enjoy her."

Yun Xueqing paled.

Qin Yu lightly said, "She is my friend. You cannot touch her."

Gu Shengping's cheeks twitched. A yin chill crept into his eyes. "Qin Yu, don't reach for a yard after taking an inch!"

Qin Yu's expression didn't change. "Anyone who touches her, I will kill."

The man with the thin and long face, Daoist Wuyuan, smiled. "Fellow daoists, please calm down a little. That girl is just a little baby; killing her or leaving her alive isn't important at all. Let's look at the jade slip first and see if the contents are complete."

War Bear nodded. "Alright!" He flipped through Wang Zifeng's headless corpse and found a jade slip. After probing it, he smiled, "The seal is still intact."

Daoist Wuyuan turned around. "The seal is there and those two juniors clearly didn't know the contents of it. If so, then how about fellow daoist Gu shows some mercy and lets go of this little baby girl."

Gu Shengping flicked his sleeves and turned around.

War Bear said, "Fellow daoist Qin, while we won't kill this baby girl, you need to guarantee that she won't tell anyone of today's events."

Qin Yu said, "When you killed people, I didn't intervene." The meaning behind these words was that if this story were to get out, it wouldn't be advantageous to him either.

He paused for a moment and then turned around. "Miss Yun, I wonder if you would like to remain a guest in my valley for some time."

Yun Xueqing had a grateful expression. She hurriedly said, "I would. For the next month, I won't take even half a step out of the valley."

War Bear and Daoist Wuyuan paused for a moment.

In a month, the matter should already be settled. Even if this little girl told everyone that they killed Qiu He and Wang Zifeng, so what?

In these past years, they hadn't killed enough people!

In the group of four, the only female cultivator suddenly said in a soft voice, "Fellow daoist War Bear, for the following matter, do you think there is a part for fellow daoist Qin Yu?"

War Bear smiled. "Fairy maiden's thoughts are my own. But, concerning this, the four of us must come to a unanimous agreement."

Daoist Wuyuan's eyes flashed. "I have no opinion." He looked at Gu Shengping. "Brother Gu, the greater picture is what matters. There is no need to haggle over minor things like this."

Gu Shengping had a gloomy expression. He grunted and didn't speak; this could be considered agreement.

War Bear cupped his hands across his chest. "Fellow daoist Qin, we have discovered a treasure land, and were wondering whether or not you would like to join us? Of course, we cannot guarantee any harvests and the dangers are definitely there."

Qin Yu eyed the jade slip. He hesitated and shook his head, "I'm reluctant to do anything right now, so I won't be joining in on competing for any profits."

War Bear didn't hide his disappointment. Without talking too much, he bid his farewells and the several people departed.

After watching the group travel far away, Qin Yu's tense heart began to relax a little.

These four people were all at the late Golden Core realm, and the strength they could erupt with was even greater. With Qin Yu's current strength, he didn't have any guarantee he could defeat them.

Of course, withdrawing wasn't difficult at all. With the Blood Escape Art, War Bear and the others would only be able to watch helplessly as he flew away. This was the only reason he had such a strong performance just now.

He wouldn't be an idiot like Qiu He. A noble ninth level Golden Core, a rarity even within the entire Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty, had died miserably because he had tried to pull rank.

Qin Yu tamped down these thoughts. He turned and said, "Miss Yun, for security reasons, please."

Yun Xueqing closed her eyes, her long eyelashes shivering. "I'll have to trouble fellow daoist Qin Yu to guide me."

This young miss, her thoughts were actually quite exquisite.

Qin Yu smiled. He flicked his sleeves and grabbed hold of her, stepping into the fog together.

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Gu Shengping's complexion was ugly. He looked around, "Every one of you is a powerful individual, so why were you all so cautious against that Qin Yu today? This is just too shameful!"

Daoist Wuyuan chuckled. He said, "Fellow daoist Gu, if you already know, why ask? This Qin Yu...hehe, he isn't easy to deal with at all."

The female cultivator floated forwards. "That fellow daoist Qin should have killed at least ten masters at the Golden Core realm, otherwise it would have been impossible for him to condense such thick slaughter energy."

Gu Shengping clenched his teeth. "So what? If we all joined forces, are you saying we still wouldn't have been able to kill him?"

War Bear said, "Although we never fought, I am positive that Qin Yu is far more difficult to deal with than that surname Qiu cultivator. If we all joined forces we might have been able to kill Qin Yu, but it was likely that we would have suffered severe wounds, or that some among us would have died. Right now we have much more important matters to attend to. I hope that fellow daoist Gu doesn't interfere with the mission and create side issues."

"Enough. Let us consider this matter settled for now. Fellow daoist Gu, what have your calculations told you?"

Gu Shengping took a deep breath. He said, "Although I haven't locked onto the entrance yet, I have determined the general scope of where it is, within around 10 miles. Give me three more days and I should be able to find out."

War Bear nodded. "Then I'll have to bother you with that."

Gu Shengping smugly smiled.

Daoist Wuyuan smirked, a trace of disdain in his eyes. This Gu Shengping was infatuated with women and lacked any and all tact. He had no idea how this idiot had survived until today.

Whoosh –

The group accelerated forwards.

However, no one discovered that when Gu Shengping looked back, a strange light flickered in his eyes.

Chapter 93 – Opening the Entrance

Yun Xueqing lived in the valley for some time, and luckily enough there was still a spare room in the wooden house. The young miss was smart enough and knew what to do; after entering the room, she didn't take a single step outside. But thinking about it a little more, Qin Yu actuated the array formation to temporarily hide the Radiant Red Wood. This had nothing to do with trust, but was simply the most basic level of caution that a cultivator should have.

There was no scent of romance nor was there some heart-stirring love story. Besides the time when she first entered the valley, five days passed without them meeting again.

This left a chicken who was harboring evil thoughts of watching an entertaining play unfold utterly disappointed. It curled its beak in disgust and glared at the one-eyed wild wolf in the distance, clearly disdaining its supposedly virtuous thoughts. Perhaps others might not know, but it saw that when this young miss first arrived, that wild wolf's eye had shined, and who knew that an eye could actually shine so brightly!

In an instant, nine days passed.

A loud explosion rang out in the distance, deep and low like a stroke of thunder. The sunny skies rapidly darkened, and strong winds rose up from the void, constantly tearing through the fog.

The chicken overlord shrank back, panic-stricken. The wild wolf howled towards the heavens.

Shua –

Qin Yu appeared in the valley, looking towards the source of the sound, his complexion uncertain. Several powerful auras loomed in the distance and gave off a somewhat familiar feeling. If he wasn't wrong, then they were War Bear, Gu Shengping, and the others. But what were they doing? Could it be that the treasure land they mentioned before was in Severed Spirit Mountain?

Inexplicably, Qin Yu thought of the exhausted heaven and earth spiritual strength here, as well as the pure spiritual strength that had appeared not too long ago. His thoughts raced.

"Senior Qin, is something wrong?" Yun Xueqing stepped out from the wooden house, worry etched on her face.

Qin Yu turned. "I don't know, but it shouldn't be related to us. Don't think about it too much."

Soon, the winds scattered and the skies cleared up.

But Qin Yu's complexion actually became even more dignified. "Miss Yun, return to your room first!"

Yun Xueqing's heart trembled. She turned and left.

Shua –

Qin Yu shot up into the skies. With a wave of his hand, clouds parted. The surrounding atmosphere rolled about him, his momentum forceful to the limit.

Outside the valley was War Bear and the others.

Sensing Qin Yu's irate mood, Daoist Wuyuan cupped his hands across his chest and said, "Fellow daoist Qin, don't be angry. We have no ill intent in visiting this time."

War Bear coughed several times, his face slightly pale, as if he had been injured. "Fellow daoist Qin, could it be that you can control some strong power of thunder?"

Qin Yu nodded, "That's right."

War Bear was overjoyed. "Fellow daoist Qin, allow me to invite you to join us once more. To be honest, we have already found the location of the treasure trove, but we need the support of a strong power of thunder to open it."

Qin Yu frowned. "I have no interest."

War Bear said in a low voice. "Fellow daoist Qin should understand that we don't hope to become enemies with you. If you aren't willing to join us, then I can only ask you to temporarily leave here."

Daoist Wuyuan explained, "We have discovered that the treasure trove we are looking for is in this mountain range. With someone of fellow daoist Qin's cultivation here, it would be difficult for us to have any peace of mind."

Qin Yu fell silent.

These people shouldn't be lying. But, if they believed someone would easily leave after refusing them, then they were too naive. What would they do if he left for a moment and then returned through the back?

Even if he didn't come back, he already knew too much. Just passing out some of this information outside would cause a great deal of trouble.

In reality, the meaning behind their words was quite clear.

Either he could join them or they would tear apart any pretense of face. It was just that this way of initially indicating was being a bit tactful.

Qin Yu looked up. He lightly said, "Since everyone is so sincere, then it would be unappreciative of me to continue refusing."

War Bear laughed. "If fellow daoist Qin joins us, we will be even more powerful. We will definitely be able to smoothly open the treasure trove!"

The tense atmosphere was swept away.

“Allow me to officially introduce everyone. This is fellow daoist Wuyuan, fellow daoist Gu Shengping, and Fairy Xiang.”

Qin Yu cupped his hands together.

War Bear took out a jade slip. “What fellow daoist Qin wants to know is in here.”

Qin Yu received it. He frowned. “Right now, there is another matter I must attend to.”

Daoist Wuyuan smiled. “Feel free to do as you like; we also need some time to recuperate. How about meeting tomorrow?”

“Alright!”

War Bear and his group left.

Qin Yu stood still, his complexion cloudy. After some time, he turned and flew back into the valley.

“Miss Yun, tomorrow I must leave for an errand. You should wait for me to return before you leave.” Qin Yu got straight to the point. “After I leave, I will activate the entire array formation. Miss should stay in your room and not walk about.”

Yun Xueqing nodded, not asking any more.

Qin Yu began his preparations. War Bear and those three others weren't easy to deal with. If he were to cooperate with them, he had to be particularly careful. In order to prevent some accident, he naturally took the Soul Mushroom, Greatsun Mulberry, and Skythunder Bamboo. As for the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, he carried them off in his imperial spirit bag. They had become much stronger during this time period of absorbing the aura of the Greatsun Mulberry, and if an incident were to occur, they would be able to give his enemies a considerable surprise.

As for the Radiant Red Wood, the space in his storage bag was limited so he couldn't place a tree that was dozens of feet high in it. And, moving it would harm its growth, so he had to leave it here. However, with the valley's protective array formation activated to its greatest level of strength, and with the 36 Skythunder Bamboo flying swords added onto that, even if someone were to try and break into here, they still might not be able to accomplish anything.

Finally, he carefully inspected his storage bag and made sure he had a full plethora of various pills. He sat down and took out the jade slip. He probed it to make sure there was no problem with it, and then read through it with his divine sense. There was a little bit of resistance, but as he strengthened his divine sense it easily broke.

After a long time, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a sharp light surging in them.

There were many contents within the jade slip. The massive number of bits and pieces seemed disorderly, but a simple summary was as follows: In ancient times, there was a Nascent Soul powerhouse who had died in meditation and sealed away their cave dwelling. After a great deal of research, it was determined that this matter was true, and this was the treasure trove that War Bear referred to.

A Nascent Soul's cave dwelling...

Ancient times cultivator...

No wonder War Bear and the three others had been so careful. In order to prevent the news from leaking, they didn't hesitate to attack and kill Qiu He.

With the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty added together, that was a landmass hundreds of thousands of miles wide. Just how vast and boundless was that? Even if the world of cultivation here was on the wane, there were still hundreds of Golden Core cultivators. But as for Nascent Soul powerhouses, if one counted them all, there were only 10 or so. Even if one were to add in the old monsters that had hidden themselves away, there were 15 at most!

Which Golden Core didn't dream of becoming a Nascent Soul? And, the cave dwelling of an ancient cultivator might contain such a lucky chance! Once news of this were to spread out, countless storms were sure to be set off here. It might even move the righteous and demonic paths to violently and brutally fight each other.

Taking a deep breath and suppressing his shaking heart, Qin Yu's eyes became increasingly bright. After learning about this Nascent Soul cave dwelling, his opinion had also changed. So since he was interfering, he would interfere with all he had! Perhaps this matter might be a turning point in his cultivation.

He closed his eyes. Magic power circulated. Calmly, he made sure that his entire state was at its peak!

The next day, as the skies began to darken, War Bear and the others arrived.

Shua –

The fog separated and Qin Yu stepped out.

Gu Shengping looked at the fog. "Has fellow daoist Qin safely hidden away your treasures yet? If someone like me were to come before we returned, the entire place might be cleaned out."

Qin Yu lightly said, "There's nothing I would miss."

A fist falling on cotton, it was this sort of feeling.

Gu Shengping's complexion turned green.

War Bear changed the topic. "If there isn't a problem, we can leave now."

"Humph!" Gu Shengping was the first to fly away.

Daoist Wuyuan smiled and followed behind.

War Bear and Fairy Xiang glanced at each other, revealing a bit of worry.

Qin Yu followed at the rear. As he looked at Gu Shengping's back, he frowned. This person's disciple had been severely wounded by him, and at that time he had been able to patiently endure that loss without revealing anything. So why was he repeatedly trying to stir up trouble afterwards?

It was as if he were deliberately trying to form enmity between them...but he was likely thinking about it too much. This Gu Shengping had too many secret plans.

Severed Spirit Mountain covered an extremely vast range and the landscape seemed harsh and severe. If these mountains were to be traversed by a mortal, they might not be able to pass it in several days. But for a Golden Core cultivator, a hundred miles was just the blink of an eye.

When Gu Shengping stopped, the entire group came to a pause between two barren mountains. These mountains looked like two spears thrusting straight into the skies, seeming somewhat fierce and overbearing. The ground was a mess, charred black with cracks running all over it. Moreover, there was a round hole that went straight into the ground. Just glancing at it made one's eyes hurt and tingle, as if they would cry soon.

Qin Yu's heart chilled. It seemed that this so-called treasure trove wasn't as simple as he thought.

War Bear shook his head and bitterly smiled. "Yesterday we also came here, but we suffered a great hardship. Luckily we have fellow daoist Qin Yu with us here today, so we should be able to safely enter."

Gu Shengping coldly humphed. "That will depend on whether his power of thunder is strong enough!"

Fairy Xiang said in a soft voice. "Enough of that, it's almost time. Fellow daoist Gu, please begin."

Gu Shengping smiled. "Fine, then I will begin." He coldly glanced at Qin Yu. "Wait until my command, and then display your power of thunder." He flew into the skies until he stood at the point exactly between the two mountains. At this moment, the weather seemed clear yet not clear. A dawn light seemed to rise from the east, and a remnant moon seemed to wane in the west.

Gu Shengping took a deep breath, his face solemn and earnest, revealing the aura and bearing of a grandmaster. A mote of brilliant light glowed from his fingertip and fell atop the void, causing mighty waves to stir up. Although his actions weren't fast, they were extremely stable. Every time he thrust out his finger and drew it back, it would take the same time.

With every circle, mighty ripples spread out and light dispersed. The dawning sun in the east and the waning moon and the west suddenly brightened. This wasn't an illusion, but real light that was being released, illuminating this part of the world. Or, it would be more accurate to say that some invisible strength was dragging in every ray of light and concentrating it on this narrow and small area. This was because outside of the two mountains, the world began to darken.

Qin Yu was filled with acclaim. No matter who this Gu Shengping was or what his attitude was like, his cultivation and talent in array formations could be called outstanding. As for the mysterious might and power of this array formation, it left behind a profound mark in his heart, strengthening his desire to study them in the future.

Gu Shengping's complexion became increasingly dignified. His fingers fell and rose in an increasingly fast and dramatic manner until they linked into a single stretch.

War Bear, Daoist Wuyuan, and Fairy Xiang began to surge with magic power.

Qin Yu knew that the critical moment had arrived!

Suddenly, a blinding golden light rose up from the east. There were clearly countless wisps of light, but as these wisps gathered between the two mountains they condensed together into a long arrow, like a blazing sun that was being born anew. At the same time, the pale waning moon in the east erupted with light. Wisps of silver light also fell between the two mountains.

Gu Shengping roared, "Bring the thunder!"

Qin Yu flicked his sleeves. Lightning surged outwards, like a raging river of purple that had burst past a dam.

Nearby, War Bear, Wuyuan, and Fairy Xiang were overjoyed to see this. With such a formidable power of thunder, it was more than enough to open the entrance.

Of course, at the same time, they felt a bit more fear towards Qin Yu from deep in their hearts.

As the purple lightning gushed out, it was attracted to the point above Gu Shengping's head where it rapidly condensed. It concentrated into a dazzling purple, just like an 'evil star'!

At this moment, the light of the sun and moon between the world had gathered.

Gu Shengping pressed forth. The 'evil star' fell down where the sun and moon had gathered.

Dang –

With a dull thumping sound, like the strike of a great drum, great trembling fluctuations shot up into the skies.

Awoo –

The howl of a wolf sounded out, shaking the world!

Throughout the mountain forests, countless wild animals bowed their heads, their hearts filled with fear and excitement, all of them sobbing and wailing. But, what was strange was that the sounds they emitted were all limited to the mountain range. If one stepped even an inch outside the scope of the mountain range, they wouldn't hear these sounds anymore. Moreover, from the outside, this mountain range didn't seem to have changed in the least.

Between the two mountains, the phantom of a great wolf appeared, rearing its head back and roaring at the skies.

With one eye, the black eye patch wolf opened its great jaws to reveal a pitch black space, leading to an unknown location.

Gu Shengping laughed. "The entrance has opened!"

Chapter 94 – The Exhaustion of Magic Power

The phantom of the great wolf appeared between the two mountains. Its vicious jaws opened, a deep tunnel that connected into the ancient Nascent Soul cultivator's cave dwelling.

Faint traces of pure world strength flowed out from it.

Qin Yu's thoughts raced. He thought about the deficient world essence energy in Severed Spirit Mountain, the loss of strength in the array formation's spirit stones, and also the recently restored spiritual strength.

Perhaps all of these occurrences were because of this cave dwelling!

War Bear turned and gravely said, "Everyone, the first to enter might obtain the initial opportunity, but also might fall into perilous danger. I would like to be the first one to enter; are there any objections?"

Gu Shengping said, "I broke through the cave dwelling's outside array formation, but according to my judgments there should still be risks within. Fellow daoist War Bear's cultivation is deep and your mortal body is potent too, so I believe you are the appropriate person to enter first."

Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang hesitated for a moment before nodding.

Qin Yu didn't have an opinion.

War Bear cupped his hands together. "Then everyone, let us meet each other again in the cave dwelling!"

Whoosh!

He shot up into the skies, flew into the jaws of the great wolf without hesitation, and vanished into the dark.

Gu Shengping turned and said, "Fellow Daoist Bear is standing firm in front, so I should move to continue breaking the array formations. I will be the second to enter; what does everyone think?"

Daoist Wuyuan's eyes flashed. "I actually think that fellow daoist Gu should stay behind to better deal with any changes in the array formation and prevent any accidents that might occur."

Gu Shengping's complexion darkened. He coldly said, "If so, then you should all go together. I will follow in the rear!"

Fairy Xiang lightly said, "Fellow daoist Qin Yu should stay together with fellow daoist Gu. At least that way, you will have someone to watch your backs."

Daoist Wuyuan nodded. "Then let's do that!"

Gu Shengping hesitated for a moment. He coldly snorted and didn't say anything else.

Qin Yu thought about it. He nodded.

"Then, we're heading in."

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang flew away.

A light glimmered in the depths of Gu Shengping's eyes. He turned, already impatient, and said, "Following this, you should stick close to me. Otherwise if something were to happen, don't blame me for not warning you ahead of time."

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes. "Fellow daoist Gu, rest assured that I will keep my eyes on you."

This was tit for tat.

Gu Shengping's heart skipped a beat. He coldly coughed and said, "Let's go!"

Qin Yu's figure flashed. He followed right behind Gu Shengping. Although he seemed calm, he was fully vigilant.

After entering the wolf's jaws, their surroundings seemed to darken, as if all light was being swallowed by the wolf's shadow. Then, an inexplicable tearing feeling pulled at them from all around. This feeling was extremely violent and strong, and even Qin Yu with his powerful Demon Body felt slightly ill. After several breaths of time, the scenery changed once more and Qin Yu appeared in a garden.

Withered leaves covered the ground. Without people tending to the garden, weeds had grown all around, and the landscape of the garden had been ruined. Not too far away there was a rock garden sculpture that was covered in vines. Only a few corners were visible, mottled in different colors.

Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang stood about a dozen meters away. The ground was covered in cut vines, and they were deep in thought. As they saw Qin Yu arrive, their eyes brightened for a moment before darkening once more.

"Where is fellow daoist Gu?"

Qin Yu frowned. Gu Shengping had been right in front of him, but now he had disappeared to who knows where.

Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang suddenly had ugly complexions.

When they arrived, War Bear had vanished somewhere. And, the signs of severed vines on the ground should have meant that he left on his own initiative.

And now, Gu Shengping had also vanished without a trace, and the ancient Nascent Soul cultivator's cave dwelling had just opened. Something strange was happening here!

Daoist Wuyuan said in a low voice, "Everyone, it looks like we had best cooperate here."

Fairy Xiang nodded. "That's the way it should be."

Qin Yu nodded and started walking towards the two. But soon, his expression darkened. He had already walked what should have been several meters, but the distance between him and Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang not only didn't decrease, but it increased instead.

He stopped and flicked his sleeves. Magic power crazily swelled forth, sweeping all the fallen leaves away. They danced in the air, falling in a haphazard fashion. But, the way they landed was exactly the same position and angle as before they were sent flying away. Even the distance between each and every leaf hadn't changed.

Array formation!

Qin Yu's expression turned dignified.

Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang's eyes widened. At this time, it wasn't hard to guess that there must be countless wild horses galloping wildly through their hearts.

They never imagined that Qin Yu, someone reeking with killing intent, someone they thought had unfathomably deep strength, was actually an array formation idiot who couldn't even make his way out of a mere sealing array formation.

How had he cultivated until today?

Sealing array formations were widely used all over, and there were even cultivators like Gu Shengping who specialized in array formations. Thus, cultivators that lived mind-bogglingly long lives would often learn a little about these array formations at the very least so they wouldn't fall victim to them in the future.

It was normal for those at the Energy Refining realm to not know anything about sealing array formations, and even those at the Foundation Establishment realm might not be knowledgeable about them. But at the Golden Core realm, especially late Golden Core masters, if ten out of ten didn't know about them, then at least nine out of ten did. This was just too rare an occurrence! And even though this Qin Yu didn't seem to know much, he still joined them in rushing into this ancient Nascent Soul cultivator's cave dwelling!

And, who didn't know that these ancient cultivators liked to turn their cave dwellings into giant webs full of sealing array formations!

As the two looked at Qin Yu, a bit of pity appeared in their eyes. As they said, those who didn't know anything, didn't fear anything. Did this fellow not know how to spell the word death?

Daoist Wuyuan coughed. "Fellow daoist Qin, I think it is best that you stay here and not recklessly move about."

Fairy Xiang nodded. "Although there aren't any strong sealing array formations here right now, no one knows whether or not there are some powerful traps up ahead. Bursting in without knowing anything would be dangerous.

Qin Yu's complexion turned ugly.

Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang turned to leave. They didn't act differently, only turning around and walking away. Yet, they seemed to do so easily and comfortably, as if the array formation in this garden didn't exist at all. After taking a few steps, their figures seemed to blur into a fog and they soon vanished from sight.

The gloominess on Qin Yu's face dispersed. He looked behind him, and his face darkened once more.

When he entered here, he already discovered that Gu Shengping had disappeared. But at that time, he had discovered something else that made his heart race, thus he had been a bit slower in responding. The magic power in his body seemed to accelerate. It wasn't him doing this, but the magic power in his body moving on its own volition, as if it were in a cheerful mood.

This was a summoning of magic power. There seemed to be something within this cave dwelling that shared some sort of origin with him, and was summoning him. Was this real? Or was it a camouflage, or even a trap that was laid down by the ancient cultivator?

After thinking for a moment, Qin Yu narrowed his eyes. He stepped towards the direction of the summoning, and as he did it was like stepping into a flowing stream of water. He could still feel the strength of the sealing array formation in this garden, but this strength no longer held any influence over him.

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. He took several steps forwards and as he passed the rock garden sculpture, he also disappeared.

After a moment, several leaves on the ground parted and a small pitch black snake the width of a thumb drilled out. It swept its cold eyes around, and after pausing for a moment, revealed anger. Then it drilled back into the leaves.

....

Outside the garden, on a small bridge covered with vines, Daoist Wuyuan carelessly flicked his sleeves and took back a small black snake. His face was much gloomier than before.

Fairy Xiang's eyes flashed. "What is it?"

Daoist Wuyuan shook his head. "It's nothing." He quickly walked forwards several steps. But then he cried out in alarm. A vine had wrapped around his feet and pulled him to the ground. Then, he was dragged out of sight.

Fairy Xiang shouted in startled anger. Formidable magic power fluctuations erupted from her.

Several dozen feet away, Daoist Wuyuan casually stood up, The vines that had wrapped around his body had all turned black and withered.

He looked around at the magic power shaking up the area. He turned and left, his speed over twice as fast as before.

This ancient cultivator cave dwelling had been discovered by War Bear first, so he had already expected that War Bear would have some hidden plan in advance. As for Gu Shengping and Qin Yu vanishing one after another, that started to shake the original confidence he had in his plan. He decided he needed to speed things up, otherwise he feared that by the end he wouldn't even have a bit of soup left over from this large piece of meat that was the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling.

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After passing the rock garden sculpture, there was a gravel path before him. Even though it was also covered with withered leaves, as he walked over it he could still clearly feel how sharp and hard the ground was. Qin Yu didn't doubt that if he didn't follow the summons of the magic power, the moment he stepped onto this trail, a terrifying strength would have erupted from below him.

At the very least he would have been wounded!

Sealing array formations, sealing arraying formations, sealing array formations, since it was so important he needed to repeat this to himself three times over!

Qin Yu promised himself that after this incident ended, he must carefully study it.

Or he would be placed in this passive position too often!

But at this moment, he was even more curious as to what sort of thing was able to summon his magic power. Qin Yu hadn't changed his cultivation technique and was still using the three incomplete pages of the Eastern Mountain Sect's True Wood Arts from before. And, he found it extremely difficult to imagine how an ancient Nascent Soul cultivator's cave dwelling would be related to the Eastern Mountain Sect.

Moreover, this summoning seemed to be extremely beneficial. It didn't harm Qin Yu in the least, and instead helped him travel through this sealing array formation-ridden cave dwelling, giving him seemingly open access to it. But, who knew just what lay hidden ahead? It might be a great harvest, or could be a great trap that was waiting to chomp him in half.

Qin Yu bitterly smiled.

The road of sealing array formations...keep on repeating it!

The trail was very long, as if it passed through the entire cave dwelling. As he walked through, he passed by three gardens and many large buildings. It was clear that this place used to have many occupants in the past. But, what was strange was that there wasn't a single skeleton here, so where did all the people who initially lived here go? Could it be that they had left before this cave dwelling was sealed away?

Qin Yu felt that something was wrong.

If there really were people who left, then it would have been impossible for this cave dwelling to be so perfectly preserved until today. There would have been countless Golden Core cultivators red-eyed with envy that would have flipped this entire place upside down.

But if no one left, and he couldn't see a single skeleton...tsk, this was just too horrifying!

Suddenly, Qin Yu stopped. Standing on the gravel trail, his head quickly veered to the side. A touch of white had appeared amidst the withered leaves, a striking contrast of color. Qin Yu flicked his sleeves and withered leaves and branches flew away to reveal a headless skeleton beneath.

He had thought it was strange that he hadn't seen any skeletons before. But at this time Qin Yu didn't relax. Rather, his complexion became even more serious and grim.

The quality of this skeleton was far too new!

Using the word 'quality' to describe a skeleton might not be respectful, but this was just a statement of the facts. And, the most important fact was that the skeleton's skull had been recently cut off.

Qin Yu's five senses had always far surpassed others'. So even though he was standing dozens of feet away, he could still clearly see the skeleton that had almost been fully buried by the withered leaves.

He could also clearly see the cut.

Daoist Wuyuan and Fairy Xiang had gone in the opposite direction. Then, the person who cut off this skeleton's head must be War Bear or Gu Shengping. And, the question was, if they ran all the way here, why did they cut off a skeleton's head? Moreover, this skeleton clearly wasn't here when the cave dwelling was sealed away. It proved that before today, at some other time, there had been others who had come here!

Things had become even stranger.

Qin Yu hesitated for a moment and continued onwards.

Simply put, no matter what happened, since he had already entered, he had no other choice.

Staying silent and still wasn't Qin Yu's usual style. Since this cave dwelling was covered in layers of mysteries, then he would just slowly uncover them. The truth would eventually reveal itself.

Sha –

Sha –

In the quiet, only the sounds of footsteps walking over fallen leaves reverberated in the ears. The sound was bleak, desolate, dry, and as one heard it, they inexplicably felt their heart tense.

Shua –

Qin Yu stopped. He seemed to have reached the end of the gravel path. Covered by a thick layer of leaves, a floating mountain was partly visible in front of him. His eyes flashed, but after taking several steps his breath suddenly froze. He seemed like a piece of dead wood that merged together into his surrounding environment.

The aura-restraining law formula and aura-restraining pendant were being revolved at maximum power.

From up ahead, he could hear sounds!

Chapter 95 – To Each Their Own Dark Designs

The floating mountain was a thousand feet wide. It was bare and deep azure blue all over. In the middle of it was a black cave that tunneled straight in. Beneath the mountain was a great valley. There was a pool and sculptures in the valley, and when viewed with the surrounding forests, one could imagine that this must have been a truly celestial sight in the past.

Now the pool was dark green and covered with rotten black leaves that emitted a sour odor. The sculptures leaned left and right and were broken in numerous places, showing that a great disturbance had crossed this area.

Two figures faced each other from afar. They stood in the valley, magic power surging all around them. The branches and leaves rustled over the ground.

Daoist Wuyuan's face was filled with acclaim. "Fellow daoist Gu has truly hidden yourself so deeply. I didn't expect that your acting would be so perfect that I wouldn't realize anything at all." He paused for a moment and continued, "But then again, fellow daoist Gu purposefully antagonized Qin Yu in order to develop public enmity between the two of you and complete your initial plan. By taking advantage and

saying that the two of you didn't mesh well together, you dispelled my original worries. That's right. With fellow daoist Gu's skill in sealing array formations, after you saw Qin Yu's dwelling, you must have realized he knew nothing about them at all. So, you had him follow you and then left him without any scruples at all. Tsk, how admirable!"

Gu Shengping coldly snorted, not denying any of it. His eyes were cold as he said, "Fellow daoist Wuyuan is equally surprising. I didn't expect that you would arrive here so quickly."

Daoist Wuyuan shook his head. "No, no, the reason I arrived here so quickly is all thanks to fellow daoist Gu."

Gu Shengping's complexion changed. With a loud roar, magic power erupted around him. A little white bug was shaken from his body and pulverized to pieces in midair.

"Position-tracking witch bug!"

Daoist Wuyuan nodded. "Fellow daoist Gu is indeed knowledgeable. But, you should also know that these bugs aren't easy to raise, so why must you kill it in a fit of rage?" His lips curled up. "Ah, that's right, I forgot to tell fellow daoist Gu something. My position-tracking witch bug is different from others."

Gu Shengping stuffily coughed even as he was enraged at the same time. His face paled.

Daoist Wuyuan smiled. "This sort of witch bug is poisonous, but as long as it is alive, its poisonous nature will not manifest. Fellow daoist Gu was just too fast in your actions so even though I wanted to warn you, I had no chance to. But fellow daoist should rest assured. This sort of poison isn't fatal and it will only hinder your magic power in revolving. In a way, it is similar to the talisman you used when you helped to kill that surnamed Qiu cultivator."

Gu Shengping roared out, "Despicable!"

Daoist Wuyuan coldly sneered, "When we just entered the cave dwelling, fellow daoist Gu chose to intentionally leave by yourself. Isn't that also despicable? A pot calls the kettle black, is there any meaning to it?" He stepped forwards. "Fellow daoist Gu, although this place can't be called some beautiful landscape, it is still a place where an ancient Nascent Soul cultivator is buried. To die here can also be considered an honorable death. Allow me to send you on the way as a favor. I'm sure that the ancient cultivator from the past is lonely here all by himself!"

Bang –

Black magic power erupted, thick like ink. It emitted a yin chill even as a noxious stench spread outwards.

Gu Shengping sucked in mouthfuls of air, the rumbling in his chest becoming increasingly fierce. He quickly held his breath and flicked out his sleeves with a deep roar.

Shua –

Giant talismans flew out. Each one erupted with a brilliant light, each like a star that illuminated the world.

Daoist Wuyuan didn't dare act arrogant. He carefully stepped back, avoiding the range of the exploding talismans. With a thought, he controlled the black magic power to surge forwards like a tide and corrode and damage the talismans!

Gu Shengping sat down cross-legged and swallowed several pills. His entire forehead was covered in sweat. He wanted to force out the poison from his body, but as the medicinal efficacy spread through his body, the poison toxicity suddenly shot upwards. With a sharp cough, Gu Shengping spat out a mouthful of black blood!

"Haha! Give up already! Everything I create is of the highest quality! Once struck by my poison, even a Nascent Soul cultivator would have to put in a great deal of effort!" Daoist Wuyuan cackled, "Break for me!"

Pa –

Pa –

The talismans began to blow apart.

With a miserable scream, Gu Shengping was covered with the black magic power.

Daoist Wuyuan's lips curled up. "It's over for you!" He rushed forwards, raising his hand and then bringing it pressing down. As he did, his black magic power combusted, producing endless poisonous fire that would burn flesh and blood without end, until even his enemy's soul was burned to nothing.

Bang –

The black magic power expanded like an air bubble before it was viciously torn to pieces. A blinding divine light erupted, rapidly blowing towards Daoist Wuyuan. With an angered roar, Daoist Wuyuan was flung away, his arms crossed protectively against his chest. With loud cracking sounds coming from his chest and arms, his bones broke at innumerable points! He plummeted to the ground, blowing apart the dirt as he plowed open a deep ditch and caused mud to splash upwards!

Puff –

He spat out a mouthful of blood.

Gu Shengping violently coughed. His dirtied robes were broken all over and the black fire had contaminated his skin, leaving festering pus and blood flowing out from wounds all over. He held a talisman in his hand. It was jade in color and flowed with a brilliant light. "Wuyuan, you want to kill me? You aren't qualified!"

Daoist Wuyuan clenched his jaws. "Gu Shengping, do you think you can save your life like this?" He lifted his hand and a small black snake crawled out from his sleeve. He opened his mouth wide and bit down on the snake's head, eating its blood and venom. As he did, his aura began to rapidly steady itself.

Gu Shengping's complexion changed. He took out a scarlet pill and swallowed it down. With a bitter and miserable chuckle, he said, "I never thought that I would have no choice but to swallow this Five Poison Pill today!" His complexion darkened. "Just like this, 50 years of my lifespan vanishes into thin air. You mongrel Wuyuan, I will never forgive you for this!"

The two sat on the ground, no longer speaking to each other as they used up all their strength to recover from their injuries. Although they didn't reveal any expression, it was likely there was regret in both their hearts.

It had to be known that there were five people who had entered this ancient Nascent Soul cultivator's cave dwelling. With their current conditions, if they were discovered by others it would lead to disastrous consequences.

It was because of this reason that the two of them didn't hesitate to use the most ruthless methods they had to heal themselves.

As for fighting, although they wished to tear each other to shreds, at the very least they wouldn't try killing each other until they had the strength to preserve their own lives.

Beneath the floating mountain, an awkwardly tense and peaceful stalemate followed.

Qin Yu's thoughts raced. Magic power suddenly revolved in his body, but just as he was about to take action, a trace of red flashed across his line of sight.

A dazzling color that could take lives!

Qin Yu's aura immediately quieted down.

With two surprised roars of anger, Gu Shengping and Daoist Wuyuan took action and repelled the red string. But with this collision, their efforts to heal themselves had all come to nothing and they started to gasp out blood once more.

Whoosh –

The red string flew back like a bolt of lightning. Fairy Xiang stepped out. This was a woman who had the looks of someone in their twenties but the eyes of someone in their thirties. She seemed graceful and gentle, like the young lady of a noble family. Even though she had attacked with the intent to kill, she still had a calm and light expression.

"Xiang Ruyu!" Daoist Wuyuan roared out, "You dare to try and murder me!?"

Gu Shengping continued gasping for breath. He had first been poisoned by Wuyuan and now he had to block Fairy Xiang's strike; his injuries were the heaviest. The hot and tyrannical medicinal efficacy of the Five Poison Pill quickly spread through his body, barely ensuring that his injuries wouldn't worsen.

Fairy Xiang stood straight, her posture composed. "Since we get along so well with each other, I wonder if two fellow daoists here would let me go?" As she spoke, her eyes brightened as they fell upon the floating mountain above.

"Fellow daoist Wuyuan, fellow daoist Gu, I don't want to take your lives. As long as you two restrain yourselves from moving, I vow I will not harm you."

Gu Shengping quickly nodded. "I agree!"

Even though Daoist Wuyuan wasn't willing, the situation wasn't in his favor so he had no choice but to grit his teeth and nod.

Fairy Xiang gathered herself. "I thank fellow daoists for the help."

Her feet tapped the ground and she elegantly flew upwards, falling onto the entrance into the floating mountain. But in the next moment, there was a pitiful wail as Fairy Xiang was sent flying out even faster than she had gone in.

Her skirt had been destroyed, revealing her legs. But as one looked at them, the sight simply stirred up nightmares!

A massive section of her skin had been melted away and was hanging loosely on her body. Her crimson flesh and blood was exposed to the air, and as she trembled in pain, one could see her flesh twitching and twisting. In just a single breath of time, it was like she had been tossed into a frying pan and tossed back out.

Whoosh –

The sound of breaking air rang out. A brilliant blood red beam of light shot out from the forest, sweeping up a tornado of leaves and branches in its wake. Before the three people could regain their senses, the beam of light had broken into the floating mountain.

It was Qin Yu!

When Fairy Xiang flew towards the floating mountain, the summoning of the magic power had transmitted a warning to him, thus he had kept hidden. But the moment she was wounded and sent flying away, the warning had immediately disappeared, and the forcefulness of the magic power summoning had become increasingly fervent. In the moment of the collision, Qin Yu had chosen to take action. The Blood Escape Art erupted and he shot into the floating mountain in a tenth of the time it took for a single breath.

Rumble rumble rumble –

Magic power circulated within his body. He was ready to react with all his strength at any sign of trouble. But luckily, the terrifying repulsion attack of the floating mountain didn't appear. In several moments he arrived in a giant rock cave.

What entered his eyes was an extremely large and round pool in front of him. The walls were smooth and red, as if they had been dyed red with blood over time. Within the pond, there was nothing else, only bones. Men, women, old, young, it was hard to calculate how many skeletons were stuffed inside the round pool! With just a glance, one could feel the rank smell of blood and slaughter energy rush forth like the shrill cries of countless ghosts.

Qin Yu suddenly realized what this was. It was no wonder why all the people living in such a giant cave dwelling had disappeared.

It could be because they had all been gathered here.

Looking up, one could see a jade platform above the pool. Or, it could even be called an altar. From below the platform, countless black root-like objects drilled out and into the round pool. At this time, the dead wood roots were preventing the platform from falling down.

A skeleton sat cross-legged atop the jade platform. Even after years of erosion, it was still as smooth as jade, emitting a gentle luminescence. Faintly, one could feel a terrifying aura from this skeleton.

Without a doubt, this was the skeleton of the cave dwelling's master, the ancient Nascent Soul cultivator of the past!

Outside the floating mountain, even Fairy Xiang couldn't maintain her indifferent expression anymore. Her beautiful face was fiercely distorted with rage. Combined with the terrifying state of her body, she seemed like a cruel ghost that had crawled up from the pits of hell.

Gu Shengping and Daoist Wuyuan were dumbfounded.

The blood red beam of light had passed by in less than the blink of an eye, but with their cultivations they had still been able to see who it was.

Qin Yu...it was actually him!

"You wretch!" With a loud shout, an explosion erupted from the other side of the forest. War Bear strode out like a tiger descending a mountain, his overwhelming momentum dreadful to the extreme. With a punch of his fist, Fairy Xiang was sent flying away. He stepped forwards and hurtled directly towards the floating mountain!

Everything had been going according to his plans, but Qin Yu's appearance had ruined it all. He had only been able to stare blankly on as Qin Yu flew into the floating mountain.

"The treasures are mine! All the treasures are mine!"

He roared deep in his heart. War Bear spurred his speed to the limit and vanished from sight.

Fairy Xiang spat out a mouthful of blood. She flicked her sleeve and condensed magic power to cover up her terrifying wounds. She clenched her teeth and screamed, "Wuyuan, Gu Shengping, we must all work together! We cannot allow them to take all the advantages!"

Daoist Wuyuan and Gu Shengping glanced at each other. They grit their teeth and forced themselves up.

The three of them were severely wounded. But if they joined forces, they still might be able to put up a fight.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Three people shot into the skies!

Chapter 96 – Dividing the Spoils

As the sound of breaking air sounded out, Qin Yu turned around.

War Bear's figure entered his field of vision. With a shout, his fist came thundering out.

Qin Yu stepped forwards. He didn't dodge or evade, but welcomed this fist head-on.

Bang –

The cave trembled and the sound of billowing thunder followed!

War Bear humphed and fluttered backwards.

Qin Yu also landed on the floor, blood energy raging in his chest.

The two of them both revealed surprise.

War Bear glowered, “Fellow daoist Qin, what wonderful cultivation!”

Qin Yu spoke without expression. “The feeling is mutual.”

This War Bear was absolutely a ninth level Golden Core master, and his mortal body was incredibly potent. It seemed that he had been hiding his strength all this time.

But, the strength that Qin Yu erupted with had similarly shocked War Bear.

The two people fell silent.

Neither party had full assurance they could win, and at the same time neither knew what cards the other was hiding. If they fought, perhaps only one of them would walk out alive.

At this time, Xiang Ruyun, Gu Shengping, and Daoist Wuyuan arrived. As they stood together, even though they were severely wounded they were still a force to be reckoned with. At the very least, they had a chance of pulling down Qin Yu or War Bear to perish with them.

Fairy Xiang shrilly screamed, “You can forget taking the treasures alone! Either divide the treasures, or divide life and death!”

War Bear’s face distorted. He roared out, “In the end, I looked down on the heroes of the world. I didn’t want to do this...but you have forced my hand!”

His hand flickered and a skull appeared. The cut was new; it was from the headless corpse that Qin Yu had seen. A brilliant flash of magic power erupted and merged into the skull. Then, a strange black rune appeared between the skull’s eyes, glowing with an eerie light.

Ga –

Ga –

The skull flew up on its own and began to emit a strange cackle.

Hiss –

Hiss –

A faint sound echoed out. But as everyone heard it, it made their hairs stand on end.

Qin Yu’s pupils shrank; this sound was coming from the round pool!

Immediately, a terrifying scene occurred. Countless black worms crawled forth from the bones, frantically rushing over the ground.

An ominous and dark smell of blood overwhelmed the air, filled with a dreadful killing intent.

A hint of fear appeared on War Bear's face. He bit his finger and wiped it on the skull. "Kill them!"

The black worms flew up into the air. Only now could everyone see their thin and transparent wings. Before this, they had been closely pasted on their bodies, making them hard to see.

Qin Yu was the first to bear the brunt of the attack!

If War Bear was going to kill them, then he would certainly start with the strongest. As long as Qin Yu died, only Fairy Xiang and the other two would be left remaining. War Bear could personally deal with them and wouldn't need to allow the worms to obtain more blood and food, lest they run out of his control.

Qin Yu's complexion changed. But before he could act, the imperial spirit bag began to move about. He could feel the excited mood of the ant king.

With a flick of his sleeve, the imperial spirit bag was opened. The Purpleback Bluewing Ants howled out, buzzing and screeching as they hurtled towards the black worms, led by the ant king.

Pa –

Pa –

This was the sound of little wriggling black bodies being broken apart. The Purpleback Bluewing Ants opened their mouths wide open as they hunted and devoured. The previous arrogance of the black worms had all but disappeared. They began to tremble in fear as they turned to flee!

The Purpleback Bluewing Ants ravaged their prey. The battle lasted for several breaths of time and they swallowed dozens of black worms with every breath. It was only when the black worms vanished deep into the round pool that they circled around it, clearly fearing entering it.

War Bear was stunned!

He never expected that the trump card even he was scared to use would actually be completely broken apart in just several breaths of time!

He had once personally seen how terrifying the black worms were. Just what sort of ants were these; they were actually so fierce!

Qin Yu's thoughts stirred. The swarm of Purpleback Bluewing Ants came howling back. They circled above Qin Yu's head, shrouding all four people in a grim and vicious light.

The complexions of everyone underwent a tremendous change!

With how terrifying the Purpleback Bluewing Ants were, if they were to come in swarms, they feared that...they wouldn't be able to block it!

War Bear burst backwards, standing together with Xiang Ruyu, Gu Shengping, and Daoist Wuyuan. Without any words, they all reached a mutual agreement to join forces.

The situation had undergone a complete reversal!

Qin Yu revealed a bit of hesitation.

War Bear said in a low voice, "Fellow daoist Qin, even if you have spiritual insects helping you, the four of us are still late Golden Core masters. If we fight you with all we have, you might not necessarily be able to take the advantage!"

Qin Yu frowned.

Xiang Ruyu saw this and quickly said, "With the treasures of a Nascent Soul so close at hand, wouldn't it be too sad if we were all to die here together? Fellow daoist Qin should consider the situation clearly to prevent us all from perishing together!"

Daoist Wuyuan and Gu Shengping clenched their teeth. They stimulated their magic power, their aura rapidly rising.

Qin Yu sighed. "Enough. I originally had no intention of taking the treasures all by myself. You are just overthinking things." With his calm appearance that revealed just a bit of hesitation, it made him much more believable.

At the very least, even if War Bear and the others coldly sneered in their hearts, they released a breath of relief outside. They quickly nodded, praising fellow daoist Qin Yu for being someone virtuous with high moral character.

With a flick of his sleeves, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants flew back into the imperial spirit bag. Qin Yu still had a faint unwilling expression on his face, but in reality, his clothes were being matted with a cold sweat.

Yes, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants were indeed fierce, but after swallowing a massive amount of black worms, they had suddenly started to rampage out of his control a little. Luckily, he held absolute dominance over the ant king, so he was just barely able to force them all into the imperial spirit bag where they fell into a deep slumber together.

Qin Yu didn't know what had occurred, but he was sure that the Purpleback Bluewing Ants wouldn't help him anymore. So, it was best that he push the boat a little to reconcile with these four. Of course, he needed to act a little hesitant, otherwise if he were to agree too easily, it would definitely arouse their suspicions.

Qin Yu let out a breath of relief, and War Bear and the others let out even larger breaths of relief. After seeing the horrifying powers of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, they truly didn't want to face them.

The situation had calmed down.

A light flashed in Qin Yu's eyes. "Fellow daoist War Bear, don't you think it's time to give us an explanation for all of this?"

Hate shimmered in Xiang Ruyu's eyes. If she had to point to the one she hated here the most, it would be War Bear. This person knew far too much and they knew far too little. If it weren't for his plotting, she wouldn't have ended up in this miserable situation to begin with.

Gu Shengping and Daoist Wuyuan also had grim expressions.

War Bear cried out in his heart. Even at this moment, Qin Yu still hadn't forgotten to sow dissent in their group. He awkwardly coughed and said, "Now that things have gotten to the point, I won't hide anything anymore. Indeed, this place is the cave dwelling of an ancient cultivator and I came here dozens of years ago with several other companions. At that time, a terrifying matter occurred, one that I don't wish to speak of. But, I will admit that I concealed some information from several daoists." He paused and then continued, "But, the rest of you haven't been honest with me either."

Qin Yu didn't have any intention of delving too deep into this. He took advantage of this opening and said, "Since fellow daoist War Bear has come here before, you should also be the one most clear about this place. So, I ask that fellow daoist be the one to bring over the treasures of the ancient Nascent Soul cultivator. And I also trust that fellow daoist War Bear wouldn't be so silly as to play any more tricks right now."

War Bear hesitated for a moment. But as he saw Xiang Ruyi and the others glaring at him, he could only bitterly smile and agree. He was clearly terrified of the round pool. He rubbed his hands for several moments and grit his teeth. Then, he flew up to the blue jade platform in a flash of light. Beneath the gazes of several people, he took the items in his hands and brought them back down.

He landed on the floor and placed the items directly into an open space, stretching out his hands afterwards.

Everyone's eyes widened.

The ancient Nascent Soul cultivator hadn't left behind much. There were four items: a storage ring, a mottled bronze mirror, a wolf-shaped jade slip, and a gray slab of iron.

Without a doubt, the storage ring was the most eye-catching object. However, Qin Yu, War Bear, and Fairy Xiang each separately investigated its contents and found it to be completely empty. Even so, the storage ring itself had over a thousand feet of space within. It was also a space that had been separately divided; it was definitely a priceless treasure.

The function of the bronze mirror was unknown, but it was definitely a magic tool at the Nascent Soul step. Just by sweeping one's divine sense across it, one felt as if their thoughts were being knotted together. It was certainly a mighty item.

The jade slip was sealed with a spell and it had to be carefully unraveled before one could investigate it. It might be a peerless cultivation method or even a useless object. Its value was unknown.

The final slab of iron was extremely light, as if it could be blown away with a single breath. But, the material was of a horrifyingly tough quality. Qin Yu secretly tested bending it with his Demon Body, but found that he couldn't even leave a single mark upon it. A light flashed in his eyes and he quietly laid it down.

The treasures were in front of them. Now, all that remained was dividing the spoils.

Of course, dividing them equally was impossible.

Qin Yu didn't hesitate. "Four treasures. I will take two, and the rest you can split amongst yourselves!"

The complexions of War Bear and the others were ugly to look at. But, after a moment of thought they agreed. If they were to join forces they could only 'reluctantly' fight with Qin Yu, so distributing treasures like this was the most reasonable.

Qin Yu smiled. "The storage ring and bronze mirror, I want those!"

War Bear roared. "Impossible!" He sucked in a deep, shaking breath. "Fellow daoist Qin, you and I both know that based upon the visible values of these four items, these are the two most valuable. Perhaps the jade slip and iron slab might be treasures, but they also might be garbage. If fellow daoist Qin wants to eat the meat, then you must at least give us some soup to drink."

Daoist Wuyuan clenched his teeth. "That's right! Fellow daoist Qin wants to choose two first, and while we cannot argue with that, you absolutely cannot choose the storage ring and bronze mirror together!"

Qin Yu mulled over it. "Fine. I will choose the storage ring and jade slip." As he looked up, his gaze was dark and dreary. "This is my bottom line. Don't push me to anger!"

Gu Shengping's lips moved, but in the end he didn't say anything. He was someone skilled in sealing array formations, so he naturally felt something uncommon from the jade slip's spell. However, the current situation didn't favor him.

Qin Yu lifted his hand, receiving the storage ring and jade slip. Although his complexion was a bit dark, he was actually secretly overjoyed.

Out of the four items, the one he wanted the most was in truth the jade slip! This was because he discovered that the magic power summons he felt after entering this cave dwelling originated from this jade slip. He didn't know what this meant, but from the very start he had already decided to obtain the jade slip no matter what.

When he first chose that bronze mirror, that was because he wanted to use the mindset of the four people and then appear to take a step back before locking onto his true target. This was the safest path to take. It had to be known that what War Bear and the others feared were the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, but those little brats were currently slumbering within the imperial spirit bag. Since Qin Yu was relying on appearances to bully these people, he naturally needed to be more discreet in his actions.

Luckily, everything had ended smoothly.

He had obtained what he wanted. What remained were the bronze mirror and iron slab. While Qin Yu desired them, since he knew he couldn't obtain them in his heart, he didn't place any more importance on them.

A great war of bluffing followed. War Bear panted, his face turning red and blue veins sticking out from his body. But, Fairy Xiang suddenly ripped apart the magic power she had used to cover her ruined skirt and revealed her horrifying body. In the end, he unwillingly lowered his head, clenched his teeth, and took the iron slab into his storage bag.

Qin Yu didn't know if it was an illusion or not, but he seemed to sense a bit of laughter in War Bear's eyes. This person had entered this cave dwelling twice already and he clearly knew much more than they did. Was it possible that this iron slab was a great treasure? Qin Yu's thoughts turned, but he suppressed them in his mind. Right now wasn't the time to be thinking about such things.

Fairy Xiang, Daoist Wuyuan, and Gu Shengping obtained the bronze mirror together. It was unknown how they were going to split it, but after a lengthy conversation, the bronze mirror was ultimately taken by Fairy Xiang. The other two had calm expressions; it was obvious they had received sufficient compensation.

After carefully searching the area and making sure that nothing had been missed, the journey into the cave dwelling came to an end. The five people left the floating mountain. Beneath its deep shadow, they found an ancient array formation. The array formation had visible signs of being repaired, but there were still traces of spirit stones that had been turned to powder after being exhausted of spiritual strength.

Chapter 97 – The World’s Killing Intent

Though entering the cave dwelling was extremely difficult, leaving was actually quite simple.

War Bear’s complexion darkened. “In the past, I left using this array formation. If you all don’t believe me you can examine it yourself. After placing in spirit stones, the array formation will automatically activate.” He glanced at Qin Yu and bitterly smiled. “My dozens of years of scheming cannot compare to several days of fellow daoist Qin’s efforts. I plan to stay here and keep looking for other harvests. Farewell!”

As he spoke, he turned and walked away, soon vanishing from sight.

Gu Shengping walked forwards and carefully examined the array formation. After a long time, he nodded, indicating that there wasn’t a problem with it. He, along with Fairy Xiang and Daoist Wuyuan were all heavily wounded, and they needed to urgently find a place to safely recover from their wounds. They definitely wouldn’t stay behind here. A brilliant light flashed into the skies, strong winds howled, and the figures of the three people twisted within the array formation before they disappeared.

Qin Yu suddenly sneered, “Fellow daoist War Bear, you are secretly hiding over there, do you plan on sneak attacking me?”

The surroundings remained silent.

Qin Yu’s eyes turned cold. After calmly waiting for several breaths of time, he mumbled to himself, “Maybe I was overthinking things.”

He turned and stepped onto the array formation, flicking his sleeve and sweeping away the powder and then placing his spirit stones within.

The air began to surge. Qin Yu grasped a spirit stone; after this one, everything would be complete. But at this time, he shouted out loud and said, “Found you!”

He raised his hand, taking out the imperial spirit bag and forming mudras with his fingers, “Go!”

Crash –

From not too far away in the forests, War Bear’s figure rushed out as he fled in a frenzied panic.

Qin Yu took advantage of this moment to draw back his hand, safely placing in the last spirit stone. Light shined all around, and he vanished.

Shua –

War Bear stopped. His face twisted. He didn't know how, but he felt he had been played by Qin Yu. However, he soon calmed down again, and a fierce smile lifted up his lips.

“Qin Yu, you think you can get rid of me like this? How delusional!”

....

600 miles outside Severed Spirit Mountain, space twisted and wild winds blew up. Countless stones and tiny branches were broken and sent fluttering in the wind. Qin Yu appeared, and with a flick of his sleeve he dispersed the remaining shockwaves of the array formation. He looked towards a direction and then stimulated his magic power to fly away.

After some time, Qin Yu returned to his mountain valley. As he felt the array formation was still in perfect condition, he breathed a sigh of relief. He flicked his sleeves and opened the array formation and stepped into the fog. Without alerting Yun Xueqing, he walked straight to the ant raising room and let out the Purpleback Bluewing Ants that were slumbering deep in the imperial spirit bag. Faint traces of spiritual strength rippled in the air, and one could clearly feel as this spiritual strength was absorbed by the Purpleback Bluewing Ants.

Qin Yu carefully checked the ants, and after making sure that there weren't any problems with them, he relaxed a little. Still, he couldn't help but frown. This was the first time that the Purpleback Bluewing Ants entered the stage and they had accomplished great merits, but now they were in a deep sleep, and this naturally left Qin Yu a little worried.

Perhaps this was because of the black worms.

He opened the Ancient Beast Dominion Art and searched through the ancient hundred insect list, looking for the records related to the Purpleback Bluewing Ant. After sifting through it for a long time, he didn't find much. Helpless, he could only temporarily lay it down and wait for the ant king to regain consciousness before he could further inspect it for any problems.

Just as Qin Yu was about to leave, his expression twisted. He flew out from the wooden house. He saw that between the heavens and earth, the normally stable spiritual strength was beginning to move around restlessly, as if it were a pot of boiling water. High above his head, the bright sunny day began to rapidly darken as black clouds formed and gathered. Because Qin Yu had previous experiences, he was able to determine that this was...heavenly tribulation from a breakthrough.

Or, it was more accurate to say that this was the heavenly tribulation of a Foundation Establishment cultivator breaking into the Golden Core realm. Looking at the position of the tribulation clouds, the only person it could be was the other person in the valley: Yun Xueqing.

Shua –

An elegant shadow flew out. As Yun Xueqing saw Qin Yu, she immediately revealed an excited expression before turning awkward and then apologetic.

Qin Yu said, “Miss Yun, don't mind me, just continue crossing your tribulation in peace!”

Yun Xueqing took a deep breath and nodded.

Kacha –

Tribulation thunder descended!

Yun Xueqing was clearly left a bit panicked and she lifted an umbrella-shaped magic tool. The output of magic power didn't come fast enough and the magic tool wasn't brought to its greatest strength before it collided with the tribulation thunder.

Lightning flowed out in all directions. As it smashed into the umbrella-shaped magic tool, the magic tool let out a keening wail before it was destroyed by the lightning.

Yun Xueqing cried out in alarm!

Qin Yu flicked his sleeves and the 36 Skythunder Bamboo magic swords came howling out from the dense fog. Purple lightning filled the air. Lightning mutually attracted lightning, and even heavenly tribulation wasn't an exception to this. The purple lightning smashed into the thunder tribulation, and over half of it was drawn away from Yun Xueqing. The 36 Skythunder Bamboo magic swords bathed in the tribulation thunder and emitted intermittent cries.

The pressure dramatically fell. Yun Xueqing was finally able to steady her mind and firmly keep off the tribulation thunder.

The black clouds scattered and sunlight came sparkling down. The aura of heavenly tribulation vanished from sight.

Qi Yu frowned. Inexplicably, he felt a sudden and terrifying oppression, as if the world itself was pressing down on him! But luckily, this oppressive feeling lasted for a mere moment before disappearing.

This was...a warning from the world.

He had once heard that when people meddled in the tribulations of others, they would incur a warning from the world. It was even said that when these people crossed their own tribulations in the future, those tribulations would become more difficult to a certain extent, and this was a punishment handed down by the world. But just now, in that terrifying oppression, Qin Yu had felt a trace of killing intent. Yes, that was right, although it was weak, Qin Yu could confirm that there was a suppression killing intent just now. In fact, he could even feel that this killing intent seemed a bit hurried, a bit impatient, but it was being held back by some sort of restriction, thus it had no choice but to give up.

And this world meant the entire world!

Instinctively, Qin Yu thought back to the heavenly thunder that had been swallowed by the little blue lamp. All sorts of confused thoughts appeared in his mind. It seemed that from the moment he obtained the little blue lamp, he had stepped onto a road that was different from other cultivators'. And, the end of this road was rejected and loathed by the world. In the end, beneath the rage and fury of the world, those travelling down this road would be exterminated without even their souls or bodies left remaining.

Horror rose up from the depths of his soul. Like a grassland fire, it spread through all his thoughts in a single blink of the eye! Sweat began dripping from his pores, turning his black robes wet. A sound suddenly roared out in Qin Yu's mind:

Sacrifice the little blue lamp, sacrifice it! As long as you sacrifice it, you will be recognized and approved by the world, cared for by the world. You will possess an incomparably bright future!

His consciousness was like a lone wooden boat tumbling in a rough and stormy sea, capable of capsizing at any moment. But at this critical juncture, a voice broke through his thoughts.

“Senior Qin...Senior Qin...”

Qin Yu’s consciousness suddenly found a direction. Following that sound, he wildly shot forwards. It was unknown how much time passed, but just as he was completely exhausted and about to give up, his consciousness returned to his body and the world lit up with brightness once more.

Hu –

Hu –

Qin Yu gasped in great heaving breaths. He didn’t know where that sound had come from, but he had an intuition that if he chose to sacrifice the little blue lamp, he would have thoroughly lost it.

Yun Xueqing’s face was full of worry. “Senior Qin, are you alright? Are you okay?”

Qin Yu grabbed her hand. As he looked at her, he felt gratitude deep in his heart. If it weren’t for her, he really might have never woken up. Although it could be said that Yun Xueqing crossing tribulation was the cause of all this, Qin Yu was well aware that even if today’s events hadn’t occurred, what would come would have eventually come.

And at this time, there might not be someone like Yun Xueqing to call out to his consciousness.

Thus Qin Yu still felt grateful. If she fell into any troubles in the future, he would definitely save her! After several deep breaths, his complexion remained pale like before but he had stopped heaving. “Miss Yun, congratulations!”

After realizing that Qin Yu didn’t want to talk too much about this, she smartly didn’t ask him about it. “I have to thank Senior Qin for helping me. If it weren’t for you, the consequences would have been unimaginable.”

Qin Yu’s smiled. “Right now you are also a Golden Core. We should speak like peers.”

Yun Xueqing laughed. “That’s right, I suppose I can call you fellow daoist Qin now. Back in Immortal Eclipse Valley, you really hid yourself quite deeply.” She stuck out her tongue and playfully said, “The reason I was able to break through my bottleneck was thanks to the rich spiritual strength in this valley as well as the peaceful environment. In short, I have to thank fellow daoist Qin.”

The chicken overlord drilled out from somewhere, several pieces of straw still stuck to its head. As it saw a young man and woman happily talking to each other, it smirked with satisfaction.

Since when had this overlord’s judgment been wrong? Just when I left you two alone for a moment, you finally couldn’t resist it!

Looking around, that repugnant wild wolf wasn’t present either. The chicken overlord paused for a moment. Then, it immediately shook its wings, becoming much more high-spirited and arrogant.

Look! Look! Look at just who is a coward! This overlord isn't even afraid of heavenly tribulation, but some idiotic wolf was so scared that its legs shook and it still couldn't crawl out from its den!

Today was the day that this overlord proved its might!

As the chicken overlord was overcome with emotions, it didn't notice that the young man and woman speaking to each other were actually exchanging their final farewells.

Yun Xueqing apologetically said, "Fellow daoist Qin, I will leave now."

Qin Yu smiled. "Right now is indeed the best chance."

War Bear and the others were injured so it was impossible for them to appear. Right now was the safest time to leave.

Yun Xueqing didn't understand the meaning behind his words. She could only assume that Qin Yu was referring to her breakthrough into the Golden Core realm, and she awkwardly smiled. "I'm sure that my father is worried to death over me. Moreover, since I smoothly made my breakthrough, I would like to let him know as soon as possible. Fellow daoist Qin, my family comes from Snowfall City. If you have a chance, you must come and visit so that I can express my thanks."

Qin Yu nodded. "A promise is a promise."

Yun Xueqing flew away.

The chicken overlord blinked its eyes, completely puzzled and confused over what had happened. According to its own experiences, once a male contacted a female, they would chirp to each other several times and after that, shouldn't they run off into the woods somewhere? So why would the young woman just go off by herself? It shot a glare at Qin Yu and suddenly found a reason as it started to scold him for being a brutish man lacking in charms.

The duck had reached your lips but you let it fly away! Although you followed by this overlord's side all this time, you still haven't inherited any of my true abilities!

Young child Qin, hehe, you're lucky I don't dare to say these things, otherwise I would flap in front of your face and peck your head off!

Of course, all these arrogant thoughts were carried out in its heart, and when Qin Yu turned around, it would happily swing its tail about, being docile and timid.

If the wild wolf were here, it would definitely roll its eyes and scold the chicken for being a cunning villain!

Entering the training room, Qin Yu sat down, a pondering look crossing his face. With a calm mind, he fell into thought for a long time. He was almost certain that whether it was the oppressive killing intent that appeared after he helped Yun Xueqing or the raging tide that almost drowned out his consciousness afterwards, it was all because of the little blue lamp.

And what guided all of this was most likely the world itself.

And he, he had stepped onto a road that wasn't tolerated by the heavens and earth!

A brilliant light flashed and the little blue lamp appeared in his palm. Qin Yu looked down at it. After a long time, he took a deep breath. "So what if the world doesn't tolerate it? A cultivator cultivates in order to go against heaven's will and change their own destiny. The road they walk down is originally to defy their fate! The only reason I am here where I am today is because of the little blue lamp, and it is the origin of my foundation. Even if the world demands it from me, I will not hand it over!"

Although he didn't know whether it was an illusion or not, a faint blue light flashed across the little blue light.

Chapter 98 – A War Bear Who Fears No One

Three days later, Qin Yu woke up from his meditation. A sharp light flashed in his eyes, indicating that the damage he suffered from the impact to his consciousness had been completely recovered. After a moment of thought, he lifted his storage ring. A brilliant light flashed and a wolf-shaped jade slip appeared. Because the original master had died, the storage ring had lost its branding mark. Having it recognize a new master was easy; after dripping on a few drops of blood it became Qin Yu's possession.

The storage ring alone would have meant that his journey into the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling had resulted in a giant harvest. And beyond that, there was also the unknown jade slip that was waiting for him to open it.

The strange summons of magic power, and for what reason it had been created, would soon be known.

It was rare to see a wolf-shaped jade slip. In fact, it was more accurate to say that most cultivators would never see such a specially-shaped jade slip in their lives. With its single eye, the black patch, and its howling visage staring upwards, it was a unique image. Its single eye sparkled like jade, making it seem real.

This image seemed familiar. That was right...back when the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling opened, the phantom of a giant wolf had appeared between the two mountains, and it was exactly the same as this in appearance.

No, there was also something else, someone else that was familiar.

Qin Yu thought about it for several breaths of time. Then, he couldn't help but break out laughing.

The wild wolf!

It was that prideful and arrogant wild wolf that he had left in the valley not too long ago, who competed with the chicken overlord every day. One of the wolf's eyes had been struck blind by the chicken overlord in the past, but it had somehow managed to find a piece of black skin to cover its blind eye, and the image it formed was somewhat similar to the shape of this jade slip.

He shook his head and gathered his thoughts. Closing his eyes, his divine sense gushed out like a raging river as he carefully probed the spell that sealed away the wolf-shaped jade slip. It was extremely complex, but fortunately enough it wasn't completely unbreakable. After a long period of thought, Qin Yu's divine sense began to act like two dexterous hands that drew out the threads that formed the spell.

This was an extremely slow and grueling process, and he wasn't able to hurry it at all. If there was some accidental movement, he would animate the seal, causing a backlash. While he didn't fear any such backlash himself, he was afraid that the jade slip might self-destruct.

Two hours.

Four hours.

As the sun fell over the west but before it fully darkened, Qin Yu opened his eyes. There was a faint weariness in his gaze, but a light smile crossed his face.

Just one more step and he could unravel the seal on the jade slip.

His fingers tapped the jade slip. With a slight vibration of magic power, there was a light pop.

Awoo –

A terrifying wolf's howl sounded out and Qin Yu's consciousness was immediately dragged into a black space. A great wolf's head looked down at him from below, horrifying flames billowing all around it. With just a glance, Qin Yu felt as if he had fallen into a sea of ice, his consciousness nearly freezing solid. He could feel the breath of the great wolf curl around him, swirling. As it blew upon his consciousness, it was like little knives constantly cutting his mind.

Single eye, black eye patch, wolf-shaped jade slip...

Qin Yu instantly realized that the seal left upon the jade slip was only a camouflage. Rather, it had been placed there to conceal the great wolf's aura. Once the seal was undone, one had to directly face the aura of the great wolf. If one wasn't recognized as the master, then one would have to withstand its attack.

Although he didn't know what sort of existence this great wolf was, Qin Yu didn't doubt that as long as this other party wished it, it could tear and smash apart his consciousness in the blink of an eye!

Once his consciousness was destroyed, his soul would dissipate. At that time, even if his mortal body didn't have a single wound, there would be nothing left of him but a living shell.

Qin Yu wanted to run away, but after being locked down by this great wolf it had become incomparably difficult to even think, much less move.

Awoo –

The great wolf roared. It seemed to have determined that Qin Yu was an intruder. Its single eye turned icy cold and black light began to gather within its massive jaws.

In the next moment, it would easily shatter his consciousness!

Suddenly, the great wolf stopped moving, as if it had some doubts. Its ears pricked up in attention and then it neared Qin Yu, sniffing his body several times. Hesitation shimmered in its eyes, and finally, it leapt away from sight. The black space began to collapse before completely disappearing.

Bright white light flooded Qin Yu's field of vision, blinding him. It was only then that he discovered his consciousness had returned to his body. He remained sitting cross-legged on the floor, still holding onto the jade slip.

As if everything that happened just now had been an illusion.

But what happened next told Qin Yu that everything that occurred had all been real!

The wolf-shaped jade slip rapidly dissolved. It turned into a sphere of black light that smashed through a window.

Qin Yu's figure flickered and he followed it. He caught up just in time to see the sphere of light sink into the space between the wild wolf's eyebrows. Its eye suddenly seemed much older and more wizened, and it gave Qin Yu a deep look before falling to the floor.

That one eye didn't seem like that of the wild wolf at all! Rather, it felt as if it came from a thousand year old ghost!

Was this body-seizing?

Qin Yu hurried to check the wild wolf. Its breathing was steady and there wasn't any chaos within its soul. Rather, its aura seemed to be constantly expanding, as if it were absorbing some formidable strength!

No matter how he looked at it, there was no problem with the wild wolf. Rather, it had obtained the greatest advantage of its life.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. One-eyed wild wolf, one-eyed wolf phantom, wolf-shaped jade slip...between these things, there had to be some unknown connection!

Rumble –

High above his head, thunder suddenly rumbled. With the sound of breaking air, 36 Skythunder Bamboo magic swords gathered, and purple lightning flooded the skies. After resisting heavenly tribulation and bathing in the tribulation thunder, the 36 magic swords had clearly undergone a qualitative change. The thunder they released was several degrees brighter and more majestic!

But the intruder was incredibly strong and tyrannical. They punched through the thunder again and again, forcefully ripping open a channel.

Shia –

War Bear's figure fell down. Besides a corner at the hem of his robes being singed by the thunder, there were no wounds on him whatsoever.

But as he saw the indifferent and cold Qin Yu within the valley, his complexion changed. He said with thick disbelief, "You're still alive!"

Qin Yu frowned, but in the blink of an eye, he realized everything that had occurred. Killing intent soared in his heart. "Fellow daoist War Bear, it seems you really do know a lot. But it looks like I'll have to disappoint you today!"

War Bear's face darkened. He had felt the aura within the wolf-shaped jade slip erupt and that was the only reason why he desperately tried to break through the array formation to enter the valley. However, he never expected that Qin Yu would actually be completely fine. This was a wolf god's aura! Even if it was only a wisp of a soul, it was more than enough to crush a Golden Core cultivator to pieces.

How could he possibly be fine!

War Bear sucked in a deep breath and quickly suppressed the panic in his heart. It was impossible that Qin Yu was completely unharmed. He must be...he must be acting! Yes, he was definitely putting up a front!

That was right, he wanted to deceive me and frighten me off!

How laughable? Just what sort of character am I, War Bear, that I would fall for such petty tricks?

"Qin Yu, stop pretending, your acts don't work on me!"

With a deep roar, the ground beneath War Bear's feet collapsed and he rushed forth like electricity.

His fist came smashing out!

He didn't hold anything back in this fist. The aura of a ninth level Golden Core completely opened. When combined with his potent mortal body, the killing potential behind this attack left one trembling.

If Qin Yu truly was putting on a front then he definitely wouldn't be able to block this fist!

Bang –

A heaven-shaking explosion erupted, as if two mountains were colliding into each other at high speed. The entire world seemed to shake as vast sections of stone and mud flew up into the air!

War Bear's heart sank into his stomach. The feeling that Qin Yu emitted was like that of an endlessly billowing river. There was no way he had been injured.

He began to panic.

What he feared was not Qin Yu, but those incredibly terrifying ants that he controlled.

Shua –

War Bear stormed back as he prepared to flee. But just as he was about to fly up into the skies, doubt flashed in his eyes. How come Qin Yu hadn't released his ants, even after all this time? Could there have been a problem?

War Bear's eyes brightened. As he thought back to the massive amount of black worms that had been swallowed, he was increasingly sure of what had happened.

Hehe, those worms were violently poisonous all over. Were they delicious? As he thought back to that day when Qin Yu hesitated and repeatedly drew back over and over again, even splitting up the spoils with them, he realized that all of that must have been because there was something wrong with the ants.

Despicable! What a crafty little boy. Even he had been tricked!

And there was also that time at the transmission array...

War Bear turned around and roared, "Qin Yu, today is the day you die!" Without those ants helping him, War Bear didn't fear anyone beneath the Nascent Soul realm!

He floated high in the skies, looking down with imposing momentum, his aura rising like a storm. But at this moment, even though War Bear was full of confidence, he still didn't know what sort of thoughts were racing through Qin Yu's mind.

Qin Yu had already been able to beat up Golden Core realm cultivators long ago!

Even Nascent Soul tigers had been forced back!

Yes, it was true that the Purpleback Bluewing Ants were deeply slumbering right now, but today only War Bear was here, so why would he have anything to fear? With a cold sneer, the ground exploded beneath him. He shot up into the skies. Today, he would not let this person run away, no matter the cost. Otherwise there would be no end to his troubles in the future.

Bang –

One above, one below, in the blink of an eye the two people were enveloped in a brutal melee. Terrifying and explosive fluctuations of energy began to wreak havoc in the valley. Luckily, Qin Yu had moved up on his own initiative, shifting the battlefield into the air. Otherwise his medicine garden and even the Radiant Red Wood would be destroyed.

In ten breaths of time, masters could already attack dozens of times. During this they could probe, test, lock onto, and begin grinding down their opponents. But, it seemed that the battle between War Bear and Qin Yu was actually just beginning.

The two people had incomparably dignified expressions. Each time they attacked, they seemed to use a monumental amount of force, but they also still left behind a bit of spare strength to deal with any sudden outbursts from their enemy.

The reason was simple: neither of them had full assurance they could strike down the other.

War Bear was infuriated. Back in the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling, he had summoned the black worms in order to prevent any possible accidents occurring. But because of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, he had never truly engaged in a direct battle with Qin Yu. Although he knew that Qin Yu possessed a tyrannical level of strength, he never worried about him. This was because War Bear knew he was a genuine powerhouse. Besides a powerful mortal body, his soul force far outstripped others', and he had multiple killing cards in his hands.

With such strength as his disposal, killing cultivators at the same step wasn't difficult at all. But, the feeling that Qin Yu gave off was as if he were an unshakable great mountain! Luckily, while he couldn't easily kill Qin Yu, Qin Yu also found it difficult to eliminate him. Right now the two of them were evenly matched, and the battle would depend on who could remain calm and stable the longest. The first one here to reveal a weakness would also be the first to die!

War Bear's thoughts raced and his heart calmed. When it came to killing experience, he didn't fear anyone! From the Energy Refining realm, he had fought and crawled his way up to where he currently

was. Through all that time, if he hadn't killed a thousand opponents then he had killed at least 800. How many people could Qin Yu have possibly killed? Although Qin Yu was strong and his cold eyes were calm, he still couldn't hide the fresh scent of youth from his body. He must be 50 years old at the very most.

I will wear you down to death! I will wait until you begin to panic, and at that moment your death will be ensured!

In a high-strength melee slaughter, a terrifying amount of magic power was lost with every second. Even a ninth level Golden Core cultivator couldn't endure this degree of speed for very long.

Still, War Bear stayed calm. His fists remained strong, erupting where they should and striking where he needed. Yet, as the battle continued, his complexion began to turn increasingly grim. He wanted to roar out in his heart!

This bastard Qin Yu, where did this stability come from? Where did such abundant magic power come from? So much time had passed and not a single flaw had been revealed. And, what caused War Bear to curse inwardly the most was that Qin Yu's aura didn't seem to be weakening in the slightest.

As if he could continue fighting like this for the entire day without any problems at all.

Qin Yu had failed his Golden Core breakthrough 18 continuous times. Because of this, when he was still at the Foundation Establishment realm, the purity and potency of his magic power had already been equal to that of an early Golden Core. With this sort of foundation supporting him, when he broke into the Golden Core realm, the quality of his magic power had dramatically risen once more. And every time his cultivation increased, his magic power also increased.

Now he was at the sixth level of Golden Core and the quality of his magic power was even superior to that of a Hollow Nascent Soul cultivator.

And another point that couldn't be forgotten was Qin Yu's Demon Body. The amount of magic power he could hold within him far outstripped that of ordinary cultivators. While War Bear's body was similarly powerful, when compared to the Demon Body in quality, they were simply on different levels.

When these factors combined together with Qin Yu's calm and steady mind, it created this current situation where even the confident War Bear began to slowly fall into panic.

War Bear felt as if Qin Yu was becoming increasingly strong the more they fought. Then, he decided to abandon his strategy of wearing down Qin Yu and go for a quick and strong attack that would cut down his opponent as soon as possible.

Bang –

After another collision, War Bear forced the pushback to open the distance between him and Qin Yu.

Chapter 99 – Fisherman Greets Fisherman

Qin Yu breathed in great heaving breaths, his heart beating like thunder in his chest even as his blood galloped through him. Every inch of his body, his bone, flesh, and blood, was crying out with joy!

From the moment he started cultivating until today, he had never fought so fully with everything he had. In terms of strength, War Bear was on the tyrannical side, so he was the best possible opponent he

could use to reflect on himself. Moreover, in this high-speed and fierce melee, he could feel his mortal body being gradually activated.

After cultivating the Demon Body, the overbearing violence and tyranny of the demonic path had slept deep in his body. And now, today, in this vicious battle, it was finally being released a little at a time.

He had never fought so happily before, so how could he stop?

Qin Yu stepped down. The space seemed to twist around him and magic power circulated about, causing ear-ringing thunder to ring out as if he were a tiger descending a mountain.

War Bear cursed inwardly. He thought he was lucky for changing his strategy, otherwise if he chose to continue a battle of attrition, he would have been worn down by this brat! He revealed a pained look and then clenched his teeth. Although he was reluctant to use it, there was no other choice. Today he would kill Qin Yu!

A brilliant light flashed and an arrow appeared in his hand. It was black all over, but as magic power crazily flowed into it, it began to erupt with a blinding blood red light. Countless tiny runes wrapped around it and a heaven-shocking aura erupted, as if even 10,000 mountains blocking its path would be broken down!

Qin Yu's heart violently shrank, nearly coming to a stop. In the end, he had only been in the Golden Core realm for a relatively short period of time. Even though he could compare in terms of strength, when it came to how many treasures were accumulated, there was still a vast disparity between him and a long-established Golden Core cultivator like War Bear.

For instance, this arrow. It had instantly made him feel a strong aura of death.

Whoosh –

A black light flashed. Following that was the ear-grating sound of air being torn apart. Qin Yu only had time to wave his hand before the arrow arrived.

The Soul Burying Flag opened. Blacksky Demon appeared, but the arrow had pierced his chest before he was able to lift the inkjade scepter. Blacksky Demon violently stiffened and then blew apart. The Soul Burying Flag fell to the ground, all fluctuations of energy gone from it.

The black arrow didn't stop from that. It continued launching itself towards Qin Yu's chest. The moment it touched him, there was a light crack as a brilliant light enveloped him.

Bang –

The brilliant light shattered.

Qin Yu was sent flying back!

The black arrow phantom trembled and disappeared from sight.

Qin Yu, no matter how strong you are, once you have been struck by the Soul Burying Arrow, the only path left is the road to death!

The Soul Burying Arrow was a consumable magic tool that was unintentionally created by a large refining sect in ancient times. It could only be used once, but each time the arrow shot out, it would take a life and bury a soul. Because it was too ruthless and malevolent a weapon that defied the heavens, further creation of these tools had been forbidden.

War Bear had inadvertently obtained this magic tool long ago, and it was his ultimate trump card. He had never shown it to anyone.

Now, the arrow shadow had dispersed, indicating that the assault was finished and Qin Yu's soul was scattered.

Cough...cough...

A violent hacking cough echoed out, and War Bear's happy face stiffened.

He hadn't died!

How was this possible!?

This was the Soul Burying Arrow! It was an ominous killing magic tool from ancient times that had also sucked away a massive amount of his magic power, yet it couldn't kill a Golden Core cultivator? What sort of joke was this!?

Blood dripped down the corners of Qin Yu's lips. A massive hole had been smashed open in the ground, and the surrounding dozens of feet of the medicinal field had been destroyed in that instant. His chest burned with a heated stabbing pain and bones had been broken in countless spots. Even a light movement caused sweat to appear on his forehead.

But...he was still alive.

Blacksy Demon had offset the Soul Burying Arrow's most terrifying soul extinguishing killing energy. And the jade pendant that Pill Crucible had gifted him had blocked its horrifying penetrating strike.

This was the reason he survived!

Fear rose up in Qin Yu's heart. Just now, he really did have a brush with death.

But these thoughts only lasted a moment. He didn't have time to waste...War Bear was still alive.

Since Qin Yu hadn't died, he couldn't allow War Bear to live!

Suppressing the agonizing pain wracking his body, Qin Yu began to burn his blood. The Blood Escape Art activated and he shot into the skies.

War Bear wanted to flee, but the deficient magic power in his body left him unable to defend himself.

Kacha –

A fist punched into the base of his neck. His head twisted in an exaggerated manner, completely spinning around. The originally self-confident War Bear had tried to change his strategy, but the result of the battle hadn't changed. He still...died where he stood.

Hu –

Hu –

Qin Yu gasped for breath. Because he used the Blood Escape Art with serious injuries, his field of vision started to flicker black. He fell to the ground, not caring about War Bear's corpse, and forced a smile of joy.

With the Blood Escape Art in his hands, he thought that he was invincible on the battlefield. He never imagined he would almost be struck down. Indeed, being too self-confident was not a good thing. Even a lion would use its full force to capture a rabbit, much less War Bear, who was a far more powerful match than a rabbit. He would definitely keep today's events in his heart as a lesson to himself, and never assume anything in the future. Otherwise, he wasn't sure he would be able to survive the next time this happened.

Luckily everything had come to an end.

Just as Qin Yu rose up, he grimaced and his complexion darkened. The valley's array formation had been destroyed during the battle, and it was unable to revolve any further. Looking up he could see a skirt swaying in the wind. Xiang Ruyi had arrived. She stepped on the void, wrapped in pink with only her beautiful face visible.

"Fellow daoist Qin, after not seeing each other for several days, how come you ended up in such a miserable state?"

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes. "If fellow daoist Xiang isn't blind, then you should have clearly seen what happened."

Xiang Ruyi wrinkled her eyebrows. "Why must fellow daoist use such sharp words?"

Qin Yu coldly sneered. "Fairy Xiang has been waiting here all this time, I wonder if you are planning on being a fisherman?"

Xiang Ruyi revealed a wide smile. "Fellow daoist Qin is a smart person, so why ask such a stupid question."

Qin Yu sucked in a deep breath. "Since the result won't change no matter what I say, I naturally choose to speak my heart. At least I will be a bit happier."

Xiang Ruyi's complexion didn't change. "But there is also a possibility that fellow daoist Qin can arouse my resentment, so that your death will be much more painful, right? For instance, right now I don't feel as if I want fellow daoist Qin to die so quickly. At the very least, I would want you to taste what it's like to have all the skin of your body melted away first."

Her smile brightened, but her eyes were cruel and filled with hate.

"Do you want to know something? Ever since I was a child, I hated it when others excelled past me, no matter what aspect it was in. Thus, during this trip into the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling, the ones I hated the most were you and War Bear. Why were you two able to obtain harvests without a single wound? In particular, you, Qin Yu, you are the most deserving of death. You obtained the greatest benefits without doing anything, and you cannot imagine how much I've been wanting to kill you."

Xiang Ruyu tittered. "Luckily, there is an idiot like that War Bear. He had been so carefree all this time because he didn't think he had leaked anything, but he never knew that I had a special arcane technique I could use to eavesdrop on others and listen to the hearts of people. Unfortunately for him, I learned about some things related to the wolf-shaped jade slip, and I concluded that he wouldn't give up on it. And as I thought, today finally arrived.

"War Bear died, and you are next." Xiang Ruyu blinked her eyes and stretched out her hand from beneath her robes. Black and red mottled bone appeared. There were traces of regrowing flesh, but the skin had yet to be restored, making her hand seem like a fierce demonic claw. At this time, an open jade bottle was laying in her palm.

"Fellow daoist Qin, were you saving your strength all this time, perhaps in an attempt to fatally strike me down or even run away?" Xiang Ruyu's smile widened. "But I won't give you such a chance! This is a violent poison from Daoist Wuyuan. It is scentless, tasteless, colorless, and what is most terrifying is that just by breathing in a little, the movement of magic power within your body will come to a stop until your entire body is corrupted and you die. I took the antidote ahead of time so I don't fear it, but I wonder if fellow daoist Qin fears it?"

Faint traces of black energy appeared in front of Qin Yu. His originally disorderly magic power suddenly stiffened. Unable to suppress his injuries any more, he spat out several mouthfuls of black blood and fell back down to the ground. However, his complexion remained calm, as if he didn't know how miserable his death would be.

Xiang Ruyu's eyes flashed. "Fellow daoist Qin, aren't you afraid?"

Qin Yu shook his head. "I'm naturally afraid of death, but I'm not going to die here."

Buzz –

The sounds of vibrating wings rose up.

Qin Yu revealed a contemptuous smile. "I knew that the reason you continued with your ridiculous monologue all this time was in order to delay for time and also to make it seem as if you were that much smarter than everyone else. But, have you ever thought about why I bothered listening to you?"

Xiang Ruyu's complexion changed. She turned to flee.

Bang –

The wooden house instantly disintegrated. A vast mass of darkness emerged. The swarm of Purpleback Bluewing Ants howled forth, overtaking her in the blink of an eye.

Xiang Ruyu's protective magic power shook for a moment before shattering. She cried out in pain. In a mere moment, she was bathed in her blood, without any means to protect herself further. The beautiful looks she cared about the most were being gnawed at and chewed away by countless bugs, revealing horrifying white bone beneath. Her eyes widened and she glared at Qin Yu, screaming with hatred. "You will die! And your death will be more pitiful than mine!"

A light flashed in Qin Yu's hand and a foot of sea blue light appeared in the darkening night. He said in a soft voice, "I'm sorry, but I don't really like you that much, so go die by yourself."

Xiang Ruyi watched helplessly as the violent poison in Qin Yu's body started to quickly gather towards his finger. Her eyes suddenly filled with despair and craziness!

Bang –

A terrifying fluctuation of energy erupted!

She wanted to self-explode!

Among the swarm of Purpleback Bluewing Ants that were crazily tearing away at Xiang Ruyi's body, a channel suddenly appeared. A trace of black and white shined out and ripped into Xiang Ruyi's abdomen like a bolt of lightning, forcefully digging out a shining Golden Core!

“Ahhh!”

With one last pitiful cry after losing her Golden Core, Xiang Ruyi was eaten up by the bugs.

Shua –

The black and white light paused to reveal the figure of the ant king. It had grown larger, and its palm-sized body was now covered in black and white lines. While it was extremely simple, it was also extremely profound, as if these ordinary lines contained some of the highest truths in the world and also some inexplicable timelessness.

This was...a Yinyang Twin Ant!

Qin Yu smiled. During this time, he had only felt the Purpleback Bluewing Ants regaining consciousness. He never thought that after eating the black worms and falling into a deep sleep, they would actually increase in level. Looking at the other Purpleback Bluewing Ants, he could see that there were some black and white marks on their bodies. The only difference was that their markings weren't as complete as the ant king's as they were much smaller.

After rising in level this time, the ant king had thoroughly solidified its status. There had originally been one or two competitors in the swarm, but they had now been left far behind.

Feeling Qin Yu's gaze, the ant king's wings buzzed and it flew up. It seemed as if it wanted to give him Xiang Ruyi's Golden Core as a gift. As the palm-sized ant king held the Golden Core that was as large as a baby's fist, it would have seemed quite cute if it weren't for the traces of blood still dripping from the Golden Core.

Qin Yu reached out to stroke the ant king. As the ant king hummed in joy, he took the Golden Core and sighed.

This Xiang Ruyi was truly a madwoman!

Everyone knew that all humans had a soul, and that this soul would cycle forever between the samsara of heaven and earth. As long as the soul wasn't scattered, they could follow the road of reincarnation to their next life. It was even said that supreme cultivators who had reached the Divine Soul realm had a chance of reawakening their past lives' memories, equivalent to a resurrection.

Cultivators were well aware of this. Thus, even though Qin Yu had killed many Golden Core cultivators in his time, very few of them had self-exploded.

Because once someone blew up their Golden Core, their soul would also dissipate into nothingness, and they would lose all qualifications to reincarnate through samsara.

Chapter 100 – Great Divided Heaven Sutra

Originally, when a cultivator died their Golden Core would shatter, dispersing into world spiritual energy that returned to the heavens and earth.

But when Xiang Ruyu had started to self-detonate, her soul had instantly perished, causing her connection to her Golden Core to be severed. Thus her Golden Core was preserved, and Qin Yu now obtained it.

Faintly, the aura of a Golden Core leaked out. This was a seventh level Golden Core.

In the future when he fought with others, he could sacrifice this Golden Core and have it explode; this could be considered a tremendous trump card! Of course, handling the Golden Core of a high level cultivator like this was forbidden in the cultivation world. Although there really wasn't some punitive force that wandered about enforcing this, it was still best if he didn't use this weapon in public.

Qin Yu took out a jade bottle and placed the Golden Core inside. After sealing it with a talisman to prevent spiritual strength from leaking out, he stored it in the storage ring.

The virulent poison had disappeared and the little blue lamp was put away. With a deep breath, Qin Yu struggled up to his feet and started to repair the array formation. With his current situation, he was weak to the extreme. If others were to discover him here then the consequences would be inconceivable. Even though he had the strong Purpleback Bluewing Ants guarding him, there was no such thing as being too careful.

An hour later, Qin Yu's field of vision began to blink black. As his chest started becoming soaked in blood, the array formation finally resumed operating.

Thick fog covered the mountain valley once more!

Finally, Qin Yu couldn't withstand it any longer. He sat down-crossed legged, ate some pills and started to recover from his wounds.

The life of a pill-rich person would always be better than that of others. If an ordinary cultivator were to suffer such injuries, they would be lucky if they could get out of bed on their own in half a month. But Qin Yu was able to stabilize his condition in two to four hours. And with the potent regenerative abilities of the Demon Body, as the sun fell and the moon rose high into the skies, he opened his eyes.

Although he was still weak, his injuries had stabilized. There was still stabbing and aching pain transmitting from his chest and limbs, but this was the pleasant pain of his bones regrowing.

Letting out a long breath, Qin Yu walked up to the bloodstained ground in front of him and picked up Xiang Ruyu's storage bag. Sifting through it, he discovered that she was an incredibly wealthy lady; she had nearly 100,000 spirit stones alone! And, there were even more things inside. There were also two different piles of items that were placed haphazardly apart from each other.

One pile was filled with pots and bottles and another pile was filled with jade slips and talismans. Qin Yu inspected them and determined that they were Daoist Wuyuan and Gu Shengping's items. And indeed, in another pile of ruined, blood-drenched clothes, he found two other storage bags. It seemed that even though these two people had managed to make it out from the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling alive, in the end they weren't able to escape the fate of being hunted down and killed.

But with things having come to this, Qin Yu's problem of studying the path of array formations would be easily solved. The many jade slips and talismans that Gu Shengping left behind would be more than for him in the meantime. Moreover, with the many bottles that Daoist Wuyuan left behind combined with the powerful poison immunity offered by the little blue lamp, he could even have his own poisonous finger back if he wanted.

Unfortunately, the bronze mirror that Xiang Ruyu obtained in the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling wasn't anywhere to be found. It seemed she had hidden it away in some unknown place. Shaking his head, he decided not to dwell on these things for the time being. He placed the items into the storage ring in separate piles, and finally he walked over to War Bear's location. As a powerful and established Golden Core master, his wealth left Qin Yu anticipating even further.

And in truth, War Bear didn't leave Qin Yu disappointed. There were 200,000 spirit stones, enough for a small hill! Qin Yu had no idea how many other cultivators War Bear had killed in order to accumulate so much wealth, but now all of this had become Qin Yu's. There were also several magic tools, and although they were inferior to that heaven-defying Soul Burying Arrow, they were still good items. After refining, they would be enough to help solve Qin Yu's issue of battling others and lacking magic tools.

But this could be set to the side until he recovered from his injuries.

Continuing his search, he found that there really were a variety of items. If there was one thing that Qin Yu found unexpected, it was that War Bear actually had a great number of women's garments in his storage bag. If these were items he obtained from battle, then that was one thing, but if this was because War Bear was actually hiding a soft and feminine soul deep in his heart...Qin Yu shivered and quietly put away these clothing items.

This simple search left Qin Yu dripping with sweat; he was just far too weak. He picked up the Soul Burying Flag and jade pendant fragments which had lost all spiritual strength, ordered the Purpleback Bluewing Ants to keep guard, and then walked into his training room.

As for War Bear's corpse...gathering the corpse of your enemies and burying them might be a heroic and righteous thing to do, but Qin Yu's current bodily condition didn't allow this. Moreover, War Bear had already died, so even if Qin Yu didn't respectfully bow to him, War Bear wouldn't curse him from the grave anyways. So he chose to let the Purpleback Bluewing Ants deal with the corpse.

As for the specifics on how they would deal with it, he didn't specify.

Ten days later, Qin Yu's eyes popped open in his training room. His stagnant aura violently stirred, whipping up howling winds in the void.

Golden Core, seventh level!

As he thought, after these past dangerous experiences came a stroke of good fortune.

Experiencing the cave dwelling of a Nascent Soul, violently fighting with War Bear, these things had stimulated the strength of the Demon Body hidden within him, allowing his cultivation to rise a step further.

The seventh level. This was considered truly stepping into the late Golden Core realm.

The quality and quantity of his magic power had increased. In terms of absolute strength, he had risen a small level from before. If he were to fight War Bear now, in a contest of pure strength, he would absolutely suppress him.

Qin Yu probed the changes in his body. After making sure that there wasn't anything wrong, he faintly smiled. With a flip of his hand, an ordinary jade slip appeared; this was the wolf-shaped jade slip. After its spell was undone it had melted away into its true form. Without anything else hindering him, Qin Yu started to look through it. Disbelief filled his eyes at first, and then he began to go wild with joy!

No wonder there would be an inexplicable summoning of magic power! This was it! This was it!

Qin Yu opened his eyes and laughed out loud.

From the journey into the ancient cultivator's cave dwelling, this jade slip was his greatest harvest!

Great Divided Heaven Sutra. Countless years ago, this technique was created by a man who referred to himself as Daoist Divided Heaven. This was a cultivation technique that had gone far off the path of ordinary methods. It could divide a cultivator's magic power, allowing their magic power to rapidly rise and far outstrip those at the same level of cultivation. The Great Divided Heaven Sutra had an extremely high threshold for learning; one needed to have at least a Golden Core level cultivation. And, the method for increasing one's magic power was extremely simple. It was to divide one's source of magic power from one to two, three, four, or even five.

As for how many times this was possible, it all depended on how strong a cultivator's soul was. Upon learning that he could divide the source of his magic power, Qin Yu immediately recalled something, and that was exactly the Five Element Sword Diagram's fourth condition. It could be said that the appearance of the Great Divided Heaven Sutra perfectly solved this problem, and it would help Qin Yu overcome his final hurdle!

But this wasn't the most mysterious coincidence of all. No, the greatest and most inexplicable coincidence was that Qin Yu had already crossed the threshold for training the Great Divided Heaven Sutra and had done so for many years.

Yes, that was right, the Eastern Mountain Sect's three incomplete pages of the extremely rotten True Wood Arts was the most basic foundation of the Great Divided Heaven Sutra. The True Wood Arts he had learned were below average without any unique characteristics. In almost all aspects it was horrible. But, when placed amidst the entire Great Divided Heaven Sutra, one could see just how important it was.

The most basic threshold portion focused on cultivating one's foundation. Through the mediocre technique, what was created was an incomparably stable and solid foundation. Only like this could a person withstand and survive splitting up their magic power as described in the latter sections! And it was also because of this stability that it wouldn't leave behind restrictions on a person's future

cultivation. This was the reason why the Eastern Mountain Sect had long ago taken it as the most basic cultivation technique for their disciples.

The Great Divided Heaven Sutra explicitly stated that one needed to cross the threshold and cultivate for a full three years to further solidify their foundation. Only then could they continue towards the next step. If there was a condition, then it would be that one needed to cross the threshold for at least five years, and eight years would be the best. Without mentioning, Qin Yu's foundation could be said to be as good as it could be. He could immediately start the portion where he could divide the source of his magic power, and this was also the most important section of the Great Divided Heaven Sutra.

He took a deep breath to calm down his racing emotions. Then, he tried to revolve the Great Divided Heaven Sutra. It proceeded smoothly, without any hindrance in his cultivation. He could even hear the magic power rapidly flowing through his body and cheering in happiness.

The world spiritual energy from all around started to rapidly flow into Qin Yu's body. Compared to the rate it was when he cultivated the True Wood Arts, it was over ten times faster. The Great Divide Heaven Sutra allowed one to simultaneously train multiple magic sources, so when it came to absorbing spiritual strength it was naturally incredibly strong. This Great Divided Heaven Sutra was absolutely a top cultivating technique!

Qin Yu's eyes flashed open, his gaze incomparably bright. He finally might be able to begin cultivating the Five Element Sword Diagram in the future.

Several days later, after thoroughly studying the Great Divided Heaven Sutra and understanding all the intricacies around it, he discovered that his original thoughts were too simple.

Yes, the Great Divided Heaven Sutra could indeed create more sources of magic power. But because these magic power sources were created from the same origin, their quality would also be the same.

Simply put, Qin Yu could not gather the five elements. So even if he were to successfully cultivate this and his magic power was a heaven-defying five times over others of his step, he still wouldn't be able to cultivate the Five Element Sword Array.

It was impossibly difficult to satisfy all the conditions required to cultivate the Five Element Sword Diagram. But, Qin Yu had seen how great its might was and was only a step away from the front door, so how could he possibly give up? As for how he could use the Great Divided Heaven Sutra to cultivate five magic sources of different elements, this became Qin Yu's most critical and perplexing problem.

After bitterly mulling over this puzzle for half a month, Qin Yu had no choice but to stop. He had gained nothing during this time. This simply wasn't a matter that a cultivator of his rank would be able to solve.

But within Immortal Eclipse Valley, even the strong individuals like Pill Crucible and Jiang Li had searched for years and yet had been unable to find a method to develop five different elemental sources of magic power. If they couldn't, then was there anyone else in the entire Southern Empire or Northern Dynasty that could?

Qin Yu wrinkled his eyebrows.

...Heavenseek Pavilion.

At first, he had already been on guard against this mysterious influence. And after being warned by Pill Crucible and Jiang Li, he became even more wary of them. If there was some other way, he truly wouldn't want to entangle himself with Heavenseek Pavilion. But now it seemed as if they were his only hope in resolving this question of five elemental magic sources.

Thinking over this again and again, Qin Yu still decided to give it a try. But before he went, he would first upgrade his own equipment.

He carefully sifted through War Bear and Xiang Ruyu's items and chose three magic tools to refine. One was a small defensive shield, one was a spear, and the last was a one-time use magic tool, a Bloodstained Lock. There was no need to describe the first two items, and they were top quality even amongst Golden Core realm magic tools. As for the Bloodstained Lock, that was considered a treasure of the demonic path. After being activated by blood it could erupt with a terrifying killing potential.

As for Daoist Wuyuan's bottles, Qin Yu waited for night to arrive. Then, he pinched his nose and began to either drink or breathe them in without any restraint. His right hand's index finger became increasingly clear, almost jade-like in appearance. However, as long this finger touched someone, they would truly taste what it was like, and it was sure to not disappoint.

He took several of Gu Shengping's talismans and put them away. Although they weren't too strong, they could be used in critical moments to defend.

Finally, there were the evolved Purpleback Bluewing Ants. No...from today on, he should call them Yinyang Twin Ants. He summoned them into the imperial spirit bag. But as he thought of it some more, he decided not to take them all. He ordered the ant king to leave behind a portion of the ants where they would go into hiding around the Radiant Red Wood.

This was to guard against any possibilities.

At the same time, he conveniently cut off a small branch section and placed it in the same space as the little blue lamp.

He poured magic power into the bamboo dragonfly. Then, after walking another circle around the valley and making sure he hadn't missed anything, he tapped his feet and flew into the sky.

His figure vanished from sight.