

Slaughter 531

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Chapter 531: Spirit Hall

Behind the Spirit Hall was a spacious room, matted with thick, soft fur rug. The walls of that room had many exquisite carvings of caterpillar fungus. Standing in the middle of the room was an incense burner, from where fragranced smoke of precious grass diffused. The room was warm, with gems sparkling from the ceiling.

Zha Lin wore a gold-plated robe of the alchemist, which had three spirit herbs embroidered on the shoulder. This was the insignia of a Third Rank of Profound Level alchemist.

As one of the persons in charge of the Spirit Hall, Zha Lin worked daily there to manage the operations of the Hall. At this moment, he was wearing an arrogant face, lying on his side on a tiger skin and fur covered chair. He looked at the two First Sky of Spirit Realm warriors in front of him with an impatient face.

These two Spirit Realm warriors wanted him to refine pellets for them. However, they didn't pay enough to satisfy him. Zha Lin felt a little bit irritated.

Zha Lin had just entered the Spirit Realm, but he had mainly depended on the aid of medicines. His realm wasn't high, and his power couldn't be compared to the two in front of him now. Anyway, as he was an alchemist, he had the confidence that the others had to satisfy him.

"Go home. Without three pieces of the Silver Star Grass, I won't help you." Zha Lin waved his hand and couldn't help but grunt. "Wait until you two can collect the Silver Star Grass. If I have free time, I will consider refining the Fierce Golden Pellet for you guys. But now, please go."

The two First Sky of Spirit Realm warriors stood opposite him, shook their heads in distress and sighed. They were about to leave.

At this moment, a guard of the Spirit Hall stormed in, didn't bow to him but walk directly to Zha Lin while breathing heavily, "Teacher, look at this."

Zha Lin arched his brows, snorted, then scolded the guard, "Don't you have any manners?"

While complaining, he took the token and flipped it over to watch. His face changed immediately as he shot up from his seat while shouting, "Where did you get this token?"

"A young man brought it here," answered the guard with fear.

Zha Lin jumped off his chair, taking the guard out of the room and going to the lounge of the Spirit Hall.

"The brother over there," the guard pointed at Shi Yan from afar.

A smile filled Zha Lin's face all of a sudden, his face servile. He came to Shi Yan and greeted him. First, he solemnly handed back the token to Shi Yan and asked, "May I help you?"

Shi Yan was amazed, then nodded to him. "I want to find the owner of this token."

Zha Lin's eyes brightened as he asked with caution. "How do you relate to Elder Li? Why do you have his token?"

"I don't know him. He owed me something, so I want to find him and ask him for a favor," answered Shi Yan.

Zha Lin wore a fearful complexion, screaming in surprise. "You say, Elder Li owed you a favor?"

Shi Yan nodded the second time.

Zha Lin wore a disbelieving face, his expression interesting. He hesitated for a while and then said, "When Elder Li came back last time, he announced that he would not refine medicines for anyone for a while. Also, he asked us not to disturb him. Currently, we don't dare to contact him directly, otherwise..."

"What should I do?"

"You shall take that token and directly visit the Flying Cloud Summit. You can talk with his disciples there to see if he wants to meet you or not."

"Where's the Flying Cloud Summit?"

The Dead Soul Mountain range had almost one thousand mountains, scattering in a large area. The distance between the two mountains could take up to ten days traveling. If he didn't know the exact location, searching with his luck only, he would have to spend so much time.

"Hold on. I'll see if I can take you to the Flying Cloud Summit myself." Zha Lin contemplated, then took out a sound crystal. He held it next to his lips, then muttered. It seemed the man was asking whether he needed to guard the Spirit Hall or not.

There were so many alchemists and warriors, their customers, walking back and forth. Many of them knew Zha Lin. As they saw Zha Lin's servile face when talking to Shi Yan, they secretly paid attention to them and tried to guess Shi Yan's identity.

"Who is that man? Why does Zha Lin have to treat him with good care? It's weird. Zha Lin is one of the experienced masters of the Spirit Hall. He's a noble man in the Spirit Potion Valley. He has never been obsequious to big men from the Pure Land, the Radiant God Cult, and the Devil Valley, right?"

"I don't know. I've never met that young man before. From his clothing, I can say he's not an alchemist."

"I have no clue. I've been begging Zha Lin many times for a Spirit Comfort Pellet, yet he has never agreed to help me. I'm a Spirit Realm expert, and that little guy has just the Sky Realm cultivation base. Zha Lin took wrong medicine today, didn't he?"

"Ghost knows that."

"..."

People in the surroundings discussed with low tones. They were eyeing Shi Yan, guessing his real status with awe.

After talking to the sound crystal for a while, Zha Lin sighed and shook his head with disappointment. "I'm sorry. I can't leave the workplace currently. If you aren't hurried, can you wait for half of a month later? Then I can take you to the Flying Cloud Summit personally. Is it okay?"

Shi Yan shook his head.

Zha Lin forced a smile while musing, "I will let my favorite disciple take you there. She knows the location of the Flying Cloud Summit, too."

"Good then."

Having heard that, Zha Lin was joyful. He made a call through the sound crystal. "Cherry, come here quickly!"

Not long after that, a girl with a calm expression and wearing a long blue dress walked towards them from a shop not far from there. Her deep blue eyes sparkled as she felt displeased, "Teacher, why did you call me here? I was negotiating the price of the Multi-colored Devil Mask flower. I had almost gotten it."

This girl had long maroon hair cascading over her shoulder. She stood upright, and her eyes were like precious jade, sparkling with a shining blue light.

As she appeared, many alchemists and warriors in the Spirit Hall had their eyes brightened up, with their line of sight gluing on her.

On her left ample bosom were embroidered five pieces of spirit herbs. This meant she was a Fifth Rank of Profound Level alchemist. Besides, she was a Second Sky of Sky Realm warrior.

"Cherry, take this little brother to the Flying Cloud Summit." Zha Lin assigned her with a low tone.

"The Flying Cloud Summit?" Cherry's blue eyes brightened. She looked at Shi Yan with astonishment, then nodded. "I got it."

"Yeah. Seems our little brother has just visited the Dead Soul Mountain range for the first time. We shouldn't delay his business. Along the way, you should introduce the Spirit Potion Valley and the Precious Tool Valley to him too," advised Zha Lin.

Cherry smiled and then nodded. She looked as natural and generous as an elegant orchid flower.

"Sorry for bothering you," Shi Yan bent, smiling brightly.

"No need to be too polite." Cherry nodded. Her blue eyes showed that she was interested in him. She eyed him for a while and then asked, "Do you want to go now?"

"Yes, please."

"Okay. We shall depart now. The Flying Cloud Summit's in the East of the Dead Soul Mountain. It should take around four days from the Spirit Potion Valley." Cherry thought for a while and then added, "At night, you have to be more careful. Dead souls in the Dead Soul Mountain range will go out and night to hunt. Don't let them nib your soul."

"Okay."

“Let’s go!”

...

The moon shone brightly in the late night.

Under the clear moonlight, Cherry was gliding in the sky with a pair of dreamy blue wings on her back. She was as agile as a fairy in the pellucid night.

Shi Yan flew behind her, looking at her blue wings with surprise.

Cherry beamed a faint smile as if she had recognized his look. She turned around and talked to him, “This Indigo Soaring Wing’s a Profound level secret tool. I had asked a blacksmith in the Precious Tool Valley to forge it for me. The Indigo Soaring Wing can enhance my flying speed, and it also can attack. Watch this.”

Hazy, cold blue light shot out like steel needles from the indigo wings, leaving toe-sized holes drilled on the rock cliff.

“Good tool,” Shi Yan complimented, “Pretty and exquisite.”

Cherry smiled lightly, “This Indigo Soaring Wing is not considered a dangerous treasure yet. The blacksmiths of the Precious Tool Valley can fabricate many unimaginable weapons that you can’t even count the number of. Some of those treasures even have intelligence. Those are pretty awesome.”

Shi Yan nodded.

“Hey, why do you want to go to the Flying Cloud Summit?” Cherry wore a curious face. “As far as I know, precursor Li in the Flying Cloud Summit is one of the five grand Elders of our Spirit Hall. He rarely comes to the Spirit Potion Valley. He stays and refines medicines in the Flying Cloud Summit. He doesn’t have many disciples. He’s a bit arrogant, though. We haven’t met him for years... such a mysterious alchemist.”

“Elder of the Spirit Hall...” Shi Yan was astounded, “The Spirit Hall is also a force of warriors?”

“Not exactly,” Cherry shook her head. “The Spirit Hall was established by five Sacred level alchemists. It’s to manage the Spirit Potion Valley and facilitate the business with warriors from the outside and the valley’s alchemists. Normally, the five Grand Elders will not participate in the daily operation of the Spirit Hall. In some special occasions, they will show up and stay in the Spirit Hall for several days to do the talks on the medicine refining principles to alchemists in the Spirit Potion Valley. The Spirit Hall has never restrained the alchemists or cared what the warriors’ purposes are. It’s just a place for people to do business, providing the chance for them to discuss and negotiate. It won’t control the detailed content of their business or collect any taxes and fees.”

“So, the Spirit Hall is a good place.” Shi Yan smiled. “Are you a guard of the Spirit Hall too?”

“Yes,” Cherry nodded, “We are the guards of the Spirit Hall. We help our teacher to manage the work in the Spirit Hall. Although we can’t earn any Qi jades from it, there’s something that benefits us. That’s why we are willing to take this responsibility.”

“What benefit?”

“People who are in charge of the Spirit Hall can ask the Five Grand Elders regarding a difficulty they meet in refining medicines. And, the guards like us can listen to their discussions when the elders visit the Spirit Hall. Of course, it only happens when the two Elders visit at the same time and they have the mood to discuss with each other about the attainment in refining medicines.”

Cherry was passionate when she talked about it. But then, she seemed to be distressed. “What a pity that I’ve been a guard for five years, but I have never met such good chances. The Five Grand Elders, who are the Sacred level alchemists, rarely visit the Spirit Potion Valley. Even if they come, they just greet us and go. We didn’t have any chances to talk with them.”

Buzz Buzz Buzz!

While Cherry was talking, Shi Yan heard a strange humming in his head.

Shi Yan was dumbstruck, with a surprised countenance.

The Five Devils had been dormant for really long time, but now, they seemed to be awake all of a sudden.

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Chapter 532: Awakening

The Five Devils in his inner world gathered despair, fear, bloodlust, greed, and resentment into one entity. In the land of the hollow spirits, they had swallowed a lot of hollow spirits, and then laid dormant. They had no response, as they seemed to head towards an evolution, changing slowly.

Shi Yan had almost forgotten that he had these Five Devils hiding in his Sea of Consciousness. As they were flying above the Dead Soul Mountain range, he didn’t know what sort of energy provoked them, making them scream inside his Sea of Consciousness. Soon, they would wake up the thought of which frightened Shi Yan. He couldn’t help but sink into his mind to carefully check the status of the Five Devils.

In his Sea of Consciousness, the Five Devils were like five groups of dusky smoke where he couldn’t see the despair, fear, bloodthirsty, greed, and resentment hovering clearly. Usually, just a small stir up was enough to provoke these negative feelings.

The screaming came from the middle of the Five Devils. At the same time, those dark groups of smoke took turns to transform marvelously.

The energy meandering around them was dragged into the center. The massive cluster shrank fast. Roughly ten seconds later, it disappeared. Five light dots that were as small as the fireflies blinked with a strange light.

The volume decreased, but the energy fluctuations became purer. It seemed there were some transformations that were about to happen.

After a while, the luminous dots suddenly expanded. Seconds later, they turned into five ferocious things, which looked like Demogorgons from the antiquity. One had sharp horns on its head, while another one had a green face and yellow fangs. The others had scale armors covering the body entirely, or a pair of wings extended from the back. None of them looked alike.

The only similar feature of the Five of them was the cold, sinister appearance.

The technique to cultivate the Five Devils of the inner world came from the Blood Vein Ring. To help the Five Devils grow, he needed to absorb the negative feelings and some kind of energy in his Sea of Consciousness. When the Five Devils had just been formed, they weren't that strong. So, they could only use soul attacks to restrict the enemies. After a while, when they could finally escape his Sea of Consciousness, they had the energy enough to build a half-real body, which wasn't too bad.

Today, the Five Devils had the second transformation. Observing his mind, Shi Yan found that the appearance of the Five Devils had been improved, too. Even though they were still in his Sea of Consciousness, they seemed to have real bodies. Flows of grey energy wound around their bodies, which were like human bodies, giving people a feeling of vitality.

Roar... Roar... Roar!

Inside the Sea of Consciousness, the Five Devils were roaring just like demonic beasts who had sensed the scent of fresh blood. They were gliding around and around, trying to escape his Sea of Consciousness.

Shi Yan's pupils shrank, while his face changed. He restored his sound mind, releasing his Soul Consciousness to the surroundings to check what had attracted his Five Devils.

"Are you okay?" Cherry was astounded, her eyes suspicious as she didn't know what was happening to him.

This man halted in the middle of the way. Before that, he had been flying smoothly with her. But then, his eyes went blank. Does he have any disease he doesn't want to tell about? Or have the dead souls possessed him?

Cherry suddenly felt tense, while her deep blue eyes chilled. She instinctively kept a distance from Shi Yan.

When one was possessed by the dead souls, he would become wildly evil, and would attack every creature near him. At that time, he wouldn't feel pain or have a fear of death. Most of the ones who got possessed would instantly vent out their most violent attacks, using brutal and deadly ways to kill every living thing around them.

The dead souls didn't have a body, so they didn't worry that the explosion of the body they possessed would affect them. What they needed to do was to utilize all skills to kill the others. Then, they would draw the others' souls into the dead soul's evil lairs to create new dead souls.

As Cherry lived in the Dead Soul Mountain range, she understood the features of the dead souls pretty well. When she saw Shi Yan's posture, she started to put up her guard.

A lozenge blue crystal that looked like a flame emerged from her palm. The immense blue light was moving inside the crystal, shining like the stars in the sky. The blue light expanded inaudibly, shining on Shi Yan.

Sss Sss Sss

When the blue light touched Shi Yan, it was like it got burned, turning into smoke and scattering.

Cherry was frightened, screaming inside. As she could sense something wrong, she was about to leave.

Her Soul Checking Crystal could check whether a warrior was possessed or not. When the light of the blue crystal reached the ones who got possessed, it would be evaporated instantly.

Why was he possessed? There's no aura of dead souls around. Sigh, it's pretty bad this time. How can I answer my teacher!

Cherry felt as if she had just swallowed bitter juice. She thought that she should leave Shi Yan and run away.

She knew Shi Yan had the Third Sky of Sky Realm. After the dead soul possessed him, if he burst out instantly his power to kill everyone around, she wouldn't be able to endure it. Also, the treasures she had could hardly resist his strength. So, she didn't want to do the useless things, and wanted to get back to the Spirit Potion Valley first, and then plan the next move.

Right when she had flown a hundred meters backward, Shi Yan's body shook as he shouted. "Hey, why are you running back?"

Cherry's soft body shivered, her face discoloring with fear. She didn't dare to stop and even sped up.

Shi Yan was surprised as he had no clue. "What are you doing?"

While he was talking, Shi Yan flew like lightning, shooting towards her. He shouted, "What the heck you are doing? I'm not going to harm you. Why do you wear a face as if you have seen a pervert? Well, it's true that your appearance's attractive to perverts, but you shouldn't think that every man is a pervert, right?"

"Ah!"

Cherry screamed, looking at Shi Yan blocking her way with shock. She muttered suspiciously, "When the high-level dead soul possesses someone, one can still talk like normal people. But should they talk vulgar things like that?"

Dead souls in the Dead Soul Mountain range divided into many levels. Low levels dead souls didn't have strong soul erosive power. Even if they could possess the warrior, they couldn't talk. Only dead souls at high levels with intimidating soul power could use the host to communicate with people.

However, even if it was a high-level dead soul, it could only say some simple things, and it wouldn't be fluent enough.

He was possessed by the highest level dead soul, perhaps? Legends said that the highest level dead soul had the same intelligence as mankind. When a warrior was taken over by this kind of a dead soul, the dead souls' behavior wasn't much different from humans. Anyway, this sort of dead soul was rare. Not many people had seen them for hundreds of years. Would her luck be that bad today?

Cherry was frightened and surprised at the same time, but she didn't continue to flee away.

She understood that if she encountered the highest level, dead souls, let alone herself, even her teacher couldn't escape death.

Usually, the highest level dead souls would show up when the dead souls' evil lairs had some changes.

Once this kind of a dead soul appeared, all the alchemists and blacksmiths living in the Dead Soul Mountain range would join hands, and they would even invite the experts from the Radiant God Cult, the Pure Land, and the Devil Valley around to help them encounter the enemy.

That kind of a dead soul was the most formidable existence. Rumor said that only the absolute True God Realm warriors knew the method to exterminate them.

She was just a Sky Realm warrior. If the high-level dead souls used the Soul Consciousness to control her soul, she couldn't do anything.

"You... Who are you? Human or dead soul?" Cherry regretted it now. She cursed her teacher under her breath. Why he had assigned her such a mission?.

"It's just been a while. Why did you have such big change?" Shi Yan was quite happy. "Did you see ghosts?"

"You saw ghosts!" Cherry barked. Then she was astounded, looking at him. "You... Aren't you possessed by a dead soul? But why did my Soul Checking crystal say that you have other souls in your Sea of Consciousness? Only the sinister dead souls can burn the light of the Soul Checking crystal."

Having hearing her say that, Shi Yan immediately responded. Turned out the existence of the Five Devils had her in doubt.

"The things inside my head aren't the dead souls. They're something else. The features of their souls are somehow similar to the dead souls though," explained Shi Yan.

Cherry was startled, her face odd. "You're a freak. If one has no reason, who would keep strange things in their heads? Don't you know that when you're wounded or careless, they can take over your soul and control your body?"

"I know. And, I have the method to deal with that," Shi Yan didn't explain further.

The Nine Serenities Soul Devouring Flame lived in his host soul, which could swallow all kinds of soul-like beings. Even if the Five Devils were more dangerous, they didn't dare to act rashly in his Sea of Consciousness. Or else, they would be purified by the flame of the Nine Serenities Soul Devouring Flame.

With such a tremendous existence to rely on, no matter what kind of souls or strange things entered his Sea of Consciousness, they would be just finding a way to death for themselves.

"What happened to you just now?" Cherry was dumbstruck. She frowned, asking him as curiosity filled her blue eyes.

"Nothing. I just found something." Shi Yan smiled, looking at one direction. "We'll go there and check it out. Something interesting is happening there."

Cherry followed his line of sight, and her smiling face faded. She spoke up with a serious face. "That's the place the dead souls' evil lairs often appear. Dead souls linger there a lot. Why do you want to get there?"

"To learn about the dead souls."

"Aren't you afraid that the dead souls would erode your soul? I've seen a lot of young men like you get possessed by the dead souls because they acted rashly and intruded the forbidden area. Their own souls were expelled. I advise you not to take risks."

"It's okay. I believe nothing would happen to me."

Strange light sparked in Cherry's deep blue eyes. Hesitating for a while, she took out a Rock Panacea, handing it to Shi Yan while feeling painful inside. "You should take this Rock Panacea. It will harden your soul as solid as a rock. Most of the dead souls can't attack you then. I can't refine this type of panacea yet, and my teacher gave me this. Remember, you owe me now."

"No need. You should keep it. I don't need the support from medicines." Shi Yan shook his head, and didn't talk more as he flew towards the direction that the Five Devils had induced.

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Chapter 533: Hunting dead souls

The dead souls' evil lairs were the most mysterious exotic area of the Dead Soul Mountain range. However, these evil lairs wouldn't stay still. They moved, and someday it would disappear leaving no trace, only to reappear somewhere else.

Normally, only the dead souls could sense the exact location of the evil lairs. The region where the evil lairs often appeared would attract many dead souls.

This kind of an area in the Dead Soul Mountain range was the forbidden place. Warriors who didn't have the absolute confidence would never dare to operate alone in these regions.

The Five Devils sent Shi Yan their roars, then completed their transformation, in which their power seemed to advance one step further. Then, they sent him their thoughts and said that they wanted to get near to that area.

This surprised him. He hesitated for a while, then came to that area to check the situation.

Although Cherry didn't feel good about this, she couldn't change his thoughts. So, she had to follow him to the forbidden area where the dead souls' evil lairs appeared.

It was a valley covered with thick gray clouds. There was no sunlight shining on the valley, even though it was still daytime, which gave people a dark, gloomy atmosphere, irritating them.

There were many wild blades of grass in the valley, some of which looked like scythes. Bushes jutted from the ground just like sharp swords grown on the ground.

"That's the Bone-picking grass... So dangerous. When a human falls into the bushes, they will swarm together and scrape the meat out of their bones to suck the marrow inside."

Cherry arrived, her face solemn. She pointed at the grass underneath and advised him. "Don't fall into the Bone-picking bushes. Even if you are excellent, it's hard to escape."

Shi Yan smiled and nodded. Looking at the Bone-picking grass under his feet, he said, "Can we use this strange grass as medicine?"

Cherry's brow arched as she beamed a faint smile. "You have a good imagination. The Bone-picking grass's a strange flora. How could we use it to refine medicine? Ah, no. If you need some poisons, the juice from that grass can help. It can erode the bones and marrow, which stiffens people's limbs."

"Does anyone collect the Bone-picking grass?"

"I'm not sure. I've never tried to refine poisons, so I don't care about it much." Cherry's blue eyes glared at him with strange light as she was shivering inside.

This man, is he interested in making poison?

Alchemists who created poisons weren't welcomed in the Dead Soul Mountain range. If he were interested in making poisons, he could be a sinister guy, too. She should be more cautious.

"There's some battling!"

Shi Yan's pupils shrank. He attentively looked at the direction ahead of him, speeding up.

Cherry hurried to follow him.

Inside the valley covered with ash-gray clouds, five Sky Realm warriors were using secret treasures to fight against three clusters of dark green mist. The three clusters of mist floated vaguely. Sometimes, they appeared like the ferocious demonic beasts. Sometimes they wore hollow human faces, which never stopped changing.

From the block of dark green mist, evil, cold aura exuded out, as if it could penetrate into people's minds.

The clusters of mist had changed many times, their shapes unidentifiable. They shot out the cold, evil aura, which formed invisible soul attacks, rippling like waves of water, and affecting all corners.

Among the five Sky Realm warriors, there were males and females. However, they weren't alchemists. Each of them was like they were fighting against strong enemies. The secret treasures in their hands all had Yang attributes. The halos around them were scorching red.

"Dead souls!"

Cherry let out a low scream to remind Shi Yan not to go closer. She whispered, "They're hunting dead souls. You shouldn't go there and mess up their business."

"Hunting dead souls?" Shi Yan was surprised, frowning. "Didn't you say that the dead souls are really evil and they will erode human souls? If they are that sinister, what do they need to hunt them for?"

"Although the dead souls are dangerous, they aren't useless. They're precious materials to a blacksmith." Cherry stood away from them, explaining with low voice. "When they want to make their weapons which have intellect, they can apply some different methods. Among those, the way to make their weapon absorb the natural power of heaven and earth to gain the intellect is the most difficult and mysterious."

She paused for a while, and then continued, "However, most of the blacksmiths can't do that. So, it's easier to find the things that are similar to the soul and seal them in their weapon. It's the popular method to make the tool gain intellect. The dead souls are a sort of sinister souls, as they have a strong fighting will. If they can fuse the dead soul and the tool, the power of that tool will be increased marvelously. A Mystery level treasure can be advanced one level to reach the Profound level."

"So, you mean they are hunting the dead souls to forge weapons?" Shi Yan was amazed. "They aren't blacksmiths though."

"Perhaps they want to find some blacksmiths to forge weapons. And because they want to have intelligent weapons, they have to hunt the dead souls." Cherry understood the situation of the Dead Soul Mountain range well. "They will erase the independent consciousness, then seal the dead soul in the treasure. Afterward, they will use a special method to activate the ferocious nature of the dead soul, which could increase the power of the treasure. The higher the level of the dead soul is, the stronger the treasure will be."

"People always do that in the Dead Soul Mountain range?"

"Not really. It's not easy to hunt the dead souls. They have to equip the right secret treasures to subdue them. And, they also need the Rock Panacea. Because, they have to make sure the dead souls can't possess them first. If they can have the right chance, they can catch them. This is very dangerous. If they encounter the low-level dead souls, perhaps they can succeed. But if they have a bad luck facing the dangerous dead souls, they will have to use their lives to make it up."

While they were talking, it seemed the five warriors ahead of them had almost gotten what they wanted. The three dark green dead souls had low levels; they didn't even have a shape. Under the continuous attacks by the nemesis treasures, the three dead souls were struck scattered. Gathering them again was a hard job to do.

The three dead souls were divided from the center. Just like ragged cloth, they were floating and fluttering in the air, trying to escape.

The five warriors wore serious faces, not daring to relax. The treasures in their hands were constantly sparking fire, forming a fire wall that could block a piece of space.

When the dead souls were divided, their powers reduced massively. They didn't dare to cross the fire wall, but just increased their erosive soul attacks.

The five warriors paled. Sweat beaded on their foreheads. Apparently, this kind of erosive soul attack had troubled them seriously.

"Be persistent!" One of them said through his gritted teeth while he was drenched in sweat. "These three dead souls can't gather again. We just need to resist the last wave of their soul attacks and we can get them! Don't let your efforts be wasted. Endure it!"

Those five Sky Realm warriors had big age gaps. The leader seemed to be around fifty years old. One of the other four was roughly forty. Some looked like they were in their thirties, and there was a young girl about seventeen or eighteen years old. She looked pretty young.

As the five of them had joined hands, their treasures constantly moved, generating more flames, which made the three dead souls struggle harder.

"The dead souls are afraid of the powers of flame and lightning. Usually, they don't dare to come close to the flames, but it's hard to burn them to death. Only lightning is their archenemy. In the Dead Soul Mountain range, when it thunders, the dead souls will hide away..."

Cherry explained to Shi Yan about the features of the dead souls while looking at the situation ahead of them. "It's not hard to find the weapons with flame attribute. However, the weapons with the lightning power are scarce. Even in the Dead Soul Mountain range, this sort of secret treasures is still rare. Warriors who have the lightning attribute treasures won't need to worry 'bout the dead souls in the Dead Soul Mountain anymore. As long as they see the treasure, the dead soul will run away in fear. They won't dare to come close."

Shi Yan nodded, feeling more secure.

With the Earth Flame here, he didn't need to be afraid of the dead souls. At the same time, the Nine Serenities Soul Devouring flame was the nemesis of this kind of soul beings. If he encountered some brave dead souls, he just needed to release the Nine Serenities Soul Devouring Flame to purify them.

Roar Roar Roar!

Strange roars came up from his Sea of Consciousness. He hadn't had time to do anything, and the five dark silhouettes had shot out from the back of his head. They then jumped through that fire wall agilely, grabbed the three dead souls and swallowed them. Seconds later, they had finished the whole three dead souls.

Seeing their efforts about to be fruitful, the five warriors had been ready to capture the dead soul. However, they suddenly felt dizzy and immediately found five other grey figures inside their fire wall. These figures then besieged and devoured the dead souls.

Shi Yan changed his visage as he felt bad inside.

Strange light flashed in Cherry's blue eyes. She instinctively looked at the back of Shi Yan's head, her face disbelieving.

The Five Devils had flown out fast. Although she stood next to Shi Yan, she only saw five silhouettes dash out from behind Shi Yan. Thus, she wasn't sure that they came from Shi Yan's body.

"God damn it!"

The fifty-some old man clenched his fists and gritted his teeth indignantly, looking at the five figures behind the fire wall. He scolded, "What the heck are those? Dare to take our goods! Go die!"

The sword in his hand suddenly gushed out a ten-meter long fire, shooting towards the Five Devils.

The other four reacted timely. They clenched their jaws and urged the powers of their secret weapons to attack the Five Devils.

To hunt those three dead souls, the five of them had spent half a year to borrowed enough secret weapons. They had also waited for more than a month in this area to find dead souls. After a hard

struggling time, they'd almost got them. It wasn't easy to back them into the corner. And now, someone had snatched the spoils of their strenuous war. How could they press down the anger?

The five of them joined forces again. Fiery flames shot out from the flaming attribute weapons, striking toward the Five Devils.

After the Five Devils had swallowed the dying dead souls, they didn't feel pleased yet. They didn't concern about the scorching flaming attack, turning back into the five dark, gray shadows, gathering in front of Shi Yan and asking him to find more dead souls to fill their stomachs.

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Chapter 534: Gigolo?

The five gloomy silhouettes didn't have any real bodies, floating next to Shi Yan like five gray ribbons.

Cherry had a surprised face. She blankly looked at the five gloomy shadows. At this moment, she knew that she hadn't been dazzled. Now she knew the things that had devoured the dying dead souls came from Shi Yan.

The five of them had done many things, but got nothing in the end. As they were about to shout and scold, they realized that those five gloomy thieves seemed to have a master.

The five of them were astounded for a while. First, they tried to sense Shi Yan's cultivation base from afar. After they got to know that Shi Yan had only the Third Sky of Sky Realm cultivation base, their guts got bigger. They then came close to Shi Yan with rage.

"Kid, those five energy ribbons came from you, right?" Tie Mu, the leader, snorted with an indignant face. "Don't you know the rules? We've kept an eye on those three dead souls for half of a year. Do you know how much effort and crystals it costs to catch them?"

The other four including three men and a young girl all looked at him wickedly. It seemed they could take action at any minute.

Tie Mu, a Third Sky of Sky Realm warrior, was leading a group of the other four Second Sky of Sky Realm warriors. The five of them had joined forces and wasted a lot of their powers to gain the upper hand, which gave Shi Yan an impression that the dead souls were tough to deal with.

According to Cherry, those three dead souls were at a low level. If the high-level dead souls appeared, would even the Spirit Realm warrior able to catch them?

"Kid, are you mute? I'm talking to you!" Tie Mu shouted, his face impatient. "Give the dead souls back to us. I won't trouble you. Otherwise, don't blame me for having no mercy!"

"I'm sorry. I can't give them back." Shi Yan responded, beaming a faint smile. "Things that were eaten can't be spat out. I can't return the dead souls intact."

After he finished, the five people of Tie Mu's group were enraged. They clenched their jaws and gritted their teeth, as they seemed to attempt to risk their lives with his.

Cherry's blue eyes sparkled. She frowned and then said, "He's our Spirit Hall's distinguished guest. We will be responsible for this. When we come back to the Spirit Hall, we'll compensate for your loss. Is it okay?"

"Spirit Hall?" Tie Mu discolored. He scrutinized her and then said, "Are you Master Zha Lin's disciple?"

Cherry smiled naturally and gave him a slight nod.

"Even Master Zha Lin can't bully people like that!" Tie Mu's visage darkened. "Say it. How will you compensate us? Your Spirit Hall doesn't need the dead souls. Will you be able to give me three dead souls?"

"Our Spirit Hall doesn't have the dead souls, but we have something to exchange for them." Cherry snorted arrogantly. "Although the dead souls are rare, those three were at the lowest level, so their values aren't high. Don't you think that our Spirit Hall doesn't have anything equal to make it up for you? Harrumph, if you've been strolling around the Dead Soul Mountain range, you should know about the capacity of the Spirit Hall."

Tie Mu's face became better when he heard that. "I know your Spirit Hall has big capacities. However, we only need the dead souls!"

"There're many blacksmiths in the Precious Tool Valley. Many of them should have dead souls. When I return to the Spirit Potion Valley, I will ask my teacher to collect three dead souls for you guys. How does that sound?" Cherry frowned impatiently.

In the Dead Soul Mountain range, the alchemists and the blacksmiths had high status. When they treated the other warriors, they always felt that they were one class higher than the others. No matter how tremendous the experts were, they always needed them to refine medicines and weapons. It'd happened that way for so long they eventually developed an arrogant attitude that they could control the other warriors.

The alchemists of the Spirit Hall had a higher status than other alchemists. In the Spirit Potion Valley, Cherry had a good reputation too. Many people had to be obsequious to her, and not many of them dared to provoke her. This also contributed to her arrogant face when dealing with ordinary warriors.

"If you ensure that you can collect three dead souls for us, we will let it go. If not, I want to take this kid's life as our compensation!" Tie Mu snorted.

Cherry harrumphed. She was about to agree with him. In her eyes, it wasn't a big deal.

Shi Yan smiled while listening to their conversation, but he didn't give any opinions. However, as he heard Tie Mu threaten him, his face got colder, speaking up faintly. "Using my life to make it up? Do you think your three dead souls have that high value?"

"Well, to me, your life isn't much value as compared to those dead souls." Tie Mu smiled, his face sparkling with wicked light as if he was making a joke. "Kid, you are living off a woman. Don't tell anyone that. Otherwise, they will look down on you. Understand?"

After that snatching event happened, Cherry was always the one who talked to him. In Tie Mu's eyes, Shi Yan was an incompetent boy who depended on Cherry. They instinctively assumed that Shi Yan had done something to seduce Cherry and make her clean up his mess.

After Tie Mu said that, the other four burst out laughing with disdain on their faces. They all looked at him with the look they gave to gigolos.

"Is that so?" Shi Yan felt funny. He shook his head, talking to Cherry. "You don't need to be bothered with my stuff. You don't need to find the dead souls for them. Well, I want to see what they can do to me."

He knew he was wrong when the Five Devils swallowing the weakened dead souls. He didn't want to take in for granted so he was thinking what he should use to compensate Tie Mu's group.

However, Tie Mu had spit out just bad words. His dark mind and bullsh*t talks irritated Shi Yan. Thus, he decided to be a b*stard.

"Ah," Cherry smiled. Interest appeared on her face as she giggled, looking at him and stepping aside. "Up to you. I don't want to help you either. You should solve it yourself. Anyway, be careful. Although they haven't restored their powers fully, it should be difficult if you fight alone against them."

Since Zha Lin assigned her to bring Shi Yan to the Flying Cloud Summit, she was curious about him. The Flying Cloud Summit was the cultivating place of Li Zheng Rong. Among the Elders of the Spirit Hall, Li Zheng Rong was the most mysterious person. He hadn't come to the Spirit Hall for almost ten years. It seemed he rarely went out.

As he was a high-level alchemist, Li Zheng Rong had connections with the strongest warriors of the Pure Land, the Radiant God Cult, and the Devil Valley. He was always haughty, and disdained the others a lot, not even wanting to throw them a look.

Since Zha Li had asked her to take Shi Yan there, he seemed to confirm that Li Zheng Rong would definitely meet Shi Yan. This made her suspicious. She made some assumption about Shi Yan's identity, and always thought that this young man was mysterious enough to make her think he wasn't as simple as he looked.

Thus, when she heard Shi Yan say that he would take care this mess himself, she didn't worry much. Actually, she was anticipating seeing how dangerous Shi Yan was through this.

"Kid, do you really want to court death?" Tie Mu's face twisted, his eyes dark and gloomy. The flame of anger was burning in his heart, urging him to kill people.

"Court death?" Shi Yan curled his lips. "Are you talking 'bout yourself?"

Anger flooded Tie Mu. He didn't hesitate anymore. The flaming sword in his hand shot out a column of light, lighting the area.

After a while, hundreds of flaming swords torrentially dashed towards Shi Yan, just like fire burning half the sky.

"Interesting."

Shi Yan kept a cold face. Suddenly, he opened his mouth and spurted out a cold air current, which looked like a silky white ribbon.

The cold air splashed on the hundreds oncoming flaming swords. All flames were put out, revealing a real sword without the scorching flame. Its spiritual aura was frozen as well.

Floating in the air, Shi Yan extended his left arm. A cold current swiftly shot out. Beams of crystal clear icicles darted like lightning towards that flaming sword, instantly covering it.

Shi Yan leisurely grabbed the sword and pinched it. He shook his head, smiling. "No intellect. The flame power in it is too feeble. This sword can be reluctantly said to be a grade-two Profound level treasure. How could it hurt me?"

"Tie Mu, we've borrowed this Fire Cloud Sword. Don't break it. We don't want to compensate that big an amount." One of them yelled.

Tie Mu's face changed. He scrutinized Shi Yan again.

Shi Yan smiled, urging a bit of his negative power. The energy around him suddenly increased, as a wild, sinister aura rippled from his body.

Tie Mu was terrified. He discolored as he recognized that there was a furiously dangerous energy covering Shi Yan.

"Still want to hit me?" Shi Yan was calm and steady. He threw a faint glance to the other four, then said neither hurriedly nor slowly. "You can join hands. If you think you can kill me, you can try."

The other four had only the Second Sky of Sky Realm. Although they all heard what Shi Yan said, they didn't dare to act rashly.

"Hey you, what do you want? You are the one who did wrong things," said the young maid who was about seventeen or eighteen of that group indignantly. She was wearing a short green dress, which exposed her arms and slim waist.

"Well, it's true that I did wrong things." Shi Yan didn't deny it. He squinted while smiling, looking at Tie Mu. "If he could keep his mouth clean, I would be a nice guy to talk with. Of course, I would make up for your loss. But it's different now..."

"I'm sorry, I was a snobbish son of a b*tch to have disdained you." Tie Mu assessed himself pitifully and tried to force an ugly smile. "Friend, please give back the Fire Cloud Sword. About the dead soul..."

He couldn't continue.

Even though the dead souls were important and he wanted them, he understood that he couldn't trouble the power that Shi Yan had shown them. So, he didn't know if he should finish his saying or not.

"Take back this Fire Cloud Sword." Shi Yan snorted. "If you weren't the disciples of the Radiant God Cult, I wouldn't be letting you go that easy!"

Although these five Sky Realm warriors were borrowing the power of the treasures to use the flame, the energy flowing in their body was the Flaming Sun Execution of the Radiant God Cult. Shi Yan got it crystal clear.

He still had good feelings towards the Radiant God Cult. However, because of his mutated martial spirit, he didn't dare to visit the Radiant God Cult. Anyway, Zhao Feng and the other members of the Radiant God Cult had helped him in the Dark Magnetic Noxious Mist, so he appreciated them.

Swoosh!

A beam of Earth Flame poured into the sword. The flame, which had disappeared burned again on the sword, and it looked even more blazing.

Tie Mu's eyes brightened, his face surprised and joyful.

"Take back your Fire Cloud Sword. Take me to the place of the dead souls. I'll help you catch three more," Shi Yan assigned them coldly.

God of Slaughter

Chapter 535: Precipitous

As they heard that Shi Yan wanted to help them catch the dead souls, the five people of Tie Mu's group didn't show that they were happy. Quite the contrary, they all wore panic-stricken faces.

"It's too dangerous. We'd better not go there. We can wait for another chance to catch the dead souls. If we lose our lives, it will be too bad." Tie Mu shook his head continually. He seemed to have an extreme fear of that area.

Shi Yan was surprised. "What do you fear?"

"Not only low-level dead souls, there should be some at high levels there as well. If we have to go there, we can't endure them for sure," Tie Mu smiled miserably.

"Shi Yan, you shouldn't take risks. It's easy to deal with the low-level dead souls, but it's tough to deal with the high-level ones. You shouldn't go," Cherry advised with a low voice.

People living in the Dead Soul Mountain all knew that the dead souls were dangerous. If they encountered the low-level ones, they could use the Rock Panacea to secure their souls, preventing them from being eroded. However, the high-level dead souls could directly penetrate into the warriors' Sea of Consciousness to nib their souls, despite the pellet they had taken.

If they weren't at Spirit Realm, it would be tough to defend the soul-erosion effect of the high-level dead souls.

Be it Cherry or Tie Mu, they only had the Sky Realm cultivation base. Once they faced a high-level dead soul, they couldn't save their soul from being eroded by the dead soul, even if they had the Rock Panacea. Once their soul started to be eroded, they couldn't urge any beam of energy to counter. At that time, they could only gawk at the dead soul feasting on their souls. Eventually, their souls would be destroyed.

Thus, when she heard that the area had the high-level dead souls coming back and forth, Cherry also felt scared. She didn't want to go there.

Shi Yan had the Nine Serenities Soul Devouring Flame and the Five Devils protecting him, so he wasn't afraid of the dead souls. When he knew Tie Mu's group didn't want to lead the way, he frowned, thought for a second, and then said, "Alright, then you can just show me the exact direction. I'm going there alone."

"You shouldn't take such risks," advised Cherry.

Shi Yan's face was still cold and persistent.

Tie Mu contemplated. Under the attraction of the dead souls, he pointed towards a shade of a mountain in the South-West. "There's a cave hiding behind a big pine. When you get there, you should be more careful. The dead souls often travel through the entrance. Inside the cave is gloomy; of course, there are more dead souls there."

As the four other disciples of the Radiant God Cult heard that Shi Yan wanted to take the risk, they all made it clear that they didn't want to accompany him. They showed him respect, but kept a distance from him.

"And you?" Shi Yan smiled at Cherry, "Are you afraid of high-level dead souls, too?"

"I'm just an alchemist," nodded Cherry. She then answered him soundly. "Fighting is not my strength. Especially in a fight with dead souls, I can't be of help to you."

Regarding powers and strength, the alchemists were one level lower than the normal warriors, and their knowledge and cultivation of soul weren't as deep as the warriors who had specialties.

In the Dead Soul Mountain range, some high-level dead souls loved to trouble the alchemists.

Since the endurance of the alchemists' souls was weak, when they seized the chance, they could attack the alchemists' soul easily, much easier than attacking the ordinary warriors.

Shi Yan would never force Cherry if she were reluctant. He nodded while smiling, "Alright, you can stay here. After I grab some dead souls, I'll come back here to find you."

"You should be careful. The three recent ones were just the low-level dead souls. It's not easy to deal with the high-level ones." Cherry could see that her advice was no use, so she could only reluctantly see him off. "And, although the high-level dead souls rarely appear, it doesn't mean that there are none of them dwelling in the Dead Soul Mountain range. If you have the bad luck of meeting up the highest level dead soul, I advise you not to trust your luck. Run away as fast as you can... Never linger. Usually, the strong dead souls can't operate too far from the evil lairs. As long as you can run fast enough, and far enough from the dead souls' evil lairs, I think the highest level dead souls won't chase after you."

"So, are there any distinctive differences between the normal dead souls and the highest level dead souls?"

"Yeah, but we can't identify it," Cherry shook her head. "According to my master, when your soul cultivation base reaches a certain level, you can use your Soul Consciousness to sense the differences between them. Warriors who encountered the highest level dead souls almost have no chance to run

away. One or two of them had successfully escaped, but they wouldn't want to share the details they had observed. So, the others couldn't know much."

It was no help at all. Shi Yan smiled, and didn't continue. He waved his hand at Cherry, then departed in the direction Tie Mu had shown him.

It was an area covered with thick, dark gray clouds, like a gray curtain that hindered people's vision. Shi Yan released his Soul Consciousness, and immediately found that his sensing was weakened, as he could only sense the soul fluctuations within hundreds of meters around him. His Soul Consciousness couldn't extend any further.

Shi Yan became more alert. He slowed down his flying speed and observed here and there cautiously. He also checked the space underneath him.

The valley underneath him had vibrant bushes of Bone-picking grass, growing densely, just like the scythe of Death, waiting to harvest people's lives.

Under the shade of the mountain ahead of him, clusters of gray clouds became thicker, which obstructed his vision and Soul Consciousness more.

Flows of cold and despondent aura flooded from ahead of him. It felt like some small, pale hands were stroking his body, making his hair rise simultaneously in fear.

Taking a deep breath, he didn't hurry to intrude the place, but called the Earth Flame and asked it to fly in front of him, in case some dangerous dead souls would ambush him.

The Earth Flame was like a small sun, shining a blazing light and scorching heat, which washed away the cold. It turned into a beautiful firing line, leading the way.

Shi Yan activated the Star Shield and the Dark Light Shield. Covered in two protection layers, he quietly gathered his power, flying cautiously behind the Earth Flame at a moderate speed, always on alert.

Fifteen minutes later, he arrived at the place Tie Mu mentioned, the shaded area of the mountain.

A big pine tree that needed five people to circle appeared near the cliff. The tree looked like a giant monster under the shade of the mountain, which could ferociously swallow all creatures. Flows of sinister and cold air flooded out from the place hidden behind the pine tree. Sometimes, people could see the little luminous green spots fly out like the jack-o'-lanterns floating and disappearing into thin air.

The flying speed of the Earth Flame suddenly became sluggish, just like an extremely slow snail.

"Something's there..." The Earth Flame was quite intelligent. As it sensed something abnormal, it immediately sent him a message.

"Yeah, I know there should be something. Could you sense what it is exactly?" replied Shi Yan.

"I don't know. I have never seen this kind of a creature before. They don't have a tangible body. They are sinister and hostile. They want to take everything..." the Earth Flame was uncertain, so its description was unclear.

Roar Roar Roar!

The floating Five Devils suddenly became excited. They meandered over his body just like tentacles. Half of their bodies coiled around his waist, and the other half was probing around, just like the strange snakes ready to attack.

Swoosh!

The Ice Cold Flame turned into a bunch of crystal clear white lights, shooting out from the Blood Vein Ring. It then condensed into a block of ice crystal, covering his left arm and sending him its thoughts. "They are some sorts of evil souls. I have never met such things before. They don't belong in this continent, either. This kind of evil souls are bloodthirsty, and they have a strong possessive desire. It seems they can erode creatures' souls. That's all I can sense... I'm not sure I could sense further..."

Shi Yan's brows slammed together. He became more careful, adjusting his speed as slow as the Earth Flame.

Eventually, he bypassed the pine tree, and saw a cave hiding behind the root of the tree. The entrance was small, but the shutter looked big. It was really dark, and he could see nothing but the vague green light inside. The green light was despondent, which suited the place's ambiance pretty well. This made people sink into an extremely depressing feeling.

Whiz Whiz Whiz!

The Five Devils were like demonic beasts who had smelled the fresh scent of blood, turning into a thick group of gray smoke and drilling into the cave.

Shi Yan's discolored, but he couldn't stop them timely. He sped up, dashing towards the cave.

"Don't go!"

The Earth Flame and the Ice Cold Flame sent him their thoughts simultaneously. They seemed to be terrified.

At the same time, the Five Devils, who had been eagerly entering the cave, were turning back to Shi Yan with a faster speed. Seemed like they had seen something really intimidating. Each of them showed itself, trying to get back into his body.

However, it seemed there was a strong suction force coming from the cave, trying to draw them back. They tried to struggle, but couldn't get out of the cave.

In the entrance, a green light suddenly brightened fiercely. Thanks to that evil, gloomy green light, Shi Yan finally saw what were inside the cave.

Inside the unknown-deep cave, countless deep green dead souls gathered. There was a dozen of them at the entrance.

Entering deep inside, the dead souls there were like a green dye clutching on the stone wall. They were seeming as if they were suddenly awakened.

At the deepest place of the entrance, Shi Yan vaguely saw something like a big chunk of meat, which had many small holes drilling into the block, where blood was bleeding unceasingly. Under the chunk of meat were piles of many dead warriors. The base of the meat block extended into the center of the

dead body piles, as if it were sucking some kind of energy from those corpses. The dead souls in the cave gathered around the meat block. It seemed they were guarding over it, which looked quite strange.

All of a sudden, an extremely gloomy and evil aura burst out from the other end of the cave. The green light inside became even more dazzling.

Gathering his spirit, Shi Yan found that the dead souls inside the cave were connected to each other by green fibers, just like a big spider web. At the same time, when countless dead souls started swelling, they started to release the soul erosive energy which was invisible to naked eyes, entering Shi Yan's Sea of Consciousness.

At that short moment, he was dragged into illusions. He saw so many dead souls nibbling, tearing his body and sucking his blood. They wanted to drag him into the cave.

The Earth Flame burst out.

The Earth Flame which was as big as a palm abruptly released a scorching flame. The sea of fire torrentially flooded into the cave.

Numerous dead souls started to scream with a strange 'Sss Sss' sound, as if the Earth Flame was burning them to the acme of pain. Seizing the chance, the Five Devils struggled harder and escaped the cave, immediately hiding themselves in Shi Yan's Sea of Consciousness.

The moment the Five Devils got in his Sea of Consciousness, Shi Yan didn't think much, fleeing away with his max speed. Using Star Brilliance and Electric Shift, he turned into a flow of starlight, zooming over ten li like an arc light.

God of Slaughter

Chapter 536: Unhurriedly enter the mountain

After fifteen minutes, Shi Yan came back to where Cherry and Tie Mu's group gathered, his face bitter.

"How was it? Did you catch any dead souls?" asked Tie Mu with caution.

"No," Shi Yan shook his head, his face darkened. "I met the souls there. That cave's full of dead souls, hundreds of them. Some of them should be at a high level. I'm lucky that I acted quickly. Otherwise, I could have been captured."

There were so many dead souls inside the cave, and the aura they released was tremendous. When that large number of dead souls struck together, even the Nine Serenities Soul Devouring Flame couldn't burn them all in a short period of time, he supposed. If he were careless and the high-level dead souls took that chance to enter his host soul, what he gained would never make up the loss he had to bear.

"Hundreds of them!" Cherry's face changed as she affirmed, "It should be the dead souls' evil lairs near there. Otherwise, it's impossible that so many dead souls could gather at the same spot. I think you had a bad fortune, but still were lucky enough. At least, you came back alive."

"I have never seen so many dead souls like that," Tie Mu was more frightened. "Just three low-level dead souls and we had to shed blood already. The five of us couldn't even resist ten of them, let alone hundreds!"

"Well, I have no way to catch the dead souls for you. Later on, you should find Cherry and ask her." Shi Yan rubbed his nose, feeling a little bit embarrassed.

The five people of Tie Mu's group nodded, wearing a forced smile.

Shi Yan had used his strength to prove that he could kill them at any minute. Under this circumstance, no matter what Shi Yan said, they had to agree. They didn't want the backfire.

"Alright, don't wear that bitter face. We didn't say that we won't compensate you guys. It's just the three low-level dead souls, not a big deal," snorted Cherry.

Tie Mu and his group smiled at her.

"We should go to the Flying Cloud Summit now," Cherry looked at Shi Yan.

"Yeah. Let's go!"

...

Three days later, Cherry stopped in front of a grand mountain.

She eyed the mountain hiding in the clouds with a longing face. "That's the Flying Cloud Summit, the richest mountain in the Dead Soul Mountain range, with so many precious products. And, only the character like Elder Li deserves a summit like this. People who can visit the Flying Cloud Summit are all big men. They're the Elders of the Radiant God Cult, the Pure Land, the Devil Valley, or other famous warriors of the continent. Small people like me have never had a chance to climb this mount."

Shi Yan was amazed.

The Flying Cloud Summit was more than ten thousand meters high. White clouds bobbed in the middle of the mountainside. Strange animals like the white red-crowned crane were flying here and there. Heaven and earth aura here was dense and pure, which comforted people. From the foot of the mountain, they could see that the Flying Cloud Summit had many green patches where they grew spiritual herbs. They were so many herbs and of various types that it dazzled people.

A rugged mountain path led directly to the Flying Cloud Summit. In front of the gateway stood a giant green stone, which had some big old-style calligraphy words. "No Unauthorized entry."

"Let's go. We should climb up now." Shi Yan smiled. While he was still talking, his body had already floated in the sky, attempting to fly directly to the peak.

"Don't!" Cherry stopped him.

Shi Yan was bewildered, looking at her, having no clue.

"There're many banned things in this Flying Cloud Summit. Although there are no barriers in this mount, we can't just fly there directly like that." Cherry explained him with a respectful face. "This is our Spirit Hall Grand Elder's cultivating place. When the elders of the Radiant God Cult or the Pure Land come here, even they have to mount that path. Anyone who flies up directly will violate the rules here. Elder Li will never meet them."

"So, he has a high price?"

"Of course!" Cherry told him with a serious countenance. "The Flying Cloud Summit is the holy land of our Spirit Hall. Small people like us don't even have the right to come and say hello. Even if it is my teacher, without the prior permission of Elder Li, he doesn't dare to come here. Since we are small people, we should follow the rules."

Pausing for a while, she continued. "Are you confident that Elder Li will meet you? If you are unsure, don't do rash things. Elder Li doesn't like to be disturbed. Moreover, he has recently told us that without his order, no one is allowed to bother him, including the experts of the Pure Land and the Radiant God Cult!"

"Don't worry. If he doesn't want to meet me, I'll leave." Shi Yan smiled. "If I'm not sure about that, how can I go there and claim shame on myself?"

Having heard him say so, Cherry could relax. She nodded and said, "Alright, you should go there. I'll wait for you here. Anyway, my task was to bring you here. It's accomplished now. I have no other tasks."

Cherry was a bit disappointed and somewhat fascinated at the same time. She looked at the peak in the clouds as if she was waiting for something.

Shi Yan couldn't help but laugh as he understood that she was waiting for him to invite her to go with him. "Let's go. It's been hard for you to take me here. If you don't mind, we should go there together, shall we?"

Cherry's eyes brightened, her face joyful. She giggled. "You are inviting me to go with you?"

"Yeah."

"Thank you. Seems you still have a conscience."

"Don't babble. Let's go."

Shi Yan took the lead to the mountain.

Along the way to the peak, they saw many spiritual farms where rare and precious herbs were planted. Shi Yan didn't know about more than half of them.

Cherry's blue eyes sparkled as she greedily eyed at the spiritual herbs along their way. She couldn't help but compliment. "Elder Li's worth the Grand Elder of the Spirit Hall. He's like a God. Only the great alchemists like him could grow these spiritual herbs. Look at this Spirit Breaking Grass. They say that it only grows in the snowy mountain. This Igniting Fruit can only bear fruits in the wall slit of the magma rock. These spiritual herbs require the extreme conditions to grow. I don't know what method Elder Li's used to nurture them in the Flying Cloud Summit..."

Cherry didn't talk much on the way they got there. However, when they arrived the Flying Cloud Summit, she was like a radio at the correct frequency, and couldn't stop speaking. She showed him the herbs and complimented nonstop. She idolized Li Zheng Rong so much she regretted she couldn't make him her teacher.

"Zha Lin's your teacher. Do you want to betray your school?" Shi Yan teased her.

"If Elder Li makes me his disciple, I think my teacher will be proud of me too. He won't stop me, but do his best to have a good relationship with me." Cherry wore a fascinating countenance; strange light twinkled in her blue eyes while she was smiling.

Shi Yan didn't bother to talk with her. He felt that alchemists were the sort of people one couldn't reason with. Each of them was odd enough.

"So, no one dreams about those spiritual fields?" On the way to the peak, Shi Yan didn't see anyone watching over the fields. As he was curious, he asked the girl.

"Who dares to dream of the spiritual farm of the Flying Cloud Summit?" Cherry looked at him as if she were looking a dummy. "Elder Li's the peak alchemist of the whole Dead Soul Mountain range. All alchemists respect and admire him. The great elders of the Radiant God Cult, the Pure Land, or the Devil Temple have to be servile to him. If they mess up with Elder Li, it's no different from creating grudge with half of the forces in the Grace Mainland. Who dares, you say? If they are invincible experts, they won't lay their eyes on these herbs. The low-level thieves don't dare to come. So, even if they don't set any barriers here, it's safe enough."

Shi Yan blamed himself for the stupid question.

During the mountaineering, Shi Yan didn't say any useless words.

Half a day later...

After they had passed hundreds of spiritual fields, Shi Yan and Cherry were about to reach the peak of the Flying Cloud Summit.

At this moment, a clear but cold voice arose although there were no other people on the road.

"Intruders, who are you? Haven't you heard the notice? Within three years, no one can enter the Flying Cloud Summit! Didn't you bring your brain with you?"

Cherry reddened embarrassedly. She bowed her head, not daring to answer because she was frightened.

Shi Yan's eyes lit up. He laughed slightly, "Lin xiao-mei (little sister – TL), long time no see. Well, do you want to stop your friends who have crossed a long way to get here at the door?"

He recognized the one who was talking with them from a secret place somewhere was Lin Ya Qi, who used to visit the Endless Sea. The little girl with a big bosom was Ye Chang Feng's older sister.

"... You are... that b*stard Shi Yan?!?" Lin Ya Qi contemplated for a while. Seemed she was trying to remember the identity of the intruders. Later on, she smiled charmingly. "Well, friends from the far land... You b8stard, weren't you staying in the Endless Sea? Why did you leave that place and come to the Grace Mainland? Why are you here?"

In the middle of the giggling, a thick magma dike split open. Lin Ya Qi appeared in a white light. She looked at him from above and chuckled. "You're strong indeed. Well, since you can come here, you should have some good tricks."

Shi Yan felt a little bit funny, "Ye Chang Feng gave me the token. He told me to visit the Spirit Potion Valley and show them the token. They would take me here. Alright, where is my buddy Ye Chang Feng?"

"Oh, I almost forgot," Lin Ya Qi spat her head. She snorted, "Don't mention that little b*stard. He seized the chance our teacher was secluding and cultivating to sneak out and have fun somewhere. I haven't seen him for almost one year. Our teacher said that after he finished his cultivating period this time, he would give him a good lesson."

"I want to meet elder Li. Is it convenient?" Shi Yan's face was solemn. "I have something I want to ask him."

Lin Ya Qi's expression showed that it was a bit difficult. "Our teacher is still cultivating. He said that no one is allowed to bother him. Well, if it's you, I can notify him. But I'm not sure he could meet you immediately."

Shi Yan smiled and nodded.

"Okay. Get in. Have some tea and take a rest." Lin Ya Qi waved her hand. Then her look shifted to Cherry. "Who's that? Your woman? Tsk, you fella are a real womanizer. Wherever you go, you have pretty chicks to be your company. Such a b*stard!"

Cherry blushed, throwing Shi Yan a strange look, shaking her head to explain. "No. I'm not his woman. I, I am from the Spirit Hall."

"Spirit Hall?" Lin Ya Qi's face got colder. She answered arrogantly. "Sorry. This is not the place you should be. You should return using the old way."

"Although she's from the Spirit Hall, she's my woman, too. Don't talk too much, I'm tired. This trip has been long enough. You should bring me tea quickly." Shi Yan said with a natural face, smiled, then pulled Cherry's small hand, walking toward Lin Ya Qi.

Cherry reddened. She tried to wiggle a bit. However, since she had a desire for this holy land, the Flying Cloud Summit, she didn't struggle too much as she let Shi Yan grab her hand, walking forward with her head bent down.

"You should have said it earlier." Lin Ya Qi rolled her eyes at him and then let them pass. "I know it. You b*stard aren't a good man. You tease the flowers and the moon everywhere. Never have a moment to calm down. My little brother told me that you weren't a good guy in the Dark Magnetic Noxious Mist too. You seemed to have an ambiguous relationship with a woman of the Aoke family."

"Motherf*cker! That kid has slandered me!" Shi Yan wore an angry expression, scolding the other.

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Chapter 537: Li Zheng Rong

Inside the Flying Cloud Summit's mountainside, there were many large stone chambers that could be seen. Multi-colored gems were inlaid on the wall, illuminating the whole room as bright as daylight.

Although they were in the mountainside, it didn't look dark at all. Air flowed everywhere, together with the dense spiritual Qi.

Strange and miraculous herbs were present in the stone chambers, kept in special containers. There were some tools holding the fresh, green leaves, and they seemed to be still growing.

There was a spacious room as big as a basketball court, matted with thick rugs, where an incense burner was exuding fragrant smoke. The room had its wall carved with many magical spiritual formation and spells. Different colored flows of spiritual Qi were moving slowly inside the formations, looking like some snakes slithering.

Shi Yan and Cherry were seated in this large stone room.

Lin Ya Qi gave them some good tea with a smile, "Hey, you, why do you want to visit the Dead Soul Mountain? I heard that your Endless Sea has had a big change. Why don't you stay there?"

"The threats in the Endless Sea were solved. Within one hundred years, members of the Fourth Demon Area and the Seven-layered Underworld won't come back to the Endless Sea. The Sea Tribes are fine, too. I don't need to worry about them." Shi Yan smiled as he sipped his tea, "And you, when we were in the middle of the Dark Magnetic Noxious Mist, why did you disappear?"

"I was going with my teacher, so I didn't have time to visit those two exotic lands." Lin Ya Qi's beautiful eyes brightened as she said suddenly. "I heard that you had a big catch in the exotic lands of the Dark Magnetic Noxious Mist. Could you show me some? Let me get the profit at your expense too."

"Well, elder Li takes a good care of you. Why do you bother with my small toys? Don't tease me." Shi Yan shook his head, his face serious. "Hey, please notify Elder Li. Tell him that I want to ask him for a favor."

Hearing him say so, Lin Ya Qi didn't continue to be lengthy. She nodded and said, "Make yourself home. I'm going to report to my teacher."

"Yes."

Lin Ya Qi swayed her body, entering a bright-lit channel which led into the mountain wall. She disappeared shortly.

Shi Yan took in his tea while watching the walls with great interest. Sometimes, he shifted his eyes to Cherry, looking pensive.

After they got in this room, Cherry hadn't spoken a word as she put all of her attention to the spiritual formation on the walls. Her eyes brightened, as if she had found the hidden treasures. She was trying to memorize them all, not wanting to leave even a single formation.

"Cough cough!"

Shi Yan let out a light cough. After he successfully received Cherry's attention, he beamed a faint smile and then probed. "You seem to be interested in those formations a lot. Do they give you any clues for your medicine refining job?"

Cherry's soft body shivered. Her blue eyes twinkled beautifully as she nodded earnestly. "Of course. Those spiritual formations are the ways the alchemists transport their Soul Consciousness, and that's how the medicine revolves during the process. They include the most mysterious Intent Domain of an alchemist. If I can comprehend the subtle features of this magical formation, my attainment will enter a new stage immediately."

Shi Yan was amazed.

Cherry explained him quickly. "When the alchemists refine pellets, we have to pour our Soul Consciousness into the cauldron, using it to carve the spiritual spell that activates the herbs and promotes their efficacy. A magical formation or spell is the most important link in refining medicine. If this link doesn't work or fails, even if you have good ingredients, you are just wasting them. When an alchemist understands the formation or the spell thoroughly, not only can he save the herbs, but also increase the power of the medicinal efficacy of the pellet. Thus, an excellent alchemist should have a deep understanding about the marvelous formations with a high realm."

"So, what's your realm?" Shi Yan asked with surprise.

"Me?" Cherry forced a smile, shaking her head. "I'm bad. Even my teacher Zha Lin doesn't know many formations, and he couldn't understand them thoroughly either. The alchemists like Elder Li are familiar with the spiritual formations and spells, which helps them promote the effect of the pellets to the peak."

After Cherry finished her explanation, she continued gazing at the spiritual formations on the wall, not caring about him anymore.

People who could meet Li Zheng Rong were all the peak warriors of the Grace Mainland or the excellent alchemists. Even Zha Lin hadn't had the chance to visit this place.

It was hard for Cherry to have this chance. She was willing to let Lin Ya Qi misunderstand her so she could have a chance to look at those formations.

To alchemists who were passionate in refining medicines, the spiritual formations on the walls here were the biggest treasure. It was similar to the martial techniques of the warriors. As long as she could understand them, her career would be widened and brighter. If she could make it smooth, she could enter a new realm as well.

Shi Yan wasn't an alchemist, so it was hard for him to understand her persistence. Seeing her focus on studying the magical formation, he didn't bother her more, just letting her absent-mindedly look at the wall.

One hour later, Lin Ya Qi got back to the room. She stood at the entrance of the channel, waving at Shi Yan to signal him to come alone.

Shi Yan stood up, and he noticed that Cherry didn't realize his activity as she was still paying her full attention to the wall.

While smiling, he tiptoed towards Lin Ya Qi as he was afraid that he would bother the girl. Then, he walked with Lin Ya Qi into the quiet stony cave.

After they had left for a while, Lin Ya Qi cocked her head and rolled her eyes at him. "You, you really care about that woman, right? Not only you took her here, but also don't want to disturb her. Spit it out honestly, what is the relationship between you two?"

"She's my woman. I told you, right?"

"Devil buys it! When you took her hand, she was startled. It isn't natural at all. Do you think that I didn't see that?"

"So, why didn't you comment at that time?"

"Because I had to give you face. B*stard, you don't appreciate me at all, do you?"

"Ah, no no. Thank you, thank you."

"Then tell me, what's the relationship between you two?"

"Nothing. The Spirit Hall assigned her to take me to the Flying Cloud Summit. She took care of me along the way. She wanted to visit the place, so I played the good guy's role and gave her a hand."

Lin Ya Qi was naïve and innocent. It seemed she was interested in the affectionate relationship between men and women. Along the way there, she continually asked him about it. She even probed Shi Yan's private affairs, asking him how many women he had been with. This irritated Shi Yan.

As they had just finished halfway, Shi Yan decided to zip his mouth. No matter what she inquired, he kept his mouth shut.

Lin Ya Qi clenched her teeth, rolling her eyes at him angrily. "I'm just curious. Can't you satisfy my little curiosity for a while? You know, my evil master controls me tightly. That brat Ye Chang Feng often has chances to get out. But I don't have his big guts. I'm lonely here. It's so boring..."

Shi Yan was surprised for a while. "Your teacher doesn't allow you to go out?"

"In my realm, when he doesn't ask me to go out, I'm forbidden." Lin Ya Qi drooped her head, her face dispirited.

"Wait until you reach the Third Sky of Sky Realm, and your alchemist attainment reaches the Profound Level. I'll let you go out for three years." A leisurely, friendly laughter came from behind the wall in front of them. The wall then split open, revealing a tunnel decorated with gems. All of them were sparkling dazzlingly.

"Hurry up. The evil old man heard us." Lin Ya Qi tucked her tongue out, speeding her pace swiftly forward.

Shi Yan followed her.

Inside a spacious cave, he saw more than ten cauldrons with different sizes and colors. Mysterious patterns were carved on the cauldrons that looked more like the tadpole scripts. More than ten cauldrons occupied half of the space in the cave. Outside the place, there were piles of bottles, jars, and containers which were full of spiritual herbs.

In the center of the cauldron area lied a fat man with a lazy appearance. He was fat like a small mountain of meat. The man squinted his small eyes, beaming a smile that seemed to be of no harm to any creature. He smiled at Shi Yan, then slightly raised his arm. "Little buddy, you are Shi Yan? Thank you for your drop of Life Original Fluid. Haha, you came from the Endless Sea. You're my distinguished guest."

Li Zheng Rong moved his body, reluctantly leaning against a big cauldron to sit up. He smiled awkwardly. "I'm too fat. It's hard to move, and I'm lazy to exercise, too. If I can sit, I won't stand. If I can lay down, I won't sit. Many years ago, I used my body to test the drugs I refined. At that time, my realm wasn't high

enough, so among the medicines I refined, many of them didn't meet the standard. I took them too much and got sick. Now, I'm getting fatter over time. Big headache."

"Elder Li, just make yourself comfortable. No need to mind me." Shi Yan smiled friendly. He then walked leisurely to each of the cauldrons to take a look. After that, he asked the fat man with great surprise. "These cauldrons show your progress of refining, right?"

Light shimmered from Li Zheng Rong's small eyes while his fat face trembled. He laughed cheerily. "Why you ask so?"

He seemed to study Shi Yan, as if the young man had just touched his interest. His small eyes became livelier.

"When Elder Li refined pellets those old years, I guess you had used the biggest cauldron." Shi Yan said with a solemn face, walking to that cauldron. "At that time, your realm wasn't high enough, which made you dependent on the tools. And, your knowledge of refining pellets wasn't sufficient. That's why you needed a big cauldron to carve the formation to promote the efficacy of the herbs.

"As your Realm improved, your understanding of spiritual formation and the attainment became more brilliant. Later on, you realized that the cauldron was just a container during the medicinal refining process. Then, you didn't use the big cauldrons anymore, but started to comprehend a higher Upanishad of refining method. Since that time, you'd started to use the smaller cauldrons.

"When Elder Li's realm reached the peak, you didn't need the cauldron anymore. You only used the fiery flame in your body to refine the earth-shaking pellets. At that moment, Elder Li was no longer dependent on using cauldrons. You've become a great master. Naturally, you don't need to use the external tools anymore. Now, you are using your body as the cauldron, your Soul Consciousness to be the leading medicine to gather and condense the heaven and earth aura, which could promote the efficacy of the herbs to the acme. This is the top realm of medicinal refining."

"Kid, you do have good knowledge!" Li Zheng Rong's small eyes brightened. He nodded continually, trying to clap his fat hands. He seemed to reassess Shi Yan. "No wonder why that buddy Chang Feng told me you aren't ordinary. Although our little a*shole's a bit stubborn, he still has good knowledge. As I've met you today, I finally get it."

Shi Yan smiled modestly. "I'm not going to go around the bush. I'm coming here today to ask you to help me take a friend of mine back from the Pure Land. I can use the Life Original Fluid to exchange."

Li Zheng Rong was astounded for a while. Eventually, he sat upright and said seriously, "No matter what you offer, the Pure Land won't return your friend. I'm sure about this."

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Chapter 538: She's really great

Shi Yan's face darkened in the middle of the room full of cauldrons.

Lin Ya Qi was astounded. She hesitated for a while then asked, "Master, last time you told us that the Life Original Fluid is very precious. Isn't it enough to exchange for that woman?"

"Nothing can exchange for her," Li Zheng Rong sighed. "One year ago, Elder Jin Chuang of the Pure Land came to me. He asked me to help them refine the Levitating Immortal Pill for that little girl. It's not easy to refine the Levitating Immortal Pill. It needs so many types of spiritual herbs. Many of them aren't available. They need to search for them in other regions. They are scarce in our Divine Great Land, too."

"Levitating Immortal Pill?" Lin Ya Qi wore a surprised face. She tucked her tongue out. "The Pure Land's really a big spender!"

"Is the Levitating Immortal Pill precious?" Shi Yan frowned.

"The Levitating Immortal Pill is the pill to enhance the Profound Qi. One pellet of the Levitating Immortal Pill can make a First Sky of Sky Realm warrior earn the Profound Qi's density of a Second Sky of Sky Realm. The Levitating Immortal Pill needs ninety-seven rare herbs of medium grade and a rare water spirit. The process is really complicated, and the failure possibility is high too. A cauldron of Levitating Immortal Pill with abundant herbs, refined by a Sacred Level alchemist, could produce only five pellets with the number of herbal ingredients required for one hundred pellets," explained Lin Ya Qi.

Shi Yan was dumbstruck.

Putting ingredients for a hundred pellets, but it could produce only five... It was tough to refine the Levitating Immortal Pill, indeed.

"At that time, I asked Jin Chuang what did they need the Levitating Immortal Pill for. He told me they wanted to improve the strength of that little girl. Since my relationship with Jin Chuang isn't shallow, he told me that the Reincarnation Martial Spirit of that little girl has the soul memories of some previous generations. They took the girl to the Pure Land and sensed. Finally, they found that little girl's soul memories have the memories of an ancestor of the Pure Land who lived in the Antiquity Era," said Li Zheng Rong.

Shi Yan's face changed. "I heard Ye Chang Feng say that she has just a soul imprint of an ancestor of the Pure Land in her memory. Is it true?"

"It's the memory of the latest generation," Li Zheng Rong took a deep breath. "Seniors of the Pure Land usually have the Spirit Realm cultivation base. They aren't too dangerous. However, the ancestors of the Pure Land in the Antiquity Era had the God King Realm cultivation base! That little girl's realm and powers aren't high enough to restore all the memories of that ancestor. That's why Jin Chuang's group had to rush and be excited at the same time. They really want to increase her strength."

Pausing for a while, Li Zheng Rong continued, "Once that little girl reaches the True God Realm, she will gradually recall the martial Upanishads of the realm related to that ancestor in the Antiquity Era. As long as she has enough Essence Qi to support, her cultivating path will have no significant obstacles. She will go directly to the God King Realm! At last, when she reaches the True God Realm, she can remember the Upanishads of the techniques of the God King Realm warrior. At that time, she will become the most precious treasure of the Pure Land that can benefit all their warriors."

Shi Yan's brows slammed together. He kept silent.

"I can only say that that little girl's too lucky, and her good fortune's boundless. You should feel happy for her. Those people from the Pure Land had intended to use the secret treasures to help that

ancestor's soul replace her soul directly. However, thanks to her fate, no one dares to do that in the Pure Land. Now, she can keep her soul and use the properties of the Pure Land to cultivate and break through with unimaginable speed nonstop."

"That Pure Land's ancestor's soul won't replace hers?"

"No, it won't. You can relax. It's been tens of thousands of years. That ancestor's soul will soon be scattered. The only things that remain are the deep understandings of the martial arts. So, your little girl can keep her soul, and she can seize the chance to thrive directly."

Shi Yan was stunned, but now he could relax his tense nerves.

"All experts of the Pure Land are protecting her as if she's their most precious treasure. All cultivating resources in that sect are available for her. As long as she can absorb the pellets, which could increase her Essence Qi, they will give them all to her. They need her to progress to the highest realm within the shortest time."

Li Zheng Rong sighed then shook his head. "That little girl's so lucky that I have no words to comment. When Jin Chuang came here, she was at the Second Sky of Sky Realm. It's been one year, and with the Pure Land's resources, I think they have some other alchemists to refine the Levitating Immortal Pellet for her. I think she should be in the Spirit Realm now. With the sufficient supply of pellets to increase her Essence Qi and the advantage of having no obstacles hinder her way, she will progress significantly daily."

Shi Yan was frightened.

He had assumed that his cultivating speed was the extreme one in this world, but now Li Zheng Rong had told him that Xia Xin Yan's progress was much faster than his.

He and Xia Xin Yan were two extreme beings indeed.

On his cultivating path, he didn't need to worry about the supply of Essence Qi. He just needed the Essence Qi of the dead warriors after slaughtering them to be purified by his mysterious martial spirit, his Essence Qi would increase unceasingly. His Essence Qi was always ahead of his realm.

Xia Xin Yan's case was different. She didn't need to worry about her realm. What she had to care was to make sure that her Essence Qi could match up with her realm, which would help her break through constantly, without having the bottleneck like other warriors. Her way would be straight and smooth.

One wouldn't need to worry about the amount of Essence Qi and the other wouldn't be bothered with the Realm. The cultivating path of these two was marvelous indeed.

"You don't need to worry about her. To her, staying in the Pure Land only benefits her. No harm at all. All experts of the Pure Land treat her as the most precious treasure of theirs. She's the Queen on the Pure Land's chessboard now. If she continues to thrive this way, one day, she will become the Paragon of the Pure Land, and the future master of the Divine Great Land. She will reach the God King Realm at that time. I think it won't take more than fifty years later," Li Zheng Rong admired.

YL was stunned. "Fifty years... She needs only fifty years...?"

"The Pure Land is constantly collecting the pellets to increase her cultivation base. She doesn't need to worry about that, just take the chance and take them in. Well, that little girl's a little monster," Li Zheng Rong shook his head, his face longing.

"Shi Yan, your pressure is huge." Lin Ya Qi was stunned for a long while before she spoke up again. "That woman will become the peerless expert of the whole continent. As her good friend, have you prepared yourself well? Will you feel small? Will you feel that you don't deserve her? It's normal, I guess. There's no one in the Divine Great Land can be paired with her. Tsk, hold your emotion and go with the flow."

Shi Yan felt big pressure, indeed. But he was both happy and anxious at the same time.

He had never thought that Xia Xin Yan could have a sudden opportunity. When he had first entered the Endless Sea, he had told her firmly that he would surpass her soon to be with her officially.

Well, from the current situation, this process would be lengthened to infinity. It was uncertain whether he could achieve his dream in this life or not.

Li Zheng Rong and Lin Ya Qi didn't talk more, looking at him with sympathy in their eyes.

In fact, they all knew the relationship between Shi Yan and Xia Xin Yan. To men, when their women, the ones they had their hearts and souls fallen for, had reached the sky with a single bounce and became the strongest warrior, they would have to face a huge pressure. If his will weren't firm enough, he would find it hard to continue to break through due to this kind of pressure.

Shi Yan's eyes lit up. He pondered for a while then asked, "Can I meet her in the Pure Land?"

"They will not allow it," Li Zheng Rong shook his head, "This period is the critical time for her to grow up. The Pure Land won't allow anyone to disturb her. I suggest that you shouldn't meet her at this time. On the one hand, it will increase your pressure. On the other hand, it can affect her spirit and soul, too. No matter it's for you or for her, it's better not to meet up at this time."

Shi Yan felt lost. He sighed, unable to cry or smile.

It was a big pressure indeed.

"Master, the dead souls often cooperate these days. I've met a lot of them in the region. They are so many. Do you think they have a leader now?" Lin Ya Qi was kind enough to change the topic, as she was afraid that Shi Yan would feel hurt more.

"They often cooperate?" Li Zheng Rong's small eyes flashed. "How often?"

"Ah, yeah. When I came here, I found a cave where many dead souls gathered. There should be hundreds of them. I'm sure there's a high-level dead soul behind the scene."

Shi Yan walked out of his loss feeling and intervened them.

"Hundreds of dead souls!" Li Zheng Rong's visage changed. "So many of them there like that?"

"Yeah, in a cave. The dead souls stick on the walls were as dense as spider webs. Deep inside the cave lied a chunk of meat. It was dark green too. Its roots pierced into the dead bodies of so many warriors. I think it was sucking the nutrition from those bodies. It looked so strange," explained Shi Yan.

Li Zheng Rong shot up from his seat. It was the first time he wore a frightened countenance. "You saw a dark green block of meat? It was sucking the nutrition from the warriors' bodies? Are you sure?"

"Of course, I'm sure."

"Not good!" Li Zheng Rong was panicked. His face changed. "Big problem!"

"What's happened?"

"Where did you find them?"

"Under the shade of a mountain."

"Go! Take me there! Immediately!"

"Why you are so hurried?"

"We can't waste even a second!"

Li Zheng Rong shouted then assigned Lin Ya Qi. "You shouldn't stay here. Go to the Spirit Potion Valley and report what Shi Yan had said to the people of the Spirit Hall. Ask them to notify the other Elders."

"What's wrong?"

"Don't ask too much. Do what I said first."

Li Zheng Rong acted as if he had a fire burning his butt. He talked to Shi Yan urgently. "Take me there. We'll go immediately! I'm not sure if we can seize the chance."

Shi Yan felt suspicious. He didn't know what was going on, but from Li Zheng Rong's complexion, he knew something terrible was about to happen.

At this moment, he was more determined, and didn't say any extra words. He nodded to Li Zheng Rong and flew out of the Flying Cloud Summit at the max speed, heading towards the cave where the dead souls had gathered.

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Chapter 539: Great changes are approaching

As soon as Li Zheng Rong left the Flying Cloud Summit, he couldn't wait and grabbed Shi Yan, then shot out at a speed as fast as the light of the galaxy streamer. It was a bit rough to Shi Yan, making his breathing quite difficult.

At this moment, Shi Yan knew that Li Zheng Rong had lied to him the whole time, saying that his body was too fat to move conveniently. Although Li Zheng Rong hadn't broken through to the True God Realm, once he ran at max speed, he was like a meteor chasing after the moon, extremely fast.

He and Cherry had spent three and a half days to reach the Flying Cloud Summit from the dead souls' cave without a rest stop along the way. However, it took Li Zheng Rong only two hours in bringing him to the target place, the cave where the dead souls gathered, under his navigation.

Right when the fat Li Zheng Rong arrived, he took out an emerald armor, which looked like a stream of water flowing around his outfit. Green waves were rippling on it. This was a Sacred Level secret treasure with water attribute.

After he got into the cave under the shade of the mountain, Li Zheng Rong's small eyes got colder. His face darkened as he said glumly. "We're late."

The cave was empty. No dead souls remained, neither did a single blade of grass. The green dot that looked sinister and gloomy on the wall were all gone too. Only the cold, strange aura stayed.

"It's been just three days," Shi Yan walked to the deepest area of the cave, searching carefully. He pointed at a concave area. "I saw the green meat block here. I'm sure that I wasn't hallucinating!"

Li Zheng Rong didn't doubt him as he nodded, "I trust you."

His brows furrowed tightly, revealing a seriousness he had never revealed before. He walked back and forth inside the cave many times. His small eyes were as bright as two dazzling diamonds in this gloomy cave.

Afterward, Li Zheng Rong exhaled begrudgingly. "Big troubles."

"What has happened?" Shi Yan didn't understand.

"There must be a big change in those dead souls."

Li Zheng Rong turned around, contemplated for a while, and then explained, "Forty years ago, a formidable dead soul had appeared in the dead souls' evil lairs. We had joined hands with the Pure Land, the Devil Valley, and the Radiant God Cult to kill that dead soul. In that battle, many Spirit Realm experts from the Pure Land, the Devil Valley, and the Radiant God Cult died. Their souls were dragged into the dead soul's evil lairs. A warrior of the Devil Valley, thanks to his bizarre soul technique, could endure for a short while in the evil lair. Before he lost his mind, he reminded us not to let the dead soul give birth to an entity at any cost. At his last moment before turning into a dead soul, he said that the dead souls have some secret method that uses the warriors' dead bodies to nurture their entity. Once a high-level dead soul could have a body, its power would increase tremendously. And, its cultivation base would be enhanced several times stronger."

Shi Yan discolored.

"The Sky Realm warriors can't deal with the typical dead souls. A relatively high-level dead soul can toy the Spirit Realm experts in its hands. Regarding this max-level dead soul, only the True God Realm warriors can save their souls from the erosive power. If you want to destroy it, you have to use the secret treasures with the lightning attribute. When the max-level dead souls have a body, they will be complete. At that time, they won't need to depend on the dead souls' evil lair anymore. They can leave the evil lair and it will be a big catastrophe of the Dead Soul Mountain range. This can even spread to the Divine Great Land!"

Li Zheng Rong was anxious and kept sighing.

Shi Yan kept silent, not saying a word.

"I have to contact the experts in the mountain range shortly and notify the Elders of the Pure Land, the Radiant God Cult, and the Devil Valley. Before that dead soul completes its body, we should destroy the chunk of meat that could become its body. We can't linger even a second!"

Li Zheng Rong pondered and then suggested, "You should leave the Dead Soul Mountain range as soon as possible. I think it would be very dangerous in the coming time. The dead souls know what that body means to them, so they will protect it with all of their abilities. The Dead Soul Mountain range will have a big battle, in which I don't know how many would die. Sigh, too bad I haven't entered the True God Realm yet. I still need one more year. This event has happened before time."

"I got it," Shi Yan replied naturally.

"Yeah, at first, you can go to the Spirit Potion Valley or the Precious Tool Valley. But you shouldn't stay there for long." Li Zheng Rong was worried as if he had a flame burning his heart, and didn't dilly dally. "I should prepare immediately. About that little girl, you shouldn't be hurried. It's useless to be anxious, too. I think you can wait for the right time. Even if you don't find her, she will come to you. You two still have time to meet."

Then, Li Zheng Rong left quickly. It seemed he wanted to check the caves around the area to see if he could find the gathering point of the dead souls.

The Dead Soul Mountain range had almost one thousand mountains, situated in a vast area. Not all the dead souls were stupid. When they knew they should hide their auras, they would be more careful. Shi Yan thought his search would be negative, and that he couldn't find the new gathering spot of the dead soul in just a short time.

After Li Zheng Rong left, Shi Yan didn't linger. He pondered, then decided to return to the Spirit Potion Valley and the Precious Tool Valley. He could ask for more details and traces there to keep track of this strange event.

Three days later, he came back to the Spirit Potion Valley, but didn't go to the Spirit Hall right away. He made a tour around the Spirit Potion Valley and then headed to the Precious Tool Valley.

The Precious Tool Valley and the Spirit Potion Valley were neighbors. There were shops that sold the materials for forging treasure around the place. People in the Precious Tool Valley were all blacksmiths.

In the Precious Tool Valley, they also had the same structure as the Spirit Hall, which was called the Tool Hall, managed by some Sacred Level blacksmiths of the Dead Soul Mountain range. After he arrived the Precious Tool Valley, he visited each store to find some strange spirit crystals.

"Little buddy, you've been wandering half a day already but you haven't bought anything yet. You don't like anything in my store?" In a ware shop named Universe, the owner was a Third Sky of Nirvana Realm warrior with messy hair, a red nose, and opaque, squinted eyes just like he was still sleepy-headed. The owner had looked at Shi Yan for half a day. Eventually, he couldn't help but ask him.

"Hey shopkeeper, are there any blacksmiths in the Precious Tool Valley who know how to use the magical formation?" Shi Yan leaned against a shelf, smiled and asked him.

"What's that formation?" asked the owner.

"Teleporting type"

The shop owner was astounded. Afterward, he smiled oddly and said. "Friend, have you just arrived the Dead Soul Mountain range?"

"Yes."

"The blacksmiths who could build the teleporting formation are really amazing! In the Dead Soul Mountain range, there're several who know how to make this formation. If you want to find them, go to the Tool Hall. I think the elders should know something about it. Anyway, it cost a fortune to build the teleportation formation. First, you will need the Nether crystal. I hear that the Nether crystals exist only in some space cracks. They are so rare. Really tough to find."

Shi Yan was startled.

That year when he had entered the Chasm Abyss Battlefield through the Teleport formation, he had seen the scenes changing unceasingly. That Ancient Teleportation Array had left a deep impression on him. In the Endless Sea, the Three God Sect and the Yang family also had a small-scaled teleportation formation. Although the distance was limited, Shi Yan knew how important it was to a strong force.

He wanted to build a big teleportation formation that could connect the Ice Emperor City and possibly, forming the connection with the Endless Sea in the future. That's why he wanted to find an excellent blacksmith to buy a Teleportation formation.

From the shopkeeper's explanation, he got to know that the blacksmiths who could build the array were rare.

He bid farewell to the shop owner and then spent another two days in the Precious Tool Valley to ask for the information from other blacksmiths. But he couldn't find anyone who knew the method to build the formation.

All the blacksmiths he had asked told him that only the Elders of the Tool Hall knew how to build the Teleportation Formation. When he told him that the formation he wanted to build should be able to teleport through the sea, the blacksmiths looked at him as if they were looking at a monster.

They then told him clearly that even the Elders of the Tool Hall could only build small-scaled formations, which could transport to ten thousand li at max. Beyond this distance, it would be quite tough.

Shi Yan was totally disappointed.

He then borrowed a small gravitational room in the Tool Hall to train his body, trying to drain the mysterious energy in his muscles in the forty times heavier gravity room. He hoped that he could maximize his bearing capacity.

Time flew fast, as ten days passed like a blink of an eye.

He had exhausted himself in the gravitational room. Thoughts flickered in his head as he recalled the experience in blacksmithing of the blacksmith from the Ice Cold Flame's memories.

The related secrets of refining treasures were moving in his head like three-dimension pictures.

After searching for half a day, he still couldn't find any memories related to the Teleportation Formation. He felt dispirited as he opened his eyes wider while sinking into his thought.

Blacksmith's Secrets of Success!

After a while, Shi Yan's eyes brightened. He shot up from his seat.

He suddenly recalled the ancient book he had gotten from the mysterious exotic land – the Blacksmith's Secrets of Success. That mysterious land had so many rare treasures. In the center of the two galaxies, he got that book, which had some seal he couldn't open.

It seemed the Blacksmith's Secrets of Success was really old and mysterious. Perhaps, it would have the method to build the ancient transmission formation.

The ancient teleport formation was a big-sized one, as it could transport things over a big distance. If he had the method to build the formation, he would gather the materials and do it himself.

His mind flickered and the Blacksmith's Secrets of Success flew out from the Storage Ring, floating in front of him. The four big words written in ancient calligraphy on the cover sparkled.

He reached out his left hand and gently put it on the Blacksmith's Secret of Success. A vehement shiver rippled from the book, creating a strong force that pushed his hand aside.

He then urged his Soul Consciousness. However, he was pushed back by a soul energy before he could reach the book. It repeated several times and he still didn't know how to access the book.

"You can't access this thing simply. This book comes from the Antiquity Era. You need to use the Soul Dividing technique, which also comes from the Antiquity time, to open the book." The Ice Cold Flame turned into a beautiful white light, emerging from the Blood Vein Ring and sending him its thoughts.

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Chapter 540: Soul Dividing

Soul Dividing Technique...

It was a secret technique of the experts in the antiquity time. This technique would divide the host soul into parts. When they forged the puppet, they would put a part of their host soul into it. This would make the puppet have the soul and memory imprints of the owner, which would help it to perform as marvelously as its master.

The secret weapons of a great blacksmith or a warrior required a part of the soul pouring in to be opened.

As long as he had his soul enter the tools and the books, he could officially control the tools and read the books. It wasn't hard to learn how to divide the host soul. However, most of the techniques were lost. Only some members of the old factions knew how to do that.

The Ice Cold Flame showed itself and then lectured Shi Yan about the subtle features of the Soul Dividing technique, then continued, "This book should come from the Antiquity Era too. If you want to access it, you have to divide your soul and put your part into the book. Otherwise, you can't see the miraculous contents inside."

Shi Yan was surprised. He pondered, then smiled. "Do you know the Soul Dividing Technique?"

"A little bit."

"Tell me."

"Well, I just know the surface of the technique, which can't help you refine a clone. But to open this old book, it's not too difficult."

"Then don't babble more."

"Alright."

The Ice Cold Flame regarded him. It thought for a while, then connected its soul to Shi Yan's. Then, the flame found the secret techniques related to the Soul Dividing method, turning them into the memory fluctuations and transmitting them into Shi Yan's head.

To practice the Soul Dividing technique, at first, he needed to train his host soul, making it disappear and then reorganize.

During the time the host soul got mutated, he would use a special method to draw a beam of the soul. That beam then would be nurtured in the Sea of Consciousness, using the power of the Soul Consciousness to keep it warm. After a while, it would grow into a feeble hollow soul.

The hollow soul wasn't the host soul, as it was just a projection of the latter. So, it didn't have the attainments of the host soul. When the hollow soul was destroyed, it didn't affect the host soul. However, it had a connection with the host soul. No matter how far the hollow soul was, the host soul would always know its position and everything it had experienced.

There were some other ways to strengthen the hollow soul. For example, he could collect the murderous aura, the Yin Qi, or other bizarre energy in heaven and earth.

If the hollow soul could grow nonstop to a certain level, when it stayed in the puppet or the clone, it could urge the power of the host soul. When the hollow soul reached the highest level, it could even replace the host soul.

The Ice Cold Flame knew how to divide the soul and train the hollow soul. However, its knowledge in cultivating the hollow soul wasn't enough to practice.

To Shi Yan, at this moment, he just needed to create the hollow soul.

He didn't hurry, using the method to start to cultivate his host soul step by step. Firstly, he would nurture his soul with the nutrients from the Soul Consciousness, which would promote the change of the host soul. When his host soul was strong enough, he could divide it.

In the gravitational room, he stopped training his body and started to sink into the cultivation of dividing his soul.

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The Spirit Potion Valley...

Recently, many experts from the Pure Land, the Radiant God Cult, the Devil Valley showed up in the area. They were rushing with gloomy faces.

In the Precious Potion Valley, some famous alchemists of the Divine Great Land were affected. They often walked back and forth in the valley. Sometimes, they sighed begrudgingly.

Although many low-level warriors in the Dead Soul Mountain range didn't know what was happening, they vaguely felt the danger like a breeze before a big storm.

People who knew the secret told their disciples and friends silently. Some warriors who had regularly visited the Spirit Potion Valley and the Precious Tool Valley left the area without leaving any trace. They didn't dare to stay in the Dead Soul Mountain range for any longer.

For the time being, while so many low-level warriors left the Spirit Potion Valley, many big characters whom they had rarely seen in daily life came to the place.

More and more people recognized that the Dead Soul Mountain range was about to face a big event.

Inside the Spirit Hall, five people, including Li Zhang Rong, Zhang Mu, Kun Xi, Gai Jie, and Mike, all wore a glum countenance. As the five Sacred Level alchemists behind the Spirit Hall, among them, Li Zhang Rong was the focus of the public attention. He was the person who had the real power of the Dead Soul Mountain range. All alchemists had to admire and bow to him.

"Old Li, still nothing?" Zhang Mu turned the ring on his finger, staring at the other agitatedly.

It had been half a month. Many experts had search and raked through all the areas which had the dead souls' evil lairs in the Dead Soul Mountain range. They were trying to find the gathering spot of the dead souls and destroy that chunk of meat before it gave birth to the body of the dead soul.

However, half a month had passed, but the dead souls which often appeared everywhere in the mountain range seemed to have all disappeared.

Seeing time flying fast and the entire community of the dead souls secluding, Zhang Mu's mood became worse.

During the battle dozens of years ago, Zhang Mu was still a Profound Level alchemist. In that battle, his teacher was killed in the hands of an intimidating dead soul. His soul was dragged out, drawn into an evil lair, and then disappeared.

That year, Zhang Mu had had only the Sky Realm cultivation base. He had no choice but to stare at the scene where his teacher's soul was drawn out.

That battle had left a deep shadow in his heart. Until now, every time he recalled that battle, he felt fear inside. He had a deep grudge against the dead souls, and always wanted to kill all the dead souls in the Dead Soul Mountain range.

"All have disappeared. I think the dead souls have gained experience. Certainly, there's a strong dead soul behind them. Otherwise, the situation would be totally different." Li Zhang Rong's body had a lot of fat. When he talked, even the fat on his cheeks trembled. "The Tool Hall is working on it too. I guess they have no findings either. Or else, they would have already told us."

"Seems the big change's coming." Kun Xi was as thin as a stick, his face sinister and vicious. Sharp light sparked in his eyes. "Don't know how many people would die this time. You guys, we're sitting here now, but we're not sure who could survive."

After he talked, everybody became more grimaced.

"You should seize the chance and impart your inheritance as soon as possible." Li Zhang Rong's squinted eyes raked through the room. "The Dead Soul Mountain range's the place we have been invested with much effort. We will never abandon it. The situation this time will be different from last time. If those dead souls can nurture a real body, this will be a catastrophe. Even if we leave the Dead Soul Mountain range, we won't be able to escape it."

The other four nodded with a cold face.

All of them knew the secret from dozens of years ago. They knew that the dead souls were dangerous. Once they gained a body, the power could rocket. At that time, the dead souls won't be dependent on the dead souls' evil lairs anymore. They could leave the Dead Soul Mountain range and go to the Divine Great Land.

The lowest level dead souls had the ability to take the soul of the warriors easily. It was more like a piece of cake to the higher-level dead souls.

Once those dangerous dead souls could leave the Dead Soul Mountain range and come to the Divine Great Land, the warriors who didn't know about them beforehand wouldn't be able to resist. Their souls would be taken one after another, and they would become the new dead souls. At that time, the heaven and earth would have a big transformation. The dead souls would replace warriors and pollute this rich land, turning it into the world of dead souls.

Thinking about the possible future, the five of them shivered without feeling cold.

"I've notified the leaders of the Pure Land, the Devil Valley, and the Radiant God Cult. Once the dead soul's real body appears, the leaders of these three forces will come to the Dead Soul Mountain range," said Li Zhang Rong with a low voice.

The four of them relaxed a little bit. Kun Xi hesitated, and couldn't help but ask, "Old Li, where's the boy who found this mess? And, how is he related to you? Weren't you cultivating in seclusion? Why did you agree to meet him?"

"How can I know where he is?" Li Zhang Rong snorted and continued impatiently. "He has a connection with me."

Kun Xi and the others were astounded. They wanted to ask for more, but as they saw his winced face, they couldn't inquire further, shutting their mouths begrudgingly.

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Outside the Spirit Hall, Lin Ya Qi was toying the potted flowers with her arrogant complexion. She asked coldly, "Shi Yan didn't come for you?"

"No. After I came back from the Flying Cloud Summit, I have never met him again." Cherry always lacked confidence facing her, as she felt that she was one grade lower than the other girl. "Perhaps he has left

the Dead Soul Mountain range. Since they know a big disaster will come soon, anyone who can run has already run away. The ones who haven't moved yet are ready to move."

Since Cherry knew the mutated dead souls would become more wild and sinister, she was afraid and wanted to leave too.

Unfortunately, she was the hall guard of the Spirit Hall. Without the permission granted by one of the five of Li Zhang Rong's group, no one was allowed to leave the Spirit Hall when the dead souls appeared. Once they were busted, their names would be erased from the Spirit Hall forever.

Being an alchemist, it was okay not to join the Spirit Hall. But when the Spirit Hall erased one's name, his or her reputation was gone too. The community would scoff him as the worst among the alchemists.

"If he comes to see you, you must notify me. I have something I want to discuss with him." Lin Ya Qi arched her brow. "To make it up for you, about the formation you've seen in my place, if you have something you want I ask, I can help."

Cherry's blue eyes brightened as she nodded continually.

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Gravitational chamber...

Shi Yan sat emotionlessly just like a rock that hadn't moved for ten thousand years, still and quiet.

During half a month in this gravitational room, he had been sinking into his mind, wholeheartedly focusing on training the hollow soul, and didn't relax for even a second.

Just recently, with the Soul Dividing technique the Ice Cold Flame passed him in a blurry state, he had successfully divided his soul, drawn out a strand of soul and created a phantom of his host soul in the Sea of Consciousness – the hollow soul.

Right when the hollow soul appeared, he immediately urged the Soul Consciousness to keep the hollow soul warm.

That vague hollow soul was like a projection. After it received the Soul Consciousness, it turned into another image of the host soul in the Sea of Consciousness. However, it didn't have the intellect and the vitality of the real host soul.

More Soul Consciousness was poured into the hollow soul. After an unknown time, the hollow soul became clearer. Besides the lack of vitality, it looked similar to the host soul.

At this moment, the Ice Cold flame sent him a message. "It's enough. You can access the Blacksmith's Secrets of Success now."

Shi Yan was struck. He started to guide the hollow soul, dragging it little by little out of the Sea of Consciousness.

The spooky phantom was as vague as a ghost, with thick Yin aura slowly appearing in front of his eyes. When the hollow soul got out of the Sea of Consciousness, it became fragile as if it were about to vanish.

"The hollow soul can't be exposed for a long time. Guide it to the ancient book immediately. Or else, the hollow soul will vanish." The Ice Cold Flame reminded Shi Yan.

Shi Yan's face changed. He didn't dare to observe more, took out the book of secrets and began his move.