

The Quest 1351

Chapter 1351: Copper Coin

The pitch-black deep night, oppressive and deathly silent.

But Mo Hua could see the crimson aura in the darkness, and faintly heard the low roars and hisses of monster beasts.

Soon after, the ground of bones trembled.

Blood-red formation patterns interlinked, a sinister aura of Divine Thought emanated from afar.

On the ground, emerged a long passageway constructed of white bones.

This passage was like a giant serpent, crossing a blood-colored creek and a white bone shore, leading to the distant gate of the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Mo Hua's heart shook, and he immediately understood.

Although he couldn't see the specific formation patterns, the circulation of the formation's Divine Thought Power gave him a very clear sensation.

This formation, he had seen it before!

It was precisely the Divine Tao Array used to "open the door" drawn on bone bricks before the dried-up well in the Blood-Colored Fishing Village.

Except the formation on this long white bone passage was larger in scale, more complex in patterns, and of a higher grade.

Moreover, it was even more sinister.

Under the full moon of the sixteenth night, the blood creek boiled, revealing the white bone passage.

Monster cultivators stood bowing humbly before the Dao, showing extreme respect.

After some time, an aged, beast-like hoarse voice sounded:

"Depart."

So, one by one, the monster cultivators began to walk on the white bone passage like dispirited walking corpses, with sluggish steps.

The monster cultivators leading the way emitted intense monster qi, evidently of higher status.

They walked empty-handed.

The ones behind carried either the corpses of monster beasts or large storage bags on their shoulders.

Among them were carts.

On the carts were immensely sturdy Second Grade iron cages, holding some injured and rare Second Grade monster beasts.

These monster beasts were alive but were tightly bound by chains with sharp barbs piercing their flesh, rendering them immobile.

Trailing along the edges were scattered monster cultivators with no status.

All the monster cultivators, draped in black robes, walked like walking dead on the white bone passage, mindful and respectful, not daring to overstep even slightly.

It seemed only via this passage could one enter the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

One wrong step would lead to eternal damnation.

Xun Ziyou transmitted to Mo Hua: "We'll follow at the very end..."

The monster cultivators at the back were weaker in strength and perception.

Even if discovered, escape would be easier.

If mingling at the front, among the powerful monster cultivators crowded together, any mishap or exposure would inevitably lead to being surrounded by these beasts.

He, being in the Late Golden Core Stage, was not worried.

But Mo Hua, only in the Foundation Building Middle Stage, and not a body cultivator, was quite "fragile" and precious, couldn't be bruised or wounded, nor a hair be harmed.

There's no way he could let him take risks.

Mo Hua obediently nodded.

In the perilous Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, he would surely follow behind Elder Xun.

The two waited for a while longer, watching the dark night and the full moon above the blood creek and bone path as the monster cultivators' procession gradually moved far away, with the following monster cultivators dwindling and becoming sparse.

Just as Mo Hua was preparing to move on, Xun Ziyou suddenly stopped him.

Confused, Mo Hua turned his head only to see Xun Ziyou's face turning solemn as he said in a deep voice:

"Someone is coming out from the valley!"

Mo Hua's heart tensed, and soon enough, he indeed sensed a formidable surge of monster qi rising from afar.

A Golden Core Demon Cultivator!

Mo Hua's pupils shrank, and he turned to follow the aura, seeing in the valley's direction the sudden intensification of monster qi, hazy but appearing with two strong figures.

"Two Golden Core Demon Cultivator Elders?!"

Mo Hua was astonished.

The monster cultivators entering the valley stopped collectively, prostrating themselves and kowtowing.

They knelt on the ground, backs arched submissively like a lowly "human tier."

The two demon cultivator elders stepped on these kneeling monster cultivators, turning into two fishy winds, and hurriedly rushed out of the valley.

For a moment, the sea of blood boiled, and monster cries surged.

Xun Ziyou's gaze hardened as he shielded Mo Hua behind him.

Hiding behind Elder Xun, Mo Hua cautiously peeked, squinting as he spied two blood-red gleams enveloping two figures, getting closer to him.

The overwhelming pressure of monstrous power made Mo Hua's scalp slightly tingle.

Seeing the two demon cultivator elders, like two swift beasts, getting rapidly closer, even less than four or five hundred zhang away in the blink of an eye.

Xun Ziyou's gaze turned slightly cold, gripping tightly his Spirit Sword Magical Treasure that resonated with his heart, silently circulating his Golden Core Spiritual Power.

The atmosphere momentarily froze.

Mo Hua also felt a bit nervous.

At this moment, the two demon cultivator elders suddenly turned their escape light and, without a hint of hesitation, darted towards the outer dense forest.

They appeared to be in quite a hurry.

Xun Ziyou relaxed his grip on the Spirit Sword but still retained a somewhat solemn gaze, with a trace of puzzlement simultaneously.

Once the two demon cultivator elders disappeared, Mo Hua quietly asked:

"What are those treacherous elders up to?"

Xun Ziyou slightly shook his head.

"From the looks of it, they seem to be in a hurry?" Mo Hua said.

Xun Ziyou pondered for a moment and suddenly felt uneasy.

What urgent matters would cause two demon cultivator elders to leave the valley so hastily this late?

Xun Ziyou cared deeply, glancing at the sky and then at the procession of monster cultivators, estimating the time until the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons closed, probably about two hours remaining, he said to Mo Hua:

"Something's not right, I'll go check it out, you stay here.

Trailing the Golden Core Demon Cultivators definitely cannot include Mo Hua.

Xun Ziyou thought for a moment, then added: "If I return within two hours, we will enter the valley together."

"If I don't return, then don't go in, we'll reassess the situation..."

After speaking, Xun Ziyou reminded again: "Absolutely don't go in alone."

"Mhm!" Mo Hua nodded.

Chapter 1352: Copper Coin (2)

He knows how to judge the severity.

After speaking, Xun Ziyou then chased after the two Golden Core stage demon cultivators.

Mo Hua had no choice but to wait in place.

Meanwhile, he was curious in his heart, those two demon cultivator Elders, in such a late night, rushing forward without even bothering to conceal their tracks, where on earth were they going?

But now, he could not guess, and could only wait patiently.

Mo Hua waited like this on the big tree in front of the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

But after waiting for a long time, until there were fewer and fewer demon cultivators down below, the boiling Blood Stream gradually calmed, and just as the White Bone Path was about to close, Elder Xun still hadn't returned.

Mo Hua was a little worried.

"Could something have happened to Elder Xun..."

He is an Elder of the Taixu Gate, a descendant of Elder Master Xun, a late-stage Golden Core cultivator. He shouldn't be so easy to fall...

Mo Hua was very worried about Elder Xun.

He turned his head again and glanced at the distant Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

On the White Bone Path, the number of demon cultivators was getting fewer and the monster Qi was getting weaker. It seemed like it wouldn't be long before the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons would close again.

Mo Hua sent a transmission to Elder Xun:

"Elder Xun, are you okay?"

"Have you come back?"

But the message he sent out went like a stone sinking into the sea, without any response.

I don't know if Elder Xun didn't see it, or if he was delayed by something.

Mo Hua was a little anxious.

What to do?

Go in there alone?

Mo Hua immediately shook his head.

He's not going.

Too reckless...

But if he doesn't go now, he'll have to wait another month, and by then, who knows what changes might happen.

If something unexpected happens, and the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons closes or is destroyed, then the Four Symbols Formation and the Divine Tao Array inside would probably be out of reach.

"The Four Symbols Formation and the Divine Tao Array..."

Mo Hua had an internal struggle and finally sighed.

Forget it.

Even though he really wanted to learn these two formations, the current situation was indeed not suitable for taking risks.

It's better to wait for Elder Xun to come back and then discuss it carefully.

Mo Hua slowly nodded.

Thus, he waited for another hour.

Elder Xun still hadn't returned.

Similarly, the gates of the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons hadn't closed either.

Mo Hua was a bit puzzled.

"Not closing the gate? What does that mean?"

"Waiting for me to go in?"

Can't be...

He doesn't have such great face.

Mo Hua looked again at the demon cultivators below, only to find that at the edge of the White Bone Path, there were a few demon cultivators guarding a coffin.

From a distance, covered by black robes, Mo Hua couldn't see their faces, but he could vaguely sense their emotions.

They were very anxious, seemingly waiting for something.

Mo Hua frowned.

What were they waiting for?

Curious, Mo Hua pondered briefly, then quietly and gently got up and leapt to a big tree closest to them.

This distance was just right to hear the voices of these demon cultivators.

It's just that their mouths and noses seemed demonized, and the sounds they made were a bit like wild beasts panting, not like human voices.

After listening for a while, Mo Hua gradually made out their words.

"...why...so long..."

"Missed the hour..."

"Seems there's some...unforeseen event..."

"...was discovered..."

"If not faster, the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons will really close..."

Mo Hua's brow furrowed tighter and tighter. As he was puzzling over this, he heard some movement from afar.

Mo Hua looked in the direction of the sound and saw a demon cultivator emerge from the dense forest, carrying a sack on its back.

After the demon cultivator approached, it threw the sack on the ground and said in a muffled voice:

"The person kept their word, the 'goods' have been delivered."

A demon cultivator stepped forward and opened the sack.

Inside the sack was a person, and as the sack was untied, a dull little head emerged.

Mo Hua looked down and was shocked.

"Little Wood?!"

How did he get caught here?

Inside the sack, Ouyang Mu was unconscious, not knowing what had happened to him.

As Mo Hua was puzzled, more movement came from afar, and two more demon cultivators approached.

One of these demon cultivators also carried a sack on its back.

As they got closer, it threw the sack on the ground.

"It took some effort, damn..."

That demon cultivator kicked the sack, "He's got quite a temper."

Mo Hua's heart tightened.

Who was captured this time?

"Is he dead?" a demon cultivator asked.

"No, the young master instructed that he's only useful alive. How could we possibly kill him..."

As he spoke, a demon cultivator opened the sack.

Inside the sack was a pale-faced person.

Mo Hua was very surprised.

Song Jian?

He got caught too?

But Song Jian, well, they weren't really familiar, whether dead or alive, it didn't really matter.

Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief.

Then a group of demon cultivators gathered together, still without any actions, seemingly still waiting for something.

Mo Hua frowned, "Are more people to be captured?"

He had a vague sense of foreboding.

Sure enough, within 30 minutes, another batch of demon cultivators came from afar.

This time, there were four demon cultivators, all at the Peak of Foundation Establishment stage, with powerful demonic power, looking no different from monstrous beasts.

One of the demon cultivators carried a sack on its back too.

Close up, it threw the sack on the ground and opened it, revealing as expected, a handsome youth—Ling Huxiao.

The once proud Ling Huxiao was now covered in wounds, also unconscious.

A demon cultivator sighed: "This kid, he's damn tough, no wonder he's a Sword Dao genius of the Rushing Void Sect..."

"Four of you at the Peak of Foundation Establishment, struggling so much to capture a middle-stage Foundation Establishment?"

"What do you know? Killing is easy, capturing alive is difficult, and we can't cripple him."

"Moreover, how do you know what status he might have in the future?"

A demon cultivator sneered: "Maybe we, who are neither human nor monster, will have to rely on his favor, live under his mercy, how dare I truly offend him?"

Chapter 1353: Copper Coin (3)

The demon cultivator on the side nodded, "Indeed."

"However," an older-sounding demon cultivator sighed, "I've lived for so long, and I've never seen any genius from a sect, so young yet possessing such terrifying Sword Qi mastery..."

"Enough to rival the Heavenly Pride of the Four Great Sects."

"With time, this child's potential is limitless."

The group of demon cultivators had different thoughts at this moment.

Some were envious, others jealous, but most were indifferent.

And yet, some even found schadenfreude.

The path of Tao cultivation is long, no matter how extraordinary the talent, one misstep can lead to eternal doom.

Now, they were about to lead this "Sword Dao Genius" down this path of "no return"...

"Alright," the tallest demon cultivator's gaze sharpened, saying gravely, "Let's enter the valley early."

There was a heaviness in his tone.

"There was an unexpected incident before we came. Two Elders are holding it off, but they might not last long. Enter the valley early, seal the gate, isolate from the world, to avoid unexpected trouble during the night."

Once inside the valley, it would be safe.

"Okay." The group of demon cultivators nodded.

They lifted the coffin lid beside them, stuffed Ling Huxiao, Ouyang Mu, and Song Jian into the coffin, and then sealed it.

In front of Mo Hua, the group of demon cultivators pushed the coffin along the White Bone Path, heading towards the distant Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Mo Hua took a sharp breath, feeling a headache.

Trouble...

He immediately sent a message to Elder Xun:

"Elder Xun, something terrible has happened! The demon cultivators have captured Ouyang Mu from the Tai'a Sect and Ling Huxiao from the Rushing Void Sect, and took them to the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons."

However, Elder Xun still did not reply.

Mo Hua frowned.

"What should I do?"

Rescue them?

But my strength is also insufficient, most of these demon cultivators are at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage, and there are even some at the Foundation Establishment Peak.

Even if I exert all my skills and kill a few, it won't help.

Such a big commotion would surely attract other demon cultivators to assist.

I'm not a Body Cultivator either; carrying both Ouyang Mu and Ling Huxiao, I can't escape at all.

Moreover, they are sealed within the coffin.

Opening the coffin wouldn't be so easy either.

With my strength, I can't save them...

"Report back to the sect?"

It would be too late as well.

Even if the sect gathered forces later for a major attack on the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, it wouldn't work.

If these demon cultivators were desperate, they might just "kill the hostages," and then Little Wood and Ling Huxiao would be in dire straits.

"Then just leave them be?"

Mo Hua shook his head again.

While the demon cultivator's words were vague, Mo Hua could guess the gist of it.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Demons will be closed for a month.

Once Little Wood and Ling Huxiao enter the valley, it's obvious what would happen.

By the time the valley entrance opens again after a month, who knows what they would have become.

Most likely, the next time the demon cultivators leave the valley, the two fallen into the Demon Path would emerge wearing "black robes."

Mo Hua sighed.

Song Jian didn't matter.

But Little Wood and Ling Huxiao cannot be ignored.

How they ended up in the demon cultivators' hands, Mo Hua wasn't sure yet.

But if no action is taken, these two children might indeed find themselves doomed here, never to return.

Mo Hua sent another message to Elder Xun:

"Hey, Elder Xun, are you there?"

There was still no response from Elder Xun.

There was no other way, so Mo Hua sent another message:

"I'll sneak into the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons first to see..."

The formation was secondary, but a way must be found to rescue Little Wood and Ling Huxiao first.

Just as Mo Hua was about to make a move, he hesitated again.

He had a feeling it wasn't very safe.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Demons was perilous and unpredictable, with many demon cultivators, and also a Golden Core Demon Cultivator Elder presiding, any slight carelessness might lead to big trouble.

But it seemed he had no choice but to take this risk.

But taking this risk, there was no one to cover him.

Mo Hua frowned.

He suddenly realized that he was still somewhat lacking...

He was only at Foundation Establishment now, with a long cultivation path ahead.

There were many challenges to face: saving his master, breaking through the realm, traveling the Nine States, seeking the Ultimate Formation...

The dangers encountered would probably be countless, and it wouldn't be possible always to have someone to cover for him.

Uncle Gu or Elder Xun, neither can always stay by my side as my "bodyguard."

If I am alone in the future and encounter something dangerous, should I just retreat?

Mo Hua slowly shook his head.

He already had some experience in Tao cultivation and understood the principle of seeking wealth through risk.

All opportunities inevitably come with "risk."

The bigger the storm, the pricier the fish.

The greater the opportunity, the greater the risk.

If you only seek stability, you might miss out on opportunities presented to you, leading to a mediocre and unremarkable life.

However, if you don't seek stability, you might succumb to greed and bring about your own downfall.

Both options seem unfavorable...

Mo Hua felt somewhat conflicted.

What to do?

He pondered for a moment, then his heart suddenly stirred.

There is fortune and misfortune, and people have blessings and calamities.

Is there a way to control "fortune and misfortune," to hold it in my own hands?

In this way, even in desperate situations, there might be a chance for survival.

Encountering misfortune might not necessarily mean it cannot be turned into fortune.

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, then he frowned.

"But... how exactly to do this?"

As Mo Hua thought, a gentle, ethereal, yet extraordinarily graceful figure suddenly appeared in his mind.

"Master..."

Mo Hua was stunned, then he thought carefully.

So far, the person he met who was most capable of "avoiding misfortune" was his master.

Except in the end, when all calculations were exhausted, and there was no way out of the desperate land.

Before that, everything Master did seemed effortlessly calculated with no omissions.

And Master could achieve this because of the ultimate technique in the path of the Divine Sense—

Heavenly secret Calculation!

Fortune and misfortune belong to the realm of Heavenly Mechanism Causality.

So theoretically, through Heavenly secret Calculation, one can naturally decipher the fortunes and misfortunes within the heavenly mechanism and the blessings and calamities within causality.

Mo Hua couldn't help but think:

If I could truly be like Master, perceiving the heavenly mechanisms, calculating causality, divining fortunes, and understanding calamities...

In the future, even if I am alone, facing adversity from all sides, with no one to rely upon, I could still use the Heavenly Mechanism to escape, and plan within causality, seeking a chance for life in desperate situations, seizing opportunities amidst risk.

No matter how big the storm, I could catch the big fish!

Mo Hua's spirits lifted, then began to ponder again.

But how to calculate?

How to use Heavenly secret Calculation, divining fortunes, and foretelling calamities?

Master never taught me...

Mo Hua scratched his head.

He began to recall who among the cultivators he had met was capable of "fortune-telling and divination," and what methods he could learn from.

Along the White Bone Path, the coffins containing Little Wood and Ling Huxiao were moving further and further away.

Without urgent action, it would be too late.

He needed to quickly find a way to perform a divination...

Mo Hua was anxious at heart, deep in thought:

"Turtle shell divination?"

But I don't have a turtle shell in hand...

"Yarrow stalk calculation?"

Where can I find yarrow stalks to count one by one in such a short time?

"Compass?"

There is indeed an Array Plate and a directional compass, but it seems that Heavenly secret Calculation requires a special Heavenly Mechanism Compass, which is very expensive and I can't obtain...

"Forget it, use whatever is available..."

Mo Hua began rummaging through his Storage Bag to see if there was anything that could be barely used for a divination...

But the Storage Bag was filled with items for formation use.

Array Plate, Ink, Formation Pen, Array Book Jade Scrolls, etc.

And there were some Spiritual Artifacts and Spirit Swords, as well as commonly used Pills.

None of these had anything to do with divination.

With no other options, Mo Hua dug through the Storage Ring.

As he rummaged, Mo Hua suddenly paused, noticing a "Copper Coin" lying in the corner of the Storage Ring.

He had no impression of this Copper Coin before, as if it shouldn't have existed in his Storage Ring at all.

However, there was a very familiar aura on the Copper Coin.

Mo Hua was stunned, then his eyes filled with longing, and his heart felt sour.

It was Master's Copper Coin...

"Is this something Master... left for me?"

Chapter 1354: Heavenly Secret

The copper coin lay quietly in Mo Hua's pale palm, seemingly lightweight, yet it felt as heavy as a thousand pounds.

Mo Hua felt a mix of emotions.

"But..." Mo Hua wondered to himself, "this Storage Ring, I've searched through it countless times before, there was absolutely nothing else inside..."

"Why did a copper coin suddenly appear?"

How did this copper coin appear after all?

Was it hidden by the Master on purpose?

Mo Hua touched his right thumb again.

On his thumb, the ancient ring looked ordinary, yet it was formless and traceless.

But it drank his blood, connected to his bloodline, visible only to him.

"Could this Storage Ring hide other secrets?"

Mo Hua pondered for a moment, sighed silently.

Time was running out, he couldn't think too much, if he delayed any longer, Ling Huxiao and Little Wood might be sent into the depths of the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, never to return.

He wanted to save them, but felt powerless.

Mo Hua examined the copper coin in his hand again.

Memories traced back in his mind.

It was then he realized, he had seen his Master use this copper coin before.

That was during their time in the Five Elements Sect.

When he used the Zhang Family's blank Zombie Ancestor picture to seal the Five Elements Source Pattern, forming a "Five Elements Formation Flow Map", he presented it to his Master.

His Master once took out a few copper coins, placed them on the table, forming a mysterious formation that suppressed the Five Elements Source Pattern, making it not dare to act rashly.

Back then, he understood nothing.

Did not comprehend what these copper coins were, nor the purpose of using them for formation.

Now in contemplation, he realized that the formation laid by his Master with copper coins should be some kind of heavenly secret layout, locking the causality of the Five Elements Source Pattern like an eye.

That should also be a form of "Heavenly secret Calculation".

Mo Hua held the copper coin in his hand, feeling the remnants of warm memories on the cold copper coin, he felt emotional and somewhat troubled:

"How do I use this copper coin?"

The profound heavenly secret calculations, he understood not a bit of.

His Master foresaw the heavenly secrets, strategized with precision, reversed fortune within his grasp, abilities he possessed none of.

Nor did he know how to learn it...

Could he only rely on "chance"?

Mo Hua remembered, others would toss copper coins, using heads or tails to determine fortune, should he try it too?

The night was deep, the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons was bloody.

The valley entrance resembled the bloodthirsty mouth of a monster beast, seemingly ready to close shut soon.

"Time is short, treat the dead horse as if it were alive..."

Mo Hua clutched the copper coin in his palm, softly chanted to himself:

"Heavenly secret is but a thread, calculating causality, using the copper coin's heads or tails to divine the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons journey's fortune, heads for fortune, tails for misfortune..."

Mo Hua's pupils turned deep, his Divine Thought transformed, donning three layers of Deceitful Shadow.

In his eyes, the heavenly secret patterns fluctuated.

In the depths of his pupils, a faint golden hue emerged.

With the fusion of heavenly secret calculation and heavenly secret tricky calculation, he propelled an almost deity-like Divine Thought, using the "copper coin" as a medium to glimpse into his own causality.

Subsequently, Mo Hua flicked his finger.

The copper coin tossed into the air, constantly spinning, initially everything appeared usual, but in an instant, a sudden change occurred.

Dense causal lines entangled upon it, fortune and misfortune kept reversing...

A humming sound like a Great Dao bell suddenly resounded.

Mo Hua's pupils suddenly shook.

In that moment, the world spun, and the Eryi divided, as though something sliced open his Sea of Consciousness, tore through the world's facade, connecting with the profound aura from the void.

Mo Hua seemed to see the rotation of sun and moon, a sky full of stars.

Saw the vast earth, beings bustling.

Saw all things in heaven and earth, the world's beings, countless causality cycles converged into a rising line suspended in the sky, spanning the heavens — a "Milky Way".

Like the ultimate truth of heaven and earth, indescribably brilliant, bewitchingly splendid, deeply profound.

In the void, Mo Hua felt an indefinable and ineffable insight.

This causal "Milky Way" was the heavenly secret!

The world as a chessboard, beings as chess pieces, causality intertwined, merging into the heavenly secret.

In the vast Milky Way of heavenly secrets.

He was merely an unnoticed piece on the chessboard.

Yet at the same time, he sat beside the chessboard, holding a chess piece, discerning his own fortune...

Through his own causal calculation, he nudged the heavenly secret...

...

In Taoist State, at the Heaven Shu Pavilion.

The Pavilion Elder, who had been dozing off in front of the chessboard, suddenly opened his eyes, his gaze filled with confusion mixed with a trace of incredulity.

"Someone... is using a Heavenly secret Calculation?!"

"A true Heavenly secret Calculation!"

The Pavilion Elder's eyes trembled, his heart skipped a beat.

That person's Life Chart was already severed, causality cut off, vitality extinguished, who else in this world could know Heavenly secret Calculation?

And who exactly... is calculating?!"

He looked up at the sky, seeing a spot on the pitch-black night sky where a star pattern was indeed faint, yet emitted a uniquely subtle mysterious light.

"Still very immature, unaware of concealment..."

The elder sat still before the chessboard, a few times conceived an impulse to perform a calculation, to calculate this faint starlight's true identity.

To calculate, after that person's life force was severed, who could still learn the true Heavenly secret Calculation.

To calculate this almost imperceptible "variable" within the heavenly secret...

But in the end, he restrained himself.

The Pavilion Elder couldn't help but look at the tabletop.

On the tabletop, there was a candlestick.

The candlestick had crane patterns and cloud flow, dragon flight and phoenix dance, exceptionally luxurious, appearing somewhat out of place with the simple room.

Within the candlestick, there was an engraved special formation.

It had been a gift when that person, radiant and full of youthful spirit, served as the Supervisor at the Heaven Shu Pavilion.

But now, this candlestick had been used for so many years, it had become too old.

Even the candle flame was extremely weak.

Chapter 1355: Heavenly Secret (2)

The Pavilion Elder pondered quietly for a moment, his voice aged, murmuring almost inaudibly:

"The flame is too weak, I'm afraid that a mere gust of wind will extinguish it..."

So, let it burn slowly, little by little...

The feeble flame flickered lively within the ornate, old candlestick.

The Pavilion Elder smiled faintly, half with emotion and half in self-mockery:

"I've lived too long..."

"Those older than me have passed away, and those younger are gone too. I had thought, living carried little joy, taking each day as it comes."

"Yet surprisingly, there are quite many intriguing things in this world."

"As long as one lives longer, extending life, one will surely encounter them..."

Having said this, the Pavilion Elder felt his drowsiness dissipate, and a long-lost interest emerged. His cloudy gaze brightened slightly, looking toward the chessboard before him.

Upon the board, lay a game long sealed in dust.

This game was played solely by the Pavilion Elder.

But there were many participants in this situation.

However, none knew their identities, their seats, nor their intentions.

Using the Back Ruins as the catalyst, the heavens and earth as the chessboard, the first game began...

The Pavilion Elder mused with amusement:

"Can't recall how many years since I played chess properly, whether my skills have deteriorated..."

He picked up a chesspiece and placed it on the board.

After ages of inactivity on the board, the game finally saw a move.

And nearby on the tabletop, was placed the Jade Slip suggesting the "Sect Reform" proposal from the Four Great Sects of Qianxue State Boundary...

...

The entrance to Refining Demon Mountain, Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

The copper line flipped through the air, entangled in cause and effect, the fortunes and misfortunes reversed several times, ultimately landing in Mo Hua's palm.

It was heads.

Mo Hua was somewhat surprised, "It's actually 'auspicious'?"

And it was so neat and without any hindrance.

Is Valley of Ten Thousand Demons a place of "great auspiciousness"?

Mo Hua looked up into the distance.

In the pitch-black night afar, the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons was paved with white bones, Blood Qi soared to the sky, sinister Monster cultivators spread everywhere, the eerie Monster Qi pervasive.

Whose "auspicious place" appears like this?

Mo Hua was at a loss for words.

On his first attempt to calculate fortune and misfortune, was he wrong?

"But it shouldn't be..."

In that moment, Mo Hua seemed to connect with the Earth's Qi Mechanism, glimpsing the vast causation of all things between heaven and earth.

Though it lasted only a moment, and he saw it but once.

Everything then faded without a trace.

But in that instant, Mo Hua truly felt a mistaken sense of "penetrating heavenly secrets, tracing all causation, between thoughts of fortune and misfortune, grasping auspiciousness and calamity," feeling immensely powerful.

At least for that moment, his Heavenly secret Calculation seemed flawless.

Even if not entirely accurate, it couldn't be wildly incorrect.

"Could it be that the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons only appears dangerous on the surface, but is actually a place full of opportunities?"

Mo Hua frowned slightly, and thought to himself: "Let it be, I'll have to go anyway."

"Since the divination showed no 'bad omens,' I'll just go in and see..."

The Copper Coin was left by his teacher.

Even if he didn't believe himself, he could trust his teacher!

Moreover, there are in total three Monster cultivator Elders within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, two have gone out, only one remains.

Theoretically, as long as he avoided this one Elder, the danger within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons would greatly decrease.

And the scale of the Valley seems vast.

Such a large valley, it's unlikely he'd be so unlucky to be caught by this sole Monster cultivator Elder...

Mo Hua nodded slightly.

On the White Bone Path, coffins containing Little Wood and the others were locked onto a cart, pulled by several Monster cultivators, increasingly moving farther, almost out of sight.

No time to waste, Mo Hua acted quickly.

He employed the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill, concealing his form, wrapped in the Divine Way Formation, also clad in the black robe of the Monster cultivator's Formation Sequence, jumping lightly from under a tree.

Upon landing, Mo Hua glanced around, ensuring there were no other Monster cultivators, then carefully stepped onto the White Bone Path.

The entire pathway was constructed from White Bone.

Walking upon it felt a bit rough, with an eerie sensation.

Thankfully, there were no other anomalies.

Mo Hua remained concealed, covertly moving along the White Bone Path, continually advancing.

The march of the Monster cultivator troop was slow, about 30 minutes later, Mo Hua finally saw the coffin.

The coffin was tightly shut, chained to the cart, surrounded by Monster cultivators.

"Think of a way to blend in..."

Mo Hua pondered for a moment, his gaze suddenly flickering, catching sight of another "monster cart" a short distance ahead, with an iron cage confining a Black Bear Demon.

The Black Bear Demon was bound by chains, its scarlet eyes ferocious, filled with brute force, roaring in futile resentment.

Mo Hua glanced at it, discovering that the chains employed a formation.

These chains were indeed standard ones, utilizing the Five Elements system's "Golden Lock Formation," and were standardized chains.

Seems like the Monster cultivators "procured" it from some families?

Mo Hua's eyes flickered, cautiously creeping to the front edge of the White Bone Path, beginning to tamper with the chains.

The oppressive silence of the White Bone Path kept the Monster cultivators marching respectfully, head low, thus failing to notice for some time.

A trace of Mo's ink appeared out of thin air, permeating and spreading on the Black Bear Demon's chains, altering the Golden Lock Formation Patterns on the chains.

In just a moment, the Golden Lock Formation Patterns were deciphered.

A flash of faint light, and the Golden Lock Formation lost its efficacy.

The Black Bear Demon, released from the chains and suppression, instantly sensed the removal of its bindings.

Its eyes flashed red, immediately erupting in ferocity.

On the oppressive White Bone Path, a sudden ferocious roar of the demon rang out.

The Black Bear Demon tore apart the chains, shattered the cage, overturned the monster cart, and lunged at a nearby Monster cultivator.

Chapter 1356: Heavenly Secret (3)

The monster cultivator was caught off guard and had half of his body swallowed by the Black Bear Demon.

A commotion broke out in the vicinity immediately.

"What happened?"

"Damn it, how did this abominable beast break free?!"

"Hurry!"

"Catch it!"

A group of monster cultivators immediately demonized and started fighting fiercely with the Black Bear Demon.

Mo Hua had already hidden far away.

Among the Second Grade Demon Beasts, the Black Bear Demon was also extremely powerful, ferocious at the moment, either grabbing or biting, it was exceptionally troublesome.

The number of affected monster cultivators grew larger.

The monster cultivators tasked with watching over Little Wood and the others were also forced to join the battle, opening their Monster Patterns, demonizing their bodies, and engaging the Bear Demon.

During the heated battle, when the monster cultivators were too busy to care, Mo Hua seized an opportunity and secretly crawled under the coffin carriage.

After a while, the chaos subsided, and the Black Bear Demon was subdued.

But two monster cultivators were lost as well.

One monster cultivator had half his body bitten off by the Black Bear Demon.

Another fell from the White Bone Path during the battle, fell into the blood stream, and immediately had an erratic Divine Sense, acting insane.

The other monster cultivators were forced to end him.

With two people dead, a monster cultivator was furious and immediately wanted to slaughter the Bear Demon, but was stopped.

"The Young Master said these Monsters need to be kept alive. Dare to kill it now, are you asking for death?"

"But two people are dead..."

Someone sneered, "So what? We are no longer 'human' now."

The atmosphere was momentarily tense.

Some were puzzled, "How did this beast suddenly go mad? Wasn't it chained?"

A monster cultivator inspected the chains.

But the chains were torn to pieces, the Formation Patterns on it were in disarray, and the monster cultivator couldn't make anything out, just cursed:

"Must be some bungler who carelessly failed to properly chain this beast."

"Damn it, almost got me killed!"

"Next time if anyone dares to be careless, I'll skin them alive!"

"Enough!"

The most senior and powerful monster cultivator said coldly: "Get moving early, stop the nonsense."

The group of monster cultivators suppressed their tempers, lowered their heads.

"The gate of the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons is about to close..."

The monster cultivator exclaimed in a hoarse voice.

The other monster cultivators threw down the bodies of the two dead ones, regrouped, and with the monster carriage, continued along the White Bone Path towards the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

They didn't know there was a "dangerous" little cultivator sneaking in on a coffin carriage...

...

Refining Demon Mountain, amidst a forest.

Mountain stones shattered, trees toppled, and the ground was like ravines torn open by demon beast claws.

Everywhere were scenes of devastation after battles among cultivators.

Xun Ziyou's face was ashen, with the Tai Xu Sword floating in front of him, sword intent emanating fiercely from him, but his Taoist Robe bore several slash marks, with fresh blood trickling underneath.

Even demon poison was seeping into his flesh.

Next to him, the Chongxu Sect Elder's face was pale, a bloodstain on the chest, a bloodstain on the back, numerous large and small wounds besides, and the sword-holding hand was trembling, clearly severely injured.

Opposite them were two Late Golden Core Stage monster cultivators.

One was transformed into a Bear Demon, tall and big, like a small mountain.

The other had a face like a viper, spitting its tongue.

They also carried some injuries, but relying on their abundant Monster Qi, were slowly recovering.

Both sides had used various methods in this life-and-death fight, full of intensity.

This was a fight to the death, with no mercy.

But with Chongxu Elder heavily injured, Xun Ziyou was almost fighting one against two, under tremendous pressure, inevitably falling behind.

Now both sides were facing off, the situation was at a stalemate.

Xun Ziyou's gaze was icy, and he spoke in a deep voice:

"Abominable beasts, who exactly are you?"

The two monster cultivators had malicious glances and remained silent.

Xun Ziyou raised two fingers, circulating his Golden Core Spiritual Power to the extreme, surrounding Tai Xu Sword Intent merged into the sword light, brilliantly radiant like starlight.

In the Taixu Gate, the True Technique of Divine Thought into Sword inheritance had been lost, but a little Tai Xu Sword Intent was left behind.

However, sword intent itself was hard to cultivate.

Xun Ziyou's sword intent was not exceptionally refined.

But used against these two monster cultivators now, it's enough.

If he doesn't fight desperately now, utilizing the Sword Cultivator's advantage, settling everything with one sword.

Continuing this way, clashing head-on, the two sword cultivators would definitely not be a match for these two monster cultivators.

Xun Ziyou's sword intent surged.

The expressions of the two Golden Core monster cultivators also turned slightly solemn.

Then they insidiously smiled, ready to strike, wanting to first deal with the severely injured Chongxu Sect Elder, then slowly deal with Xun Ziyou.

But the moon in the sky dazzled, Yin Qi faded, and from the distant forest, the Monster Qi gradually dissipated.

The two monster cultivators suddenly realized that the time was approaching, they couldn't linger any longer.

Transformed into Bear Pi and viper-faced monster cultivators, they exchanged a glance, nodded, and chose a direction to flee.

The direction they fled was neither the dense forest nor the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

It was towards the Inner Mountain of Refining Demon Mountain.

At this moment, they couldn't possibly return to the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, or they would lead outsiders, "leading the wolves into the house".

They could only go to the Inner Mountain.

Inside the Inner Mountain, the environment was treacherous, crowded with Third Grade Demon Beasts, the best place to hide.

Xun Ziyou was about to chase after them when he was suddenly held back by the Chongxu Sect Elder.

"Rescue first!"

Xun Ziyou was taken aback.

The Chongxu Sect Elder's expression was bitter, "That kid Xiaoer, I couldn't keep an eye on him..."

Xun Ziyou's gaze intensified, "What exactly happened?"

The Chongxu Sect Elder shook his head, his face pale, gritting his teeth:

"I don't have time to explain... find the person first, if we can't find him, I would have committed the 'unredeemable guilt of a thousand deaths', and cannot account to the Ancestor and the Chongxu Sect's ancestors..."

Xun Ziyou's expression was solemn, nodding: "Alright!"

Then he asked again, "Where was the kid taken?"

The Chongxu Sect Elder pointed in a direction, "A group of monster cultivators seemed to have taken Xiaoer and fled towards the west..."

Xun Ziyou followed the direction he pointed and suddenly felt a chill in his heart.

This direction was precisely the direction of the dense forest, which is also the direction of the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons!

Monster cultivators captured Ling Huxiao and went to the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons?

Xun Ziyou's pupils contracted slightly, suddenly feeling a sense of bad premonition, then remembered, he also had a "great mission" on his shoulders!

He immediately took out the Taixu Token.

Previously fighting desperately with two strong monster cultivators, at the edge of life and death, he had no time to focus on anything else.

He hadn't paid attention to the movements of the Taixu Token.

Now sinking his Divine Sense to check, a pile of messages emerged:

"Elder Xun, are you all right..."

"Have you returned?"

"Elder Xun, something big has happened!"

"Monster cultivators captured Ouyang Mu from Tai'a Sect and Ling Huxiao from Chongxu Sect and went into the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons..."

"Hey, Elder Xun, you there?"

"I'll sneak into the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons to take a look first..."

Xun Ziyou's scalp tingled for a moment, his face was bloodless.

It's over, he feared he would also have committed the 'unredeemable guilt of a thousand deaths', ashamed before the Ancestor and Taixu Gate's ancestors...

His hand trembled slightly, slowly sending a message to Mo Hua:

"Mo Hua..."

"Are you alright..."

"You... entered Valley of Ten Thousand Demons?"

On the other side was a brief silence, no message coming through.

Xun Ziyou's heart sank bit by bit, his whole being plunged into an ice-cold abyss, feeling cold in his limbs.

Just when he was nearly in despair, the Taixu Token trembled.

Xun Ziyou's almost dead heart also jumped with a shock, immediately looking down.

Messages from Mo Hua appeared on the Taixu Token:

"Yes, I successfully snuck in!"

"Everything is safe."

At the end, Mo Hua even used Magnetic Ink to draw a smiley face:

Chapter 1357: Turmoil

Xun Ziyou sighed in relief.

Luckily...

The heart that was hanging by a thread almost died...

Then he immediately asked, "Mo Hua, how did you get in?"

There was a delay on the other side, as if the signal of the Original Magnet sensing wasn't good. After a while, a message came through.

Mo Hua: "I hid under the carriage and sneaked in."

Xun Ziyou: "You said just now that Ling Huxiao was also captured?"

"Yes! And Little Wood, who is Ouyang Mu from the Tai'a Sect, part of the Ouyang Family." Mo Hua sent a transmission.

Song Jian was subconsciously forgotten by him.

Xun Ziyou frowned, "Can you still get out?"

Although the disciples of the Tai'a Sect and the Rushing Void Sect share the same lineage with the Taixu Gate, it wouldn't be good to ignore them, but he couldn't help having some personal bias. Affection always has degrees.

Mo Hua's safety is naturally the priority.

If to save other disciples, Mo Hua had to take risks, he would certainly be unwilling.

Not to mention what the Ancestor would think.

If the Ancestor knew that Mo Hua, this little disciple, went into the perilous Valley of Ten Thousand Demons while he, the Elder, stayed outside, he would surely be peeled and his legs broken.

So, ensuring Mo Hua's safety is a priority; other matters can be considered later.

In the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, Mo Hua, hiding like a little cat at the bottom of a coffin, looked around and found it pitch black.

His Divine Sense also perceived only icy and bloody stone walls.

The door, coming in, which was like a Monster Beast's giant mouth, had already closed.

It seemed that for now, there was no way out.

Mo Hua then sent a transmission to Xun Ziyou: "The door is closed, can't get out."

Xun Ziyou felt his scalp go numb.

If anything happens to Mo Hua, he really would be doomed!

"Please, please be careful! Hide well, don't rush, and don't take risks. Your own safety is the first priority. I will find a way to get you out as soon as possible..."

"Okay!" Mo Hua replied, "Elder Xun, rest assured."

Xun Ziyou sighed in relief, but as he thought again, he still felt anxious.

Now is not the time to be relieved.

Mo Hua entered the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons like a "meat bun" entering a pack of wolves; a single misstep and there would be nothing left of him.

Xun Ziyou felt a chill in his heart and, after a moment of contemplation, said to the Chongxu Sect Elder:

"You and I must quickly return to the sect and report to the Ancestor."

This time it was his negligence that led to a great mistake.

But precisely because it is a "big mistake," it must not be kept from the Ancestor, there can be no lucky thoughts of "mending the fence after losing the sheep."

Otherwise, a small mistake could easily turn into a "grave one."

Whether he is punished or not is not important; what matters is that Mo Hua absolutely must not meet with any mishap.

The Chongxu Sect Elder also understood, his face turning pale as he nodded.

Xun Ziyou pondered briefly and said sternly, "Remember, only tell the Ancestor, no one else is to hear a word."

The Chongxu Sect Elder was taken aback, then his eyes focused, "Do you mean..."

Xun Ziyou nodded slightly.

To design from within the Chongxu Sect, leading the genius disciples into the Refining Demon Mountain.

To secretly ambush and guard the disciples with a Golden Core Elder under the guise of a Golden Core Demon Cultivator.

There must be something wrong inside the Chongxu Sect.

The Chongxu Sect Elder also realized this, and his face turned grim.

"There's no time to lose, let's report to the Ancestor immediately," Xun Ziyou said.

The Chongxu Sect Elder nodded.

Before leaving, Xun Ziyou reminded Mo Hua one last time: "Hide well, don't take risks, I'll go back and get help."

Only the Taixu Token seemed to still have some delay.

After a short while, Mo Hua replied:

"Okay!"

But then, Mo Hua added: "Elder, there's one more important thing."

Xun Ziyou's expression became serious, "What is it?"

Mo Hua: "Once back at the sect, remember to extend my leave."

He had previously applied for leave, but only for a few days, and now that he's in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, who knows when he can return.

So this leave definitely needs to be extended.

Xun Ziyou did not know what to say for a moment, ultimately sighed silently.

This child truly has a big heart...

...

Taixu Gate, Elder's Residence.

Elder Master Xun stood indifferently, but the aura around him was like a storm swallowing all silence.

His aged eyes were no longer cloudy, filled with a piercing cold light.

Xun Ziyou stood with his head bowed, cold sweat dripping, not daring to speak.

He had just returned, informed the Ancestor about Mo Hua, and saw the Ancestor's eyes change, with an aura of extreme terror.

He knew the Ancestor was genuinely angry.

Xun Ziyou bit his teeth, trembling internally.

Elder Master Xun glanced at Xun Ziyou indifferently and then slowly walked to his desk.

On the desk lay a Heavenly Mechanism Compass.

But this compass was not the same as the one Elder Master Xun had used previously, it was darker and more intricate with cause and effect traces, appearing more complex.

Elder Master Xun held his breath and deduced on the compass for a while, suddenly pausing, then slowly restraining his terrifying aura.

Xun Ziyou took a moment to breathe and cautiously asked in a low voice:

"Ancestor..."

Elder Master Xun looked at Xun Ziyou coldly and said indifferently:

"There is a reason for this, it is not your fault."

Xun Ziyou sighed deeply, feeling the mountain-like pressure on his shoulders ease slightly.

"However," Elder Master Xun continued, "Mo Hua being in danger has something to do with you."

Xun Ziyou respectfully said, "This matter is indeed the fault of this junior..."

Elder Master Xun saw that he dared to take responsibility and did not offer any excuses, nodding slightly.

Xun Ziyou asked in a low voice, "Ancestor, what should we do?"

He had ideas, but no authority.

Moreover, some matters were beyond his control. He couldn't take responsibility for the success or failure.

Therefore, he could only ask the Ancestor.

Elder Master Xun thought briefly and instructed, "Have all Inner Gate Foundation Establishment Peak disciples and Golden Core Elders in the sect, as long as they are not teaching or on a mission, go to guard the Refining Demon Mountain for me."

Chapter 1358: Turmoil (2)

"Are we going for a direct attack?" Xun Ziyou asked.

Elder Master Xun raised an eyebrow, recalling the "danger without harm" prophecy shown on the Tai Xu Compass, contemplating.

He pondered for a moment, then said slowly, "No rush..."

Xun Ziyou was taken aback, "No rush?"

"Yes," Elder Master Xun nodded slowly, "Let Mo Hua wander inside on his own."

"Ancestor's meaning is..." Xun Ziyou frowned, "to let him experience some hardship?"

Elder Master Xun lowered his head slightly, speaking in a deep tone:

"Any genius with great responsibilities must have far-reaching goals and face difficult paths. Experiencing immense hardships, imminent dangers, and inevitable obstacles is part of the journey..."

Xun Ziyou felt a chill in his heart.

He didn't expect the Ancestor to have such high expectations for Mo Hua.

Elder Master Xun paused briefly, then continued:

"In the past, I thought Mo Hua was just an innocent child, worried he'd face danger. But now, I seem to have underestimated him..."

Elder Master Xun's gaze became somewhat intriguing.

The child's thoughts were indeed simple, yet not as simple as he had imagined...

He initiated the Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation, subduing the Big Demon Feng Xi.

He was accepted as a disciple by someone unparalleled in talent and arrogant.

He traveled alone, crossing mountains and rivers, from Li State to Qian State to study.

Just shortly after entering the Taixu Sect, he was able to follow senior brothers and sisters on missions to capture Sin Cultivators.

The death of Fire Buddha was also somehow linked to him.

Moreover, he led fellow disciples on Demon Refining Mountain, hunting Monster Beasts, and cultivating Sword Control...

How could such a child be truly "simple"?

It's unlikely he is without "schemes."

Elder Master Xun sighed inwardly:

He had been fooled by that seemingly "harmless" little face...

Elder Master Xun contemplated for a moment before speaking again:

"Mo Hua is clever and talented, well-thought-out. Since he dared to enter 'Valley of Ten Thousand Demons,' it shows he has some confidence within him."

"The journey of Tao Cultivation is long and fraught with danger; the Sect can't protect him forever. Suitable challenges are essential."

"The best form of protection is teaching him 'self-preservation.'"

"This time, let him explore on his own, survive on his own..."

Xun Ziyou was shocked in his heart, then felt a sense of admiration.

The Ancestor was truly deeply considerate of this child.

"Yes." Xun Ziyou saluted, then asked again, "Should we still deploy so many people from the Sect?"

Elder Master Xun pondered momentarily and nodded, "Deploy them!"

"Even without Mo Hua's matter, Valley of Ten Thousand Demons can't be left alone, committing such vile deeds right under our Sect's eyes, truly reckless of consequence!"

"This time, we must uncover Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, to see what they are plotting."

Xun Ziyou saluted, "Yes."

Elder Master Xun instructed lastly, "Gather your people, act covertly, surround Valley of Ten Thousand Demons. Use the Taixu Token to contact Mo Hua regularly."

"If you can contact him, hold your position; if not..."

Elder Master Xun's gaze turned cold, "Then don't hesitate, flatten Valley of Ten Thousand Demons at any cost!"

After speaking, Elder Master Xun contemplated briefly, still uneasy, then retrieved a Sword Command and handed it to Xun Ziyou.

Upon seeing the Sword Command, Xun Ziyou's eyes widened in astonishment.

Elder Master Xun said, "This is the Void Sword Order, you should know, if faced with an urgent situation or an unbeatable enemy, unleash this order immediately..."

"I will destroy the formation on Demon Refining Mountain, shatter the void, and descend forcibly, using Void Power to turn Valley of Ten Thousand Demons to dust!"

Xun Ziyou trembled, realizing the Ancestor's resolve, and immediately bowed:

"I adhere to the Ancestor's command!"

...

Meanwhile, in the Chongxu Sect's rear mountain cave abode.

The room appeared as if time and space had shattered, in complete disarray, every table, screen, furnishing obliterated.

Chongxu Ancestor was furious, "Go, send people, even if Demon Refining Mountain has to be leveled, find Xiaoer and bring him back!"

The Sect's restructuring was imminent, Ling Huxiao, this Sword Dao genius, might very well determine whether Chongxu Sect advances or retreats in the coming turmoil.

Even at this critical moment.

This disciple was more important than most Elders within Chongxu Sect.

There could be no mishap.

The heavily injured and weakened Elder of Chongxu Sect looked guilty, yet gritted his teeth saying:

"Ancestor, we cannot make a big fuss..."

Chongxu Ancestor was enraged but softened seeing the Elder in such a pitiable state.

Efforts were made, but being tricked was inevitable.

Chongxu Ancestor's breath eased somewhat.

The Chongxu Sect Elder seized the chance to explain: "Those who captured Xiaoer are a group of monster cultivators, their plot unknown. If this becomes public, there's no room for negotiation."

"Indeed, if the monster cultivators are pressed, they might harm their captives..."

Chongxu Ancestor's brow furrowed tightly, suddenly asked, "You mentioned a disciple from Taixu Sect infiltrated?"

"Correct..."

The Chongxu Sect Elder coughed, suppressing his injury, speaking earnestly:

"The Taixu Sect disciple, known as 'Mo Hua,' somehow infiltrated the monster cultivators' lair."

"He seems to know Xiaoer's whereabouts."

Chongxu Ancestor slowly exhaled, murmuring, "Mo Hua..."

He nodded and then promptly said, "Gather some folks, reach out to Taixu Sect, and plan a joint operation, to rescue both, no... one more?"

"Yes," the Chongxu Sect Elder said, "and there's one from Tai'a Sect."

Chongxu Ancestor muttered, "Darn it, all three Sects are involved, not missing one..."

He continued, "...rescue these three children."

"If Taixu Sect has more intel, let them lead, you assist, prioritize rescue, avoid conflicts."

Chapter 1359: Turmoil (3)

The Chongxu Sect Elder cupped his hands and said: "Yes."

Then he was about to turn and leave, but was suddenly stopped by the Chongxu Ancestor.

The Chongxu Ancestor frowned and said solemnly, "Find some... trustworthy people."

The Chongxu Sect Elder was taken aback, then nodded.

"And..."

The Chongxu Ancestor paused for a moment, his gaze cold, and carefully took out a Sword Command, handing it to the Chongxu Sect Elder.

"Take this Sword Command with you. If you're uncertain, activate the Sword Command."

The Elder was shocked, his expression somewhat incredulous.

He quickly realized that the Ancestor's earlier words about the Qianxue State Boundary Sect's restructuring being a great upheaval unseen for a thousand years might not be mere rhetoric.

The child Xiaoer is more important than he had imagined.

The Elder immediately said: "Yes."

But he hesitated, "However, the Refining Demon Mountain has a Formation, and Feather Transformation is forbidden. Forcibly descending upon Heaven Void also violates the 'prohibition' of the Qianxue State Boundary..."

"That can't be helped..." the Chongxu Ancestor sighed.

The Chongxu Sect Elder felt a shiver in his heart and bowed his head, "Yes, this junior will strive to atone for his sins and bring Xiaoer out."

...

Inner Mountain of Refining Demon Mountain.

Two Golden Core Demon Cultivators were lurking in the cave.

One was burly, with a face full of flesh, like a giant bear.

The other was slim and short, with long narrow eyebrows, resembling a poisonous snake.

"Damn it, miscalculated, really unlucky..."

"We know the Chongxu Sect Elder who practices Sword Qi, but where did that elder who controls the sword with Void and carries Sword Intent all over suddenly come from?"

"What's his background?"

The demon cultivator resembling a black bear frowned and said, "Seems like he's from the Taixu Gate..."

The skinny and short snake-faced demon cultivator cursed sharply:

"In the middle of the night, why is a Taixu Gate Elder full and idle, running to Refining Demon Mountain to ruin my plan!"

The Black Bear Demon was confused, shaking his head, "Maybe he's on duty at night, patrolling the mountain."

The snake-faced demon cultivator said, "If he wasn't in the way, the two of us demon cultivators would have fought close, and that Chongxu Sect Elder would have died in this mountain long ago."

Then he jumped up and cursed angrily:

"That useless Third, how many times have I said it, just hold it off! But he let the Monster Qi rise to his head, his mind clouded by lard, wanting to test if the Chongxu Sect's Sword Qi is sharp..."

"As a result, he had his arm cut off by the Chongxu Sect Elder with one sword, and now we have to clean up the mess, truly a waste!"

"Where did Third go?"

"Don't know," the snake-faced demon cultivator sneered, "probably also hiding in the Inner Mountain."

The Black Bear Demon, despite his burly and violent appearance, was rather calm in temperament.

He thought for a moment, puzzled, and asked:

"Big Brother, why rush this when we could proceed slowly and without leaving a trace?"

"You don't understand," the snake-faced demon cultivator said, "those disciples are key."

"Mr. Tu calculated that even though the risk is high, now is the last chance to capture those three kids."

"After missing this opportunity, it might not be possible to capture them later."

"That's why we acted forcefully."

The Black Bear Demon was puzzled, "What difference does it make if we capture them later?"

The snake-faced demon cultivator frowned, "Mr. Tu mentioned entangled causality, many variables, he couldn't calculate precisely, anyway, grabbing them if possible is correct. The chips should naturally be held in our own hands first!"

The Black Bear Demon slowly nodded, then frowned:

"Wouldn't there be problems in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons?"

The snake-faced demon cultivator pondered, then sneered, "What problems could arise in the Valley?"

"We elders are just sitting in the town..."

"The Valley of Ten Thousand Demons is complete with formations, has strict monster regulations, and is self-contained."

"The organizational structure within the Valley follows one of the major powers of the Demon Path Monster Gate, the Ten Thousand Demon Mountain, with a heritage of thousands of years, how could there be any problems."

"Whether we're present or not makes no difference at all."

"Besides, all matters within the Valley are managed by the 'Gentlemen,' no need to worry."

The Black Bear Demon nodded, "Indeed."

The snake-faced demon cultivator looked around and spoke cunningly: "Let's stay here, ride out the storm, then find Third, and return to the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons after this blows over together."

"Yes, Big Brother."

...

On the surface, it seemed calm between Taixu Gate and Chongxu Sect, but secretly, each had gathered several elders and Inner Sect disciples for a secret rendezvous within Refining Demon Mountain.

They were subsequently led by Xun Ziyou in a covert operation to the secret forest outside the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

They saw the scarlet blood creek, the scattered white bones, and in the distance, the dimly visible, mysterious Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, all drawing a sharp intake of breath.

"This is... such dense Monster Qi!"

"There are places like this within Refining Demon Mountain?!"

"In broad daylight at the Qianxue State Boundary... so many evil monsters hiding here, it's really outrageous!"

Even the Chongxu Sect Elder, who knew beforehand, was shocked.

He had only heard about it from Xun Ziyou but hadn't seen it himself, and seeing it now was even more impactful than expected.

It was like...

A seemingly spotless room, and under the floorboards, there was a colony of cockroaches nesting unknowingly...

Xun Ziyou glanced at the Chongxu Sect Elder and asked:

"Shangguan, how are your injuries?"

The Chongxu Sect Elder, named Xuan Jian and surnamed Shangguan, was a disciple of the Shangguan Family.

Although part of the direct lineage, he was somewhat distant from the head of the Shangguan Family and did not interact much on a daily basis.

Shangguan Xuan Jian said, "The Ancestor gave me Pills, I feel much better after taking them, a bit of recovery will do, let's not dwell on this... what do we do now?"

"We wait and see what happens." Xun Ziyou replied.

Shangguan Xuan Jian frowned, "Your Taixu Gate... did that Junior Formation master get in?"

"Yes." Xun Ziyou nodded.

"Will he be safe?" Shangguan Xuan Jian was somewhat worried.

Xun Ziyou couldn't say for sure.

Although Mo Hua was smart and resourceful, the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons was dense with demon cultivators, and any slip-up might mean he would be "devoured" without a trace.

But now, rescuing them still relied on this child.

Xun Ziyou said, "I sent a message to Elder Xun, but the Yuan Magnetic Flow within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons is weak, he hasn't responded, probably need to wait a bit."

If there's still no response after a while, they might have to attack forcefully.

Even...

Xun Ziyou touched the "Void Sword Order" in the storage bag, which was for Heaven Void guidance and could shatter space, his gaze icy as he looked towards the distant Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

...

Within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Mo Hua shook the Taixu Token in his hand, muttering to himself, "Why is the signal in this Valley so bad?"

"Could it be interference from the Yuan Magnetics?"

He was currently lying on the ceiling of a stone chamber.

The stone chamber was very high, it was a prison, Ling Huxiao and Little Wood were imprisoned inside.

Oh right, and Song Jian...

Mo Hua didn't dare to act recklessly, so he used the Taixu Token to contact Elder Xun, but the Yuan Magnetics were too weak, causing the message to be fragmented and unable to be sent out.

Mo Hua changed positions, angles, and directions, holding a Taixu Token in his hand, fussing for a long time before the "signal" was slightly better.

Chapter 1360: Prison

The "signal" from the Original Magnet improved somewhat, and Mo Hua also received Elder Xun's message.

However, the valley remained sealed, which still had some impact, rendering the Magnetic Ink a bit blurred.

Xun Ziyou: "Many Inner Gate Elders from both the Taixu Gate and the Chongxu Sect are stationed within the dense forest..."

The Magnetic Ink dimmed a bit, but the handwriting was still recognizable.

"In case of any incidents, we will act together to forcibly attack the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons and rescue you."

If the situation becomes urgent, the Ancestor will also intervene...

Of course, Xun Ziyou did not say this sentence aloud.

Unless absolutely necessary, it would be best not to trouble the Ancestor.

The Void Sword Order should also be used sparingly.

In the Fifth Grade Qianxue State Boundary, with Heaven Void as the pinnacle, the Ancestor's intervention would signify a major event, causing a stir among the Sects.

Furthermore, this is in the Feather Transformation forbidden Refining Demon Mountain.

If the Heaven Void Ancestor were to enter forcibly, it would inevitably destroy the mountain-sealing Formation, violating the prohibition of the Qianxue State Boundary, leading to too many ensuing troubles, difficult to handle.

Mo Hua was unaware of Elder Master's issuance of the Void Sword Order, only knowing that there was a group of Inner Gate Elders outside, thus feeling much more at ease.

Being an Elder within the Inner Gate of one of the Eight Great Gates, the Taixu Gate.

Such Golden Core Cultivators are indeed very powerful.

Placed outside, in any Third Grade family, they would undoubtedly be regarded as a family Ancestor.

However, even so, they still cannot be allowed to attack at will...

Some things have nothing to do with Cultivation.

Mo Hua then advised:

"Unless the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons opens, revealing the White Bone Path, never approach lightly..."

"Especially the blood stream outside and on White Bone Beach."

"Inside, an Evil Formation is drawn, nurturing various Demon Wraiths, which will contaminate one's Divine Sense, causing mental instability, leading to madness..."

This was witnessed firsthand by Mo Hua.

On his way, he tampered with the chains of the Black Bear Demon to sneak inside the bottom of the coffin.

Without restraints, the Black Bear Demon went berserk, in the chaos, knocking a Monster cultivator into the blood stream beneath the White Bone Path.

Mo Hua saw with his own eyes, the blood stream revealed numerous figures of deformed Demon Wraiths, which extended their bone-white hands, hollowing out the Monster cultivator's brain.

That Monster cultivator thus went insane, eventually killed by other Monster cultivators.

This White Bone Beach is somewhat like the "Blood Leech Path" in a fishing village, using "Evil Spirits" to fend off intruders and guard secrets.

It's a pity that Mo Hua didn't have the chance to study further before entering the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Otherwise, with so many Demon Wraiths, who knows, they might have first gotten a "taste."

Mo Hua thought silently in his heart.

Xun Ziyong found Mo Hua's words somewhat mysterious.

Especially regarding the "Demon Wraith" matter, though he had heard of it, he had never seen it with his own eyes, leaving him half-believing, half-doubting.

But Mo Hua did not seem to be lying.

Moreover, in this situation, it was indeed unwise to rashly approach the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Xun Ziyou asked about Ling Huxiao and his companions' situation. Learning they were locked in a cage, temporarily safe, he slowly breathed a sigh of relief.

Chongxu Sect Elder Shangguan Xuanjian beside him also felt relieved.

Xun Ziyou pondered, his expression solemn, and sent a Transmission:

"Mo Hua, from now on, except during sleep and rest, send me a Heavenly-Stem-and-Earth-Branch number every two hours."

"If any hour passes without receiving your Heavenly-Stem-and-Earth-Branch..."

Xun Ziyou's gaze turned cold, "No matter what, we will forcibly go in!"

Demon Wraiths, Evil Spirits, whatever, they will no longer be a concern.

Even if it means burning dry the blood stream, shattering the White Bone, we will forcibly charge in and level the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons!

Mo Hua felt a rush of emotion.

Elder Xun, and the Sect, were truly treating him well.

Meanwhile, he silently thought to himself:

"The Original Magnet signals in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons better 'behave', if the Original Magnet weakens, the signal deteriorates, and my numbers fail to send out, the entire valley would be doomed."

"Mhm mhm."

Mo Hua nodded, immediately sending a "Jiazi" over.

From then on, except during sleep, he would send a Heavenly-Stem-and-Earth-Branch number to Elder Xun every hour.

After sending, Mo Hua suddenly had a doubt, and could not help but ask Xun Ziyou:

"Elder Xun, how did Ling Huxiao and Little Wood get captured?"

At this time, it is not the end of the month, so logically, they should be diligently cultivating in the Sect, why were they captured and brought to Refining Demon Mountain?

Xun Ziyou replied:

"The matter of Ouyang Mu involves the Tai'a Sect, currently unclear."

"But as for Ling Huxiao... the Chongxu Sect has investigated and found that someone delivered a letter to Ling Huxiao, upon reading it, he became anxious and ventured alone to Refining Demon Mountain..."

"Upon learning of this, Elder Shangguan from the Chongxu Sect..."

"Elder Shangguan?" Mo Hua was startled, "A Shangguan Family Elder?"

"Yes," Xun Ziyou responded, "Surname Shangguan, given name Xuanjian, a direct lineage member of the Shangguan Family, currently serving as an Elder in the Chongxu Sect."

Shangguan Xuanjian...

Mo Hua slowly nodded, noting down the name.

Xun Ziyou continued: "...Upon learning, Elder Shangguan immediately rushed to Refining Demon Mountain, but upon entering, was ambushed by a Golden Core Demon Cultivator."

"Elder Shangguan executed Chongxu Sword Qi, severing one arm of the Golden Core Demon Cultivator, who fled in defeat."

"Elder Shangguan didn't have time to pursue, continued into the mountain for the rescue, but soon after, encountered an attack from two Golden Core Demon Cultivators..."

Mo Hua asked: "Were they the two Demon Cultivator Elders who fled from the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons?"

"Yes."

Xun Ziyou sighed.

Shangguan Xuanjian first defeated one Golden Core Demon Cultivator, then was besieged by two others; if not for timely assistance, it would likely have resulted in tragedy.

The audacity of these Demon Cultivators is indeed remarkable.