

The Quest 481

Chapter 481: Planning (1)

Eaten by "bad things"?

Zhang Quan flew into a rage, "What nonsense are you spouting?"

"If you don't believe it, then forget it."

Zhang Quan suppressed his anger, "You'd better tell the truth."

"Alright then," Mo Hua said with a serious little face, "I'll tell the truth. Actually, it was me who 'ate' your ancestor!"

Zhang Quan was furious:

"You damn brat, spouting nonsense and mocking me, treating me like a fool?!"

Mo Hua was helpless.

He didn't believe a lie, nor did he believe the truth, there was really nothing she could do.

It's your own choice to be a fool.

Fearing Zhang Quan would get so angry that something bad might happen, Lu Chengyun said to Mo Hua:

"Gentleman, it's getting late, perhaps it's time for a short rest..."

"I personally had a room prepared for the gentleman, and I hope he likes it."

Mo Hua sneakily glanced at Zhang Quan, pretending to be "scared."

Lu Chengyun sighed and said to Zhang Quan:

"The gentleman is an honored guest, he must not be treated disrespectfully, disturbed, and certainly not with any other intentions..."

His tone was not heavy, but his eyes were cold and left no room for refusal.

Zhang Quan's mouth twitched, and he clenched his teeth and said:

"Fine, I'll remember that!"

Lu Chengyun nodded slightly.

Mo Hua also nodded proudly at Zhang Quan,

"Remember, I am an honored guest!"

Seeing that Zhang Quan was about to get angry again, Lu Chengyun quickly said:

"Someone, take the gentleman to his room."

Mo Hua took the opportunity to slip away, bowing:

"Thank you, Lu Family Head, for the hospitality."

Then he placed a small hand behind his back and strutted out of the hall, following a corpse cultivator.

The more Zhang Quan looked, the angrier he became, with his fingers gripping into the stone table, gouging out five finger holes.

Lu Chengyun shook his head, "It's just a child, Brother Zhang, there's no need to be so angry."

Just a child?

Zhang Quan sneered in his heart.

You have never been angered by him.

If you had been angered by him, you might want to kill him more than I do and would stop uttering such cold, indifferent words like "just a child."

Zhang Quan was about to say something.

But Lu Chengyun shook his head at him slightly, "A little patience can upset great plans."

Zhang Quan had no choice but to swallow his anger, but he still felt very unconvinced, and he said sinisterly:

"Brother Lu, this kid, he must have ulterior motives!"

Lu Chengyun didn't seem to care, looking at Zhang Quan with a half-smile, "Brother Zhang, don't you have ulterior motives as well?"

Zhang Quan froze, his eyes flickered, and he said with a forced smile:

"Brother Lu jests."

Lu Chengyun, however, said indifferently:

"In this world, only oneself has no ulterior motives towards oneself. Besides that, between father and son, brothers, husband and wife, there are always ulterior motives, it's just a matter of degree."

"You have ulterior motives, the gentleman has ulterior motives, the corpse cultivators in this cave, to some extent, all have other thoughts..."

Lu Chengyun smiled slightly, "These are actually irrelevant."

"As long as this gentleman can work for me, it doesn't matter if he has ulterior motives. To put it another way, it is normal for him to have ulterior motives."

"If he doesn't have ulterior motives, that's when I'd become suspicious."

Lu Chengyun looked at Zhang Quan indifferently, "You are the same, Brother Zhang."

Zhang Quan appeared calm, but cold sweat seeped out inside.

Zhang Quan bowed, "Family Head, rest assured, I will serve you with the loyalty of a dog and horse."

Lu Chengyun smiled faintly, neither confirming nor denying.

His gaze became focused as he looked at Zhang Quan and instructed:

"The gentleman will stay here for a while to help me. Before the matter is settled, I hope there won't be any more unpleasantness between you, and I certainly don't want to see any accidents befall him."

"Do you understand, Brother Zhang?"

Zhang Quan frowned, "As Brother Lu says, I will naturally comply, but that boy, he's just a little brat in his teens. No matter how talented he is, he doesn't seem worthy of such esteem from Brother Lu..."

Lu Chengyun pondered:

"This gentleman is extremely skilled in formation drawing."

Zhang Quan obviously didn't believe it, "How good can he be?"

"Brother Zhang doesn't understand formations, you wouldn't comprehend even if I told you..."

Zhang Quan felt slighted, "That's..."

Lu Chengyun looked at him, sighing slowly:

"I can only say that the formation mastery of this little gentleman far surpasses Brother Zhang's understanding of formations, and in some areas, even I must admit inferiority..."

Zhang Quan's gaze flickered slightly.

He had not expected Lu Chengyun to hold this kid in such high regard.

Lu Chengyun appeared gentle but was always proud; his praise in normal days was nothing but courtesy and deceit.

But this time was different, his expression and tone did not seem fake.

Could this kid truly be that skilled?

Zhang Quan's brows furrowed even more tightly.

Able to hide, skilled in that strange fireball technique, protected by a pair of apprentices with no ordinary cultivation, profound in formation knowledge, and now even Lu Chengyun was elevating him this much...

Wouldn't killing him be even harder now?

"Playing me for a fool, destroying my family's business, insulting my ancestors, when will I ever be able to avenge these wrongs?"

Zhang Quan's gaze grew dark as he silently said to himself:

"If it's not feasible in the open, it seems I must make covert moves."

However, he said aloud, "Family Head, rest assured, I understand the limits."

Lu Chengyun gave Zhang Quan a glance, his gaze inscrutable, and said nothing.

Meanwhile, a Corpse cultivator, leading Mo Hua, arrived at his own room.

This room was a stone chamber.

It was relatively hidden and safe but also easy to guard, even encircled with formations.

This too was in keeping with Lu Chengyun's methods.

Drawing me closer while keeping his guard up.

The interior of the stone chamber was exquisitely furnished, adorned with floral screens and jade ornaments; it had everything one could need and was even perfumed to mask any smell of decay.

Mo Hua even had the illusion.

As if at this moment, he wasn't in a Corpse Mine filled with coffins and a chilly stench of decay, but rather in a beautifully arranged guest room of the Lu Family.

Indeed, Lu Chengyun had been very attentive in this matter.

But Mo Hua was far from moved.

If Lu Chengyun treated him this well, he must be aiming for something even greater.

Such a person, pretentious and self-serving, treats you kindly and meticulously as long as you are of value.

Once that value is used up, you'll be kicked to the curb, and after kicking you, probably stab you in the back a few times to silence you for good.

The very traitor of Minor Hidden Spirit Sect who could betray his master and steal the legacy.

Who could hide his name and face, assume a new identity, and enter the Lu Family as a son-in-law.

Who, as a son-in-law, could gain the approval of the Lu Family's Old Ancestor known as 'Capitalist Lu,' successfully be elected as Lu Family Head, and maintain the Lu Family's exploitation of Mining Cultivators, running the luxurious Jinhua Street.

How could such a person be as amiable and cultured as he seemed.

Moreover, he was still cooperating with Zhang Quan in Corpse Refinement.

Establishing a Corpse Mine, drawing Evil Formations, hoarding zombies, refining Iron Corpses — what exactly was his scheme?

What was the "stronger zombie that stands above the Iron Corpse" Lu Chengyun had mentioned?

All this must be clarified.

Mo Hua furrowed his brows, pondering for a moment, and sorted out the things he had to do next.

First, ensure his own safety.

Then, figure out the layout of the Corpse Mine.

Find a way to convey a message to Junior Brother and Sister, so they can provide support.

Afterward, help with Lu Chengyun's errands to see what exactly he wants from me.

If it involves Corpse Refinement, what kind of corpse.

And find an opportunity to acquire a complete copy of the Spirit Pivot Formation Chart.

And then there was Zhang Quan's Ancestral Master Picture.

Zhang Quan harbored a deadly animosity towards him; he had to find a way to trap him to death and then steal back his "Zombie Image."

His Divine Sense still hadn't had its fill.

And not a single good thing came from the Zhang Family full of zombies.

One must eradicate evil to prevent future troubles.

Mo Hua intended to destroy the ancestor of Zhang Quan and cut off his family's legacy, to prevent anyone else from refining corpses and harming others.

On top of that, he needed to find a way to deal with the Lu Family...

...

As Mo Hua tallied his tasks, he couldn't help but sigh, "I'm so busy..."

There were so many things to do.

He felt a bit tired, lay flat on the bed, and rested for a while before regaining his spirit.

"One thing at a time..."

First, he needed to understand the layout of the Corpse Mine.

Upon reaching unfamiliar territory, it was imperative first to familiarize oneself with the surroundings, thereby seeking advantages and avoiding harm, dodging unknown risks.

This was a basic principle for Monster Hunters.

And a lesson from his father, Mo Shan.

Mo Hua took it to heart.

Chapter 482: Peeking (1)

I couldn't leave for the time being.

Not to mention Lu Chengyun and Zhang Quan, even the two Iron Corpses guarding the door were not opponents I could face head-on.

Moreover, when Mo Hua entered the room, he noticed that around the entrance, Expose Dust Formations were laid out.

In some special places, there were also Expose Shadow Formations.

The ink was fresh; it was clear they had been drawn not long before, specifically to guard against Mo Hua.

"When your trump card is known, it will be targeted..."

Mo Hua shook his head, somewhat helpless.

But as long as it was about Formations, it was no big deal.

Mo Hua didn't take this matter to heart.

It was already past 1 p.m.

Mo Hua pretended to lie down and sleep, but his Divine Sense sank into the Sea of Consciousness, practicing an incomplete Spiritual Pivot Formation on the Taoist Stele all night.

The next day he awoke, he went through his routine Qi Refinement.

"Make the best of it," he thought, not at all affected by external affairs or objects.

Someone brought food to Mo Hua's door.

Mo Hua ate when he should eat and drank when he should drink, not feeling constrained at all.

A few days passed like this, Lu Chengyun never sought Mo Hua, but Mo Hua was already feeling bored, so he went to find Lu Chengyun and asked,

"Family Head Lu, is there anything you need me to do?"

Lu Chengyun said with a smile,

"There's no rush. We'll need a few more days to prepare. The gentleman can rest for now."

Speaking of rest, it was more like a "gentle imprisonment."

Now that his secret was known, it was necessary to confine me, presumably to prevent me from causing trouble.

"All right," Mo Hua nodded.

Lu Chengyun added, "If the gentleman finds it dull, you can wander around a bit."

"Really?"

Lu Chengyun said with a smile, "Of course."

Since Lu Chengyun said so, Mo Hua certainly didn't stand on ceremony.

The next day, he left his room and casually beckoned to a passing Corpse cultivator, "Come here."

The Corpse cultivator came over and bowed, saying,

"Gentleman, what can I do for you?"

"Show me around."

The Corpse cultivator was taken aback but, remembering that Mo Hua was a respected guest of Lu Chengyun, didn't dare to neglect him.

So, the Corpse cultivator took Mo Hua around for a tour.

After the tour, Mo Hua realized that the place he was in was a massive Stone Palace, hewn from within a mine.

The numerous chambers were all part of this Stone Palace.

The Stone Palace was majestic, eerie but also rudimentary.

Most furnishings were related to Corpse Refinement.

At first, Mo Hua found it novel but after a few rounds, he found it dull.

The Stone Palace was newly constructed; there wasn't much to see.

Everywhere were monotonous chambers.

Or dim, gloomy Corpse cultivators, pitch-dark coffins, and sinister Zombies.

There were Formations, but they were not particularly clever.

In some areas, the stone doors were tightly sealed. It was clear they contained secrets, but they were off-limits and inquiring further was prohibited.

Mo Hua inwardly scoffed.

This Lu Chengyun put on a show of generosity but in fact kept a tight watch, afraid of leaking secrets.

It's like inviting someone to dine, saying "Help yourself," but only serving radishes and cabbages, without a drop of "oil."

After spending a few days in the Corpse Mine, Mo Hua began to feel familiar with it.

He even started to feel somewhat at ease.

Apart from not being able to probe secrets, everything else was not bad.

The Corpse cultivators dared not offend Mo Hua. They even tried to fulfill any of his requests, whether he wanted to eat, drink, study something, practice Formations or if he needed any ink, paper, or writing brushes.

In these past few days, Mo Hua hadn't seen Zhang Quan.

He probably stayed away intentionally, fearing he'd become enraged.

If he lost his wits and attacked me out of anger, it would be tantamount to defying Lu Chengyun and he certainly wouldn't come out of it well.

Mo Hua didn't seek out Zhang Quan.

It was pointless to look for him now, as it wasn't the time to reclaim the "Zombie Image."

Wandering around like this wasn't the solution.

On the surface, Mo Hua had familiarized himself with the basic layout of the Stone Palace, but that wasn't enough.

He needed to find a way to inquire about some hidden places.

Mo Hua wanted to try using the Concealment Technique.

The Expose Dust Formation and the Expose Shadow Formation were Formations not surpassing the first grade, and tinkering with them wouldn't be difficult.

The challenge lay in how not to get caught by Lu Chengyun.

After some thought, Mo Hua suddenly realized that not being discovered by Lu Chengyun was impossible.

It made more sense to be discovered by him.

Lu Chengyun was suspicious by nature; if I was too honest, it would surely raise his doubts.

It would be better to make some minor movements under his watch.

I thought I hadn't been detected by him, but in reality, he did detect it, so in turn, he wouldn't be suspicious.

Mo Hua's gaze flickered, and he had an idea.

He first put on a cloak, activated the Formation on it, and with the help of the Formation, concealed his figure.

Then he went to the door and quietly disabled the Expose Dust Formation.

The moment the Expose Dust Formation was disabled, it was indeed detected.

A stream of Divine Sense descended and swept back and forth inside Mo Hua's room, searching for Mo Hua's figure.

This Divine Sense belonged to Lu Chengyun.

Mo Hua was familiar with it.

In these past days, Divine Sense occasionally peered at Mo Hua.

Gentle, subtle, with a hint of coldness, it was hard to notice.

But in Mo Hua's perception, it was clear as day.

This wisp of Divine Sense was identical to Lu Chengyun's aura.

From this, Mo Hua deduced that Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense was also around the level of Twelve Stripes, and certainly not at Thirteen Stripes.

Comparable to himself, but slightly weaker.

Although Lu Chengyun's Cultivation was at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage and he was also a Formation Master, it seemed that the strength of his Divine Sense was quite ordinary.

Compared to the average Cultivator, of course, it wasn't weak.

But compared to Mo Hua, it was somewhat inferior.

Previously, Mo Hua's Divine Sense was a solid Twelve Stripes.

Having refined several zombies from the Zhang Family ancestors, he was now nearing the peak of twelve stripes, but still hadn't reached thirteen.

Moreover, to break through to thirteen stripes, he estimated that he still had a distance to go.

Mo Hua immediately had some doubts:

"Lu Chengyun is at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage and also studies Formation every day, so why hasn't his Divine Sense reached thirteen stripes?"

"Could it be because he draws Evil Formations daily, seeking shortcuts and failing to properly temper his Divine Sense?"

However, not having reached thirteen stripes was also good.

In the Corpse Mine, Lu Chengyun had the highest cultivation and the strongest Divine Sense.

His Divine Sense being weaker than thirteen stripes meant that, within the Corpse Mine, all the corpse cultivators, along with the Lu Family elders, would not have a stronger Divine Sense than him.

Moreover, he had always kept from revealing to Lu Chengyun that his Divine Sense had already reached Foundation Establishment.

Even Elder Su did not know.

So, in Lu Chengyun's perception, his Divine Sense should conform to the limit of a Qi Refinement cultivator, between nine to ten stripes.

Mo Hua's eyes flickered slightly.

With a weaker Divine Sense, and unaware of how strong his own was, that would be easy to handle.

Mo Hua activated the Concealment Formation, then no longer restrained his Divine Sense but released a bit of presence instead.

This bit of presence was enough for Lu Chengyun to perceive.

Indeed, after a short while, Mo Hua detected a faint Divine Sense resting upon him.

This strand of Divine Sense was Lu Chengyun's.

Mo Hua pretended not to notice and then sneaked out the door.

The Expose Dust Formation at the door was undone by Mo Hua, so it didn't reveal his figure.

Mo Hua sneaked out of the door, looking around all the somewhat eerie chambers one by one.

These chambers, though secretive, did not contain many secrets.

Even if he discovered them himself, it was unlikely that Lu Chengyun would care.

Indeed, after Mo Hua's lengthy investigation, Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense showed no fluctuations whatsoever.

Mo Hua checked around, uncovered some superficial secrets, and then returned to the chamber, lying down on the bed again.

A moment later, Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense withdrew.

The next day, when Lu Chengyun saw Mo Hua, he didn't say anything.

But Mo Hua acted as though he was feeling "guilty," his gaze somewhat evasive.

Lu Chengyun appeared indifferent, and after Mo Hua left, the corner of his mouth revealed a smile as if everything was under control.

"So it's a Concealment Formation..."

Lu Chengyun shook his head slightly, "A mere trifle, how could it deceive the heavens and cross the sea..."

Indeed, Mo Hua's subsequent actions didn't escape Lu Chengyun's notice.

After Mo Hua concealed his figure, wherever he went, Lu Chengyun knew every detail.

After several days, Lu Chengyun also became a bit negligent.

The places Mo Hua visited, the secrets he discovered, were utterly inconsequential.

That night, Mo Hua invisibly went out as usual, strolling around, and upon return, found that Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense had already been withdrawn early.

It seemed he had lost interest in Mo Hua.

Mo Hua lay on the bed, not moving.

Sure enough, after a short while, Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense returned.

Mo Hua continued to feign sleep honestly.

This went on three or four times until after 1 a.m. when Lu Chengyun finally settled down.

Mo Hua felt a bit worn out.

This Lu Chengyun really was extremely suspicious...

For a good long while, there was no Divine Sense probing.

Mo Hua then quietly got up from the bed, donned a cloak of invisibility, used the Concealment Technique, and with a double concealment, further constricted his Divine Sense to the utmost, and quietly left the room.

A wary rabbit has three burrows, as Elder Yu taught him.

By day, he roamed the Corpse Mine openly and honorably;

By night, he activated the Concealment Formation to probe some trivial secrets right under Lu Chengyun's nose;

When Lu Chengyun relaxed his vigilance, he then employed full concealment, unbeknownst to gods and ghosts, to peek at the true secrets within the Corpse Mine...

Like, how many Iron Corpses are there in this Corpse Mine? How many Walking Corpses?

What is the Formation used for Corpse Refinement?

Where is the Spiritual Pivot Formation?

What exactly is the Lu Family's conspiracy?

...

Mo Hua wanted to know a lot of things.

First, he went to several sealed chambers and quietly made a small opening to peek inside and indeed found iron coffins concealed within.

Inside the iron coffins lay Iron Corpses.

Similar sealed chambers like these, Mo Hua counted during the day; there were over ten of them.

That is to say, there might be more than ten Iron Corpses, and possibly even more...

Besides, there were also some secret rooms.

Inside these secret rooms, there were also altars with offerings on them.

However, the offerings were no longer the likes of Ancestral Master Pictures.

Instead, they were various bizarre items, such as monster sculptures and zombie limbs.

Mo Hua didn't quite understand.

And there were some places, due to time constraints, that Mo Hua hadn't managed to visit.

Wandering around, Mo Hua arrived at the main entrance.

This main entrance was the door to the Stone Palace.

What separated here was the Stone Palace from the outside mine shafts.

Inside the Stone Palace, there were many chambers for the corpse cultivators to reside.

The corpse cultivators lived, refined corpses, and controlled corpses all within the Stone Palace.

Outside the Stone Palace were the mine shafts.

Mo Hua only glanced at it when he came in, a pitch-black expanse filled with coffins, very strange indeed.

Mo Hua wanted to take a look at the mine shafts, but in front of him was the large door.

Above the door, Formation was inscribed.

After Divine Sense Calculation, Mo Hua found that he could unravel this Formation, but once he did, he would inevitably alarm Lu Chengyun, so he couldn't act yet.

At that moment, Mo Hua heard the sound of bells coming from outside the door.

After the ringing of bells, it seemed as if countless zombies were climbing out of their coffins, clinking and clanking, producing eerie noises, somehow busying themselves with something.

These sounds, bit by bit, merged into a river.

Even through the Sound Isolation Formation, it was jarringly loud and grating to the ear.

It was as if in the dead silence of the netherworld, corpses worked as if they were alive; the discordance was unsettling.

Mo Hua frowned.

"What exactly is this Lu Chengyun doing, refining so many zombies?"

"It can't be... he isn't mining with them, is he...?"

Chapter 483: Little Tiger (1)

...

"I should visit the mine when I get the chance..."

Mo Hua thought to himself.

He wanted to know what exactly these Walking Corpses were doing inside the mines.

But for now, he couldn't leave.

After leaving the entrance of the Stone Palace, Mo Hua took a brief look around and then went back to sleep honestly.

In the following days, Mo Hua used the complete Concealment Technique, hiding from Lu Chengyun and familiarized himself with the interior of the Stone Palace.

Indeed, there were many zombies here, and their strength was formidable.

It was even stronger than the Lu Family's apparent strength on the surface.

If one day the Lu Family stopped allowing Lu Chengyun to be the Family Head...

With just one order from Lu Chengyun to control the Iron Corpses and the Walking Corpses, he could truly annihilate the Lu Family...

Mo Hua furrowed his eyebrows, pondering.

Could it be that the Lu Family Old Ancestor was apprehensive of this and that's why he let Lu Chengyun become the Family Head?

But that didn't seem quite right either.

Constructing such a massive Stone Palace and refining so many zombies.

It required many Body Cultivators, Formation Masters, Corpse Cultivators, as well as corpse refining herbs, coffins, Corpse Controlling Bells, corpses...

The cost in manpower and resources was no small sum.

Without the support of the Lu Family, Lu Chengyun could never have built this.

There must be secrets between the Lu Family Old Ancestor and Lu Chengyun...

However, with so few clues, Mo Hua couldn't guess for the time being.

Mo Hua thought about it and felt it was time to contact his Junior Brother and Sister.

Inside and outside collaboration would make things more convenient.

In case of an accident, they could also help him.

Mo Hua took out a Map, which depicted the geographical layout of the Lu Family's mines.

Mo Hua then took out another piece of paper and sketched out the entrance to the Corpse Mine and the approximate location of the Stone Palace from memory.

Comparing the two, he roughly inferred the location of the Stone Palace within the mine.

Then, based on the location, he speculated where the walls of the mine were thinnest, which would be the easiest for him to dig through.

First off, his own room would not work.

Mo Hua glanced at the Map and realized that his room was situated deep within the Stone Palace, the distance to the outside rock face being the thickest. Trying to dig out from here would take the most time.

Moreover, there were Formations all around. Digging would trigger these Formations.

These Formations could not be set off.

Lu Chengyun was also a Formation Master, and his accomplishments in Formation were not shabby.

It was fine as long as he didn't discover Mo Hua, who could make some alterations to the Formation without Lu Chengyun realizing right away.

But now, being right under his watch, it would be a rash move to tamper with the Formation, and Lu Chengyun would definitely notice.

Mo Hua also suspected that the Formations inside the Stone Palace were integrated.

Lu Chengyun would definitely use some method to monitor the entire Stone Palace's Formations.

Otherwise, it wouldn't have been possible for Lu Chengyun to detect him the moment he deactivated the Expose Dust Formation.

Deactivating the Expose Dust Formation was done intentionally to be discovered by Lu Chengyun.

Now, digging a tunnel had to be done without letting Lu Chengyun find out.

At night, after deceiving Lu Chengyun, Mo Hua concealed himself and went to several unoccupied rooms on the right side of the Stone Palace.

These rooms were empty and clearly freshly excavated. No one lived there, and there were no coffins placed inside.

According to Mo Hua's estimates, the walls of these rooms were the thinnest, making it the easiest spot to dig through, and what was more, there were very few Formations in this area.

It was the weakest point in the entire Stone Palace's Formations that Mo Hua had calculated.

Digging a small tunnel would be sufficient.

Mo Hua took out a little tiger.

This was a wooden puppet given to him by Old Kui, made of a material resembling wood but exceptionally sturdy.

The little tiger had a Spiritual Pivot Formation drawn on it by Mo Hua.

The Spiritual Pivot Formation was for control.

Apart from that, its limbs and teeth bore Sharp Gold Formations drawn by Mo Hua, which could make the puppet's limbs sharp and capable of piercing through mountains as easy as turning the hand.

Mo Hua wanted to use the little tiger to send a message.

He himself couldn't leave just yet.

So a small tunnel would do.

Mo Hua found a secluded corner, placed the little tiger there, and then used his Divine Sense to control the Spiritual Pivot Formation on the little tiger, which in turn prompted the puppet to dig through the rock.

The formation on the little tiger slightly glowed and sprang to life, running several circles around Mo Hua before finding a spot at the corner of a wall. Its tiny claws scratched away, and fine rock chips fell, quickly digging a fist-sized tunnel.

The little tiger squeezed in and then continued to dig outward.

Within the tunnel, rock debris and dust kept falling.

Mo Hua thought for a moment and drew another inconspicuous Earth Series Formation to dissolve all the rock fragments to prevent detection.

After that, Mo Hua returned to his room.

Whenever Lu Chengyun wasn't watching, day or night, Mo Hua controlled the little tiger from afar with his Divine Sense to dig the tunnel.

In the deadly silent Corpse Mine, amongst the black-grey rocks...

The little tiger kept digging, burrowing further and further away.

A few days later, Mo Hua's Divine Sense suddenly felt lighter, realizing there was nothing left to dig around him.

"I've broken through!"

Mo Hua rejoiced inwardly.

Afterward, Mo Hua let the little tiger lie in the underbrush, waiting to be discovered by either his Junior Brother or Sister.

...

They must know that I've left Tongxian City,

If they were looking for me, they would likely search near the mines.

And this Little Tiger, crafted by Old Kui, something I've fiddled with many times, Junior Brother and Sister are both very familiar with it—just a sweep of their Divine Sense, and they'd discover it.

The area around the mine is open and barren, making it less likely to be picked up by other Cultivators.

Mo Hua waited until dawn.

After that, with just a slight stirring of his Divine Sense, he detected that Little Tiger had been picked up, and the aura of the person was very familiar.

It was either Junior Brother or Sister.

After Little Tiger was picked up, something seemed to have been stuffed into it, and a moment later, it was thrown back onto the mountain path.

Mo Hua then controlled Little Tiger to crawl back.

Little Tiger got to the entrance of the cave and quietly waited.

Only after 1 p.m., when Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense departed, did Mo Hua conceal his figure and go to the entrance, picking up Little Tiger, covered in dust and looking quite dirty.

There was a piece of paper stuffed in Little Tiger's belly.

Mo Hua unfolded the paper; the handwriting was delicate and beautiful, bearing the message:

"Where have you gone?"

There was a simple drawing at the end of the message.

The drawing depicted a small face, with a stick on top of its head banging it.

One glance and he knew it was Junior Sister's drawing—that small face was meant to be Mo Hua; he had seen her draw it before.

The Mo Hua in the drawing was being hit on the head.

It seemed Junior Sister was a bit angry...

Mo Hua felt a bit helpless as he stuffed a piece of paper he had written in advance into Little Tiger's body; it explained the reasons for his actions along with information about the Corpse Mine and the Stone Palace.

He also drew a small Formation on the paper. If someone else got hold of it, Mo Hua would make the paper self-combust.

Mo Hua then placed Little Tiger back at the cave entrance.

Little Tiger began scrabbling its way up the path again.

The next evening, Little Tiger came scrabbling back.

Mo Hua went to pick up Little Tiger again and saw that there was a new note. It simply read:

"Understood."

There was also a drawing of a small face that was expressionless, neither happy nor angry.

But it seemed as if she was no longer angry...

Mo Hua let out a slight sigh of relief and left Little Tiger in the mountain path to pass messages between him and Junior Sister.

Mo Hua himself would not make any rash moves for now.

Meanwhile, Junior Brother and Sister could be well-infor-med and make some preparations.

Two days later, Lu Chengyun finally found Mo Hua, greeted him with a cupped fist and politely said,

"I have made the necessary preparations; please, Gentleman, lend me a hand."

Mo Hua's eyes glinted as he asked,

"What do you need my help with, Family Head?"

"Please follow me," Lu Chengyun said, gesturing an invite with his hand.

Mo Hua followed him out, walking through the corridors of the Stone Palace, turning several corners, and arriving at the previous hall.

Inside the hall, Zhang Quan was also present. He snorted coldly when he saw Mo Hua.

But he said nothing, nor dared to strike at Mo Hua.

Mo Hua also "hmmphed" in response, while calculating in his mind how to scheme against Zhang Quan and then steal his ancestor.

Seeing the tension between the two but also their restraint—neither fighting nor exchanging words—Lu Chengyun nodded slightly.

"Brother Zhang, open the door," he said.

Zhang Quan's eyes focused, he nodded and said, "Alright."

Mo Hua was taken aback, wondering to himself.

"Open the door? What door?"

Where was there any door in this place?

Mo Hua frowned, then watched as Zhang Quan walked up to a huge mural on the wall.

The mural was carved with zombies displaying ferocious and cruel expressions, Cultivators with faces filled with horror, countless overturned coffins, and hands stretching out from within them.

Zhang Quan began to chant and make hand seals in front of the painting.

Mo Hua was slightly stunned.

His actions looked so familiar.

It was similar to what Mo had done in front of the Screen in the Corpse Walking Stronghold, though more complicated, and the incantations were longer.

So this mural, like the screen, was the entrance to a secret chamber?

Sure enough, moments later, the lines on the mural became chaotic and intermingled, turning into a puddle of ink. The ink gradually structured itself into clarity, forming a face that was half human, half zombie.

This face was majestic yet harsh, with a gaze full of greed.

And as part of a zombie, it bore ferocity and terror.

After the half human, half zombie face materialized, it opened its mouth wide; the more it opened, the bigger it got, until the entire face became a gaping maw.

The sharp fangs on either side of the mouth were as lethal as those of Monster Beasts.

This mouth was the entrance.

Lu Chengyun said, "Gentleman, please!"

After speaking, he walked towards the mural himself.

Mo Hua hesitated for a moment before following him, entering the gaping maw of the zombie.

Chapter 484: Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses (1)

Mo Hua walked into the mural, into the mouth of the zombie, and into a secret passage.

The passage was narrow and dark but not long.

Less than the time it takes to drink a cup of tea, after passing through the secret passage, the space before Mo Hua suddenly opened up.

What came into view was a massive altar.

The altar was exquisitely arranged, resplendent with gold and glittering with jewels.

The sandalwood was precious, the candle stands were of jade, the candles were gilded, and a giant incense burner engraved with gold beast patterns, with incense smoldering inside, wafting curls of smoke.

Above the altar were placed five-color spirit flowers, as offerings alongside pigs, sheep, and spirit beasts.

In front of the altar hung banners of golden yellow, with jiao dragon patterned lanterns suspended from them.

In the middle of the altar stood an enshrined sculpture.

It was covered with a yellow cloth, obscuring its appearance.

But the material used for it was either gold or jade.

The entire altar was both imposing and luxurious.

Mo Hua clicked his tongue, silently murmuring to himself,

"This thing... must've cost a fortune in spirit stones..."

As he looked down, his brow furrowed, his gaze becoming even more stunned.

Underneath the altar lay a gigantic bronze coffin.

The coffin bore greenish patinas of bronze rust, suggesting it had endured many years of decay, exuding an ancient and rotten aura.

Around the huge bronze coffin were arranged numerous iron coffins.

These iron coffins housed iron corpses and were slightly smaller in comparison to the bronze coffin, appearing blackish-green in color.

Beyond the iron coffins, as far as the eye could see, were densely packed dark wooden coffins.

There were thousands of these wooden coffins, so many that in just a moment, Mo Hua couldn't count exactly how many there were.

Between the coffins, blood-red formation patterns connected them.

First, they classified the wooden coffins, connecting them to above the iron coffins, and then through the iron coffins, with blood-red patterns, they led to the large bronze coffin in the center.

On the ground among the multitude of coffins were drawn several sinister and strange formations.

All of the evil formations were linked together.

Sinister yet magnificent.

A shiver ran through Mo Hua's heart.

Is this... an evil path great formation?

He suppressed the shock in his heart, focused his mind, and used his divine sense to deduce the formation pivot and number of formations, sighing with relief afterward.

Not a great formation...

Although they looked menacing, the number of single formations, the structure of the formation pivot, and the scale of the formations did not qualify as a great formation.

At most, it could be considered a "quasi-great formation."

In essence, it was still a compound formation, much less powerful than a great formation, yet much stronger than an average compound formation.

This was the strongest compound formation Mo Hua had ever encountered.

And it was also an evil path compound formation.

Seeing Mo Hua's shocked expression, Lu Chengyun felt quite pleased with himself, with a smile playing at the corner of his mouth, he asked,

"Young gentleman, what do you think?"

Mo Hua had his own thoughts, pretending not to have seen through it, his expression changing uncertainly, until, utterly baffled, he said,

"Lu Family Head, you're actually constructing a great formation!"

Lu Chengyun humbly said,

"It's not quite a great formation, just a compound formation of a larger scale."

But pride flashed in his eyes as he was clearly very proud of the formation he had laid out.

Mo Hua then feigned as though he had seen very little of the world, saying in amazement,

"Such scale, and it's still not considered a great formation..."

Lu Chengyun smiled and asked,

"Young gentleman, haven't you seen a great formation before?"

Mo Hua blinked.

In his heart he thought, I can't just tell you that I've not only seen one but have also been the lead architect of a Grade-One Eleven-Pattern Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation, which I used to slay a big demon in the end...

Even if he said so, Lu Chengyun probably wouldn't believe it.

Hence, Mo Hua shook his head with a "sincere" face, and longingly said,

"I have not seen one, I've only heard my master mention it. A formation master capable of constructing a great formation must have extremely strong divine sense, wide knowledge of formations, profound expertise, and also manage the construction of the great formation, being a renowned figure of the region."

Mo Hua had the nerve to lavish himself with praise.

Lu Chengyun nodded and said feelingly, "Indeed."

Becoming the lead architect and constructing a great formation was the lifelong pursuit of every formation master.

Lu Chengyun was no exception.

However, so far, he didn't possess the ability to construct a great formation, and this compound formation here was already his limit.

Even so, he was far ahead of other formation masters.

Once this formation was activated, the Lu Family could dominate the Minor Wilderness State Boundary.

Whether it was personal power or formation accomplishment, he could take one step further.

Given time, he could undoubtedly construct a true great formation.

Ambition burned brightly in Lu Chengyun's eyes.

The thirteen-year-old Mo Hua, who had already constructed a great formation, was standing quietly on the side, watching him.

When Lu Chengyun came back to his senses, Mo Hua softly asked,

"Lu Family Head, what exactly is this formation?"

Lu Chengyun's eyes became focused as he slowly said,

"This formation is called... Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses."

"Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses..."

Mo Hua was slightly startled.

"Ten Thousand Corpses..."

No, that's not right...

This isn't the name of a single formation, nor is it likely to be the name of a compound formation.

A mere compound formation could not possibly be named "Ten Thousand Corpses."

Mo Hua glanced at the countless coffins below, and at the dense collection of evil formations, his gaze flickering.

This Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses must be a great formation!

It should be called the Great Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses!

The current compound formation had been reduced from the original great formation.

Lu Chengyun lacked the ability in formation arts, and the Lu Family couldn't possibly deplete their resources to construct a formation.

So because Lu Chengyun couldn't build a great formation, he built this compound formation, reduced from the Great Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

But where did Lu Chengyun get the formation diagram?

The inheritance of great formations was always a closely guarded secret.

His Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation was given to him by his master.

So, who gave Lu Chengyun the Great Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses?

Moreover, given that this was an evil path great formation, the ones capable of passing on such sinister formations must be either distinguished demon sects or powerful big demons from the demon path...

A chill went through Mo Hua's heart, and his gaze grew colder.

"Lu Family Head, where exactly did this formation come from?" Mo Hua asked quietly again.

Lu Chengyun seemed on the verge of speaking, then stopped, looking at Mo Hua, he said with a smile,

"That... is something I fear I cannot disclose."

Mo Hua also apologized with a smile,

"Family Head, my apologies, I shouldn't have asked."

Immediately following that, his curiosity perked up as he asked,

"Family Head, what did you want to see me for? I can't do a Compound Formation, let alone, this Compound Formation is an Evil Formation and I haven't learned it. My master wouldn't allow me to learn it either."

Lu Chengyun gave a faint smile. "Gentleman, rest assured, I will not make you do anything difficult."

"Gentleman, please follow me..."

After speaking, Lu Chengyun walked straight ahead.

Following behind him, Mo Hua passed by numerous closely-packed coffins and layers upon layers of blood-red Evil Formations on the ground, arriving near the bronze coffin.

Near the bronze coffin, there were some places that were blank, void of any drawn Formation Patterns.

Lu Chengyun then said,

"I invited Gentleman over here not to draw an Evil Formation, but to ask Gentleman to help me build the Formation eye of this Compound Formation."

Mo Hua asked, "Isn't the Formation eye of an Evil Formation still an Evil Formation?"

Lu Chengyun shook his head, "It is not constructed using the methods of the Evil Formation but by the handiwork of the Righteous Dao Gathering Spirit, to construct the Formation eye."

Mo Hua was puzzled.

You are constructing an Evil Formation, so why switch to a righteous way for such a critical part?

Seeing the confusion in Mo Hua's expression, Lu Chengyun sighed and said,

"The Formation eye of the Evil Path Compound Formation would result in too many killings, something my Lu Family cannot bear to do..."

Mo Hua inwardly cursed him for his pretense, but he praised him solemnly,

"Family Head Lu truly has a heart of compassion..."

Speaking nonsense with his eyes open, yet his face remained serious.

Lu Chengyun was slightly startled; he wasn't sure if Mo Hua was praising him or mocking him...

Of course, he didn't care.

"However..." Mo Hua showed some reluctance as he said, "I don't have a Formation Diagram."

Lu Chengyun then handed Mo Hua the Formation Diagram of the Formation.

Mo Hua glanced at it and instantly had a rough idea.

The Formation Diagram was incomplete.

It only contained the relevant parts of the Formation eye and the Formation Pivot.

Indeed, one could use this to construct the Formation eye system of the Formation, but it was impossible to know the full picture of how Spiritual Power operates.

Mo Hua looked over the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses Diagram again and gradually understood.

The Evil Path Great Formation required vast amounts of Blood Qi and Evil Power to operate the Formation.

In deriving from the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses, the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation requires less Blood Qi and Evil Power, but the total amount is still massive.

According to the Formation Diagram, to construct the Formation eye of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses, it was initially necessary to use a Blood Refining Formation and a Blood Spirit Formation as part of a Compound Formation.

First, killing people and refining the cultivators' Blood Qi using the Blood Refining Formation, extracting the Spiritual Power from the cultivators.

Then, through the Blood Spirit Formation, the cultivators' Blood Qi and Spiritual Power are fused to form Evil Power, which propels the operation of the Great Formation.

By doing so, a multitude of cultivators would need to be killed.

Mo Hua remembered what his junior female apprentice said.

Some Demon Path Great Formations even massacre all the cultivators in a city, to refine their Blood Spirit and inject it into the Formation eye, driving the entire Great Formation.

The Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation does not need to kill that many cultivators at once.

But over time, as long as the Formation operates, people will need to be continuously killed, and Spiritual Power and Blood Qi must be constantly refined to sustain the Formation.

South Yue City does not have so many cultivators to be killed so wantonly.

Besides, the Lu Family also dare not kill like that.

If they really did kill that many people, even a fool would notice something was wrong.

It is also impossible for the Taoist Court to tolerate such acts.

Unless the Lu Family truly wishes to rebel against the Taoist Court and the entire clan fall into the Demon Path, swearing allegiance to the Demon Sect, would they dare to do such a thing.

But such conduct is far too malicious in nature.

Once discovered by the Taoist Court, they would certainly be suppressed by Taoist Soldiers, and the whole clan slaughtered without leaving a single survivor.

Mo Hua estimated that Lu Chengyun did not have the courage for this.

Even if he did, not all the many people in the Lu Family were willing to be so reckless with their lives.

Although it was an Evil Formation, the Evil Formation's eye could not be used.

So they had no choice but to use the Spiritual Power Formation eye.

Mo Hua estimated that Lu Chengyun intended to use the Gathering Spirit Array as the Formation eye and Spirit Stones as material to refine Spiritual Power.

Once the Spiritual Power circulated, it would then be corrupted by the Evil Energies in the Evil Formation, turning the clean Spiritual Power into Evil Power, thus driving the entire Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation.

"Master was right; the formations of the Righteous Dao are the foundation, and those of the Demon Path are just opportunistic shortcuts," Mo Hua silently thought to himself.

But this Lu Chengyun, his understanding of formations was also quite profound.

He could actually think of such a method that mixes the righteous and the evil.

Mo Hua thought for a moment and then hesitantly refused,

"Family Head Lu, Compound Formations... I'm not too familiar with them. I'm afraid I may not be able to construct it..."

Yet Lu Chengyun said, "You can do it."

Mo Hua was puzzled, "How do you know?"

"I heard it from Elder Su," Lu Chengyun replied.

"Elder Su?" Mo Hua frowned, "Does this matter have something to do with Elder Su as well?"

Lu Chengyun shook his head, "It has nothing to do with him."

Lu Chengyun looked at Mo Hua and sighed,

"When chatting leisurely with Elder Su, he mentioned your insights on constructing Formation eyes were truly extraordinary. Upon hearing it, Lu Chengyun was deeply impressed!"

"With such insight, involving advanced Compound Formations and even the central structure of Great Formations, one could not have such an exceptional understanding without a profound inheritance of Formation knowledge and guidance from Formation experts."

"Therefore, I had the idea to ask Gentleman to help me construct the Formation eye of the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation."

Mo Hua understood.

It turned out to be Elder Su, who had slipped up.

When Mo Hua taught him back then, he had instructed him not to tell others.

Perhaps Elder Su did not regard the Family Head as an outsider...

Or maybe, he wanted to brag about Mo Hua in front of the Family Head to give Mo Hua some credit but did not expect it to backfire.

Elder Su probably did not anticipate that Lu Chengyun was not a good person.

Mo Hua sighed inwardly.

These insights regarding the Formation eye stem from his enlightenment when he constructed the Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation.

The construction of the Formation eye of a Great Formation, if used on a Compound Formation, would naturally be more than sufficient.

Lu Chengyun's this sort of thinking was, in fact, normal.

He tried to overestimate Mo Hua's level of proficiency in formations.

However, his "overestimation" was still, in essence, an underestimation.

Mo Hua thought for a while, then showed a difficult expression,

"I've only ever engaged in theoretical discussion; I might not actually be able to construct it..."

Lu Chengyun appeared very forgiving,

"No matter, Gentleman, feel free to try. Trial and error are part of Formation construction. I believe with Gentleman's intelligence, you will not disappoint Lu Chengyun..."

Implicitly suggesting, disappointing him would mean there would be consequences to face...

Mo Hua understood Lu Chengyun's thoughts and sighed helplessly,

"Alright, I'll try."

Chapter 485: Slacking Off (1)

...

Lu Chengyun handed Mo Hua some more Formation Diagrams, Formation Patterns, and books on Formation Explanation.

"These albums should be helpful for the gentleman in constructing the Formation eye for the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation," he said.

Lu Chengyun's gaze showed neither joy nor anger, and then he said indifferently:

"I will give the gentleman three days. Within three days, draw a good design for the Formation Diagram of the Formation eye. We'll discuss it, take the essence and discard the dregs, improve it several times, and we should be able to construct a complete Spiritual Power Formation Eye Diagram."

Three days...

Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief but also felt some unease, and cupped his hands in thanks:

"Let's do as the Lu Family Head said."

Mo Hua then left with some Formation Diagrams and books that Lu Chengyun had given him, his heart filled with "worry and trepidation."

Not until Mo Hua had gone far did Zhang Quan speak in a gloomy tone:

"Brother Lu, that kid, he looks completely unsure of himself."

Lu Chengyun turned his head to look at him, "If he isn't confident, are you, Brother Zhang?"

Zhang Quan twisted his mouth, "Brother Lu jests. I don't understand Formations..."

Lu Chengyun snorted lightly.

Zhang Quan harbored doubts and with a provocative tone, he asked:

"This kid... gentleman, can he really construct the Formation eye?"

Lu Chengyun pondered for a moment, then slowly said:

"He has good talent, high comprehension, and surely has inherited knowledge from a prestigious master, with profound knowledge in formations..."

"The only problem might be that he hasn't dabbled broadly in formations, lacks experience, hasn't built many Formations practically, and is inexperienced..."

Lu Chengyun then sighed and said, "However, it's not his fault. After all, he's still young. At the age of barely over ten, no matter how much he forsakes sleep and food, he can't have drawn too many Formations..."

"How can the experience of Formation masters, who have studied for over a hundred years, compare with his?"

"That's why I borrowed his extensive Formation knowledge to design the Formation eye, while I supervise and make corrections, to compensate for his lack of experience in Formation crafting."

Zhang Quan frowned, "Even so, why don't you design it yourself, Brother Lu?"

Lu Chengyun's expression turned slightly cold, and a trace of displeasure appeared in his eyes.

He thought to himself:

If I could design it myself, why would I entrust someone else?

Lu Chengyun looked at the vast Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation, feeling a slight tremor in his heart.

This is a Compound Formation that almost approaches a Large Formation!

The structure of the Formation eye is almost that of a Large Formation.

Large Formations and Single Formations represent entirely different systems of formation.

My Divine Sense is sufficient, but my knowledge of formations is far too little.

Without a profound formation heritage and guidance from a master, an ordinary Formation Master trying to study a Large Formation has no way to even begin understanding it.

Relying solely on one's own research is like working blindly; it could take decades without necessarily figuring anything out.

Moreover, I simply don't have that time.

By the time I figure it out on my own, draw the Formation Diagram, construct the Formation eye, and form the Formation, the zombies in this mine will probably all have spoiled.

This Zhang Quan, after all, is not a Formation Master. Talking to him is exhausting!

Although Lu Chengyun was resentful in his heart, he still found an excuse for himself on the surface:

"I've dabbled in the Evil Formation path. Now trying to reconstruct the Formation eye using a Righteous Dao method is a bit difficult."

Zhang Quan was slightly astonished when he heard this and unconsciously nodded his head.

He did not understand Lu Chengyun's problem with formation learning and thought Lu Chengyun was deceiving him, so he only half-believed.

But what Lu Chengyun said now, he understood.

Having drawn Evil Formations, naturally, one can't draw a standard Formation properly.

The opposition between righteous and evil is simple and understandable.

Zhang Quan pondered for a moment and then his confusion resurfaced:

"But, is that young man's formation knowledge truly so extraordinary?"

Lu Chengyun nodded, "Naturally..."

"If there wasn't an excellent legacy and guidance from a superior mentor, relying solely on himself, even if his talent were exceptional, how could he possibly become a first-class Formation Master at such a young age?"

After Lu Chengyun finished speaking, his expression became emotional:

"A first-class Formation Master appointed by the Taoist Court, ah, how many Formation Masters exhaust their entire lifetimes, studying with devoted concentration, to attain such an honor."

"And he's already a first-class Formation Master at the age of thirteen..."

Envy flashed in Lu Chengyun's eyes.

Why couldn't I be that lucky, to meet such an excellent mentor? Otherwise, my own level in formations wouldn't have been struggling for so many years, advancing slowly...

A hint of wariness also appeared in Zhang Quan's eyes.

"He's actually a first-class Formation Master..."

He knew that Mo Hua was good at drawing formations, but he didn't realize how good.

Then a greedy thought arose in him.

It seemed a waste to kill a first-class Formation Master.

I wonder if there's a way to keep him by my side to draw formations for me...

Both harboring their own schemes, outwardly, they still appeared as if nothing was amiss.

Later on, Lu Chengyun brought up the topic of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses again.

After some thought, his eyes brightened as he said:

"Once this formation is successfully established, we will begin Corpse Refinement. Once the corpse is refined and can command the horde, both South Yue City and the entire Minor Wilderness State Boundary will be at our mercy."

Zhang Quan's eyes also sparkled with excitement, and he said:

"I will follow Brother Lu's lead!"

The two exchanged glances, both brimming with ambition.

...

...

"However, before that," after a moment, Lu Chengyun's tone shifted, his gaze deepening, and he said:

"I would like to borrow Brother Zhang's Ancestral Master Picture for a look."

Zhang Quan was taken aback, his smile gradually fading, "Didn't Brother Lu already see it before?"

"The Zhang Family ancestor has unparalleled elegance, I wish to admire it once more," Lu Chengyun politely said.

Zhang Quan scoffed in his heart.

Admire?

He's probably tasted the sweetness already.

"This Ancestral Master Picture, I've just gotten it back..." Zhang Quan hesitated.

"I'll only borrow it for half a month."

"But..."

Lu Chengyun said, "I will give Brother Zhang an additional tenth of the Walking Corpses and Iron Corpses in the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses."

Zhang Quan's eyes brightened, bargaining:

"Twenty percent!"

Lu Chengyun's gaze hardened, he fell silent for a moment, and slowly said, "Alright!"

The deal was settled.

Zhang Quan took out the Ancestral Master Picture, handing it over to Lu Chengyun with some reluctance, "This picture has been quite spoiled by that little devil, it's significantly weakened, it probably needs people to nurture it..."

Lu Chengyun laughed, "Brother Zhang, rest assured, nurturing the picture is no big deal, I have plenty of offerings, and I certainly won't neglect the Zhang Family's ancestor."

"Moreover, I have prepared a very nourishing supplement..."

Lu Chengyun revealed a smile with unclear implications.

Zhang Quan didn't know what he intended to do and frowned...

...

After returning to his room, Mo Hua spent about two hours, including time spent looking at the Formation Diagrams and Formation Books, to complete the Spiritual Power Formation Eye Diagram for the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

Once completed, Mo Hua thought for a moment, then burned it.

Afterwards, he drew another one with a similar underlying layout but with hundreds of mistakes in the details.

This was even simpler.

In the time it took to brew a pot of tea, Mo Hua finished the drawing.

After finishing, Mo Hua began to slack off.

Seemingly deep in thought, in reality, he was just dawdling...

He spent all day lying on the desk, poring over piles of Formation Diagrams, Formation Books, Formation Patterns, looking, flipping, doodling, and correcting while frowning deeply.

His mind, however, was on other things: what to eat for lunch, whether Little Tiger had sent any news, whether his junior sister had replied.

What the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses was used for, what was inside the bronze coffin, and just where the Spiritual Pivot Formation really was...

All of this was observed by Lu Chengyun.

Unaware of Mo Hua's thoughts, he simply believed that Mo Hua was diligent and responsible.

Lu Chengyun gave Mo Hua three days.

Mo Hua slacked off for those three days.

On the evening of the last day, Mo Hua, with some "nervousness," handed the flawed Formation Eye Diagram to Lu Chengyun.

Lu Chengyun glanced at it and was initially amazed.

The overall layout of the Formation Eye was indeed correct.

It really did have a shadow of a Large Formation.

But upon closer inspection, he frowned.

There were too many errors in the details.

The specific arrangement of Formation Patterns, the construction of the nucleus, the conveyance of Spiritual Power—all were crude and the conception was unfamiliar.

"The experience with formations is indeed lacking..." Lu Chengyun silently sighed to himself.

He pointed out a few errors to Mo Hua.

Mo Hua acted as if he had an epiphany and exclaimed, "As expected of the Lu Family Head!"

Then he seemed to be somewhat disheartened and said in a low voice:

"I'm afraid I can't draw this Formation Eye properly..."

Lu Chengyun consoled him, "You are still young, and to achieve this much among Formation Masters is already quite rare."

"Constructing a Compound Formation Eye is not easy."

"You must not lose heart or become discouraged, improve it a few more times, and you will certainly be able to create a perfect and complete Formation Eye Diagram."

Mo Hua blinked, "Really?"

Lu Chengyun said kindly, "It is natural."

Mo Hua seemed to regain confidence and nodded:

"Okay, I'll try harder, correct the mistakes, and strive to revise it again!"

Lu Chengyun felt reassured.

His judgment of Mo Hua was further solidified in his heart.

Clever, with high comprehension, serious about learning formations, but after all, a child's nature, easily trusting of others.

The inheritance of the formation was extraordinary, and he had profound knowledge of formations, but he lacked practical experience, and his technique in constructing formations was raw.

Talented and knowledgeable, but lacking practice and refinement.

In every sense, a promising young candidate.

But also, just a candidate...

Lu Chengyun's gaze shifted subtly, and he put his mind at ease.

...

Chapter 486:

...

In the exquisitely furnished stone chamber.

Mo Hua sensed Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense spying on him, and he pretended to be contemplating the design of the Formation eye.

Once Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense had left, Mo Hua tossed the Formation Diagram aside and began doodling Little Tigers on paper to amuse himself.

As he drew, Mo Hua calculated in his mind.

What exactly was this Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses for?

Corpse Refinement?

What kind of corpse then?

Considering the current state of the Formation Patterns and the flow of Spiritual Power, it appeared designed to utilize the Formation to harness immense Evil Power, refining Walking Corpses and Iron Corpses on a large scale and in batches.

From the Zhang Family to the Lu Family.

From small workshop-style Corpse Refinement to large clan-scale, Formation-intensive, systematic, industrialized Corpse Refinement.

In this way, with the help of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses, a greater number of Zombies could be refined in a short period of time.

But was that really all there was to it?

Once the Walking Corpses and Iron Corpses were refined, how would they be controlled?

And what use would a vast number of Zombies be?

It couldn't be possible that Lu Chengyun would abandon being the Family Head just to establish a Corpse Path Demon Sect and become its sect leader...

Or was it that, like the Patriarch of the Qian Family, he intended to secretly use Zombies for marauding, killing, and pillaging to eliminate rivals, thereby strengthening the Lu Family's power and territory?

Mo Hua thought again of the massive Bronze Coffin within the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation.

In the partial Formation Diagram given by Lu Chengyun, there was no mention of the function of that Bronze Coffin.

The Formation eye system designed by Mo Hua also didn't include that Bronze Coffin.

Mo Hua frowned.

"What exactly is that Bronze Coffin used for?"

"And what exactly is inside it?"

Fearing he might have missed something crucial, Mo Hua reviewed every detail he could recall from his encounters with Lu Chengyun.

As he pondered, Mo Hua's expression turned pensive.

He remembered Lu Chengyun saying:

"...please, Gentleman, help me with Corpse Refinement..."

"Not an Iron Corpse..."

"...but a stronger Zombie that surpasses an Iron Corpse..."

Deducing from the principles of the Spiritual Pivot Formation.

Lu Chengyun controlled the Walking Corpses with an Iron Corpse, and then a stronger Zombie to control the Iron Corpses.

With successive control like this, even if he refined a multitude of Zombies, he could dominate them all by himself.

Given that, the stronger Zombie that would dominate the Iron Corpses and control the hordes must be the one refined by the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation.

It was likely hidden in the Bronze Coffin at the center of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

Having thought it over again and again, Mo Hua felt he was more or less correct.

There were many Evil Formations depicted within the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation.

These Evil Formations, categorized and connected by bloody Patterns, linked the wooden coffins of the Walking Corpses to the iron coffins of the Iron Corpses, and then the iron coffins to the central Bronze Coffin.

This was consistent with the principles of the Spiritual Pivot Formation's hierarchical progression and decentralized control.

Lu Chengyun might deceive him, but the Formation would not.

No matter what Lu Chengyun said, the depicted Formation was what it was, and could not fool him.

The Formation revealed the truth.

Mo Hua nodded.

Based on the principles and construction of the Formation, he had roughly calculated Lu Chengyun's intentions with the Formation.

At the same time, Mo Hua's eyes shone brightly.

The Zombie in the Bronze Coffin, controlling the Iron Corpses and then the Walking Corpses.

The Spiritual Pivot Formation within the Bronze Coffin would undoubtedly have the highest authority.

If that were the case, the final Spirit Pivot Formation Chart must be hidden within the Bronze Coffin!

"I must find a way to get my hands on the final Formation Diagram..." Mo Hua mumbled silently, his chin resting on his hand.

...

Mo Hua had already designed the Formation eye of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

But he still slacked off a few times, making a slight alteration each time, consulting Lu Chengyun for "advice," and then making further improvements.

When it came to Large Formation eye designs, Lu Chengyun was an amateur.

So deceiving him was easy for Mo Hua.

After altering it four or five times, Mo Hua finally presented the Formation eye Formation Diagram that he had designed in two hours to Lu Chengyun.

Lu Chengyun was ecstatic.

No longer feigning a cultured demeanor, he laughed loudly. In the dim candlelight of the room, his gaze sparked with grim ambition.

After a moment, he suppressed the excitement in his heart, put on a gentle demeanor again, and smiled as he praised Mo Hua:

"Little Gentleman, you truly haven't disappointed me!"

Mo Hua smiled bashfully, "It's all thanks to the 'guidance' of the Lu Family Head."

Lu Chengyun sincerely said:

"It's because the Gentleman is so talented and deeply knowledgeable in Formations that you could complete such a complex Formation eye design in such a short time."

Now Mo Hua felt somewhat embarrassed.

He had finished drawing it in two hours, slacked off for over ten days, and had kept dragging it out until now.

Yet Lu Chengyun was still overjoyed.

Mo Hua thought for a moment, acting as if he was struggling to speak.

With Lu Chengyun's perceptive mind, he naturally asked:

"Gentleman, is there something you wish to say?"

Mo Hua hesitated for a while before he showed a troubled expression and said:

"Lu Family Head, would it be possible for me to draw the Formation eye myself?"

Lu Chengyun seemed surprised, his eyes narrowed, and he fell silent.

Assuming a passionate and studious demeanor, Mo Hua reflected aloud:

"In recent days, I've realized that my understanding of Formations is still lacking, and my conception of Formation is full of mistakes..."

"Because of this, I would like to draw the Formation eye by hand, to apply what I've learned and see if it can enhance my comprehension of Formations..."

Mo Hua quickly glanced at Lu Chengyun and hurried to add:

"Of course, since this Formation is so important, if it's not convenient for the Lu Family Head, then never mind."

After a quick contemplation, Lu Chengyun smiled and nodded:

"Such a Formation eye is complex in structure, not only difficult to conceive but also demanding in actual depiction."

"Having the Gentleman help would be most welcome."

Mo Hua also relaxed and laughed:

"Mo Hua shall not fail the expectations of the Family Head!"

...

Lu Chengyun smiled slightly and nodded.

Thus, the task of Drawing the Formation eye of the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation was personally undertaken by Mo Hua.

While Drawing, Mo Hua stealthily observed the nearby bronze coffin.

It was precisely because of that bronze coffin that he had found an excuse to volunteer to draw the Formation eye of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered with such things.

Since the Formation eye was located near the bronze coffin, by Drawing it himself, he would have a way to approach the coffin and thus steal the ultimate Spirit Pivot Formation Chart.

However, the opportunity was hard to come by.

The bronze coffin was tightly sealed, never opened, revealing not the slightest trace of Formation Patterns.

Mo Hua had no choice but to stall for time.

With a serious face, yet careless in his strokes, he would deliberately make a few mistakes, erase them, and then redraw.

After all, the Spiritual Ink being wasted belonged to the Lu Family.

Mo Hua wasn't the least bit heartbroken about it.

But no matter how he messed around, it would not be possible to make zero progress.

Reluctantly, Mo Hua had to draw slowly, making a bit more progress each day to give Lu Chengyun some hope.

Lu Chengyun was somewhat anxious, but he didn't rush Mo Hua.

After all, such Formation eyes were indeed complex and difficult to draw.

Even if he were to draw it himself, it probably wouldn't be much better than Mo Hua's work...

And so, days passed by.

Mo Hua's Formation eye was gradually being perfected, but there was still no opportunity to open the bronze coffin.

The coffin remained sealed, exposing not even a wisp of aura.

Mo Hua wanted to perform Calculations on the Formation Patterns, but he had no way to proceed.

During the day, Lu Chengyun was always watching, and by nightfall, the murals were sealed, and Mo Hua couldn't get in...

The ultimate Spiritual Pivot Formation was right in front of him, but he couldn't see it.

Mo Hua felt somewhat helpless.

Just when he was at a loss, one morning, Lu Chengyun opened the bronze coffin in front of him, apparently to draw some sort of Formation.

The moment the coffin lid was opened, a complex aura of Formation lingered in the air.

Mo Hua's spirits lifted.

It was indeed the Spiritual Pivot Formation!

Moreover, unlike the Spirit Pivot Formations found on the Iron Corpses or the Walking Corpses, it had a stronger aura and a more complete energy flow.

With just a trace of this aura, he could deduce that the Formation Patterns were more complex and involved a more profound structure of Spiritual Power.

Mo Hua was itching with curiosity.

He so wanted to take a closer look...

On the other hand, Lu Chengyun had started Drawing a Formation.

He was using a Bone Pen, the tip made from human hair and dipped in human blood, his eyes emitting a gloomy green light as he drew some Formation within the bronze coffin.

Mo Hua slightly frowned.

Were these the methods of Drawing an Evil Formation?

Was Lu Chengyun using the methods of an Evil Formation to draw the Grade One, Twelve Patterned Spiritual Pivot Formation?

Zhang Quan, who was standing to the side, saw Mo Hua in a daze and scolded coldly,

"Hurry up with the Drawing. Don't waste time!"

A stubborn streak came over Mo Hua.

You want me to draw? Well, I just might not draw anymore!

After thinking it over, Mo Hua casually tossed aside his pen and boldly ran behind Lu Chengyun, poking out his little head to watch Lu Chengyun Drawing the Formation.

After all, what he was currently doing was "Helping the tyrant," so he and Lu Chengyun could be considered to be on the same side.

Watching him Draw the Formation didn't seem too inappropriate.

If he angered him, Mo Hua could always shrug it off, claiming his young age and ignorance as an excuse.

It was true that he was indeed young.

Lu Chengyun was focused on Drawing the Formation, seemingly oblivious to his surroundings.

Mo Hua took a quick glance and roughly saw the scene inside the bronze coffin.

Within the bronze coffin was a bronze sarcophagus.

A big coffin enclosing a smaller one.

The outer one was a bronze coffin, enclosing within it a bronze sarcophagus.

The coffin was opened, but the sarcophagus remained sealed.

Contained within the sarcophagus must be the stronger Zombie that Lu Chengyun spoke of, one that surpassed even the Iron Corpses!

But Mo Hua couldn't see it.

He could only see the Formation Patterns that Lu Chengyun was Drawing on the inner surface of the coffin and the sarcophagus.

The pattern of this Formation was indeed the most important Spiritual Pivot Formation!

Mo Hua had already mastered the Spirit Pivot Formation Patterns on the lower-level Walking Corpses and Iron Corpses by heart, so he recognized them at a glance.

Meanwhile, noticing that Lu Chengyun was entirely absorbed in his work and unaware of his surroundings, afraid that the Formation would be exposed, Zhang Quan called out,

"Brother Lu!"

This shout broke Lu Chengyun's state of complete concentration, rendering all the Formation Patterns he was Drawing useless.

Lu Chengyun snapped back to reality, shooting an angry look at Zhang Quan before noticing Mo Hua peeking from behind him.

Lu Chengyun's gaze darkened, but he did not get angry. Instead, he asked with a smile,

"Little Gentleman, do you want to see this Formation?"

Mo Hua nodded earnestly, "I do."

If it weren't for this Formation, he wouldn't have come to South Yue City.

Lu Chengyun pondered for a moment and then nodded, "Alright!"

Mo Hua expressed his surprise, "You'll really let me see it?"

Lu Chengyun replied with a smile, "Of course, it was agreed upon from the start. You help me with the Formation Painting, and I'll show you this top-secret Formation Chart."

Mo Hua was overjoyed, "The Lu Family Head is indeed a man of his word!"

Lu Chengyun flipped his right hand, and a thin old album appeared in it. The album seemed quite old, full of creases, and covered with folds.

With great care, Lu Chengyun spread out the album.

Recorded within this album was the complete, intricately complex and yet exquisite, top-ranking Twelve Patterned Spiritual Pivot Formation Chart!

Mo Hua's little heart thumped wildly.

Lu Chengyun looked at him with a meaningful gaze and asked,

"Little Gentleman, what do you think?"

Mo Hua paused, then came to a realization.

At first, he was excited, his eyes showing an obsessive fascination, then upon scrutinizing the Formation, he seemed incredulous, furrowing his brows in deep thought. After a long time, as if struck by a revelation, he hung his head dejectedly, sighing softly,

"This Formation... it's so difficult, I can't understand it..."

While claiming to be unable to understand, on the inside, he was rapidly memorizing the Formation Patterns as fast as lightning...

Chapter 487: Obtained (1)

Mo Hua frowned, pretending to be shocked.

All the while, his thoughts flew rapidly, trying his best to memorize the entire Spirit Pivot Formation Chart in his mind.

Mo Hua was completely absorbed in looking at it.

Lu Chengyun felt something was amiss and was just about to say something when.

Mo Hua suddenly clutched his small head, his expression pained as he muttered:

"My Divine Sense... it's depleted..."

Lu Chengyun was slightly startled and quickly put away the Spirit Pivot Formation Chart, asking,

"Little gentleman, are you alright?"

Mo Hua's face was pale, and he weakly replied, "I'm fine..."

He glanced at the Spirit Pivot Formation Chart and shook his head in shock, saying,

"I hadn't realized that such a Formation requires such an immense amount of Divine Sense; I only looked at it for a while, and my Divine Sense is almost exhausted..."

This was within Lu Chengyun's expectations.

He nodded slightly and said, "This Formation is called the Spiritual Pivot Formation, and it is indeed the Sect Protecting Faction formation of a hidden sect. The difficulty of this Formation is truly beyond imagination."

"It's really difficult..." Mo Hua looked dejected.

Lu Chengyun's mouth curved into a smile, but his tone was comforting as he said,

"This Formation's consumption of Divine Sense is great, and it cannot be learned without Foundation Establishment."

"Little gentleman, you are but at the stage of Qi Refinement, lacking sufficient Divine Sense, so it is normal that you cannot learn it or draw it. There is no need to be discouraged."

"The path of Tao Cultivation is long and the future is vast. As long as you continue to refine your Formation skills and enhance your Divine Sense, one day you will be able to comprehend this Formation."

Lu Chengyun was encouraging Mo Hua.

Inspired, Mo Hua's expression brightened, and he nodded firmly:

"Okay!"

Lu Chengyun then smiled and said, "It's getting late today, and the little gentleman's Divine Sense has been overly depleted, causing some discomfort. You can go back to rest for now. Once you've rested well, you can come back to continue working on the Formation eye..."

Mo Hua felt somewhat guilty, "I overestimated myself and delayed the Lu Family Head's major plans..."

"It doesn't matter," Lu Chengyun said, "the way of Formations is long-standing and far-reaching; one cannot rush success in a moment. A century-long plan will not be affected by a single day's work."

A century-long plan...

This Lu Chengyun, is he plotting for a century...

Mo Hua's thoughts shifted slightly, then he nodded, taking his leave,

"Then I will go back to rest for now."

Lu Chengyun nodded, "Good."

Mo Hua then covered his small head, pretending to have a headache, and left the secret chamber. His steps were unsteady as he walked out of the hall and returned to his stone room, collapsing onto his bed.

Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense followed Mo Hua.

Seeing that Mo Hua lay quietly and motionless, he withdrew his Divine Sense after a moment.

Once Lu Chengyun retracted his Divine Sense, Mo Hua immediately sat up, his small face flushed with excitement.

He rushed to the desk, took out paper and brush, and attempted to fully recreate the Spiritual Pivot Formation, from the Formation Patterns, Formation Pivot, to the Formation eye, and other alike heavy-weight Formations, just as he had memorized them...

...

Elsewhere, inside the mural of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses, Zhang Quan frowned at Lu Chengyun and said,

"Brother Lu, wasn't that a bit abrupt?"

Lu Chengyun's eyebrows raised slightly, "What was abrupt?"

"The matter of the Spirit Pivot Formation..." Zhang Quan said, "Did you let him know too soon..."

Zhang Quan had always been wary of Mo Hua.

Of course, he also harbored thoughts of killing him.

Lu Chengyun said indifferently, "He would have found out sooner or later."

"But..." Zhang Quan was somewhat uneasy, "What if he learns it?"

Lu Chengyun scoffed coldly, "It is a First-grade Formation with twelve patterns."

Zhang Quan was taken aback, "So what?"

A hint of disdain flashed in Lu Chengyun's eyes.

Talking to Zhang Quan, who was "Formation Blind," was really like playing the lute to a cow.

Lu Chengyun patiently explained, "First-grade with twelve patterns, 'First-grade' is the Formation Grade, and 'twelve patterns' refers to the Divine Sense requirement."

"Meaning, this First-grade Formation requires the Divine Sense of twelve patterns to be learned."

"Above ten patterns is the Divine Sense Foundation Establishment."

"And twelve patterns of Divine Sense is beyond the reach of many veteran cultivators at the initial stage of Foundation Establishment."

Zhang Quan's expression changed upon hearing this, "A First-grade Formation that can only be learned with Foundation Establishment Divine Sense, is it that outrageous?"

"That's why I said, Formations are profound and vast."

Lu Chengyun glanced at Zhang Quan, "My Divine Sense, just reached twelve patterns, while your Divine Sense is merely ten patterns..."

"So, what can this gentleman surnamed Mo use to learn?"

Lu Chengyun stated flatly.

Zhang Quan fell silent, his mind reeling with the implications.

Formations indeed are complicated.

First-grade with twelve patterns...

That kid is only at the stage of Qi Refinement; he certainly can't learn it.

But can he really not learn it?

Zhang Quan frowned.

The image of Mo Hua's young face surfaced in Zhang Quan's mind again.

Looking adorable yet detestable, and at the same time, enigmatic, he was hard to fathom.

Zhang Quan had been duped by Mo Hua countless times already, so upon seeing Mo Hua, mixed feelings of anger and some palpitations arose.

He always felt that this little devil Mo Hua was not so simple.

Moreover, he couldn't see through Mo Hua's Concealment Technique.

The more Zhang Quan thought about it, the more uneasy he became, furrowing his brow and saying,

"Brother Lu, what if his Divine Sense..."

Lu Chengyun let out a cold chuckle, "Are you trying to say what if his Divine Sense has reached Foundation Establishment?"

Zhang Quan also felt somewhat unsure,

"It's not that... It's impossible..."

Lu Chengyun snorted coldly, showing some impatience,

"The difference between Divine Sense reaching Foundation Establishment and Divine Sense at the twelve patterns is enormous."

"Moreover, even if his Divine Sense is sufficient, it's useless. Do you expect him to learn such a difficult Formation by just looking at it twice?"

Lu Chengyun's gaze turned slightly cold, "A superior Formation requires both practice and enlightenment."

"Even I spent decades of arduous practice and research to attain a mere inkling of understanding," he added.

"Then I used the Evil Formation technique to lower the threshold..."

"Integrating evil thoughts to reduce the Divine Sense threshold; using human blood to draw the Formation, lowering the control spirit threshold; using corpses as a medium, lowering the drawing Formation threshold..."

"Only then could I master and apply this Spiritual Pivot Formation within the Ten Thousand Corpses Compound Formation."

"Without years of dedicated study and understanding of the Evil Formation, without merging evil thoughts into consciousness, without using bones as pens, without using blood as ink, and without using corpses as a medium, how could he possibly learn it?"

"Do you think that by memorizing the Formation Patterns and practicing blindly a few times, he could learn it?"

"You're seriously underestimating Formation techniques!" exclaims Lu Chengyun with an icy tone.

It seemed he was reflecting on the years of painstaking effort it took to learn this Formation.

Sneaking into the Lu Family, enduring humiliation, seizing an opportunity for promotion, killing and refining corpses, extracting bones to use as pens, mixing blood for ink - he resorted to extreme measures...

His emotions surged for a moment.

Not wanting to upset Lu Chengyun, Zhang Quan took a step back and said,

"Zhang is shallow in insight and unaware of the difficulties. Please forgive me, Brother Lu..."

Regaining composure and knowing that he had been slightly agitated, Lu Chengyun returned to his genteel demeanor and said indifferently,

"Brother Zhang, you are too polite. It is always good to be considerate in everything."

Zhang Quan breathed a sigh of relief, but the shadow Mo Hua left in his heart was not easily dispelled.

After pondering, Zhang Quan still voiced his concerns in a low voice,

"Brother Lu, even if that kid can't learn the Formation, is it necessary to show it to him? It increases the risk unnecessarily..."

"If I don't show it to him, how would he willingly stay?" Lu Chengyun said.

Zhang Quan frowned.

Lu Chengyun's smile was indifferent as he continued,

"Everyone has their desires..."

"I crave power, and Brother Zhang craves beauty," he said.

"But that young gentleman is different. He's not deeply involved and doesn't know how intoxicating the flavors of power, beauty, fame, and wealth in this world can be."

"Not knowing the taste, he naturally won't yearn for it."

"Spirit Stones, female company, and influence might not necessarily move him..."

"But Formations are different!"

"This young gentleman has an innate longing for Formations."

"That is the pursuit of a Formation Master!" Lu Chengyun remarked with a touch of emotion.

"As long as it is for the sake of learning Formations, to learn advanced, complex, mystical Formations, he would be willing to do anything."

"As long as I give him this hope, that in the future I would pass the Spiritual Pivot Formation on to him, he will willingly work for me!"

"This Spiritual Pivot Formation is the bait."

"And this young gentleman is the fish."

"A First-grade Formation Master of such a young age, with astonishing talent, and who is wholeheartedly dedicated to working for me, is more precious than dozens of Iron Corpses," Lu Chengyun's eyes glinted with determination.

Envy, jealousy, and a touch of unwillingness flashed through Zhang Quan's eyes.

Since Lu Chengyun valued that kid so much, it wouldn't be appropriate for Zhang Quan to act against him.

But until the end, nothing was certain...

Zhang Quan composed himself and said with a respectful bow,

"Brother Lu's strategic foresight is admirable!"

Lu Chengyun looked at Zhang Quan with an indecipherable expression and finally replied with a sigh,

"You're too modest, Brother Zhang."

Both harboring their own thoughts, their expressions somewhat elusive...

...

Meanwhile, in the stone room, Mo Hua was smiling beamingly.

In front of him, a Formation Diagram was laid out.

Within the Formation Diagram, there were three types of Formations that were of the same origin and essence, yet they differed in structure and had distinct levels of importance.

The three types of Formations resembled each other and were interconnected, yet their levels were clearly defined.

It looked intricate and profound, yet was meticulously beautiful.

It was the complete, First-grade twelve-pattern Spiritual Pivot Formation Chart that Mo Hua had restored!

Finally, the Formation Diagram was in his hands!

Chapter 488: Great Achievement (1)

Lu Chengyun could never have imagined that by just glancing at the Spirit Pivot Formation Chart a few times, Mo Hua would memorize it and reproduce it.

First grade, twelve patterns, a legacy of the Minor Hidden Spirit Sect passed down from the Great Hidden Spirit Sect over a thousand years ago — the Ultimate Formation, the Spiritual Pivot Formation!

Mo Hua was overjoyed and, without delay, immediately began to comprehend it.

The Corpse Mine was no place for a long stay.

He needed to master the Spiritual Pivot Formation as soon as possible so that he could figure out a way to free himself sooner.

There were also Lu Chengyun and the Lu Family.

Once he mastered the Spiritual Pivot Formation, he could free up his hands to deal with Lu Chengyun and the Lu Family.

No matter what schemes Lu Chengyun had, Mo Hua couldn't let him succeed.

The Lu Family had been domineering for so many years, and it was time they received their retribution.

The Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses must be destroyed, the Ancestral Master Picture must be seized; neither the Corpse Mine, the Iron Corpses, nor the Walking Corpses could remain, or else they would certainly be a source of endless calamity.

And among these tasks, the Spiritual Pivot Formation was the key.

With his mind made up, Mo Hua began to focus on studying the Formation.

His progress in learning the Spiritual Pivot Formation was rapid.

Previously, Mo Hua had already obtained parts of the Spirit Pivot Formation Chart from both the Walking Corpses and the Iron Corpses, and had roughly comprehended it.

Having grasped the formation principles of the Spiritual Pivot Formation and having tried using it on Little Tiger, all he needed now was to fill in the gaps and deepen his understanding of the Spiritual Pivot Formation with the complete chart.

Mo Hua took some time to memorize the Formation Patterns, then practiced them on paper several times.

That night, at 1 a.m., Mo Hua fell asleep, his Divine Sense sinking into the Sea of Consciousness, where he continued to practice on the Taoist Stele.

The next day, feigning excessive consumption of Divine Sense and feeling unwell with a pale complexion, he did not go to draw the Formation eyes for the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

Instead, he hid in his room, and while Lu Chengyun wasn't paying attention, he secretly practiced the Spiritual Pivot Formation.

On the third day, he pretended to be better and went to the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses to crouch among a group of coffins to draw the Formation eyes.

After finishing, he came back at night and continued to practice the Spiritual Pivot Formation.

However, after several days, Mo Hua sensed that something was not right.

This Spirit Pivot Formation Chart seemed to have been tampered with...

On the surface, this Formation appeared to be complete.

Controlled by the main Spiritual Pivot Formation of the highest weight, it would manage the subsidiary Spiritual Pivot Formations of secondary weight, which in turn controlled the even more minor base Spiritual Pivot Formations.

But Mo Hua found that there were some omissions in the patterns of this main Spiritual Pivot Formation.

It was as if someone had left a "back door."

These few Formation Patterns were held in someone else's hands.

Unless these few Formation Patterns were completed, the main Formation would have a back door.

The main Formation would then not be the main Formation but only a secondary Formation.

Others could use this "back door" to bypass Mo Hua's main Spiritual Pivot Formation and then take control of all the subsidiary and base Formations he had laid out.

In such a case, Mo Hua's painstakingly arranged Spiritual Pivot Formation might just become someone else's "wedding dress."

"Picking peaches!"

"How cunning..."

Mo Hua shook his head.

This contingency was undeniably left by Lu Chengyun.

But he estimated that Lu Chengyun didn't leave this back hand just to guard against him.

It was to guard against all Formation Masters who saw the Spirit Pivot Formation Chart, learned the Spiritual Pivot Formation, and attempted to construct a system of power for the Spiritual Pivot Formation.

Whether it was Corpse Refinement, Artifact Refining, or even the making of puppets, Tao cultivation instruments, anything that used his Spiritual Pivot Formation, would ultimately be "usurped."

Because Lu Chengyun possessed the main Spiritual Pivot Formation with the highest authority.

"Thank goodness I noticed, or else I really would have fallen into Lu Chengyun's trap..."

Mo Hua felt a bit of aftershock, and then some confusion.

What exactly were the missing Formation Patterns, and where might Lu Chengyun have hidden them?

After pondering for a while, Mo Hua had no leads.

As the Family Head of the Lu Family, with the vastness of the Lu Family and the Corpse Mine, hiding some Formation techniques couldn't be easier.

"Go undercover to shadow him?"

Mo Hua considered and shook his head again.

With his current level of Divine Sense and stealth, following Lu Chengyun was still a bit of a stretch.

A normal Foundation Establishment might suffice, but Lu Chengyun himself was a Formation Master, an Evil Formation Master at that, and was very suspicious by nature; shadowing him discreetly would most certainly raise his suspicions.

Such affairs should wait until his Divine Sense was stronger.

"But what should be done in the meantime?"

The Spiritual Pivot Formation lay right in front of him; it wasn't as though he could just not learn it.

Yet, once mastered and utilized, it would be akin to "working" for Lu Chengyun, a loss not worth the gain.

Even if one were to search, it would not be easy to find.

Who knew where Lu Chengyun would have hidden those Formation Patterns?

Mo Hua stroked his chin, and then it dawned on him:

"The Bronze Coffin!"

Lu Chengyun might set traps for others, but surely he wouldn't do the same to himself.

His own drawing of the Spiritual Pivot Formation must be complete, without any flaws.

The Formation he drew inside the Bronze Coffin must be complete!

Mo Hua's eyes lit up.

The next day, when Lu Chengyun was drawing the Formation inside the Bronze Coffin, Mo Hua quietly peeked in.

Zhang Quan noticed and gave Mo Hua a warning glare.

Mo Hua glared back defiantly, then turned his head back to continue observing.

The Spiritual Pivot Formation drawn by Lu Chengyun was different from his own.

His Spiritual Pivot Formation used the techniques of an Evil Formation, using bone as the brush, blood as the ink, and corpses as the Formation media.

Also, the manner in which he laid out the Formation was distinct.

He repeatedly dipped into blood, applying the Spiritual Pivot Formation to the bronze funeral ark.

The bloodstains would gradually fade, and the Formation would gradually merge with the coffin.

Mo Hua wasn't too sure about the specifics of this technique.

Fortunately, the underlying Formation Patterns and principles were the same.

Mo Hua was still able to identify the intrinsic Formation Patterns of the Spiritual Pivot Formation.

Lu Chengyun's eyes faintly shone with a green light, fully concentrated, and he didn't notice Mo Hua. When he occasionally caught a glimpse, he didn't seem to care much and simply asked with a non-smiling smile:

Chapter 489: Great Success (2)

"Little Gentleman, how do you find it?"

Mo Hua frowned and shook his head:

"It's too difficult, I don't understand..."

Despite not understanding, he continued to look.

That's how Formation Masters are, the less they understand, the more they want to; the more they can't comprehend, the more they strive to...

Lu Chengyun knew this feeling, so he didn't think anything was amiss.

It was all the more natural for Mo Hua to be observing.

As he watched, he critiqued in his mind:

"This Lu Chengyun draws way too slowly, I've been waiting for ages, if it were me drawing, I would have finished long ago..."

"That stroke is wrong, and he hasn't even noticed..."

"Bone pen, blood ink, and using corpses as mediums... making such a fuss..."

"Dawdling..."

...

After muttering to himself for a while, Lu Chengyun suddenly flicked his wrist, and his pen moved swiftly, leaving behind several Formation Patterns.

These Patterns were quite unfamiliar to Mo Hua.

He matched these Patterns with the Spiritual Pivot Formation and found that they fitted perfectly, closing off the "backdoor" in the Formation that was missing.

On the surface, Mo Hua seemed confused, but his mind was as clear as a mirror. With a thought, he memorized these few Patterns.

As soon as Lu Chengyun had put pen to paper, he subconsciously sensed something amiss, turned his head, and saw Mo Hua looking the same as ever, which put his mind at ease...

The missing Patterns were now in hand.

Back home, Mo Hua used these Patterns to fill in the gaps in the Spiritual Pivot Formation, sealing off the backdoor Lu Chengyun had left.

After a few more days of contemplation and adjustments, Mo Hua finally mastered the Spiritual Pivot Formation completely.

At the same time, his understanding of the Spiritual Pivot Formation deepened.

The principle of the Spiritual Pivot Formation was to clarify the structure of Spiritual Power and meticulously control it through the pivot of the Formation.

The key to this control was the Spiritual Thread.

By breaking down Spiritual Power into even finer filaments and using these threads for more intricate manipulation.

At the same time, similar Spiritual Pivot Formations would resonate with each other.

Just like in the Compass Parent-Child Formation, where the Parent Formation resonates with the Child Formation, the Spiritual Power fluctuations detected by the Child Formation are reflected in the Parent Formation.

Similar Spiritual Pivot Formations resonate and connect with each other.

This connection is the control of Spiritual Power.

The Main Formation controls the Sub-Formation, the Sub-Formation controls the Base Formation, allowing a small amount of Divine Sense to control a large number of Walking Corpses or puppets.

This utility of the Formation was something Mo Hua had not discovered within the Five Elements Formation.

"The Ultimate Formation indeed involves the essence of Spiritual Power, seizing the creation of heaven and earth..."

Mo Hua was somewhat shocked and silently said to himself.

After learning it, he tried using the complete Spiritual Pivot Formation on Little Tiger.

Mo Hua had a bunch of Little Tiger puppets on him.

These were made by Old Kui, which Mo Hua asked for, intending to test the Spiritual Pivot Formation.

He picked one that was slightly larger, called it "Big Tiger," and then drew the Main Spiritual Pivot Formation on it.

Afterwards, he drew the Sub-Spiritual Pivot Formations on six or seven other Little Tigers.

With Divine Sense, Mo Hua controlled the Main Spiritual Pivot Formation, which in turn controlled Big Tiger through the Formation.

Then, using the Main Spiritual Pivot Formation as a reference, it spread to the Sub-Formations on the other Little Tigers, controlling them through these Sub-Formations.

All levels of the Spiritual Pivot Formation were displayed in Mo Hua's Sea of Consciousness.

Mo Hua's Divine Sense shifted slightly.

The Big Tiger clumsily started running on the table.

Simultaneously, the Formation on its body turned Spiritual Power into threads, activating the other Sub-Formations, which in turn made the other Little Tigers begin to run as well.

Seven or eight tiger puppets came lively to life, chasing each other on the table in a merry pursuit...

Yet the Divine Sense expended to control these puppets was not substantial.

This was only about controlling small puppets; if controlling zombies, with divided control through levels, it is conceivable that with one's Divine Sense alone, one could command thousands of Walking Corpses.

One man, an army.

That indeed was terrifying.

Mo Hua clicked his tongue in wonder.

Mo Hua thought for a while, then sank his Divine Sense into the Sea of Consciousness again.

He wanted to see if there were any changes in the Spiritual Power manifested by Divine Thought.

Inside the Sea of Consciousness, Mo Hua appeared, then closed his eyes and concentrated, manifesting Spiritual Power.

Moments later, he found that the Spiritual Power he manifested became finer and finer, eventually taking the form of "Spiritual Threads," resembling faint blue cotton fluff, yet also like sticky lotus threads.

Spiritual Power Silkification!

It was just like the refined Spiritual Threads within the Spiritual Pivot Formation.

"This is what Master said, the deeper the comprehension, the more genuine the manifestation."

As soon as Mo Hua's Divine Sense moved, almost effortlessly, these Spiritual Threads followed his will, flowing smoothly.

Mo Hua brought his fingers together, and in an instant, a Fireball Technique condensed at his fingertips.

This time, the Fireball Technique also carried some silkification within its flames.

It looked like a large mass of intertwined fiery red cotton.

Except this "cotton" was made of flame Spiritual Threads, accumulated, entwined, compressed.

The Spiritual Power surged yet was orderly.

Mo Hua was a bit stunned.

The Fireball Technique in reality and the Fireball Technique manifested in the Sea of Consciousness seemed to be completely different.

In reality, the Fireball Technique was dark red, condensed with Spiritual Power, quite powerful, already showing faint signs of solidification.

The Fireball Technique in the Sea of Consciousness, however, was still bright red, but the Spiritual Power was divided into threads, even finer, seemingly even stronger in division.

For a moment, Mo Hua didn't know whether this was good or bad.

Which one was more formidable?

Should he make the real Fireball Technique conform to the one manifested in the Sea of Consciousness?

Or should he manifest a more realistic Fireball Technique within the Sea of Consciousness?

Mo Hua was uncertain.

"I'll ask Old Kui about it when I get out..."

Besides the Fireball Technique, Mo Hua's Water Passing Step had also become more exquisite.

The Water Passing Step relied on the control of Spiritual Power by Divine Sense.

The stronger the control of Divine Sense, the more profound the steps.

The Water Prison Technique in the Sea of Consciousness was now cast faster, with stronger binding capabilities.

Previously it was Spiritual Power turned into locks, now it was Spiritual Power turned into threads, then into locks, enough to tightly entangle an enemy.

Most importantly, the Formation.

Mo Hua tried it out.

With a thought of Divine Thought, the speed of Drawing Ground into Formation doubled. Discover hidden stories at empire

In a few breaths' time, with Mo Hua standing still, relying only on Divine Sense, he could manifest a complete First Grade Nine Pattern Formation.

Mo Hua thought of a combination for himself:

He could first use the Water Prison Technique to restrain the enemy. In a few breaths' time, manifest control formations like the Golden Lock Formation, Inundating Water Formation, Wood Prison Formation, Quicksand Formation, and bind the enemy.

Once bound, the enemy would be a sitting duck.

He could bombard them with the Fireball Technique.

He could bomb with the Earth Fire Formation.

He could even refine them with the Melting Fire Formation.

This combination was tightly controlled and the form of the attack could be adapted to the "enemy," with many variations.

As long as it was a Divine Thought Body of the Foundation Establishment Stage with Divine Sense not exceeding twelve patterns, one set of these moves would suffice to leave the enemy at their last gasp even if they didn't perish completely.

Mo Hua nodded, very satisfied with himself.

Use the Sea of Consciousness as a prison, Divine Thought as a weapon.

Capable of trapping and killing.

The self within the Sea of Consciousness was much stronger than in reality.

Mo Hua snorted lightly: "Let's see who dares to trespass my Sea of Consciousness now. Bring them on, one by one, I'll slaughter them!"

But for now, the surroundings of the Sea of Consciousness were empty, devoid of evil spirits and ghosts, not one in sight.

Mo Hua felt a bit like a hero with no place to use his prowess.

Mo Hua felt an itch to fight, and as his eyes darted around, he thought:

"I need to find something to test my skills..."

Chapter 490:

...

The best practice subjects are, of course, still Zhang Quan's Ancestral Master Picture, which represents the legion of zombie ancestors of the Zhang Family.

Mo Hua has now greatly mastered the art of Divine Thought Slaughter.

Apart from that hypocritical ancestor of the Zhang Family, the other "people" in the picture, whether they are the disciples underneath or the Elders above, are no match for him.

Zhang Quan's ancestor should not be a rival either.

But according to the Iron Corpse Elder who was "eaten" by Mo Hua, the Zhang Family's ancestor has lived a long time, is cunning, and has many tricks up his sleeve, so Mo Hua dares not to be too arrogant. Therefore, he must find a method to deal with him gradually and can't rush matters.

The problem now is, where is the picture?

Mo Hua rested his chin on his hand and pondered.

At that time, he had returned the picture to Zhang Quan.

So, it should be on Zhang Quan?

Where would Zhang Quan keep it? Carry it with him always? Or set it up on a new altar for worship?

Or perhaps... he gave it to Lu Chengyun?

Mo Hua remembered that when he took out the Ancestral Master Picture, Zhang Quan looked excited, and in Lu Chengyun's eyes, there was also a hint of covetousness.

The Ancestral Master Picture is a Contemplation Map.

A Formation Master's lifeblood is his Divine Sense, and a Contemplation Map can enhance that Divine Sense.

Every Contemplation Map, no matter what is inside, whether it is righteous or evil, good or bad, poses a great temptation to a Formation Master.

Lu Chengyun couldn't possibly resist the temptation.

Moreover, having colluded with Zhang Quan for so long, it's possible he has seen this Contemplation Map before.

It's just that the map is still considered Zhang Quan's Ancestral Master Picture, so Lu Chengyun wouldn't forcibly take it away.

After thinking it over, Mo Hua felt that the only solution now was to track Zhang Quan.

See if the picture is still with him.

If it is, where has he hidden it?

If not, to whom has he given it?

Mo Hua has learned the Spirit Pivot Formation with its twelve Formation Patterns, and his Divine Sense has reached the peak of twelve patterns, just one step away from the Thirteen Stripes.

But this step is the threshold before the door.

Crossing it would still take some time, or perhaps some kind of opportunity.

The peak of the twelve patterns means his Divine Sense is already very strong.

And it's even less likely to be detected when hiding.

If he were tracking Lu Chengyun, he'd have to be a bit more cautious.

Tracking Zhang Quan should be almost effortless.

However, he needs to pick the right time, avoid Lu Chengyun's Divine Sense, and be a little careful to avoid the Expose Dust Formation and Expose Shadow Formation inside the Stone Palace.

The Expose Dust Formation and Expose Shadow Formation are manageable, but the problem is Lu Chengyun.

Lu Chengyun has a strong Divine Sense, understands formations, and is highly suspicious.

However, since Mo Hua built the Formation eye for the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses, Lu Chengyun has grown a bit more trusting of Mo Hua.

And since Mo Hua saw the Spirit Pivot Formation Chart, showed an expression of "shock," said "how difficult," "I can't understand," "I can't learn" and so on, Lu Chengyun's guard against Mo Hua has greatly reduced.

Nor does he probe with his Divine Sense to guard against Mo Hua from time to time.

Thus, Mo Hua's time to "move freely" has increased.

In the following four or five days, whenever Mo Hua had the chance, he would invisibly monitor Zhang Quan, gradually figuring out his routine.

Zhang Quan's routine was very regular, and his actions were very transparent.

Most of his days were spent building the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

The Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses requires a large number of Corpse Refining Coffins, all of which are refined by Zhang Quan himself. He then lets some Evil Formation Masters or Lu Chengyun inscribe them with Evil Formations before placing them in the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

Low-end formations are inscribed by other Evil Formation Masters.

For higher-end ones, like the Iron Corpse for the iron coffins, Lu Chengyun personally handles the inscribing.

And Zhang Quan is solely responsible for all the coffins.

Having come from a coffin shop background, the tasks of making coffins, refining corpses, and nurturing coffins are considered his traditional trade.

Zhang Quan also inspected the Stone Palace regularly.

He checked whether there were any issues with the wood and iron coffins used for Corpse Refinement in the palace, whether the zombies were showing signs of corpse transformation, whether there was any loss of control, any deficiency in Corpse Qi, or any other abnormalities, and so on.

Basically, he spent his days dealing with corpses, and his work revolved entirely around zombies.

Zhang Quan also had a stone chamber.

This chamber was roomier, but it was furnished and decorated much less extravagantly than Mo Hua's chamber.

Surrounding the chamber were all kinds of objects for Corpse Refinement.

The smell inside even carried a hint of the rotten stench of dead bodies.

Zhang Quan, who dealt with refining corpses all day, no longer noticed the stench and thus did not care.

Inside his own stone chamber, Zhang Quan either slept, meditated or occasionally behaved as if he were in a craze, showing worrying signs of mental instability, it was completely unclear what was going through his mind.

Sometimes he murmured to himself, showed sudden fits of temper, and then shouted uncontrollably.

He seemed to display symptoms of mental derangement.

Mo Hua found this very puzzling.

"Could it be that dealing with zombies all day has made his brain be eaten by zombies..." Mo Hua silently criticized in his heart.

But thinking about it, he felt it wasn't that simple.

This seemed more like signs of gradual loss of humanity after demonic possession...

Unaware of one's own humanity, not knowing what one is doing, with only evil thoughts flourishing within, a mind full of filth.

Zhang Quan would alternate between these episodes of madness and lucidity, and after several cycles, he would calm down again, only his eyes appeared more vicious.

Occasionally, Zhang Quan would also take out a chart to look at.

At first, Mo Hua was excited.

He thought that Zhang Quan had brought out the Ancestral Master Picture.

But he quickly realized that it was not the case.

It wasn't just one chart; it was an album.

On the album, there were pictures of men and women, naked, wrestling in various positions.

The key issue was not just looking at it once, but that Zhang Quan would look at it whenever he had free time.

Mo Hua felt a profound disappointment, and even a sense of exasperation.

Where is your Contemplation Map?

...

Where is your ancestor now?

Spend all day looking at such things; you have no regard for your ancestors.

If I were Zhang Quan's ancestor, I would definitely curse him as an unfilial son and hang him up to beat him.

After finishing these not-suitable-for-children albums, Zhang Quan would occasionally become furious, tear up the albums, and curse as if possessed:

"This damned place doesn't have a single woman."

"Can't even get out..."

"Damn it..."

His eyes were bloodshot and red, his expression as ferocious as a zombie's.

Mo Hua frowned slightly but soon understood.

Those who cultivate demons, their humanity gradually fades away.

Zhang Quan cultivates the Corpse Path, constantly dealing with corpse cultivators, the dead, and zombies, which twisted his nature and bred evil thoughts; he longed for human warmth, for an outlet for his vile desires.

On regular days, it was still manageable, but once he was alone, the evil desires would spread.

That's why he often lingered at brothels.

It was not only because he was a lecher.

It was more so because his demon-possessed nature made him act this way.

And naturally, the female cultivators of the Hundred Flower Tower fell victim to his cruel hands.

According to Qinglan, many female cultivators had been tortured to death by Zhang Quan.

The Hundred Flower Tower was owned by the Lu Family, and Zhang Quan worked for Lu Chengyun, so the tragic deaths of these female cultivators naturally led nowhere.

Born into poverty, fallen into a life of debauchery, dying humiliated without even a place to be buried...

Mo Hua glanced at Zhang Quan indifferently and sneered inwardly:

"I'll slaughter you sooner or later!"

Zhang Quan in the stone chamber suddenly felt a chill in his heart.

He immediately stood up and looked around.

"Who?"

"Who is it?"

Zhang Quan released his Divine Sense, but the surroundings were empty with no sign of anyone.

However, he was all too familiar with that feeling of coldness and the sensation of being watched.

"Is it that brat?"

Zhang Quan, at the Foundation Establishment Stage, looked a bit panicked.

He had been "haunted" by Mo Hua.

Once targeted by that brat, he was like an inescapable maggot at his feet.

He looked around again, checked the formations, and found that neither the Expose Shadow Formation nor the Expose Dust Formation had been triggered, which allowed him to breathe a sigh of relief.

"I must be overthinking..."

"This is the Corpse Mine, with Lu Chengyun here, even that brat shouldn't be able to stir up trouble."

"No matter how capable he is, he can't treat this Corpse Mine as his own backyard, going wherever he pleases."

"The formations of the Corpse Mine were personally laid by Lu Chengyun, not like the Corpse Walking Stronghold..."

Every time he thought of the Corpse Walking Stronghold, Zhang Quan experienced heart-wrenching pain.

That was his foundation, built over decades with considerable influence, only to be inexplicably wiped out in one fell swoop.

Later, Zhang Quan faked his death, was rescued by Lu Chengyun, and even sneaked back once.

He saw that in the Corpse Walking Stronghold, all the secret chambers, mechanisms, hidden doors, and secret paths had been discovered, and the insides had been thoroughly looted.

Picked clean!

Not even leaving him a single coffin board, as if locusts had ravaged it through.

The person who could do this, he knew without thinking, was who.

The smiling face of Mo Hua emerged again in his mind.

Zhang Quan suddenly felt his blood rush to his head and quickly reminded himself:

"Can't think about it, can't think..."

Thinking too much will eventually lead to his death from rage.

Zhang Quan calmed his emotions and regained a bit of reason.

But with concerns in mind, he did not dare do anything else and just sat on the bed to meditate and regulate his breath.

Mo Hua watched a while longer, then shook his head.

Discover stories at empire

Although Zhang Quan had a "Chart," it was not the "Formation Chart" he was looking for.

And most likely, the Ancestral Master Picture wasn't in Zhang Quan's hands.

If it really were, he would at least find a place to enshrine it, offering incense in his spare time, to show some filial piety.

Not like now, watching the undressed fighting pictures whenever he pleased.

Where exactly is the Ancestral Master Picture then?

In Lu Chengyun's hands?

Or is it still in Zhang Quan's possession, just that he enshrined it somewhere unknown to himself?

Suddenly, Mo Hua thought of the altar above the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses.

Something unknown was enshrined on it.

Covered with yellow cloth, its details obscured.

Could it be that Zhang Quan had placed the chart on that dazzlingly luxurious and extravagantly wasteful altar?

"I need to take a look..."

Mo Hua pondered.

Whether the Ancestral Master Picture was on that altar or not, he had to find a way to enter the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses when no one was around and take a closer look.

During the daytime, with Lu Chengyun watching, it was not convenient to make any small moves.

When there were no people around, it was easier to explore the truth and falsity.

Examine the formations, deduce the complete Formation Patterns of the Formation of Ten Thousand Corpses, check the corners for any hidden objects, and see what exactly was enshrined on the altar...

"But how to get in?"

Mo Hua frowned slightly, and after pondering for a while, his eyes lit up.

The Spiritual Pivot Formation...