

The Quest 651

Chapter 651: Mystery of the Sky (3)

If the Mysterious Heaven Great Formation were to undergo some unfathomable changes, resulting in unknown accidents, then achieving Foundation Establishment would truly be as difficult as reaching the heavens...

It is quite possible to waste decades of effort...

"I need to think of a method..."

Mr. Zhuang said silently, his eyes flickering with calculating patterns, as the Heavenly secret ebbed and flowed within them. After a long while, he seemed to find a trace of opportunity.

This opportunity was extremely subtle and incredibly dangerous.

But it was indeed graspable.

Mr. Zhuang breathed a sigh of relief, looked up at the sky, and showed a bitter smile.

Man's plans are inferior to those of Heaven.

Everything was calculated well, but an accident occurred nonetheless...

Now it will require more effort.

"I originally thought I could see Mo Hua establish his Foundation and fulfill a wish, but now it seems, I won't have enough time..."

My journey ends here...

Mr. Zhuang's gaze was full of sentiment, which then turned into acceptance.

What is destined to come, will always come...

Old Kui watched him silently, his gaze inscrutable before gradually disappearing into the dark.

...

After returning, Mo Hua would immerse himself in the Sea of Consciousness whenever he found the time, unlocking the Mystery Formations one by one.

Although there were many Mystery Formations, he was neither arrogant nor impatient.

But as he solved them, he noticed that these Mystery Formations seemed different from those he had encountered before.

The previous Mystery Formations were "dead," rigid, and would disappear once solved.

Whereas this current Large Formation had Flowing Formation Patterns, it seemed "alive."

Furthermore, vast areas of Compound Formations interconnected with each other, echoed each other, and coexisted in symbiosis.

One had to tackle the Compound Formation to solve a large area at once.

Otherwise, after solving a Single Formation, more Single Formations would continue to be produced.

Mo Hua could only seek further instruction from Mr. Zhuang.

Mr. Zhuang seemed to have been prepared for a long time, handing over a stack of thick Formation Books and Formation Diagrams to Mo Hua, saying directly:

"The Large Formation in your Sea of Consciousness is named 'Mysterious Heaven Great Formation'."

"Remember this name, but don't speak of it to others."

"These are some records about the 'Mysterious Heaven Great Formation' and the insights I've compiled. Take good care of them, study them thoroughly, and they should help you with solving the Formation..."

Mo Hua felt grateful in his heart, yet he sensed something incongruous.

It seemed as though his master was in a rush to make arrangements for something...

"Master..." Mo Hua said softly.

Mr. Zhuang shook his head, not allowing him to continue, and whispered:

"Go on, study hard."

Mo Hua hesitated for a moment, murmured an acknowledgment, and respectfully left. Yet on his young face hung an indelible worry.

There were certain things he knew.

He knew his master was avoiding someone.

He also knew that his master said that this travel's destination was the Five Elements Sect.

So, after arriving at the Five Elements Sect and learning about the Five Elements Spirit Formation, what then?

His master had not said.

Mo Hua had speculated about some matters long ago, but not until now did he realize with a shock that even though he was reluctant, what was destined to come would still arrive...

The unease in Mo Hua's heart grew heavier.

Meanwhile, the Five Elements Sect on the surface seemed tranquil as ever.

That is until Mo Hua met a familiar face.

One day, while Mo Hua was studying Formation techniques with Junior Brother and Junior Sister, leaning over a table, he suddenly heard the faint sound of footsteps. Looking up, he saw at the doorway a gracefully standing woman wrapped in a veil, her demeanor cool and distant.

Mo Hua was startled, then delighted, "Aunt Xue!"

Aunt Xue, upon seeing Mo Hua, smiled pleasantly. Her gentle eyes took him in for a moment before she nodded and said:

"It's been a while, and you've grown taller."

Mo Hua's face beamed with joy.

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi were also very pleased.

After exchanging pleasantries for a while, Mo Hua asked in puzzlement, "Aunt Xue, what brings you here?"

"Indeed." Bai Zisheng said, "Didn't Master say you shouldn't come along?"

"It was Mr. Zhuang who summoned me here," Aunt Xue replied.

"Master?"

The three of them looked at each other with confusion.

Aunt Xue nodded, "Mr. Zhuang did not allow me to join you, but I couldn't help worrying about your safety and followed from a distance. Mr. Zhuang knew about it and did not blame me, which was tacit approval."

"I've been outside Li Mountain City these days. A few days ago, I wanted to write a letter to Madame, and I saw the ink move without a brush, soaking into the paper, forming a 'come' character."

"I knew then, that it was Mr. Zhuang's intention, he wanted me to come..."

"But why did Master summon you here?" Mo Hua was still puzzled.

Aunt Xue shook her head, unclear about the reason herself.

"Has Mr. Zhuang rested?" Aunt Xue asked.

Mo Hua replied, "Master has rested, he's now having tea."

Aunt Xue nodded and stood up to visit Mr. Zhuang.

Mo Hua and the other two followed.

In the ancient and aromatic dwelling, filled with the fragrance of tea, Mr. Zhuang sat with an elegant and straight posture, sipping the tea Mo Hua had brewed for him.

Upon seeing Aunt Xue, Mr. Zhuang showed no surprise.

Aunt Xue bowed respectfully to Mr. Zhuang, who nodded as a sign of acknowledgment.

Then, Aunt Xue asked softly, "May I know why Gentleman summoned me here, is there an order?"

Mr. Zhuang was silent for a moment, his gaze deep, taking in the sight of Mo Hua and the others before he slowly said:

"Take these three children away..."

"Leave the Five Elements Sect, leave Li Mountain City, and do not come back..."

Chapter 652: Deadly Game (1)

"Master!"

Mo Hua and the other two were startled.

Aunt Xue's expression also changed, she said hurriedly, "Mr. Zhuang..."

Mr. Zhuang shook his head, "I have taught you everything I should, this place is a land of disputes, you can no longer stay."

"But..."

Mr. Zhuang had a cold expression and a decisive look in his eyes.

This was the look of a mind made up.

Everyone knew that Mr. Zhuang was unfathomable, and he had his own judgment in his actions; there was nothing they could do to interfere.

Aunt Xue, feeling helpless, sighed and asked:

"Gentleman, when should I take them to leave?"

Mr. Zhuang had anticipated this, "Tomorrow, I'd say."

Aunt Xue bowed and agreed.

Mo Hua had eyes full of reluctance, she wanted to say more, but seeing Mr. Zhuang shake his head, he spoke softly:

"I'm a bit tired and would like to rest for a while. You and your senior brother and sister should start packing, and leave tomorrow."

Mo Hua felt somewhat heartbroken, but still sensibly nodded, "Yes, Master."

The three returned to their room, each with a somewhat dejected expression.

Bai Zisheng said in confusion, "Why is Master suddenly sending us away?"

"It's not sudden..." Mo Hua said with a dejected look, shaking her head, "Master must have been planning this for a long time."

The Five Elements Sect was the final destination of their wandering journey this time.

Bai Zixi also lowered her gaze, her stunningly beautiful eyes flashed a hint of dejection; then she lifted her head to look at Aunt Xue and asked:

"Aunt Xue, did mother send you?"

Aunt Xue was momentarily taken aback.

Bai Zisheng said, "Zixi, Aunt Xue is here following mother's orders to protect us, isn't she?"

Bai Zixi shook her head, "It's different. I mean... is mother also coming? Are you following Master's orders on behalf of mother, leading the way for her?"

Aunt Xue looked into Bai Zixi's beautiful eyes and realized something for a moment.

Miss Zixi... bears such a resemblance to the lady...

Equally beautiful, equally intelligent, and also, equally sharp-minded and decisive.

Perhaps even more so.

Aunt Xue did not want to hide it and nodded, "Yes, the lady will come."

Bai Zixi's expression paled slightly.

Bai Zisheng still did not understand, "So what if mother comes?"

Bai Zixi pursed her lips tightly, her gaze darkening, "Master and mother are disciples of the same sect, close as siblings; but for so many years, Master has been unwilling to see mother."

"Why?" Bai Zisheng asked, puzzled.

"Because..." Bai Zixi paused for a moment, then said gravely, "Mother... is plotting against Master."

"Plotting?"

Bai Zisheng jumped in shock.

The siblings were close, and Bai Zisheng, being open-minded, had not noticed certain things, but the delicate-minded Bai Zixi was fully aware.

"Previously, mother couldn't plot against him, so she dared not meet Master, but now that she's coming, it means that Master can't leave..."

Bai Zisheng said, "Even if mother comes, it doesn't matter, right? Is she really going to harm Master?"

"Master has many enemies..." Bai Zixi looked down and sighed, "If mother can foresee it, so can his enemies. If Master can't leave, that naturally means he'll have to face many adversaries..."

Mo Hua frowned, "Does Master have that many enemies?"

"Yes," Bai Zixi nodded, looking at Mo Hua, "Quite a lot. Some have old grievances, while others simply covet what they shouldn't..."

Mo Hua was taken aback, "Does Master have something on him that others covet?"

Bai Zixi frowned and looked at Aunt Xue.

Aunt Xue hesitated for a moment, then sighed:

"Mr. Zhuang bears a great secret. The Taoist Court's great cultivators know it, the ancestors of the Demon Gate know it..."

Aunt Xue gave a wry laugh, "But it isn't something that I am privy to."

These cultivators and powers were too far out of Mo Hua's league. As a Qi-refining loose cultivator, Mo Hua had little concept of such conflicts; he was only concerned for Mr. Zhuang.

Mo Hua asked, "Aunt Xue, can't Master free himself?"

Aunt Xue looked into Mo Hua's eyes, feeling a bit too sympathetic to be blunt, yet she had to say:

"If it wasn't for a dire situation, Mr. Zhuang probably wouldn't ask me to take you all away..."

The three of them lowered their heads in disappointment.

Mo Hua's mind raced, but no matter how he thought about it, he realized that he was utterly powerless.

He was only in the Qi Refinement stage.

Merely a first-grade Formation Master.

Even if he could set up an Ultimate Formation, it was only a first-grade one.

His Divine Sense might be at the Foundation Establishment level, but it was just that, Foundation Establishment.

He knew Calculation, but he couldn't see through the causal chains or calculate the Heavenly Secrets like his Master.

He could set up Large Formations, but he couldn't rely on his own strength to construct them to turn the tide...

He could neither help nor protect his master...

Mo Hua let out a disheartened sigh.

As he furrowed his brow, racking his brain but still at a loss, he suddenly looked up, his expression abruptly changing.

Seeing Mo Hua's unusual reaction, Aunt Xue couldn't help but ask, "What's the matter?"

Mo Hua frowned without responding and ran out of the room to the corridor, looking up at the sky.

Aunt Xue, Bai Zisheng, and Bai Zixi exchanged glances and followed Mo Hua outside, raising their eyes towards the sky from between the eaves and painted rafters.

But the sky was clear blue, and there was nothing abnormal to see.

Bai Zisheng asked, "Mo Hua, what happened?"

Mo Hua gazed up at the sky, his expression serious, "The sky... it's been 'covered' by something..."

Aunt Xue's face changed color and she looked up again; after a moment, her eyebrows furrowed tightly.

Find exclusive stories on

She still couldn't see anything...

The sky was bright and clear.

Not a cloud in sight.

But she knew that although Mo Hua had a mediocre Spiritual Root, he was gifted with an exceptional Divine Sense and expertise in Formations. Being favored by Mr. Zhuang, he must have truly noticed something abnormal.

Chapter 653: Deadly Trap (2)

Mo Hua's expression became solemn.

Ever since he had seen the heavenly thunder and the Immortal Patterns, he would often gaze at the sky.

Although he couldn't see anything, he could faintly sense a subtle breath from the heavens, just like the Taoist Meaning of the earth.

Every time he looked up at the sky, he could feel the Heavenly Dao's strength, constantly thriving and never ceasing.

But now, he could no longer sense this implication.

It was as if something was blocking it.

Mo Hua looked up, his gaze intently fixed on the sky, and after a moment, his pupils shuddered as he murmured,

"They are coming..."

Aunt Xue suddenly felt a palpitation and abruptly looked up, only to see the originally clear blue sky suddenly surged with a tide of blood from the horizon!

A blood-red Soul Banner, like a tide, blocked the sun, slowly drawing together from the horizon, spreading, and covering over...

It seemed to envelop the entire Five Elements Sect, no, the entire Li Mountain City within it!

Aunt Xue's pupils contracted as she exclaimed,

"A Demon Path treasure, the Soul Refining Banner?!"

...

Sudden anomalies appeared, and the sky turned blood-red.

The whole Five Elements Sect instantly fell into chaos.

"What's going on?"

"Where did this bloody sea in the sky come from?"

"Such strong Demonic Qi!"

"Is this... a Golden Core Stage Demon Cultivator?!"

The Elders were both shocked and enraged:

"Under the broad daylight and clear skies, they dare to offend our Sect with Demon Path atrocities, it's utterly contemptible!"

"The comers mean no good..."

"Not just no good, they are a great calamity!"

"Do they think the Five Elements Sect is without protectors?!"

"Chief Elder..."

The Chief Elder's expression was grave.

At that moment, within the sea of blood in the sky, a giant Demon Sword emerged, its blade bearing a vast blood-covered vertical pupil.

Within the pupil, myriad faces could be seen.

They were wailing, in agony, struggling...

As if they were resentful spirits and fierce ghosts, unable to find peace after being devoured by the Demon Sword.

With the sword's appearance, the bloody Qi of the sky condensed into Sword Qi, tangible and imbued with a terrifying force of slaughter!

"Another Demon Path Golden Core treasure?!"

The Soul Banner traps; the Demon Sword kills!

Every member of the Five Elements Sect was terrified and trembling.

The Chief Elder shouted loudly, "Quick! Activate the Large Formation!"

"Activate the Large Formation!"

"Activate the Large Formation!"

The Elders, heeding the command, hurriedly passed down the orders.

After a while, the Five Elements Sect's mountain trembled, Spiritual Power surged, and above the vast Sect, numerous Formation Patterns lit up one by one, accompanied by astonishing spiritual pressure, forming one gigantic Array.

Five-colored lights soared into the sky.

The Second Grade Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation was fully activated!

After more than six hundred years, the Sect's Mountain Protection Array finally saw daylight once more.

A vast amount of Spirit Stones were instantly consumed, and like water, Spiritual Power flowed through the Formation Pivot, surging powerfully.

Mo Hua was within the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation, his heart inexplicably shaken.

This was... the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation!

It was a Second Grade Formation!

The Patterns were more complex, the Pivot more profound, the five colors dazzling and blinding, and Spiritual Power circulated like rivers...

Both beautiful and grand.

Mo Hua's heart trembled with emotion, and he suddenly started in alarm.

"Master!"

The Soul Banner and Demon Sword were treasures of Golden Core Demon Cultivators.

The Demon Cultivators defied the Taoist Court and made a sudden move; their target would naturally not be the Five Elements Sect but rather his master, who was currently within the Sect!

Mo Hua had just turned around when he realized that Mr. Zhuang was already standing behind him.

"Master..." Mo Hua looked worried.

Mr. Zhuang affectionately patted his head, smiled slightly, then looked up at the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation and remarked,

"This Formation is a good thing, what a pity..."

Enjoy exclusive adventures from

Mo Hua also looked up, only to see the terrifying Demon Sword had materialized thousands of bloody Sword Qi streaks, attacking the Large Formation like a sudden, ferocious storm.

The Demonic Qi, along with the Sword Qi, surged forward, one after another, striking the Spirit Screen of the Large Formation.

The entire Formation emitted an intense humming sound.

The whole Five Elements Sect shook, stones trembled, and the Sect quivered.

Caves collapsed, wood and stone all cracked.

The Spiritual Power of the Formation was rapidly depleting, but at the same time, more Spirit Stones were being refined by the Spirit Gathering Array, flowing into the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation like river water, stabilizing the Formation base and aiding the Formation.

The assault of the Demon Sword ceased.

Although the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation suffered substantial damage, it still held.

All the Cultivators of the Five Elements Sect heaved a sigh of relief.

The Chief Elder's suspended heart also settled down.

"We held on... holding on is good..."

As long as they held on, there was a chance for reversal.

Within this world under the heavens, all is the "Dao" land.

This world belonged to the Taoist Court.

Even though these Demon Path evildoers unexpectedly dared to provoke the Five Elements Sect with such audacity, as long as they held on, the Taoist Court or other Righteous Dao reinforcements would arrive, and they could thwart this great disaster.

The Chief Elder glanced again at the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation outside the Sect's gates, his heart filled with sighs.

"The Large Formation truly is the foundation of the Sect!"

"In the face of life and death, this is indeed a life-saving treasure..."

If not for the Large Formation, the Golden Core Sword Qi released by the Demon Sword would have been enough to slaughter half of the Cultivators of the Five Elements Sect.

As the only remaining Golden Core in the Five Elements Sect, old and weakened, he wouldn't have been able to withstand it.

"But how could these Demon Path evil monsters dare to so openly attack my Five Elements Sect?"

The Chief Elder frowned in confusion.

"Could it be that their target is..."

The Chief Elder pondered and before he could think deeper, his expression changed drastically, and he looked toward the Large Formation, his heart filled with alarm:

"Wrong!"

"Something's wrong with this Mountain Protection Array!"

The Chief Elder suddenly stood up, looked around, and shouted loudly, "Where is Liao Tiande?"

Chapter 654:

Sect Leader Liao was the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect.

The Elders and Disciples of the Five Elements Sect looked at each other in confusion, only now realizing that a great disaster was upon the Sect, but no one had seen any sign of the Sect Leader.

Where had Sect Leader Liao gone?

The Chief Elder felt a chill in his heart as he looked up at the Large Formation with eyes wide in horror.

For the originally five-colored Spiritual Power circulating Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation had gradually begun to turn blood red!

This blood red was the color of blood.

Atop the Formation, an evil and ominous aura surged forth.

This wasn't the Mountain Protection Array of the Five Elements Sect!

It was an Evil Path Great Formation!

Why?

When had the Large Formation been tampered with?

The Chief Elder's expression changed as his thoughts raced, slowly coming to an understanding.

A great effort was put into construction!

The Five Elements Sect had been busy with massive construction efforts for their cave dwellings, which would inevitably lead to changes in the layout of the Sect and alterations to the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation. Amongst these changes, someone had covertly tampered with the Formation Pivot and had secretly changed the Large Formation.

Someone had turned the Five Elements Sect's Mountain Protection Array into an Evil Path Great Formation!

Those who could tamper with it had to be from the upper echelons of the Five Elements Sect.

The one with the greatest suspicion was none other than the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect—Liao Tiande!

His authority within the Sect was second only to his own.

When he was in seclusion, all matters of the Sect were managed by him, and he benefited the most from the grand construction and the establishment of the cave dwellings!

Now that disaster had struck, he had run away!

"Liao! Tian! De!"

The Chief Elder's eyes nearly burst with rage as he clenched his teeth in hatred.

This ungrateful beast had long since abandoned the Sect!

While he was angry, he was also baffled and confused.

How could this Liao Tiande have the capability to tamper with the Five Elements Sect's Mountain Protection Array?

The Second Grade Five Elements Formation, let alone the mere Foundation Establishment Realm Liao Tiande, even he, as the Golden Core Stage Chief Elder, lacked the Formation expertise to alter it.

After contemplating thoroughly, the Chief Elder's heart suddenly grew cold.

There had to be an expert from the Demon Path!

This person must have had profound knowledge of Formations.

He was the one secretly instructing Liao Tiande to change the Formation Patterns of the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation. While construction was underway, he had embedded Evil Path Patterns atop the Formation base of the Five Elements Sect.

On the surface, the Sect's Large Formation still appeared to be the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation.

But as soon as the Formation was activated and the Spiritual Power loss intensified due to the infiltration of Demonic Qi, the dormant Evil Path Patterns would be triggered, gradually stripping away the Spiritual Power and transforming into a Demon Path Great Formation!

The intricacies involved in this formation were profound.

The Chief Elder didn't understand it at all, but he knew that to covertly change a Large Formation with such a maneuver, it had to be the work of an expert from the Demon Path!

And it was very likely that this person's Cultivation was not limited to the Golden Core!

The Chief Elder felt as if he was plunged into an ice cellar.

Only now did he realize that this was all a scheme!

The Five Elements Sect was the chessboard, and Liao Tiande was but a chess piece.

The Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation was a big dragon.

Someone had schemed for hundreds of years, covertly placed their pieces, and plotted this killing formation.

The target was not the Five Elements Sect, but could only be...

The Chief Elder turned his head to gaze into the distance, looking towards Mr. Zhuang, who was in the ornate corridor.

It was him!

The Demon Sect had set a trap to kill Mr. Zhuang!

Meanwhile, the Spiritual Power above the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation had been completely polluted, turning a crimson blood color.

All within the Formation, enveloped in the bloody light, felt dizzy and disoriented as their Blood Qi seemed to be slowly draining away. Explore more stories at

This drained Blood Qi slowly rose, merging into the Formation, gradually empowering it.

The Chief Elder felt the despair in his heart:

"Is this... the Five Elements Blood Killing Formation?"

This was a Second Grade Demon Path Trapping and Killing Formation!

The Cultivators trapped within this Formation were unable to escape and could only be refined to death by the gradual extraction of their Blood Qi!

These Golden Core Demons from the Demon Path intended to use this Formation to trap Mr. Zhuang!

Just then, from a distance within the boundless blood sea surrounding the Five Elements Sect, there came a deep and indifferent voice:

"Demon Path, Feather Transformation Realm, Xuan Sanren."

"Requesting an audience with Mr. Zhuang."

...

"Feather Transformation Realm? Xuan Sanren?"

The Chief Elder, struck by the words "Feather Transformation," eventually regained his senses, muttering the name "Xuan Sanren," and suddenly felt an utter sense of terror:

"Xuan Sanren... Could he be the Mystery Demon Ancestor from back then?"

Could it be his doing?

The Chief Elder felt his strength leave him, his heart turning to ash:

Today, my Five Elements Sect may face eradication!

Flags of blood covered the skies, and the sea of blood was boundless.

From within it once again came the voice of Xuan Sanren:

"Demon Path, Feather Transformation Realm, Xuan Sanren."

"Requesting an audience with Mr. Zhuang..."

Inside the Five Elements Sect.

Mr. Zhuang snorted coldly upon hearing this, "Not seeing you, begone!"

His voice was not loud, but it echoed through heaven and earth.

The world fell silent.

Xuan Sanren remained silent for a long while. His cold speech carried undertones of anger:

"Under my Five Elements Blood Sha Great Formation, it is not up to you!"

Mr. Zhuang chuckled coldly:

"How presumptuous!"

He then gently flicked his sleeve, with no signs of Spiritual Power or Divine Sense fluctuations, yet the world suddenly changed.

In the midst of the blood-red sea above, the Patterns of the Evil Path Great Formation one by one changed and dissolved.

The Large Formation, once steeped in Blood Qi, was gradually cleansed with Spiritual Power.

The Patterns transformed, and the Formation Pivot reversed.

It was as if causality was suspended, and time rewound.

The five-colored lights shone again, brighter than before.

The Five Elements Blood Killing Formation, having its Formations reversed, had once again become, the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation, safeguarding all the Cultivators of the Five Elements Sect within!

What kind of mastery was this?

The Entire Five Elements Sect watched in stunned silence.

Outside the Five Elements Sect, below the sea of blood.

A black-robed Cultivator with white hair like a child's, deep and sinister eyes, suddenly had his pupils contract.

"Immortal Heaven Reversal... truly as legendary..."

Chapter 655: Entrusting (1)

The black-robed devil cultivator, with hair as white as a crane's and a youth's complexion, was none other than Xuan Sanren, the venerable ancestor of the Demon Path in the Feather Transformation Realm.

And standing behind him were several Golden Core Stage devil cultivators:

A youngster, extremely attractive but pale-faced as though veiled by a meticulously sculpted, flawless mask of a dead person's skin.

An old man with a sword box, his expression wooden, his eyes devoid of all but the whites.

A brawny monster cultivator, his fingertips sharp, with threads of blood in the depths of his eyes.

These three were precisely the trio of devil cultivators who had appeared outside South Yue City.

The only one missing was that decrepit old crone, babbling on and on.

"This Mr. Zhuang really has some ability,"

The pale-faced youth said with a cold sneer.

The monster cultivator scoffed, "Without understanding Formations, do not speak recklessly. What do you mean 'ability?' This is one of the most profound Formation techniques in the Cultivation World. No one in your Blood Refinement Gate could possibly understand it."

The pale-faced youth was slightly angered, yet the Sword Box Elder spoke:

"Be discreet with your words, Mr. Zhuang is not someone we can criticize."

The pale-faced youth was displeased but said no more.

Under the vast Soul Refining Blood Banner, amidst a sea of blood.

The Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation, its radiance swirling, spiritual power surging, resisted the omnipresent killing intent and the overwhelming Demonic Qi, standing its ground.

The Sword Box Elder licked his lips, a hint of bloodthirsty intent showing in his eyes as he said to Xuan Sanren:

"Venerable, the Demon Sword requires more killing of living beings, to absorb sufficient human blood before it can break through this Large Formation."

Xuan Sanren's gaze was somber. After pondering for a moment, he suddenly shook his head and said:

"No hurry; even if we broke the Formation, we couldn't do anything to him at the moment. It's better to just trap him for now."

He then gave a soft, sinister laugh, "I've been planning for hundreds of years, altering the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation with the Blood Sha Formation Flow, yet I never expected that he would undo it with a flip of his hand..."

"Indeed... it is Mr. Zhuang, who has the potential of a half-step Celestial Being..."

"But all the machinations come to an end here."

"This place has already been sealed by the Nether Heavenly Mechanism Seal which blocks the heavenly secrets. For a short time, the Taoist Court cultivators will not be able to detect anything..."

"Within three days, once the Soul Refining Banner Blood Sea covers the sky and completely seals Li Mountain City, with the Demon Sword suspended in the heavens, devouring flesh and blood, the entire Li Mountain City will become a purgatory, with no living being able to escape."

"Nether Heavenly Mechanism Seal, Soul Refining Banner, Chaotic Demon Sword, these three sacred treasures of the Demon Path are enough to trap any cultivator to death."

"Even Mr. Zhuang is no exception!"

"Moreover, times have changed. He is no longer the domineering Mr. Zhuang of the past..."

The Sword Box Elder and the others cupped their fists in assent, "Venerable is wise."

Xuan Sanren closed his eyes to rest, as if calculating something.

The Sword Box Elder and the others did not dare to disturb him and, after bowing, retreated.

Once they had moved aside, the monster cultivator's eyes shone with excitement as he asked the Sword Box Elder in a low voice:

"Do you think we will catch him this time?"

The Sword Box Elder replied gravely, "We are simply following orders; we need not concern ourselves with success or failure."

The monster cultivator felt snubbed and snorted, "Putting on airs, I don't believe you wouldn't be tempted by a chance to ascend to immortality laid right before your eyes."

The Sword Box Elder's eyes twitched slightly, "Such an opportunity is not for you and I to covet."

He lowered his voice again and said, "Our task here is to act as pawns under the command of the Demon Sect's Nether Ancestor..."

"Taking the opportunity to kill some people to feed the Demon Sword, just carry out your duties, accumulate some Merit Points, and in the future, you may progress beyond your position as the Ten-Thousand Demons Elder..."

"This is what is truly practical."

Enjoy exclusive content from

"The matter of 'immortality is for the Nether Ancestor to contemplate, it's not something for those of our realm to even fantasize about."

"Above the character 'immortal', one shares longevity with the heavens and the earth; below it, lies an abyss."

"One false step, and we could end up with no place to bury our bodies..."

The monster cultivator replied perfunctorily, "Alright, alright, I get it."

But in his heart, he scorned, "With the chance for immortality before your eyes, I don't believe you wouldn't be tempted..."

A gleam flashed through the brawny man's eyes.

The pale-faced youth nearby also showed a covetous look, his ambition growing.

Even the solemn Sword Box Elder, beneath his grave demeanor, felt an emotional tumult...

Immortality...

The three men each harbored different thoughts, and for a moment, it grew quiet.

After a while, the monster cultivator suddenly asked with curiosity, "What about that old crone? Why isn't she here?"

The Sword Box Elder paused, then frowned, "She's likely gone to refine corpses."

The monster cultivator was puzzled, "Is corpse refinement more important than what's going on here?"

"You don't understand what kind of corpse she's refining..."

The Sword Box Elder's eyes sharpened, "Given time, if that corpse is refined, it truly... would be extraordinary..."

"Just a zombie..." the brawny man shook his head.

The pale-faced youth also showed disdain.

...

Within the Five Elements Sect, underneath the Mountain Protection Array.

The Chief Elder, upon seeing Mr. Zhuang, had a conflicted expression and hesitated for a long while before bending his waist to bow and say:

"Five Elements Sect thanks Mr. Zhuang for the life-saving grace!"

He was very reluctant in his heart.

The disaster of the Five Elements Sect was a consequence of Mr. Zhuang's involvement.

But at its core, it was because of the traitor Liao Tiande.

Liao Tiande was the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect.

The Sect Leader colluded with the Demon Sect, altered the Formation, and plotted against Mr. Zhuang. From this perspective, the Five Elements Sect was also to blame.

The Five Elements Blood Killing Formation was a second-grade formation of the Evil Path that could refine all the cultivators' flesh and blood within it.

This Golden Core Cultivator couldn't resist it, let alone the other disciples of the Five Elements Sect.

If not for Mr. Zhuang, today the Five Elements Sect would have faced annihilation.

The disciples would have been almost completely killed or injured, becoming nourishment for the Evil Formation, dying under the very Large Formation that their founding ancestors had left to protect their sect's disciples.

Chapter 656: Entrustment (2)

Therefore, although the Chief Elder was reluctant, he still had to bow his head and express his gratitude to Mr. Zhuang.

There was another reason: he wanted to preserve the foundation of the Five Elements Sect.

Outside the Five Elements Sect.

Blood banners obscured the sky, and a sea of blood was pervasive.

The demon sword was suspended high, with a murderous aura running rampant.

Moreover, there was a Mystery Demon Ancestor of the Feather Transformation Realm.

This was a dead end!

Despair filled the Chief Elder's heart.

He racked his brains in meditation, yet could find no way to break the deadlock. He could only pin his hopes on the unfathomable Mr. Zhuang.

He hoped Mr. Zhuang could show them a way to survival, a way for the disciples of the Five Elements Sect to live on.

However, after the numerous difficulties he had caused earlier, he was now too ashamed to speak.

It seemed Mr. Zhuang had seen through the Chief Elder's thoughts and said indifferently:

"I can save you."

The Chief Elder's heart trembled, and his eyes showed hope, but he was also puzzled, "You..."

Mr. Zhuang said, "My disciple has inherited your legacy, which is a favor from your sect. The cycle of cause and effect, one act of kindness deserves another. I save you once, show you a way to live. It's both settling karma and giving an account to the ancestors of the Five Elements Sect."

The Chief Elder was overjoyed but felt an inner conflict, struggling to speak.

Mr. Zhuang's expression remained indifferent, and he said nothing more.

After a long hesitation, the Chief Elder, unable to let go, asked the question that had been plaguing him for a long time:

"Mr. Zhuang... exactly what inheritance from my Five Elements Sect has your disciple acquired?"

Mr. Zhuang smiled faintly, "What do you think?"

The Chief Elder furrowed his brows, pondering:

"The Five Elements Spirit Formation... I fear it's not just that..."

"Even if you knew, what could you do?"

The Chief Elder was taken aback.

Mr. Zhuang shook his head, "The Five Element Ultimate Formation, none of you could learn it. The other inheritances, even if attained, what use would they be to you?"

These words struck deep into the Chief Elder's heart.

But he had no power to refute them.

Over the years, the younger disciples, indulging in comfort and not striving for progress, it had been a long time since anyone could learn the Five Element Ultimate Formation.

The pearl was covered in dust – it was their own fault.

The Chief Elder sighed deeply.

Mr. Zhuang's gaze became intense as he added, "Should my disciple, if proficient in Formations someday, wish to pass down this legacy, it could be given back to your Five Elements Sect!"

The Chief Elder was startled and asked earnestly:

"Gentleman, is that really your wish?"

Mr. Zhuang nodded, "But there is one condition you must agree to."

The Chief Elder's brow furrowed. He knew there was no such thing as a free lunch but since it concerned their legacy, he still said:

"Please speak, sir."

Mr. Zhuang said in a serious tone, "You must not mention my disciples' affairs to anyone, especially... my youngest disciple."

"Keep silent about the business of the Five Elements Sect, the legacy, and even the fact that he visited and you met him... Never speak of these again..."

The Chief Elder was stunned, "This..."

Mr. Zhuang had a profound look in his eyes, his demeanor serious.

A chill went through the Chief Elder's heart, and he quickly understood that this seemingly trivial matter could be very significant.

"Agreed!"

The Chief Elder nodded solemnly.

Mr. Zhuang looked penetratingly at the Chief Elder, nodded slightly, and instructed:

"The Soul Refining Banner will be completed in two days, at which point a sea of blood will engulf heaven and earth, sealing off the whole of Li Mountain City."

Mr. Zhuang opened up a map of Li Mountain City and lightly traced a line with his finger:

"Tomorrow at noon, all the elders and disciples of your Five Elements Sect should leave from the southwest corner along this line, and do not come back..."

The Chief Elder was slightly astonished, "The Demon Sect would probably not let us off so easily..."

"That is not your concern."

The Chief Elder nodded obediently but then expressed his reluctance, "Then what about the foundation of my Five Elements Sect..."

Mr. Zhuang's look turned colder:

"If the Formation is standing and the people live, the Sect remains; if the Formation is lost and the people perish, the Sect perishes. These ruins are not the foundation. The true key is the people, the Formation is the foundation."

The Chief Elder had a sudden revelation and said with a look of shame:

"Thank you for your guidance, sir."

Mr. Zhuang nodded, his words coming to an end.

The Chief Elder then respectfully stood up, gave a deep bow to Mr. Zhuang, and left.

Mr. Zhuang then summoned Aunt Xue and three Disciples, saying:

"The Five Elements Sect will leave tomorrow. You should leave with them, but before you go, there are some matters I need to instruct."

Mr. Zhuang left Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi behind, handing them two Jade Slips:

"These contain the complete Formation Diagrams of the Immortal Sky Formation Flow. Keep them safe, comprehend them well, and don't fail this legacy."

"This is also something your mother kept in mind..."

"She was unable to learn it, so she yearned for it, hoping you two could master this supreme Formation Method Origin Stream..."

"As for other matters... you have your Clan and your mother's arrangements, so I suppose I need not worry too much."

The two accepted the Jade Slips, both falling silent for a moment.

Bai Zisheng lowered his head, feeling somewhat ashamed.

After a brief hesitation, Bai Zixi spoke softly, "Master, I'm sorry, mother, she..."

Mr. Zhuang just smiled faintly, "That was the affair of the previous generation, it has nothing to do with you..."

He looked at the two children kindly, reassuringly:

"Your characters and talents are both quite good. The Immortal Sky Formation Flow was taught to you according to my own intentions, not merely because of your mother..."

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi, with tears in their eyes, respectfully kowtowed three times to Mr. Zhuang.

Mr. Zhuang graciously accepted their gesture, and then sighed softly:

"In the future, take good care of yourselves."

"And..."

"Take good care of your youngest disciple..."

"We will!" Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi both nodded solemnly.

Afterward, they left reluctantly.

Chapter 657: Entrustment (3)

Mr. Zhuang called Mo Hua in alone.

"Master..."

Mo Hua's eyes grew sore.

Mr. Zhuang smiled gently, waved his hand, beckoned Mo Hua to his side, and handed him a ring.

This ring was simple, yet it exuded an ancient and grand aura.

"Your senior brother and sister have clans, backgrounds, and even an extraordinary cultivator as a mother - they lack for nothing. Therefore, as your master, I'll favor you a little by leaving this with you..."

"This is a Storage Ring."

"Like a storage bag, it can hold things, but it's more concealed than a storage bag."

"Although you come from the life of a Loose Cultivator without many treasures, you do possess some secret items, especially the Jade Slip of 'Tianyan Jue' and that 'Five Elements Formation Flow Chart'... You must keep these safe, and they absolutely must not be lost."

Mr. Zhuang personally placed the Storage Ring, with great care, onto Mo Hua's hand.

The Storage Ring was of a normal size, but Mo Hua's hand was small, so it could only fit on his thumb.

"This ring must be 'bound by blood' to its owner."

Mr. Zhuang said, and then with a flick of his finger, a cut appeared on Mo Hua's left thumb, and fresh blood flowed into the Storage Ring.

The Storage Ring seemed to come alive, greedily absorbing Mo Hua's fresh blood.

The wound was very painful, but Mo Hua pursed his lips and endured without making a sound.

After a moment, the pain subsided, and Mo Hua looked down to see that the Storage Ring on his thumb seemed to have disappeared, but within his Divine Sense, a faint connection was formed.

It was as if the ring still existed on his thumb.

Only now, no one else could see it.

Seeing that the ring did not reject him, Mr. Zhuang completely relaxed. He looked at Mo Hua again and asked gently:

"Have you remembered everything I taught you?"

"Mhm," Mo Hua nodded.

Mr. Zhuang began to quiz him one by one.

From Divine Sense Calculation to the various Formation principles, from the Reversed Spirit Formation and the Thick Earth Formation, to the large formations and the intricacies of the Formation Pivot... Mr. Zhuang tirelessly went over them all again.

It seemed like this was the last time he would be teaching his young disciple.

So he patiently and gently repeated everything, big or small.

Listening, Mo Hua felt his nose prickle and his vision blur.

After finishing, Mr. Zhuang patted Mo Hua's head and then asked:

"You know about Gui Tao's people, right?"

Mo Hua was startled and nodded slightly.

"Gui Tao's people..."

"He was my senior brother, and could be considered... your Uncle."

"He has fallen to demonhood, and what he cultivates is one of Gui Tao's spell points..."

"His heart is cold, his methods are extremely strong, and he's also extremely arrogant, but he's a master of the Divine Thought Technique, and his use of Divine Sense has reached the pinnacle..."

"If you ever meet him, you must be very careful..."

"Yes, Master."

Mo Hua's eyes were moist as he nodded.

Mr. Zhuang looked at Mo Hua and, after a moment of thought, his expression apologetic but frank:

"As your master... I have fateful opportunities and astonishing secrets... but these, I cannot pass on to you, nor can I even tell you about them."

"To pass them on to you would bring you great disaster."

"Even knowing about them would taint you with karma."

"So you should know nothing, and you should not want to know anything..."

"The Immortal Sky Formation Flow is a unique inheritance, which I cannot teach you..."

"What I can teach you are only some obscure and complex Divine Thought Techniques, along with the principles of formations."

"In the future, you will have to learn each formation one by one, and understand each point bit by bit, all on your own..."

"Even if it's difficult, even if there are a hundred setbacks, you must follow your own path, establish your own Formation Flow, cultivate supreme Divine Sense, and verify your own Tao!"

Mo Hua's expression was serious as he nodded, "I'll remember that, Master..."

Mr. Zhuang nodded, looking at Mo Hua, feeling as if he had a thousand words to say, but found himself unable to utter a single one, ultimately all that remained was a long, lingering sigh.

Mo Hua's head drooped as well.

After a moment, Mr. Zhuang seemed to make up his mind, a slight smile appeared on his face as he said to Mo Hua:

"Tired, aren't you? Rest for a while."

Mo Hua shook his head, about to say "I'm not tired," wanting to spend more time with his master, but as he began to speak, his words trailed off, heavy with drowsiness—indeed, he was too tired, having not closed his eyes for several days, thoroughly exhausted.

Mo Hua's eyelids fought each other, and unknowingly, he fell asleep.

His breathing was even, his small face as peaceful as a painting, innocent and charming, yet his little brows were tightly furrowed, as if worrying about something.

Mr. Zhuang looked at Mo Hua reluctantly, as if he wanted to engrave his image into his heart forever.

He reached out and gently stroked Mo Hua's forehead, smoothing out the furrowed brows as he murmured softly.

It seemed these words could only be spoken while Mo Hua was asleep:

"In my life, the thing I'm most gratified by is taking you as my disciple..."

"It's just a pity that I won't be able to see the day your mastery over formations is achieved..."

"This is the last gift I'm giving you..."

"You must live well..."

...

When Mo Hua awoke, it was still dark, and his master was still beside him, only his breathing had become fainter still.

"Master..."

Mo Hua said, concerned.

Mr. Zhuang smiled gently.

"I... fell asleep..."

Mo Hua felt somewhat ashamed.

Mr. Zhuang shook his head, "Go get ready. After dawn, leave with your Junior Brother and Junior Sisters."

Mo Hua's heart trembled, unable to let go, he asked:

"Master, can't you come with us?"

Mr. Zhuang didn't answer, simply stroked Mo Hua's head and said softly:

"Go on..."

Mo Hua could only leave with reluctance.

After the sky brightened, Mo Hua left Li Mountain City with Aunt Xue, his Junior Brother, Junior Sister, and all the cultivators of the Five Elements Sect.

Your journey continues at

Before leaving, he and his fellow disciples visited Mr. Zhuang again.

However, Mr. Zhuang's door was tightly closed; it seemed he would no longer see them.

Mo Hua knocked, but there was no response.

When the hour came, he had no choice but to leave.

Mo Hua followed the group of cultivators leaving the Five Elements Sect, looking back every few steps, hoping to see his master, to have one more glimpse of him.

But even as they left the Five Elements Sect, he still couldn't catch a glimpse of his master.

"I won't see Master again..."

Mo Hua's tears flowed uncontrollably.

Meanwhile, atop a tall building in the Five Elements Sect, unseen,

Mr. Zhuang watched Mo Hua leave the entire time.

He watched the little figure of Mo Hua constantly turning back, wiping away tears, getting farther and farther away until finally disappearing among the pavilions and towers.

In his gentle, warm gaze, endless expectations were revealed:

"I entrust the past of the Sect to your Junior Brother and Junior Sisters..."

"But the future of the Sect, I entrust to you..."

Chapter 658: Leaving the City (1)

The Soul-refining Blood Banner sealed the city as the overwhelming Demon Sword swept through.

Li Mountain City had become ruins.

The intricate carvings and paintings of yesterday were now reduced to rubble and broken walls, and the once splendid opulence was left in disarray.

Big White was pulling the cart, walking ahead.

Mo Hua and Junior Brother, Junior Sister, and Aunt Xue followed behind, accompanying the large group of cultivators from the Five Elements Sect as they left the sect's territory, exited the Mountain Protection Array, and entered the desolate Li Mountain City.

Seeing the surroundings, Mo Hua realized that Li Mountain City had long been an empty shell, with many of its resident merchants actually being concealed Demon Cultivators.

True cultivators were few and far between.

And when disaster struck, most of these cultivators either died, got injured, or fled.

The merchant cultivators were not locals.

They came for profit, and left when there was none.

Continue your saga on

No one wished to share the fate of Li Mountain City, and no one cared about the survival of Li Mountain City.

A flower without soil blooms resplendently, but withers in an instant.

The once precious and prosperous Li Mountain City revealed its desolate true nature of earth and mud sculptures, as its prosperity waned.

But Mo Hua didn't care about these things.

He walked on the road, occasionally looking back, hoping that one of these glances would allow him to see his master again.

But in the end, he saw nothing.

Mo Hua lowered his head in sadness.

Bai Zisheng was also very upset and patted Mo Hua on the shoulder.

Bai Zixi held Mo Hua's hand.

Aunt Xue had a look of surprise, but her expression was complex, and she sighed softly without saying anything.

The group continued toward the outskirts of Li Mountain City.

The Chief Elder and the elders of the Five Elements Sect took the lead in showing the way.

Although the sky was covered with a sea of blood and filled with Sword Qi.

Inside Li Mountain City, everything was blood-red with Demonic Qi overflowing.

Yet the journey was without wind or waves.

There were no Demon Cultivators, no murderous intentions, no dangers.

Just as Mr. Zhuang had said, it was indeed a path to life.

The Chief Elder found it somewhat unbelievable but also felt a great sense of relief, sighing inwardly,

"Mr. Zhuang truly is a lofty figure, he has shown great kindness to my Five Elements Sect..."

As the group walked, it was only a moment before they reached the great gate of Li Mountain City.

To exit through this gate was to leave Li Mountain City.

It was also to leave this place of disputes and purgatorial suffering.

The Chief Elder breathed a sigh of relief.

But when he looked up, the breath he had just exhaled tightened back up.

A chill went down his spine.

Before them, the city gate was suddenly enveloped by the sea of blood, sealing off their way forward.

And atop the city gate, at this very moment, stood a group of strangely-shaped cultivators.

In the middle, a figure in a black robe, with white hair and a youthful face, had a deep, gloomy gaze.

It was the Mystery Demon Ancestor!

By his sides stood an ashen-faced old man holding a strange sword box, a young man without a beard wearing a mask that resembled the delicate face of a dead man, and another man with sharp fangs and blood-red eyes.

Behind these few were a group of Demon Cultivators with at least Foundation Establishment cultivation, all exuding a sinister aura.

The Chief Elder's eyes showed horror, and he was scared out of his wits.

The cultivators of the Five Elements Sect also turned pale.

Xuan Sanren smiled gloomily, "Under the Blood Banner, the spirits and ghosts cannot be reborn; not a single remnant soul will be left. How could I possibly let you go?"

"The Taoist Court is strict; I haven't slaughtered a city in hundreds of years..."

"Today presents a rare opportunity; allow me to indulge..."

...

The Chief Elder felt desolate.

An Old Demon from the Feather Transformation Realm!

The Five Elements Sect was doomed!

With a sorrowful face, the Chief Elder was about to say something when he saw Xuan Sanren's gloomy smile fade, as if he had seen something that made him turn stern.

Following Xuan Sanren's gaze, the Chief Elder saw an elder sitting on a rooftop not far to the west, his face weathered, his body like dead wood.

It was the unfathomable elder known as "Old Kui" who was with Mr. Zhuang.

A glimmer of hope rose in the Chief Elder's heart.

Xuan Sanren, facing Old Kui with a grim expression, clasped his hands and said,

"Who is this distinguished person?"

Old Kui glanced at him indifferently, "You're not qualified to know. I'll spare your life; now begone."

Xuan Sanren, furious, gave a cold laugh, ready to take action. He suddenly hesitated, as if remembering something, his face changed drastically, and he blurted out in shock,

"You are..."

Old Kui's gaze was icy.

Xuan Sanren quickly shut his mouth, trembling and not daring to speak.

Suppressing the terror in his heart, his face twitching, he bowed to Old Kui, and his figure gradually faded from above the city gate, then disappeared.

The group of Demon Cultivators behind Xuan Sanren was also stunned and shocked,

"What is the identity of this elder?"

"Even Xuan Sanren shows him such respect?"

But they didn't dare to voice their questions.

Fearing to speak disrespectfully and offend the mysterious elder, and also fearing to incur Xuan Sanren's wrath with improper remarks.

If Xuan Sanren did not dare to stop them, they dared even less, so the group of Demon Cultivators had no choice but to retreat.

The Demon Cultivators dispersed.

The Chief Elder sighed with relief and, looking at Old Kui from a distance, bowed respectfully.

All the cultivators of the Five Elements Sect also looked solemn and bowed to Old Kui.

Old Kui flicked his finger, and a pitch-black fireball flew out.

The great gate of Li Mountain City shattered, the Demonic Qi was burnt to nothingness, and the Blood Banner burned with a gaping hole, while the sea of blood seemed to have been torn apart, revealing a passage.

"Go."

Old Kui said just one word and then continued to rest with his eyes closed.

Filled with gratitude, the Chief Elder bowed deeply once more, then looked back and gestured. Leading the cultivators of the Five Elements Sect, they followed the path opened by Old Kui out of Li Mountain City...

Mo Hua also glanced at Old Kui and couldn't help muttering to himself,

"Grandpa Gui..."

Old Kui seemed to hear Mo Hua's voice, slowly opened his eyes, and, glancing at Mo Hua, his lips curled up, revealing a slight smile.

Chapter 659: Leaving the City (2)

This was the first time Mo Hua had seen Old Kui laugh.

It was the smile of a marionette.

Although it was stiff and slightly unnerving, it was very gentle.

Old Kui's hoarse and kindly voice also rang in Mo Hua's ears:

"I'll see you off..."

Mo Hua's nose felt sour as he waved his hand vigorously, saying goodbye to Old Kui.

Old Kui "smiled" again, then said softly, "Go now..."

"Hmm!"

Mo Hua nodded, took another look at Old Kui, and then reluctantly shifted his gaze away, walking toward the city gates.

Old Kui watched Mo Hua's small figure with some regret.

What a pity... I won't get to eat the pine nuts fried by this child for me again... Nor will I have the chance to instruct him in spells or play chess together...

Then he mocked himself:

"Even my Taoist heart has wavered..."

Old Kui shook his head and closed his eyes again, resuming his withered sitting posture.

...

And Mo Hua just kept walking, through the city gate, leaving Li Mountain City, leaving behind the city shrouded in blood, filled with Demonic Qi, dangers, and the intent to kill.

He also left behind the Li Mountain City where his master resided...

When Mo Hua looked back.

The Soul-refining Blood Banner had been fully activated, completely shrouding the entire Li Mountain City.

Before his eyes were the surging sea of blood, the fierce Demon Sword, and the sky filled with bloody Sword Qi.

Mo Hua etched all this in his heart, with a slightly chilly look in his eyes.

"Dare to scheme against my master..."

One day, I will slaughter all you Evil Demons and monsters, tear this Soul Banner to shreds, smash this Demon Sword to pieces, and crush all the Heavenly Secret Cause and Effect of the Demon Path...

Whatever Mystery Demon Ancestor, whatever Golden Core Demon Cultivator, whatever treasures of the Demon Path...

You all just wait for me...

...

At that moment in Li Mountain City, Xuan Sanren, who had just recovered from Old Kui's intimidating presence, suddenly felt his heart quake again.

He quickly pulled a bone Compass from his bosom.

In the Compass was sealed a lock, soaked with black blood, engraved with ancient Formation Patterns; in its center was embedded a demonic eye that looked vicious and blinked continuously.

This was the treasured Heavenly Secret Cause and Effect of the Demon Path: Nether Heavenly Mechanism Seal.

Xuan Sanren frowned:

"Just now, this Heavenly Mechanism Seal... trembled?"

"What does that mean?"

"What is it afraid of?"

"What's there to fear?"

Xuan Sanren bit his finger, smeared it across his forehead, leaving a trail of blood that began to wriggle on its own, his Divine Sense becoming increasingly sharp.

He formed a gesture with his hand, meticulously conjecturing, but after a while, he was still baffled.

I can't figure anything out...

It's all a mystery.

Yet there seemed to be a vague hint of an ominous sign.

It was as if, by a fluke, he had released a batch of fry into the river.

But among these fry, there seemed to be a tiny and ferocious "crocodile."

Looking closer, however, the river stretched boundlessly, waves rippling, a sea of vagueness, and nothing could be seen.

Xuan Sanren blanked out for a moment, then shook his head, "It's just an illusion..."

It couldn't be such a coincidence...

...

About dozens of miles outside Li Mountain City, there was a fork in the road. Stay tuned for updates on

Mo Hua and people from the Five Elements Sect were about to part ways here.

The Chief Elder glanced at Mo Hua, his expression complex.

The true inheritance of the Five Elements Sect lay with this child.

The future fortunes of the Five Elements Sect might also reside with him.

Although he didn't know what the true inheritance of the Five Elements Sect was, nor what its future fortunes could be, this was what Mr. Zhuang had told him, and he could only believe it.

But...

Whether the Five Elements Sect could have that fortune in the future was another matter...

The Sect was in tribulation; the hearts of its people scattered.

From now on, they would have to lead a life under others, which would not be easy.

These disciples would probably leave one after another.

How many could stay in the end was hard to say.

As long as he was alive, perhaps it might be better, after all, he was also a Golden Core Cultivator, but what about a hundred years, two hundred years later? If he were to die, and the Five Elements Sect had no successor, would it then be erased from the history of the Cultivation World...

The Chief Elder sighed, his heart full of worry.

He looked at Mo Hua and bid farewell with clasped hands: "Young Gentleman, take care!"

Mo Hua also paid his respects: "Chief Elder, please take care!"

"Hopefully there will be a day when we meet again..."

The Chief Elder's heart was filled with melancholy, then he saluted Mo Hua once more, leading the people of the Five Elements Sect mightily onto the road of uncertainty...

...

Mo Hua, on the other hand, took another path.

This was a broad mountain road.

Big White, pulling a cart, saw that Mo Hua seemed to be in a bad mood, affectionately nuzzled Mo Hua with its head, as if trying to comfort him.

Mo Hua hugged Big White too, but his expression was still a bit downcast.

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi also felt somewhat sad.

As they walked, Bai Zisheng suddenly asked Aunt Xue, "Aunt Xue, can you find my mother and get her to save Master?"

Aunt Xue replied bitterly, "People at Mr. Zhuang's level are involved in matters we simply can't intervene with..."

"Even if it were Madam, there's little she can do to change many things."

Moreover, the Madam... was also making her own calculations against Mr. Zhuang...

Aunt Xue didn't articulate this last thought.

Bai Zisheng was somewhat discontented.

Bai Zixi then asked, "Aunt Xue, where are we heading now?"

Aunt Xue mused: "First, let's see the Madam; she's also concerned for your safety. Afterward, we should probably head back to the Bai Family..."

"Back to the Bai Family..." murmured Bai Zixi, involuntarily glancing at Mo Hua.

Bai Zisheng, suddenly remembering something, his desolation abating somewhat, looked at Mo Hua and asked, "Apprentice brother, will you come back with us to the Bai Family?"

"The Bai Family?" Mo Hua was taken aback.

"Yes." Bai Zisheng nodded, "Come with me to the Bai Family. I'll take care of you, and you won't have to worry about cultivation, inheritances, Formations, we'll have it all..."

Chapter 660: Leaving the City (3)

"Although far from comparable to Master, it's still quite good," Bai Zisheng said.

Mo Hua remained silent.

He turned his head again and glanced at Li Mountain City.

He still wanted to see his Master.

But he couldn't...

Golden Core, Feather Transformation...

Such levels of cultivation were simply beyond his reach.

He was just in the Qi Refinement stage...

Mo Hua sighed dejectedly, hesitated for a moment, and then said, "I want to go back to Tongxian City to see my parents..."

He had been away from home for a long time and wanted to go back to see how things were.

"No problem," Bai Zisheng nodded, "I too want to go back and see Uncle Mo and Aunt Liu, and afterward, you can come with me to the Bai Family..."

"With such high comprehension and skill in Formation, even in the Bai Family, no one would dare to look down upon you..."

Mo Hua hesitated, "But, isn't that inappropriate..."

He wasn't a member of the Bai Family...

Bai Zisheng sternly said, "What's wrong with that? You are my Junior Brother, which makes us family. As your Senior Brother, it's natural that I should look after you!"

"Once we're at the Bai Family, if anyone looks down on you, they're looking down on me! If anyone bullies you, they're bullying me! I'll knock their teeth out!"

Mo Hua was touched but still shook his head.

Bai Zisheng said, "No rush, take your time to think about it."

Bai Zixi also glanced at Mo Hua, her voice clear but resolute, "At the Bai Family, no one will dare to bully you!"

Mo Hua was slightly startled, then smiled, "Thank you, Senior Sister..."

Mo Hua's smile was like a clear spring, pure and transparent, flowing warmly from the heart.

Bai Zixi subtly averted her gaze.

Aunt Xue saw everything, her eyes filled with both relief and tenderness, and yet a hint of reluctance.

Some things are simple and pure.

But the Cultivation World is cold and cruel...

Mo Hua still shook his head, "I'll go back to see my parents first, and... we'll see about the rest later."

He hadn't made up his mind about the rest.

He had to achieve Foundation Establishment and uncover the secrets of the Mysterious Heaven Great Formation.

The Formation was difficult to unravel.

It might take one or two years, or perhaps, ten to twenty years...

But no matter what, he had to unlock the Formation, and then step by step, as his Master had instructed, he had to cultivate his Divine Sense to the extreme, to achieve the Supreme Divine Sense and Achieve the Great Dao!

The process would definitely be difficult and most certainly arduous.

He had many secrets...

Although he was reluctant to leave his Junior Brother and Junior Sister, the Bai Family... might not be such a good place to go...

The Dali Mountain State boundary is vast.

Once they left Li Mountain City, the continuous undulating Dali Mountain range unfolded, with layers of mountains and winding paths.

Mo Hua and his companions walked along the mountain paths, getting farther and farther from Li Mountain City.

The mountains were like jade, the clouds like steamed and colorful clouds.

The magnificent scenery diluted their melancholy, yet left them with endless wistfulness.

In the hearts of Mo Hua and the others, there existed an emptiness. Enjoy exclusive adventures from

After walking for several days, Aunt Xue's eyebrows knitted together.

Bai Zisheng asked, "Aunt Xue, what's wrong?"

Aunt Xue pondered for a moment and shook her head, "Nothing."

After another five or six days, Aunt Xue's expression became more and more serious.

The others then realized that something was amiss.

Bai Zixi said, "Aunt Xue, what happened?"

Aunt Xue hesitated for a moment and then told the truth,

"Ten days ago, I sent a message to the Madame through the Jade Slip, explaining the situation, but all this time the message hasn't gotten out. It seems that it's not just Li Mountain City; the entire Dali Mountain appears to be locked down, hiding the heavenly secrets and cutting off communication..."

All of them looked solemn.

Mo Hua looked up and indeed felt that the sky was hazy. He could see the sky, but also "saw" that it wasn't quite the same as before.

It was as if something was blocking it.

"Aunt Xue, what's covering the sky?" Mo Hua asked.

Aunt Xue frowned, "It might be the... Nether Heavenly Mechanism Seal..."

"Heavenly Mechanism Seal?"

"Yes," Aunt Xue nodded, "The Heavenly Mechanism Seal is a type of magical treasure that can conceal heavenly secrets, lock cause and effect, and even isolate messages, preventing other cultivators from seeing, detecting, or divining anything..."

"Both the Righteous Dao and the Demon Path have such treasures."

"However, to block heavenly secrets on such a large scale and isolate the entire Dali Mountain, such a treasure must be extraordinary. It's very possible that it's one of the Demon Path's supreme treasures, the Nether Heavenly Mechanism Seal..."

"Demon Path's supreme treasure, Nether Heavenly Mechanism Seal..." Mo Hua nodded, committing the name to memory.

"What do we do now?" Bai Zisheng asked.

"Let's head out first, leave Dali Mountain..." Aunt Xue said with a frown, but her expression remained grave.

After several more days, just as they were about to leave Dali Mountain, a group of cultivators suddenly appeared before them.

These cultivators came without warning but seemed as if they had been waiting there for a long time.

Some wore black robes, others wore bloodied garments; their appearances were diverse.

There was a gaunt Taoist with burn scars covering half his face, a fat Buddha with eyes that could barely open from smiling, a glamorous female cultivator with blood-red lips and protruding fangs, and a corpse driver with a corpse on his back...

These dozen or so people exuded a sinister and profound aura, yet it was restrained.

They were all, without exception, Golden Core stage Demon Cultivators!

Among the crowd, the only person Mo Hua recognized was a cultivator in the late stage of Foundation Establishment, wearing a five-colored Taoist robe and a golden crown—Liao Tiande from the Five Elements Sect, the former Sect Leader.

The once Sect Leader was now bending the knee and obsequiously smiling.

Liao Tiande pointed at Mo Hua and the others, addressing a young man wearing extravagant blood-colored clothing, extremely handsome, with a sinister blood mark on his brow,

"Saint Heir, these are Mr. Zhuang's direct disciples..."