

The Quest 901

Chapter 901: Is Mine (4)

Under the Water Prison Technique, Hidden elder-second couldn't move for a moment, feeling dizzy and sick as if drowning.

"Binding Spell..."

Hidden elder-second felt his heart go cold.

As expected, this detestable little brat still had something up his sleeve...

With this strange Binding Spell, from the very beginning, he had no way to escape...

Hidden elder-second was completely engulfed in rage.

He was now full of regret, deep regret.

Regretting why he hadn't checked the almanac before leaving the house, encountering such a disaster star who was like a natural nemesis...

The moment he was immobilized by the Water Prison Technique, Hidden elder-second knew he was doomed.

Sure enough, within a few moments, Ouyang Feng's Red Gold Yellow Maple Sword pierced his left leg;

Murong Caiyun's Five-colored Spirit Light penetrated his left arm;

Hua Qianqian's Hundred Flowers Spirit Needle stuck in his knee; while Shangguan Xu placed his Heavy Sword at his neck...

The sinister and malevolent Hidden elder-second was subdued.

Mo Hua immediately ran over from a distance, seeing Hidden elder-second's eyes splitting with rage, staring venomously at him, he "kindly" suggested:

"Let's break both legs first..."

Everyone was stunned, looking at Mo Hua with very subtle expressions.

Although they had been on many missions and dealt with Sin Cultivators, they had never been "experienced" to this extent...

"Prevention is better than cure!"

Mo Hua said earnestly.

In this respect, he had experience!

Thinking about it, Ouyang Feng felt that what Mo Hua said made sense, so he flicked his wrist and emitted two Sword Qi, breaking Hidden elder-second's legs.

Hidden elder-second grimaced in pain, his gaze becoming even more venomous.

Mo Hua turned a blind eye and began searching through Hidden elder-second's Storage Bag.

Inside Hidden elder-second's Storage Bag, there were only some Spirit Stones, a few sinister daggers, and some books detailing the vital points of Cultivators, intended for assassination.

Besides this, there were also some Jade Slips.

But the Jade Slips contained only some poison recipes and miscellaneous Cultivation Techniques and the like.

Overall, the Storage Bag didn't contain anything critical.

Clearly, Hidden elder-second was cunning in action and in person, and wouldn't put any crucial things in such an obvious place like the Storage Bag.

Mo Hua then asked Hidden elder-second, "Where is the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill?"

Those around, like Murong Caiyun, weren't surprised.

Throughout the journey, they had guessed as much.

This Junior Brother Mo Hua, eager to catch this Hidden elder-second, was probably interested in his Concealment Technique.

But such a thing was also natural.

Catching a Sin Cultivator, scavenging the spoils of war, learning a few Spells, as long as it wasn't related to vital Sect secrets or Evil Techniques and Demon Skills, was all acceptable.

And now that Hidden elder-second was captured, the Merit Points were also in hand.

As for Hidden elder-second, they let this Junior Brother do as he wished...

Murong Caiyun and Hua Qianqian kept watch around them to avoid being ambushed by Monster Beasts or other Sin Cultivators.

Shangguan Xu stood beside Mo Hua so that in case of danger, he could protect him.

Ouyang Feng stood behind Hidden elder-second, in case he had any tricks left and made a sudden move to harm someone.

Hidden elder-second spat out a mouthful of blood and sneered, "Don't think I'll hand it over!"

Mo Hua snorted coldly, "Quite tough!"

Then, unable to wait any longer, he took out a metal plate from the Storage Bag.

He had later found some time to "modify" this metal plate.

The effects of the Mountain, Water, and Fire Formations felt a bit weak, lacking a complementary effect between them.

This time, he removed the Mountain Formation and added a Gold-series Formation instead.

A Golden Needle pricking the knee should be more painful than a rock.

If Hidden elder-second wasn't so stubborn, he would have felt embarrassed to "execute the punishment."

But now, not only was he stubborn, but he was also looking at him fiercely, and Mo Hua just so happened to test this improved "Formation Punishment Board" on him.

Mo Hua placed the metal plate on the ground, activated the Formation, then said in a crisp voice to Hidden elder-second:

"Just kneel for a moment, see if it hurts; if it doesn't, I'll think of a way to optimize it and improve it a bit..."

Hidden elder-second was dumbfounded.

What the hell is this little devil talking about?

Such venomous words, yet spoken from his lips, they somehow sounded like he was saying,

"I have a candy here, try it later and see if it's sweet—if not, I'll add more sugar."

"Senior Brother Feng!"

Mo Hua glanced at Ouyang Feng.

Ouyang Feng understood immediately and skillfully grabbed Hidden elder-second, pressing him onto the iron board, and immediately a pig-slaughtering scream erupted.

Murong Caiyun helplessly held her forehead.

Beside her, Shangguan Xu and Hua Qianqian were dumbfounded.

It was their first encounter with this "iron board," but it wouldn't be the last...

Mo Hua curiously asked Hidden elder-second, "Does it hurt?"

Hidden elder-second, in so much pain he couldn't speak, trembled all over, nearly crushing his teeth.

"Speak up..." Mo Hua urged again.

Hidden elder-second was so furious he spat blood.

After about the time it took to brew a cup of tea, just as Hidden elder-second was about to faint, Mo Hua moved his Divine Sense and turned off the Formation on the iron board.

But even though Hidden elder-second was unsteady, he exuded a fierce determination and refused to speak a word.

Mo Hua frowned.

He had slightly overestimated the capability of his iron board.

Painful as it was, it still lacked some variance and needed some "improvements."

At the same time, he realized he had somewhat underestimated Hidden elder-second.

Indeed, Hidden elder-second was a tough man!

Was this inheritance of the Stealth Skill so important?

Even if tortured to death, he wouldn't speak?

Or perhaps, did he feel that being captured meant an inevitable death later on, so it mattered not whether he spoke?

Or maybe, had he undergone some training and harbored unspeakable secrets, so once captured, he would clench his teeth and remain silent?

...

In an instant, Mo Hua's thoughts were rampant.

However, he didn't care about other matters; what concerned him the most was the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill.

The duck that was almost in his mouth cannot be allowed to fly away!

If Hidden elder-second wouldn't speak, then he would search himself.

Such precious inheritance—Hidden elder-second would definitely carry it on his body.

Just like his own inheritances, all hidden within the Storage Ring his master had given him—Hidden elder-second must also have a hiding place on his body!

Mo Hua thought of the Letter Token.

The Letter Token of Bald Eagle that he hadn't managed to find, which was later discovered by the Taoist Court...

Mo Hua felt somewhat indignant.

Suddenly, an idea struck him; he thought of the causality air mechanism he had sensed while Calculating the nature's spiritual energy.

Calculation!

Mo Hua's gaze sharpened, his pupils darkened with a black base, and upon this, threads of the Heavenly secret pattern began to form.

Hidden elder-second shuddered, feeling as if Mo Hua's enigmatic and profound eyes had seen right through his secrets...

A moment later, Mo Hua's expression brightened, he took out the Thousand Jun Stick and handed it to Ouyang Feng, pointing at Hidden elder-second, "Senior Brother Feng! Help me smash his teeth!"

Ouyang Feng hesitated.

"Teeth?"

"Hmm!" Mo Hua nodded.

After a moment's hesitation, Ouyang Feng complied with Mo Hua's wishes.

With a look of terror on Hidden elder-second's face, Ouyang Feng gathered his Spiritual Power into Strength, and with one strike of his stick, smashed Hidden elder-second's teeth.

Blood flowed out, with Hidden elder-second's teeth scattered on the ground.

Mo Hua discerned briefly, picked out one tooth, smiling beamingly.

This tooth, was a "Storage Bag"!

A very tiny Storage Bag, with a palm-sized space inside, just enough to contain a Jade Slip.

Mo Hua took out the Jade Slip and dangled it in front of Hidden elder-second.

Hidden elder-second widened his eyes, disbelieving.

Mo Hua smiled cheerfully and said,

"Your Stealth Technique is good, but now it's mine!"

Chapter 902: Five Hidden Gate

"Using teeth as a 'Storage Bag' to preserve the inheritance inside the Jade Slip."

"This Hidden Elder-Second, is truly sinister and cunning."

Murong Caiyun and the others looked surprised, and then they turned to look at Mo Hua, even more shocked.

They felt that their Junior Brother was even more cunning than Hidden Elder-Second...

He even discovered the Jade Slip hidden inside someone's teeth, shattered the teeth, and retrieved the Jade Slip.

Hidden Elder-Second wore a face of panic, finding it unbelievable.

He had concealed the location of this Jade Slip so well that, in over a hundred years, no one other than himself had known about it.

"How on earth did this kid 'see' it?"

But looking at Mo Hua, who was smiling and holding the Jade Slip, beaming with joy, Hidden Elder-Second felt even more venomous. He sneered,

"Kid, don't... be too happy too soon..."

He had lost some teeth, which made it slightly hard to understand his speech.

"This is an inheritance Jade Slip with a Sealing Pattern added. Without knowing the Sealing Pattern, the Seal cannot be broken, and you'll never be able to acquire the... spell for the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill inside..."

"I am the only heir of the Five Hidden Gate who knows about the Jade Slip's Sealing Pattern!"

Hidden Elder-Second revealed a sinister grin.

Ouyang Feng raised an eyebrow and pointed his sword at him, "Give up the Sealing Pattern, and you won't suffer..."

Hidden Elder-Second spit out a mouthful of blood, grinning without mirth, "Merely physical pain, I don't care about that..."

Ouyang Feng frowned, "What do you want?"

"What else can I want?" The cunning glint in Hidden Elder-Second's eyes was evident, "Naturally, it's my life..."

"I give up the Sealing Pattern, and you let me go!"

Hidden Elder-Second sneered.

Ouyang Feng shook his head, "Don't dream."

"Then forget it," Hidden Elder-Second scoffed, "If you kill me, this Jade Slip would also become useless."

Murong Caiyun frowned, turned her head, and looked at Mo Hua.

Seeing that Mo Hua was fully focused and fiddling with the Jade Slip, keen to know the hidden spell inside...

She somewhat softened and threatened Hidden Elder-Second in a low voice:

"A Jade Slip with added seals isn't something no Formation Master can solve..."

"Correct!" Hidden Elder-Second sneered, "There are Formation Masters who can solve it..."

"But Formation Masters who are proficient in Yuan Magnetic Formations are few, and even fewer can use Yuan Magnetic Formations to undo the Sealing Pattern..."

"Creating a Yuan Magnetic Formation and applying Sealing and Secret Patterns, and breaking a Yuan Magnetic Formation are two entirely different things."

"One may not necessarily unravel it even if they can create it..."

"Even if there is someone who can solve it, considering how precious such a Formation Master's time is, and considering their need for meticulous Divine Sense management, would they bother with a mere Foundation Establishment Stage obscure inheritance?"

Murong Caiyun's expression grew serious.

The others hesitated as well.

They indeed wanted to help Mo Hua and learn the spell for the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill, but they couldn't possibly agree to Hidden Elder-Second's demand.

With Hidden Elder-Second's numerous misdeeds, even if not for Merit Points, they couldn't possibly let him go; letting the tiger return to the mountain was absolutely not an option.

If they asked other experienced Formation Masters to unseal the Jade Slip, the cost would be too great, even far exceeding the Merit Points earned from this mission, which would be a loss.

Seeing the group wavering, Hidden Elder-Second grinned again:

"Besides, unsealing isn't that safe. If it's done wrong and the Magnetic Patterns inside get destroyed, then this Jade Slip would be ruined."

"If you want to obtain this legacy of the Five Hidden Gate again, it'll be impossible."

Ouyang Feng's gaze sharpened, and he scoffed:

"What nonsense are you talking about? The orthodox inheritance is with the Five Hidden Gate. As long as the Five Hidden Gate exists, the inheritance remains. You are just an apostate of the Five Hidden Gate."

Hidden Elder-Second's smile suddenly turned manic, his voice twisted.

"The Five Hidden Gate still exists?"

"Heh, the Five Hidden Gate still exists?!"

"It's gone, it's already gone!"

Hidden Elder-Second's smile was bloodied, "This Jade Slip is the last inheritance, and the Five Hidden Gate will soon be struck off the list..."

Murong Caiyun and the others exchanged glances, frowning even more.

"Hidden Elder-Second, stop your nonsensical rambling, what foolish things are you saying?"

Hidden Elder-Second's smile was fierce and meaningful, "Believe it or not, that's up to you. I'm just telling you, this is probably the only Five Hidden Gate Jade Slip you'll ever see. If it's resolved incorrectly and the Magnetic Patterns are damaged, you will never..."

Before Hidden Elder-Second could finish, a crisp voice interrupted:

"Done!"

Everyone was startled, turning their heads, only to see Mo Hua with the Jade Slip pressed against his forehead, his eyes smiling brightly as he avidly read something.

Murong Caiyun and the others gaped, stunned.

Done...

Was the Sealing Pattern unlocked?

"Impossible!"

Hidden Elder-Second's expression changed drastically, his eyes widening in horror, then he scrutinized carefully and bellowed:

"Right! Impossible!"

"Shameless brat, playacting. Don't think you can fool me!"

"The Sealing Pattern of my Five Hidden Gate's Jade Slip isn't something you can just say is unlocked and have it be so!"

Seeing his disbelief, Mo Hua thought for a moment and then recited from the Jade Slip:

"Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill, the Ultimate Technique of the Five Hidden Gate, not to be disclosed..."

"Sensing the Five Elements, merging with heaven and earth to conceal oneself..."

"Small concealments hide within a leaf's sight, major concealments hide among the Five Elements of heaven and earth."

"Its meaning profound, its applications vast..."

"It can be used for offense, defense, creation, destruction, concealment, and for making tangible intents invisible..."

"Those pursuing Tao Cultivation do not deceive in darkness..."

"However, those who conceal themselves dwell in shadows, and must not rely on this Spell to commit evils, intrude on privacy, plot against lives, steal, or conduct acts that are despised by their peers and bring shame to their Sect..."

"Those who violate this will have their Spells nullified and be expelled from the Sect..."

Chapter 903: Five Hidden Gate (2)

...

Mo Hua recited each sentence, and Hidden elder-second's face whitened a bit more every time.

By the time Mo Hua had finished, his face was as white as paper, bloodless, and his eyes filled with disbelief.

"You..."

"How is that even possible..."

Mo Hua sighed, "You have violated the ancestral teachings of the Five Hidden Gate..."

Mastering the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill, but using stealth to ambush and kill, even eviscerating his victims, his methods were brutal.

Other things like invading people's privacy and stealing were probably not foreign to him either.

Given the chance, people tend to do evil.

Not everyone was like himself, with a kind heart and a firm Taoist heart!

Mo Hua nodded.

Now that he had obtained the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill, Hidden elder-second was useless.

This Hidden elder-second was an old Sin Cultivator, malicious in nature, cunning and brutal, and moreover, very tight-lipped.

He wouldn't say anything, you had to pry his mouth open to get what you wanted.

Now, Mo Hua had what he wanted.

Afterward, all he had to do was hand Hidden elder-second over to the Taoist Court, exchange him for Merit Points, and all would be well.

"You, head to the Taoist Court, and enjoy your "severed head feast"!"

Mo Hua said from a position of authority to Hidden elder-second, who was kneeling on the ground.

Hidden elder-second still glared fiercely at Mo Hua, as if he wanted to etch Mo Hua's image into his mind forever, to haunt him even as a ghost.

Mo Hua was not afraid of him.

If he turned into a "ghost," he was even less afraid.

However, seeing Hidden elder-second looking venomously at him, Mo Hua wasn't so magnanimous.

Following Mo Hua's "kind" suggestion, both arms of Hidden elder-second were broken again, his right hand's tendons plucked, and his meridians destroyed...

This way, he could never cause any trouble again.

Ouyang Feng dragged Hidden elder-second by the collar as they left Canglang Mountain, went through Luopan Mountain Road, and arrived at the Taoist Court in Qianxue State Boundary.

The transition at the Taoist Court was relatively smooth.

With broken arms and legs, and even missing front teeth, "disabled" like Hidden elder-second, he was temporarily thrown into the Taoist Prison, where the Court Official held a hearing and sentenced him.

Then everyone could return to the Sect and wait for the task settlement and distribution of Merit Points.

Mo Hua also wanted to meet Supervisor Gu, but after looking around, he didn't see Gu Changhuai's tall, dashing, somewhat arrogant, and a bit flamboyant figure.

Mo Hua asked the Enforcement Leader, who informed him that Gu Changhuai was out on a mission. He wasn't at the Taoist Court for the time being.

As a Third Grade Supervisor, he was usually quite busy.

Mo Hua felt a bit regretful.

He wanted to discuss some matters with Uncle Gu...

...

Now that their task was accomplished, everyone was ready to return to the Sect.

On the return to the Sect, Murong Caiyun had rented a carriage which was filled with sweet fruits and fragrant tea.

Everyone's mood was very light.

They had thought this mission would take a long time, require a lot of effort, and inevitably involve some dangers.

But unexpectedly, everything went incredibly smoothly.

No one was injured, the delay was minimal, and the mission was completed in just one day, allowing them to return to the Sect.

Thus, the atmosphere inside the carriage was quite relaxed.

Murong Caiyun and Hua Qianqian, drinking floral tea, whispered intimate words with their delicate hands covering their mouths, laughing.

Shangguan Xu polished his Heavy Sword.

Mo Hua held a large melon, gazing at the scenery outside the window while enjoying the fragrant and sweet treat.

Only Ouyang Feng seemed preoccupied, occasionally looking at Mo Hua, his expression torn as if he wanted to say something but hesitated.

Just when he looked troubled, a bright red Spirit Fruit suddenly appeared before him, and a crisp voice rang out.

"Senior Brother Feng, have some fruit."

Ouyang Feng was taken aback and then chuckled, taking the fruit from Mo Hua's hand, warmly saying,

"Thank you."

Mo Hua nodded and took another bite of the melon, puffing his cheeks, and asked,

"Senior Brother, is there something you want to ask me?"

Ouyang Feng paused briefly, sighed, and said,

"This question might be a bit rude, but I still want to ask..."

Ouyang Feng paused again, his voice deep,

"Junior Brother Mo, how did you unlock that Sealing Pattern?"

Silence fell in the carriage for a moment.

Shangguan Xu stopped polishing his sword, Murong Caiyun and Hua Qianqian stopped their whispers, and looked up at Mo Hua.

Clearly, they all wanted to know about the unsealing.

But they were worried about prying into the secrets of Tao Cultivation, so it was hard for them to ask.

Mo Hua calmly said, "I was lucky, I guessed it!"

Ouyang Feng bit into the Spirit Fruit, silently looking at Mo Hua.

Murong Caiyun and the others squinted their eyes, obviously not convinced.

Mo Hua then explained, "I noted down some Secondary Thunder Patterns, which are pretty much similar to the 'Secret Patterns.' When unsealing, I just tried my luck, one by one."

"If you're lucky, you can unlock it..."

He was able to unlock the seal on the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill Jade Slip indeed due to some luck.

Hidden elder-second was on Boss Jiang's "list."

Keeping a possibility in mind, Mo Hua used the "Secondary Thunder Pattern Library" collected from Boss Jiang's Jade Slip to attempt to unlock Hidden elder-second's Jade Slip seal.

It took about a dozen tries, but he did manage to unlock it.

It really was good luck, guessed it.

However, this bit of luck required substantial Divine Sense Calculation Power, a "solid" accumulation of knowledge in formations, and "strong" expertise in formations.

These deeper aspects were things Ouyang Feng didn't know, as he only exclaimed,

"You learned the Yuan Magnetic Formation?"

Mo Hua didn't hide it and nodded, "Learned a little bit."

Ouyang Feng sighed inwardly.

Chapter 904: Five Hidden Gate (3)

The true Yuan Magnetic Formation involves the principles of Original Magnetism and requires the drawing of two layers of Formation Patterns, unlike the Small Yuan Magnetic Formation, a superficial method. The difference between them is like that of heaven and earth.

He originally thought he had rated Mo Hua's Formation skills highly enough.

But he had still underestimated this Junior Brother.

"So..."

Ouyang Feng whispered, "Can you break the seal now?"

Mo Hua said, "I've just learned, can't really say I can, nor can I unlock all of them, and there's a good chance I'll have to rely on luck..."

Mo Hua exaggerated the role of "luck" to mask his own "strength."

"Relying on luck..."

Ouyang Feng breathed a sigh of relief.

No wonder...

He had thought that Mo Hua really could use his Formation skills to consistently break the seals...

That would be too outrageous.

And too dangerous...

Since it was based on "luck," everyone nodded slightly and said no more.

Mo Hua suddenly remembered something, opened his Storage Bag, took out the Jade Slip of the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill, and asked:

"Elder Brother, Senior Sister, do you want to copy this Concealment Technique?"

Hidden elder-second was captured by everyone together, the Merit Points were distributed together, so logically, the spells should be shared as well.

Everyone hesitated for a moment, then shook their heads.

Ouyang Feng said, "We don't study Concealment Techniques, and they aren't very useful to us, you keep it."

"Alright."

Mo Hua put away the Jade Slip and then asked, "By the way, if I submit this spell to the Sect, can I exchange it for Merit Points?"

Murong Caiyun pondered briefly, then nodded, "You can, but it's a bit troublesome..."

"Troublesome?"

"Yes." Murong Caiyun said, "The Sect's Cultivation Techniques and spells are already quite extensive. If you submit it, the Elders will have to compare it with existing spells before they decide whether to include it..."

"That's not a problem..."

"The issue is that many spells need to 'avoid coincidence' with those from other Sects..."

"Some spells, if they have deep connections with certain other Sects, are not suitable to be included in the Book Pavilion of Taixu Gate."

"Rashly including them can occasionally lead to disputes..."

"Although as long as you submit them, as long as the spell isn't too commonplace and the provenance is clear, the Sect will usually reward some Merit Points, no matter what."

"However, these Merit Points likely won't be much..."

"Overall, the Sect still hopes that disciples will earn Merit Points by taking bounties and missions, rather than submitting inherited skills..."

"That's right, that's right!"

Hua Qianqian's voice was crisp as she nodded repeatedly, gossiping to Mo Hua:

"It's said that Sever Gold Sect, also known as the 'petty gate,' once had this kind of situation..."

"Some Disciples, to earn Merit Points, stole inheritances from their own families and submitted them to the Sect in exchange for Merit Points."

"Sever Gold Sect, greedy for inheritance, silently accepted them and shamelessly listed them as the ancestral Taoist Skills of the Sect..."

"Later, when other families came knocking, Sever Gold Sect, for the sake of face, adamantly denied it, leading to disputes between the two sides and became a laughingstock to others..."

"Since then, the Sect has become much more restrained in accepting inheritances, and the Merit Points given have also reduced..."

Murong Caiyun helplessly glared at Hua Qianqian, "Qianqian, Sever Gold Sect is petty-minded, don't talk too much about their bad side..."

Hua Qianqian chuckled.

Mo Hua nodded slightly and thought of another question to ask:

"Senior Sister Murong, suppose..."

Mo Hua blinked, emphasizing:

"I mean, 'suppose'..."

"I 'accidentally' come across a few spells' inheritance from other Sects in Qian State, can I learn them?"

Murong Caiyun's gaze was meaningful as she softly asked, "Are they of high rank?"

Mo Hua shook his head, "Not high, all low-level, inferior..."

He couldn't afford the Superior, High-Rank spells...

"Then it doesn't matter..." Murong Caiyun said.

"They won't give me trouble for it?"

Murong Caiyun shook her head and replied:

"Unless you obtained them through 'killing and robbing,' with nefarious origins, afraid to be exposed... Otherwise, generally speaking, learning such low-level, inferior spells, and using them won't have much effect."

Seeing that Mo Hua was still somewhat unclear, Murong Caiyun further explained:

"Low-level spells, learned by many cultivators and used by even more, are diverse in schools of thought and complicated in lineage. Often, they are quite similar to each other; it's very hard to prove which spell definitely belongs to whose heritage."

"For example, something like the Fireball Technique..."

"You use it, he uses it, and on the surface, it looks like nothing more than a fireball. Even if there are differences, ordinary cultivators can't distinguish the subtleties. There's no way to investigate further."

"But superior spells are different..."

"These kinds of spells have too distinct characteristics. As soon as you use one, others will recognize it and there's no denying it."

"Therefore, within the Qianxue State Boundary, as long as the origin of a low-level spell is clear, there's no issue in learning and using it."

"But with superior spells, unless they are from your own sect, once acquired, they must either be handed over to the Taoist Court or returned to their original owners, to be given back to the respective sect."

"Otherwise, there will be big trouble..."

"Thank you, Senior Sister," Mo Hua nodded, "I understand now!"

What it means is, with low-level spells, one can freely exploit them.

But with mid to high-rank spells, especially superior ones, one cannot simply learn or use them willy-nilly.

Like the Sever Gold Sword Control Jue.

If I want to learn it, I must be extremely cautious.

I shouldn't use it carelessly, and when I do use it, I can't let "others" see...

Just like Boss Jiang.

Now that Mo Hua understood this point, he felt much more at ease.

The carriage returned to the Qianxue State Boundary, and Ouyang Feng and Hua Qianqian said their goodbyes one after another.

When Ouyang Feng got out of the carriage, he gave Mo Hua an extra glance, seemingly preoccupied with something, but he didn't speak.

Hua Qianqian watched Mo Hua, her eyes brimming with gentle waves.

She found this Junior Brother Mo to be naively innocent, a bit cunning, and occasionally fierce...

Which only made him more endearing.

Afterward, the three returned to Taixu Gate. Shangguan Xu had matters to attend to and left first, so Mo Hua walked with Senior Sister Murong for a while.

When they parted, Murong Caiyun paused, then reminded Mo Hua:

"Don't mention the unsealing to others lightly..."

"Hmm."

Mo Hua nodded and then asked, puzzled:

"Is there something taboo about unsealing?"

Mo Hua knew in his heart that the Yuan Magnetic Formation was difficult to learn and master, and unsealing such enchantments was somewhat out of the ordinary.

But this was just his speculation; the actual reasons he didn't know too clearly.

Murong Caiyun sighed, "Unsealing is very difficult..."

"In the Qianxue State Boundary, there are so many sects, and most of the sect inheritances are recorded in Jade Slips, which are 'sealed' through Formation Patterns..."

"Because unsealing is so difficult, that's why Jade Slips are widely used to store spell points and form barriers to inheritance..."

"If everyone knew how to unseal, then in this Qianxue State Boundary, a vast number of heritages would be stolen..."

"So..."

Murong Caiyun left it at that, giving Mo Hua a meaningful glance, "Whether you unsealed it by your own abilities or by 'luck,' don't just casually speak about it..."

"Even if it was by 'ability,' you should say it was by 'luck'..."

Mo Hua took the hint and smiled, "Thank you, Senior Sister, I've got it!"

Seeing this, Murong Caiyun also smiled gently.

...

After they separated, Mo Hua returned to the Disciple's Residence, where he immediately began to eagerly study the secret Ultimate Technique of the Five Hidden Gate, merged with the Five Elements, hidden between heaven and earth: "Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill."

This Stealth Technique was much more effective than his current Concealment Technique.

Hidden elder-second, although experienced, didn't have a strong Divine Sense, and couldn't fully maximize the effect of concealment.

Moreover, he had been using this technique for wrongdoing, so in his hands, the technique really was a pearl cast before swine.

Mo Hua took out the Jade Slip, ready to take a closer look, but then suddenly remembered something Hidden elder-second had said...

At the time, the elder's smile was stained with blood. He said the Five Hidden Gate...

"Is no more..."

"This Jade Slip is the last inheritance. The Five Hidden Gate is also going to be stricken from the records..."

Mo Hua slowly furrowed his brow.

The Five Hidden Gate, forced to relocate from the Qianxue State Boundary due to poor management, had they been... annihilated?

Was this true, or not?

If it was just a lie fabricated by Hidden elder-second, that would be one thing...

But if it were true, then what exactly happened within the Five Hidden Gate...

Chapter 905: Great Evil Karma

It was a silent night in the Disciple's Residence.

Mo Hua's thoughts were in turmoil.

Why did Hidden elder-second say that the Five Hidden Gate had been wiped out?

Why had it been wiped out?

And who was the one who had executed the deed?

When the Five Hidden Gate moved out of the Qianxue State Boundary, was it really because of poor management and inability to recruit disciples, or was there some hidden reason?

Mo Hua furrowed his brows, then suddenly paused.

This seemed to have nothing to do with him...

He was just a minor disciple of the Taixu Gate, unfamiliar with Qianxue State Boundary, and he had had little contact with the many sects.

He had only just heard of the Five Hidden Gate.

Even if he wanted to inquire, he wouldn't know where to start...

Besides, he was very busy—attending classes, undertaking tasks, accumulating merit points, cultivating, studying Formation, and also learning Spells...

Where would he find the time to inquire about such matters?

As long as he mastered the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill, the affairs of the Five Hidden Gate, even if true, seemed irrelevant to a minor cultivator like him...

Mo Hua shook his head.

He then pulled out Boss Jiang's diary, broke the Secret Pattern, and flipped through the list inside, pondering another matter:

Boss Jiang was a traitor of the Sever Gold Sect.

Hidden elder-second was a traitor of the Five Hidden Gate...

...

Then, could the other people on this list... be traitors of the sects in Qian State?

Was this a "traitor's" list?

Mo Hua pondered for a moment, and the more he looked at it, the more likely it seemed.

In that case, were the legacies of these Sin Cultivators originally from the top sects, the Eight Great Gates, the Twelve Streams, and the numerous large and small sects in the Qianxue State Boundary?

Wool comes from the sheep.

Speaking of shearing wool from Sin Cultivators, but in essence, it was shearing from these sects of Qian State...

With that thought...

Mo Hua was startled.

Was the Spell-craft he was learning derived from "diverse sources"?

Inheriting from many schools, converging into one stream, with all Spells comprehended?

As long as he kept on learning, there might come a day when he could master the spells from all schools, use his strong Divine Sense, command myriad spells with ease, use others' methods against them...

And become a true master of all Spells!

Mo Hua was overjoyed.

Then, looking at the Jade Slip in his hand, he was somewhat puzzled:

Why were there so many sect traitors in the Qianxue State Boundary? And why had they gathered together? Why had they left a list in the hands of Boss Jiang?

To huddle together for warmth?

Or did they feel that, although they had become Sin Cultivators, they were originally legitimate sect disciples, and thus different from other Sin Cultivators, wanting to establish a separate organization?

Mo Hua was puzzled, and his mind slightly shifted as he did a brief Calculation.

But he had only calculated briefly when an intense chill invaded his whole body.

Mo Hua's pupils dilated.

In the midst of Chaos and ignorance, he glimpsed a vast, evil, Poppy-like Karmic net filled with desires that led to corruption.

This karmic chain was dark purple, distinctly ugly, yet it seemed to emit a sweet, rotting scent, teasing one's desires, causing cultivators to deeply indulge in it.

This was...

The true great Karmic consequence of evil desires!

It was already formed, with the sin deeply sedimented, evil patterns deeply rooted, and the Karmic chains massive and corrupted—a depraved Heavenly secret!

Mo Hua felt a stabbing pain in his eyes and a cold sweat broke out on his back.

He hurriedly closed his eyes and when he reopened them, everything had vanished without a trace.

As if it was all a hallucination...

But Mo Hua knew, the implications of the Heavenly secret were far from illusory.

This sort of Poppy-like Karmic consequence was definitely real.

Moreover, such a powerful and profound net of karma, laden with sin, was not something he could see with his current level of Divine Sense.

It was more like a revelation from the unknown.

Or perhaps...

It was shown to him by someone...

Mo Hua's mood suddenly became solemn.

All the events after coming to the Qianxue State Boundary, like a zoetrope, rose in his heart and then, like a mirage or the moon reflected in the water, shattered into broken ripples.

Qianxue State Boundary.

The very pinnacle of the Cultivation World, a place for seekers of knowledge...

Now, in Mo Hua's mind, the impression had completely changed.

Although on the surface, it still sported the thriving appearance of Tao Cultivation, with sects standing tall and geniuses abound, prosperity everywhere, there was something rotten hidden beneath...

Mo Hua furrowed his brows and muttered in his mind:

"This is somewhat dangerous..."

Mo Hua understood that within this karmic consequence lay great dangers.

The great Dao is unpredictable, and the Heavenly secret flows.

Heaven and earth like a chessboard, all living beings as chess pieces.

Something in the unknown was already beginning to breed...

At such times, it's best to avoid these grand, unknown conspiracies if possible.

Moreover, he still bore the karma of his master and uncle...

Mo Hua sighed and once again thought of his master...

The immense conspiracies surrounding his master, of which he knew nothing.

Even if he came to know of them, he, a mere Foundation Building Cultivator, though willing, would be helpless and unable to intervene.

Then there was his uncle...

Mo Hua still remembered how his uncle, with a dao heart planting the Devil, could slay Golden Cores and Feather Transformations as easily as chopping vegetables. Let alone himself, such an inconspicuous Foundation Building entity.

Without his master's Heavenly secret Calculation to check, his uncle was truly terrifying...

Moreover, between him and his uncle, there were still some "misunderstandings."

He had secretly learned his uncle's Tricky Calculations, surreptitiously absorbed his uncle's Demon Thought, and even eaten his uncle's bowl of noodles...

Though the Tricky Calculations were learned legitimately!

The Demon Thought was consumed out of necessity!

The noodles were bought with his own Flower Spirit Stones...

Chapter 906: Great Evil Karma (2)

Uncle Mo would certainly hold a grudge...

Mo Hua sprawled on the desk, his mind wandering in chaos before slowly untangling his thoughts...

Within the Qianxue state boundary, there must be a major conspiracy.

At Uncle's place, there would surely be great peril.

But whether a conspiracy or peril, they were not of much concern to him at the moment.

His current task was to figure out a way to preserve his life and to develop steadily.

In addition to enhancing his cultivation and Divine Sense, he needed to learn as many things as possible.

Formation, spells, and other Tao Cultivation knowledge were all necessary to learn more about.

To ensure that he could graduate smoothly from the Taixu Gate and form his Core with peace and stability...

He also needed to seek out some intelligence to prevent problems before they occurred.

Only then, if dangers arose in the future, would he be able to foresee them and be prepared.

Mo Hua nodded, thus he devoted himself to his studies with even greater diligence...

...

In the Qianxue state boundary, at the Taoist Court.

Gu Changhuai, after finishing the Supervisor's duties, returned to the Taoist Court, his appearance travel-worn, yet his handsome face still revealed a clear, cold detachment.

It was arduous work to pursue Sin Cultivators outside, enduring the elements and roughing it.

Back at the Taoist Court, there were still tedious procedures to handle.

He felt somewhat impatient, but still suppressed his irritation and slowly reviewed the documents of his subordinates.

As he was perusing the files, an idea suddenly struck him, and he asked the Enforcement Leader beside him, "How is that robbery and murder case coming along?"

"Are you referring to..."

The Enforcement Leader was somewhat nervous.

With so many cases in the Taoist Court, he wasn't sure which one Gu Changhuai meant, and he feared not being able to respond, making him quite intimidated.

Gu Changhuai frowned, "Hidden elder-second."

"Yes." The Enforcement Leader remembered, flipping the files hurriedly before replying, "Reporting to the Supervisor, it's about to be closed..."

"Closed?" Gu Changhuai's gaze narrowed slightly.

The Enforcement Leader swallowed, unable to fathom Supervisor Gu's thoughts, "Supervisor, yes, it's about to be closed..."

"Was Hidden elder-second captured?"

"He has been thrown into the Taoist Prison and punished according to his crimes..."

"How was he captured?"

The Enforcement Leader immediately flipped through the files again before answering:

"It is said... on Canglang Mountain, following the trail, they found Hidden elder-second, broke through his concealment, and disciples from Taixu Gate, Tai'a Sect, and the Hundred Flower Valley worked together to capture him and delivered him to the Taoist Court..."

"Are you sure it's Hidden elder-second?"

"After verifying his bloodline, Spiritual Root, Cultivation Technique, and the Spiritual Power he practiced, there's no mistake; it's indeed Hidden elder-second..."

Gu Changhuai was perplexed, "Were there no other Cultivators who helped?"

"There's no mention in the files; there shouldn't have been any..."

Gu Changhuai's gaze became sharp as his thoughts churned.

It didn't make sense...

The sequence of events in the files was accurate, but not the rationale behind them.

How were the tracks found, the concealment broken, and the cooperation achieved in capturing someone?

Capturing a Sin Cultivator skilled in stealth and assassination was a complicated matter; being the Supervisor of the Taoist Court, how could he not understand that?

A few inexperienced Sect Disciples, in just a day or two, had managed to nab Hidden elder-second, which seemed rather suspicious however one looked at it...

"Take me to see Hidden elder-second," Gu Changhuai said.

"Yes," the Enforcement Leader nodded.

Following the Enforcement Leader, they descended into the underground Taoist Prison where Gu Changhuai saw Hidden elder-second.

Hidden elder-second was locked in a Spirit Banning cell, secured by Second Grade chains. He had been tortured, with his limbs disabled and his teeth broken, looking miserable.

Gu Changhuai frowned, "Are our Taoist Court's penal methods so severe?"

The Enforcement Leader forced a smile, "No... he was almost in this state upon arrival..."

"His limbs were broken, tendons in his hands severed, all of his teeth shattered, and his knees... It's unknown what sort of evil thing he knelt on, they're utterly ruined..."

Gu Changhuai paused before asking, "Who did this?"

"Those Sect Disciples, I guess..."

Gu Changhuai's brow furrowed deeply.

The Enforcement Leader said, "Supervisor, is this... not against the rules?"

Gu Changhuai snorted coldly, "What's against the rules about that? He's a Sin Cultivator. If you're not cruel to them, they'll be cruel to you. It's just that..."

He glanced at Hidden elder-second with a twitch of his eyelid, "This technique is too practiced..."

Nowadays, are Sect Disciples so ruthless...?

"Were those Disciples injured?" Gu Changhuai asked again.

"When they delivered this Hidden elder-second, I saw them; they all looked quite energetic, I didn't see any injuries..."

"Hmm."

Gu Changhuai nodded and turned to leave. But just before he left, a glance at the corner of his eye caught the scorch marks on Hidden elder-second's face; his gaze sharpened.

"Did you use fire torture?"

"No," The Enforcement Leader muttered, "We only used Thousand Jun Spirit Wood to beat him..."

Gu Changhuai, looking at the burn mark on Hidden elder-second's face, said, "This is... a Five Element Fire Series Spell..."

It didn't look like a sword, not like a blade, nor had the pinpoint burn marks of being seared by fire...

It resembled the scorching marks of an exploding Fireball, that would mean...

"Fireball Technique?"

Gu Changhuai mumbled to himself.

The Fireball Technique was nothing special, an entry-level spell. In the Cultivation World, any Cultivator with a Fire-series Spiritual Root knew how to perform the Fireball Technique.

Anyone could...?

Gu Changhuai paused, his gaze suddenly intense.

A certain incident flashed in his mind.

He remembered the food place outside Qing City over half a year ago, where most of the human traffickers who had abducted Yu Er had died from the Fireball Technique.

Gu Changhuai pondered swiftly in his heart...

They were five in total on this mission.

Ouyang Feng practiced the Ouyang Family's Swordsmanship, Shangguan Xu also used a sword, while Hua Qianqian cultivated the Hundred Flower Valley's White Flower Spiritual Formation.

Chapter 907: The Great Evil Karma (3)

That left only one person.

Gu Changhuai's gaze sharpened.

That Small Five Elements Spiritual Root cultivator, who reportedly just happened to pass by and rescued Yu Er...

Mo Hua!

Gu Changhuai frowned.

This matter seemed fishy.

The story from Mo Hua, that junior cultivator, claiming he just happened to pass by and coincidentally found Yu Er, couldn't be trusted!

If it wasn't him who found her, then could it be...

He, alone, used the Fireball Technique to kill over a dozen human traffickers, then rescued Yu Er? That seemed...

Even less believable...

Such a tale would fail to deceive even a fool.

Gu Changhuai was perplexed.

As a Dao Court Canon, experienced in handling cases for many years, his instinct told him there was definitely something majorly wrong with Mo Hua, that junior cultivator.

Yet, his cousin sister had great trust in the young man, and Yu Er was also very close to him.

It wouldn't be proper for him to directly investigate.

But leaving things be would surely pose a significant hidden danger...

Gu Changhuai's gaze flickered, and the image of Mo Hua's eyes reappeared in his mind those eyes, seemingly clear on the surface, yet oddly dissonant upon closer examination, possessed an uncommon depth...

Half good, half evil.

As if balancing on the edge between righteousness and wickedness.

Gu Changhuai always had an intuition that a cultivator with such eyes was either an astonishingly brilliant genius or a world-shaking demon fiend.

"I need to find some time to probe further

...

Taixu Gate.

That day, after finishing his meal, Mo Hua lay down on a patch of grass, legs crossed, leisurely flipping through Formation Books, when suddenly a tall "junior brother" rushed over, calling out,

"Mo Hua!"

Mo Hua looked up and saw it was Cheng Mo.

Curiously, he asked,

"What's up?"

"The Elder told me someone is looking for you."

"Who is it?"

"How would I know

"Alright." Mo Hua packed up the book, brushing off the grass tips from his Taoist robe.

"I'll go check it out."

Cheng Mo glanced at Mo Hua, suspicion in his voice:

"Mo Hua, why do you seem so busy

"That's because, I'm diligent in my cultivation!" Mo Hua replied.

"It's not cultivation stuff," Cheng Mo shook his head.

"I always feel like you're involved in other things

Mo Hua got on his tiptoes and patted the tall Cheng Mo on the shoulder, sighing,

"You're still young, there are things you know too early.

Once you've been in the Sect for a full year, your 'senior brother' will then take you along for some fun

Cheng Mo was a little embarrassed, "You're two years younger than me!"

"Age does not define knowledge, respect goes to the accomplished!"

"It's only out of respect for Elder Master Xun that I call you 'junior brother', don't get too ahead of yourself

"Who was calling me 'dear brother' just before

"You

...

After the two bantered for a while, Mo Hua went to the side hall outside the mountain gate to meet the Elder.

Following the Elder's directions, outside the mountain gate, he met the person looking for him.

It was Gu Changhuai.

Mo Hua was quite surprised.

He didn't know many people in the Qianxue State Boundary, and those who could come to the Sect to find him were either Aunt Wan or a guard from the Shangguan Family, sent on Aunt Wan's orders to deliver something to him.

But he never expected it to be Gu Changhuai.

"Uncle Gu?"

Mo Hua exclaimed in surprise.

Gu Changhuai nodded slightly, "I came to see you, and..."

Concerning Hidden Elder Second, I have some questions

"Oh." Mo Hua nodded.

While the two of them were talking, an Elder from Taixu Gate, seemingly just drinking tea, actually sent a sliver of Divine Sense to watch Gu Changhuai.

Gu Changhuai sighed inwardly.

His visit here was anything but easy.

His status as a Dao Court Canon was unique, every move he made bore the mark of the Dao Court.

Visiting the Sect to speak with a disciple was inevitably met with caution.

Gu Changhuai exhausted his tongue, claiming he was following the orders of his family to visit a younger clan member, and only then did an elder consent.

But whatever he asked and said, the elder of Taixu Gate remained wary.

Gu Changhuai could only subtly begin by asking about some matters concerning Hidden elder-second.

Since most of the information pertained to case files, Mo Hua picked and chose what to share; for things he couldn't disclose, he played dumb, saying he didn't know, didn't remember, or couldn't recall...

There was nothing Gu Changhuai could do.

After asking a bit more, Mo Hua became very tight-lipped and impermeable.

Finally, Gu Changhuai couldn't help it any longer and slowly started to speak,

"Mo Hua, do you...

Know the Fireball Technique?"

Mo Hua was taken aback.

The Fireball Technique?

Why is Uncle Gu asking me this?

His eyes narrowed, and just as he was about to answer, a cough came from afar.

The elder of Taixu Gate calmly said,

"The disciples of my Taixu Gate are free to learn whatever they wish; it's not for others to meddle

Gu Changhuai frowned, feeling helpless.

This Taixu Gate really didn't give him any leeway.

Mo Hua's eyes flickered before he turned back, bowing gratefully to the elder, then said,

"Elder, don't worry.

Uncle Gu and I are well acquainted.

We have some family affairs to discuss

The elder raised an eyebrow, "Really?"

"Yes, yes." Mo Hua nodded, bowing again in thanks, "Thank you for your trouble, Elder."

The elder's expression softened a bit and he nodded at Mo Hua, saying, "Then talk."

After that, he withdrew his Divine Sense and contentedly resumed drinking his tea.

Gu Changhuai looked at Mo Hua in surprise, "You have quite a 'reputation' within the Sect?"

Mo Hua modestly said, "Just average."

Mainly because Elder Master Xun had a significant reputation, and he had basked in just a bit of that glory.

And in this short time, he had also figured things out.

Gu Changhuai, being a Supervisor, surely had concerns related to the case.

At the same time, as Aunt Wan's cousin, he was also very concerned about her and Yu Er's affairs.

Coming specifically to ask him indicated that this matter was also related to him.

The "cases" he had "committed

No.

It was him using the Fireball Technique to eradicate human traffickers!

Mo Hua thought it over and over, and this was the only matter that left a "trace" of the Fireball Technique, leading to Gu Changhuai's suspicions.

However, Mo Hua was not afraid.

He was kidnapped by human traffickers, then "acted in self-defense" and killed over a dozen of them, saving Yu Er in the process.

Even if this matter was reported to the Dao Court, there wouldn't be any issues, nor would it violate the Taoist Law.

It was just that he didn't want to bother with fame, and that's why he kept silent about the good deed.

Once it went public, the Dao Court might even commend him!

Even if he told Uncle Gu, there likely wouldn't be a problem.

The most important part was that he had Aunt Wan's support.

Aunt Wan, being a person of deep feelings, would definitely side with him.

Although Uncle Gu looked formidable, in front of Aunt Wan, he was just a younger brother and couldn't do anything to him!

On the contrary...

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, and he began to consider taking advantage of Gu Changhuai.

Because Mo Hua realized that following Boss Jiang's "list" to capture Sin Cultivators, learn Spells, and sample "a hundred family's repast", walking the path of a Spell Master of using others' methods against them had its inconveniences...

Finding Sin Cultivators was troublesome.

Even after finding them, there wasn't necessarily a matching task.

The issuing of tasks was a separate system, cumbersome and bothersome.

Therefore, it was necessary to have a "connection" to manipulate things in the shadows...

For example, after deciding which Spells he wanted to learn and which Sin Cultivators to capture based on the list.

Then, he would need to get intelligence on these Sin Cultivators from the Dao Court.

And then, suppose he had a good relationship with Uncle Gu...

He could let Uncle Gu issue tasks through the Dao Court, have Senior Sister Murong take on the tasks, and he could mix in to assist with task completion...

This way, inheritance and Merit Points would come seamlessly "full circle".

Chapter 908: Little Neighbor

"Uncle Gu, can you issue a task from the Taoist Court?"

Gu Changhuai was startled and felt displeased in his heart.

This brat, why is he acting so “familiar”, as if I’m well-acquainted with him...

Gu Changhuai looked at Mo Hua with a wary expression,

"What do you want to do?"

"I’m just asking," Mo Hua said casually, then flashed a look like a cunning little fox, “Suppose

Mo Hua emphasized, “I mean suppose, I inadvertently, came across a clue about a Sin Cultivator, could you issue a task through the Taoist Court?”

Gu Changhuai frowned and refused,

"The Taoist Court acts according to its own statutes, and the rewards offered to Sects are also subject to the Canon’s careful deliberation, it’s not something that can be issued at will

Mo Hua nodded, instantly understood.

Prudence, deliberation, not at will...

The implication was that it still depended on one’s will.

Whether it’s prudent or not, whether you deliberate or not, whether it’s arbitrary or not, it all depends on the subjective judgment of the Supervisor, with no objective rules.

As a Supervisor, if Uncle Gu decided, he indeed had the qualification to issue a reward!

Gu Changhuai looked at the spirited and unusual Mo Hua, and for a moment didn’t know what Mo Hua had figured out, he furrowed his brow and asked,

"What do you want by asking this

He was only halfway through his question when he realized something.

No, that's not right, the question he asked this kid, he hasn't answered yet...

He came here to investigate Mo Hua's connection to Boss Jiang's death.

But he got careless, and Mo Hua led the conversation astray...

Gu Changhuai put on a stern face, "I asked first, you answer first."

"What did you ask again?" Mo Hua blinked.

Gu Changhuai felt a bit of a headache, so he repeated his question, "Do you know the Fireball Technique?"

Mo Hua did not hide anything and nodded,

"The Fireball Technique is such a Spell...

It would be quite hard not to know

The Fireball Technique was one of the most basic Spells for Cultivators, and also one of the most widely used.

Mo Hua looked frank.

Gu Changhuai glanced at Mo Hua, and even with his experience as the Dao Court's Supervisor, he couldn't see a hint of nervousness on Mo Hua's slightly childish face.

He made his judgment in an instant.

This was a little "slick operator," impervious to oil and salt, uninterrogatable.

Gu Changhuai thought for a while, his eyes slightly heavy, and simply asked directly,

"The human traffickers who kidnapped Yu Er, did you kill them?"

Having said this, Gu Changhuai looked straight at Mo Hua with a piercing gaze.

Mo Hua actually wanted to prevaricate, but he felt that he might need to ask Uncle Gu, the Supervisor of the Taoist Court, for many favors in the future, so there should be some basic trust between the two, and lying wouldn't be good...

Mo Hua nodded, "Yes!"

Mo Hua admitted it very straightforwardly.

Yet, Gu Changhuai was taken aback.

His mind experienced a momentary deadlock.

He had envisioned many scenarios, but he didn't expect that as soon as he asked, Mo Hua would admit it directly, leaving him with no words to say.

Gu Changhuai hesitated for a long time before asking, "How did you do it?"

Mo Hua responded, "I used the Fireball Technique to slaughter all those human traffickers!"

Gu Changhai thought as much.

This was in line with what he had surmised.

But he hesitated again for a moment, thought over those words in his heart for a long time, and couldn't help but shake his head and say, "Impossible

With the Fireball Technique...

How could he kill?

Mo Hua, this youngster, was in the Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment.

Those dozen or so human traffickers were at least at the Foundation level too, and with many years of cultivation experience and deeper Cultivation than Mo Hua.

With the Fireball Technique...

Gu Changhuai simply couldn't figure out how one could use the low-level Fireball Technique to kill a dozen or so Cultivators of the same rank.

Even killing one would be cumbersome...

Mo Hua looked helpless,

"If I stay silent, you suspect me, if I tell the truth, you don't believe me, Uncle Gu, this makes things difficult for me

Gu Changhuai was stopped, feeling slightly guilty, but he still insisted,

"It definitely wasn't just the Fireball Technique."

Mo Hua thought for a moment, then said, "What if...

I had previously set up a Formation that blasted them into serious injuries, and then used the Fireball Technique to finish them off, taking their lives, would that be plausible?"

Gu Changhuai followed Mo Hua's train of thought and couldn't help but agree,

"That does seem more reasonable

"So, it's settled?"

Gu Changhuai couldn't help but nod, and while doing so, was startled again, he said irritably,

"What do you mean 'so, it's settled'?"

You're just over ten years old in the Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment, where could you have set up such a powerful Killing Formation?"

Mo Hua spoke the truth again, "My Formation mastery is very formidable!"

Gu Changhuai clearly didn't believe it.

"I entered Taixu Gate, my specialty is Formation!" Mo Hua added.

Gu Changhuai didn't know what to say.

How could he not know that Mo Hua was Wenren's cousin, and it took quite a sum of Spirit Stones and many connections to get him into Taixu Gate?

To say his specialty was Formation was just for the sake of appearances, a mere pretext.

A kid with a Low-Grade Five Elements Spiritual Root from a remote Little Immortal City in Li State, what kind of Formation mastery could he have?

To be able to set up a Killing Formation and trap over a dozen human traffickers.

Bluffing should at least be drafted.

Gu Changhuai snorted lightly.

Mo Hua sighed, feeling very helpless.

Every time he tried to be honest, alas people would not believe him; there was nothing he could do.

"My Formation mastery is really quite formidable!"

Mo Hua emphasized yet again.

Chapter 909: Little Neighbor (2)

"Don't tell me you just got lucky and dodged it

Mo Hua hesitated and said, "I...

Was going to say that

Gu Changhuai rubbed his temples, feeling a throbbing headache.

After questioning for so long, he still had no idea which of Mo Hua's words were true and which were false.

Or which true statements had a touch of falsehood and which false statements contained a few words of truth...

He couldn't resort to torture.

To scare him with the "Taoist Court

Seeing his familiarity, he didn't show any fear at all.

Moreover, his cousin would definitely be partial to this youngster; if he went too far, it would surely upset her.

It seemed he really had no way to deal with this Mo surname child...

"Forget it

Gu Changhuai thought it over and eventually just sighed.

"I won't ask about Boss Jiang's matter anymore

Gu Changhuai's expression turned fierce.

They were just a group of human traffickers without a shred of conscience.

If others didn't kill them, he would.

Especially since they had kidnapped Yu Er, he would never let them off the hook.

Gu Changhuai didn't really care whether it was Mo Hua who personally took action to kill those traffickers.

He just wanted to confirm one thing through the death of Boss Jiang.

But now it seemed that although Mo Hua was young, he was quite shrewd and deep, unreadable and unpredictable; he had no choice but to ask directly...

Gu Changhuai's expression was serious, his gaze sharp as a sword, piercing directly into Mo Hua:

"Have you intentionally gotten close to Yu Er

"Do you have...

Some other ulterior motive?"

Mo Hua suddenly understood.

He realized that Gu Changhuai was genuinely concerned about Aunt Wan and also about Yu Er.

Although they were cousins, their relationship seemed to be no less close than that of real siblings.

As for the matter with Yu Er...

His encounter with Yu Er was indeed coincidental, as for whether there were other karmic calculations, he was not sure.

Yu Er was an obedient and lovely child, pure-hearted.

Even without the lure of karmic benefits, within his capabilities, he would surely save her.

Gu Changhuai's suspicions about Yu Er and himself were understandable.

He was an "adult" after all, and with a big heart, he decided not to take it to heart.

Mo Hua was just about to speak when he suddenly heard a clear and innocent voice filled with joy calling out:

"Brother Mo!"

Mo Hua looked surprised, turning his head to see.

He saw a child wearing a miniature black and white Taoist robe, hair put up, arms wide open, running over towards him with happiness and excitement.

Mo Hua paused, "Yu Er?"

Gu Changhuai beside him was also stunned.

But halfway there, Yu Er saw Gu Changhuai opposite Mo Hua, and her smile vanished immediately, giving a constrained greeting and distantly called out, "Uncle Gu, hello."

"Mm

Gu Changhuai's face was a bit stiff, wanting to show a friendly smile and be closer to Yu Er, but habitual demeanor made coldness seep through his brows.

He looked, well...

Rather fierce.

Yu Er stepped back a little and turned her head, stealing a glance at Mo Hua.

Mo Hua smiled and waved to her.

Yu Er's face lit up with happiness, and she quickly walked the last few steps, then threw herself into Mo Hua's arms.

Gu Changhuai watched, feeling bitter and envious, nearly gnashing his teeth.

Mo Hua patted Yu Er's head, puzzled, "How come you're here?"

Yu Er emerged with a smiling face and said, "I'm going to enter Taixu Gate!"

"Taixu Gate?"

Mo Hua was very surprised.

Gu Changhuai beside him was even more incredulous.

If Mo Hua was harboring ill intentions in Taixu Gate, wouldn't Yu Er joining Taixu Gate be...

Like a lamb entering a tiger's den?

Gu Changhuai frowned deeply.

After a while, a tall man with a deep presence and a stable and square face came over.

He gave a respectful greeting to both Gu Changhuai and Mo Hua.

"Young Master Gu, Young Master Mo."

Even the usually haughty Gu Changhuai had a solemn expression and returned the greeting.

Mo Hua followed suit, but with a puzzled look on his face.

The man spoke in a deep voice:

"My name is Wenren Wei, I am a guard of the Wenren Family, following the young master to join the sect, taking care of the young master's daily life.

Please, Young Master Mo, take good care of him."

Wenren Wei was polite but maintained his dignity.

Mo Hua returned the politeness with a smile, "Hello Uncle Wei."

Wenren Wei's expression remained unchanged, but his gaze softened a bit.

Gu Changhuai still didn't understand, "Yu Er is so young, how can she possibly enter Taixu Gate?

Isn't that against the rules

Wenren Wei simply said, "It's the young lady's decision."

In other words, he could only obey, not decide.

Gu Changhuai's brows furrowed.

Wenren Wei remained silent.

Mo Hua then teased Yu Er by pinching her cheek, and Yu Er, sticking close to Mo Hua, stayed happily by his side, looking content.

Moments later, Wenren Wan arrived hand in hand with a woman in a Taixu Taoist robe, whose posture was graceful the two of them chatting and laughing, indicating a close relationship.

Approaching, Wenren Wan greeted Mo Hua then introduced:

"Mo Hua, this is Elder Murong from the Inner Gate."

Elder Murong?

Chapter 910: Little Neighbor (3)

She glanced at Mo Hua, her gaze somewhat profound.

The child favored by Elder Master Xun was probably beyond her need to look after.

On the side, Gu Changhuai's expression was complex, feeling helpless inside.

This kid, full of lies, highly scheming, and very dangerous...

At his age, with his level of cultivation, and having just entered the sect half a year ago, he was already capable of joining his senior brothers and sisters to capture a sinister and vicious Sin Cultivator like Hidden elder-second.

It was good enough he didn't bully his fellow disciples, let alone anyone being able to bully him...

Wenren Wan whispered a few private words with Elder Murong and then noticed Gu Changhuai beside her and said, a bit surprised, "Changhuai, since when have you been here?"

Gu Changhuai felt bitter inside, "I've been here the whole time

Wenren Wan didn't understand, "As a Supervisor, what are you doing here without reason?"

Gu Changhuai sighed and said:

"I came to find Mo Hua, for a bit of business."

Wenren Wan looked puzzled, "You're looking for Mo Hua?"

Suddenly recalling something, her expression darkened, "Did someone bully Mo Hua, and he went to the Taoist Court to file a complaint?"

"It's not that

Gu Changhuai was weary.

His cousin sister was good in all aspects, but sometimes she was emotional and couldn't see the facts clearly.

But he couldn't say more and had to say, "It's just some minor issues regarding the sect's reward postings, nothing serious once clarified

Wenren Wan didn't quite believe it but didn't press further.

After speaking a few more words with Elder Murong, Elder Murong took her leave, saying:

"I must be going now, everything concerning Yu Er has been settled

"By bringing him to join the sect, completing some procedures, he would be considered a premature disciple of our Taixu Gate

"However, Taixu Gate has no such precedent, and he is still young, so he will temporarily stay in the Disciple's Residence, taken care of by the guards of your family."

As for the cultivation...

"Considering he is in the Qi Refinement Realm, it's imperative to nurture the meridians and solidify the foundation, so we won't make arrangements for him; you should consider his coursework yourself."

"Once he has joined the sect and needs anything, he can come to me

"We are sisters, no need for formalities

Wenren Wan gratefully said, "Thank you, Sister Murong, for making an exception to let Yu Er join the sect, it must have taken a lot of effort, I will pay a visit to express my thanks another day."

Elder Murong shook her head, "You're too courteous, Sister, I merely went with the flow

From the corner of her eye, she glanced at Mo Hua, who was talking to Yu Er.

Allowing a Qi Refinement disciple to enroll was indeed unprecedented in Taixu Gate.

To break the rule, it required the ancestors' approval.

Originally, the ancestors did not agree to this matter.

But later, for some reason, Elder Master Xun had heard of this and, foreseeing something, unexpectedly gave his consent and even opened the door to convenience...

She only learned about Yu Er and Mo Hua's relationship later.

In Elder Murong's eyes, a hint of realization flashed.

"Elder Master Xun doesn't say it, but he surely holds this child in exceptional regard

This was truly unprecedented...

Elder Murong took another silent glance at Mo Hua and then took her leave.

Mo Hua would be returning to the Sect too.

He actually had some things he wanted to discuss with Uncle Gu.

Mainly, it was to find a way to get him to agree to become an "inside man" at the Taoist Court for him, becoming the "tool person" for issuing tasks.

But now was not the time; there would be opportunities to talk in the future.

Since Yu Er was also about to enter the sect, Mo Hua said goodbye to Wenren Wan and then, along with Yu Er, walked through the gates of Taixu Mountain.

Yu Er parted from her mother reluctantly.

Wenren Wei bowed to Wenren Wan and Gu Changhuai and silently followed Mo Hua and Yu Er into the Taixu Gate.

As a guard, he had to take care of Yu Er's daily life.

After the group split up, there were no others around.

Wenren Wan's gaze followed the figure of Yu Er disappearing into the forest, her expression slightly melancholic.

She then withdrew her gaze and glared at Gu Changhuai, "Spit it out, what are you scheming?"

Gu Changhuai lost his usual pride before Wenren Wan, instead becoming somewhat sheepish, “Sister, what do you mean?”

Wenren Wan humphed, “I’ve watched you grow up since you were a child, how could I not know what’s on your mind?”

For no reason at all, why are you seeking Mo Hua?”

"I

"Don't make excuses."

Gu Changhuai heaved a sigh, “I suspect him, of harboring ulterior motives

Wenren Wan frowned and said helplessly:

"You, just like your brother-in-law, are too suspicious, that's why you think everyone has an agenda

"How you look at others is how they will look at you; if you play tricks on others, they will naturally play tricks on you."

Gu Changhuai gave a wry smile.

Seeing him like this, Wenren Wan softened a bit and said:

"I know you're concerned about me and Yu Er, but don't go troubling Mo Hua," she said.

"If Mo Hua ever has any trouble, do help him out a bit; he's just a child with no family backing.

It's not easy for him to cultivate in the Sect."

Having said this, Wenren Wan adopted the aura of an “elder sister,” patted Gu Changhuai on the shoulder, and continued, “If Mo Hua needs you, help him if you can.

Don't brush me off, and don't think you can deceive me."

Wenren Wan looked into Gu Changhuai's eyes.

Gu Changhuai was quite conflicted and only unwillingly managed to respond after a long pause, "I get it

Wenren Wan appeared satisfied, nodding at Gu Changhuai,

"When you're on break, come back, and I'll make you some jade crisp pastries."

Gu Changhuai sighed.

Seeing Wenren Wan about to leave, he asked one more question, "Sister

His gaze grew heavy, "Are you really at peace with sending Yu Er to Taixu Gate?"

Wenren Wan was startled, her body trembling.

When she turned back, her originally beautiful and gentle face had lost some color, covered with a layer of reluctance, melancholy, and a trace of...

Fear.

"Sister

Gu Changhuai had no idea what had happened, his expression one of anxious concern.

Wenren Wan's faded face showed a wistful smile:

"Changhuai

"I've...

Had nightmares

"In those dreams, there's a sky filled with blood rain, demons dancing wildly

"Yu Er looks at me with cold eyes, his gaze hollow, his skin pale as death.

His blood drained, his organs hollowed out, his Divine Sense sucked dry

"He asks me in a cold voice, why, as his mother, I don't save him

Wenren Wan felt a tightness in her chest, her expression one of anguish, "That's in dreams, even if I struggle, no matter how hard I try, I can't save Yu Er

"Under the overwhelming Evil Thoughts, the human heart is too fragile

"I can't save him

"So, all I can do is hope

Wenren Wan's voice was a whisper, fading to a barely audible level before finally she lifted her gaze towards Taixu Mountain, her beautiful eyes filled with a humble hope, precious yet fragile.

Gu Changhuai's heart shuddered violently.

He had just realized that some things, he simply didn't know!

And his cousin, she wasn't just being impulsively "rash" as he had thought...

Gu Changhuai took a deep breath, his demeanor serious as he said:

"Sister, I understand."

...

Inside Taixu Gate.

Yu Er was completely unaware of these things.

He was happily holding Mo Hua's hand, skipping joyfully ahead until they reached the Disciple's Residence.

Mo Hua swiped the Taixu Token to enter, then noticed that Little Yu Er had also pulled out a little token, swiped it, and followed him in.

Mo Hua was taken aback, "Yu Er, you live here too?"

"Mhm."

Yu Er nodded happily.

Mo Hua walked inside, only to realize that Yu Er was still following him, right up to the door of room number fifty of Taiyi in Mo Hua's residence, before Yu Er stopped.

Mo Hua glanced at Yu Er.

Yu Er pointed with his small hand to the side, "Brother Mo, I live here."

Mo Hua looked up and realized that the previously empty room next to his in the Disciple's Residence had been cleaned and the seal on the doorplate removed.

It read: Taiyi, Fifty-One.

Mo Hua opened his mouth.

He hadn't expected that Yu Er had indeed joined Taixu Gate and had become his little neighbor...

Behind Yu Er, Wenren Wei also bowed his hands and said:

"In the future, please take good care of Little Yu Er, Young Master Mo."

Yu Er too smiled beamingly, "Brother Mo, please take care of me."

Mo Hua looked down at Yu Er whose eyes sparkled, and said gently with a smile:

"Alright."

Since there were cultivation classes later that afternoon.

To avoid disturbing Mo Hua, Wenren Wei took Yu Er into the room next door, room number fifty-one of Taiyi in the Disciple's Residence.

Yu Er waved to Mo Hua.

Wenren Wei followed him inside.