

Time 131

Chapter 131 - 131 The water's effects

Shun Long and little Black were standing more than 1 mile apart from each other, as 2 small vortexes, one small and one big had appeared on the lake's surface.

There was both reverence, as well as envy in the half-fiend village chief's face as he saw Shun Long absorbing the lake water.

Shun Long could feel his body getting stronger and stronger, as it madly devoured the water of the lake like a hungry beast.

This situation continued for 3 days, as the vortex around Shun Long was now twice as big as its original size.

Finally, Shun Long felt as if the energy inside his body had reached the limits of the middle second stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body', when a banging sound suddenly sounded from his body.

The moment that this banging sound was heard, Shun Long felt his strength rising at an unbelievable rate.

'Peak of the second stage in body refinement'

Having reached the peak of the second stage in the 'Monarch's Eternal body', the vortex around Shun Long once again doubled in size, as he started absorbing more and more of the lake's water.

10 days had passed since Shun Long and little Black had entered inside the lake, when the water vortex around little Black had finally exceeded one mile.

Shun Long opened his eyes as he glanced at the black dragon who was unaware of the commotion he had caused.

In the bank of the lake, more than 20 half-fiend villagers had gathered, as they observed little Black with shining eyes.

Half a day later, a huge pillar of water shot up in the air, before the huge vortex around him vanished.

ROAR

Little Black let out a roar of contentment, as he had now reached the peak of rank 4.

Shun Long smiled as he saw this, when a sudden idea flashed through his mind.

Taking out the 'Heaven swallowing vine' from the 'Stone of Time', he placed it inside the lake as he then sent a mental command for it to absorb the lake's water.

What shocked Shun Long was, that although the vine seemed to be unable to turn the water into pure qi, since it wasn't some kind of qi in the first place, the vine itself seemed to have grown taller after absorbing the lake's water.

Half a month more passed like this, and it had now been 25 days since Shun Long had entered inside the 'Vermilion realm'.

Opening his eyes, he wasn't sure if he should be happy or frustrated.

Although the energy inside his body was enough for him to breakthrough to the third stage in body refinement, he still couldn't do it as he hadn't comprehended the Dao of Space.

Shun Long could feel that he was just a step away from it, but this step still required a spark of inspiration.

He was certain that if he could replicate that feeling, from when he had opened the last space tear that had sucked in the 'Nine-eyed giant worm's' eye, then he could definitely breakthrough to the third stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

Turning his eyes to the 'Heaven swallowing vine', Shun Long was shocked to see that it had already grown to more than 40m(130ft) long.

After returning the vine to the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long swam to the bank of the lake where little Black and the half-fiend villagers were waiting for him.

The village chief then approached him as he bowed and said

"Tuavey tvayve eatuave"

The rest of the villagers then bowed as they repeated their village chief's words.

Shun Long looked at little Black who laughed as he translated the half-fiends words

"Master, the village chief said

"Thank you mighty warrior for taking care of the demon monster. Our tribe's warehouse is open for the mighty warrior to take as much iron as he wants."

Shun Long smiled as he looked at little Black and said

"It looks like they are really eager to send us off. Alright, ask for one of their villagers to escort us to their warehouse. The rest of them can stay here and cultivate since that's what they obviously want. The lake's water doesn't have any more use to us anyway."

Shun Long had already tested whether the lake's water was effective to the rest of his medicinal herbs since it could aid in the 'Heaven swallowing vine's' growth, but without any effect.

The village chief was elated when he heard this, and gave the order to an unwilling young half-fiend warrior to escort Shun Long and little Black back to their village.

Before they left, the village chief also handed a brown beast skin to Shun Long.

Unfurling the beast skin Shun Long saw, that the drawings inside had the layout of a map.

With this 'map' in hand, Shun Long knew which path to take, to head towards the central region where the 'King's palace' was located.

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Half an hour later, the half-fiend warrior had returned with Shun Long and little Black back to the half-fiend village, before he entered through a secret path to arrive in front of a huge warehouse.

After opening the gates of the warehouse, Shun Long saw mountains of iron being stored inside.

In just a few minutes, Shun Long had already taken half of the warehouse's iron, and yet, the expression on the half-fiend warrior's face was still that of indifference.

"It looks like that quarry has much more iron than what I had originally estimated."

Then, turning his head to look at little Black, Shun Long unfurled the beast skin that the village chief had handed to him as he said

"Since there isn't anything else for us to do in this place, it's time to go. According to this map, it looks like we are at the extreme north of the secret realm. There should still be a little more than 2 months until the 'Vermilion realm' closes."

Sitting on the black dragon's back, Shun Long then looked forward as he said

"Let's go to the palace in the central region!"

Chapter 132 - 132 Tying loose ends

"Let's go to the palace in the central region!"

Little Black then soared in the sky, quickly leaving the forest of giants.

Shun Long observed the 20m tall trees below him, as they became smaller and smaller in his eyes.

Surprisingly, the region around the giant forest seemed to be just a plain desert.

Although the scorching sun in the 'Vermilion realm' could be avoided under the protection of the tall trees back in the forest, the temperature in the desert was suffocating even for earth grade cultivators.

However, Shun Long was barely affected by it on top of little Black's back, as they continued to fly towards the central region, following the half-fiend village chief's map.

2 days later, Shun Long and little Black seemed to have arrived at the end of the desert, when a huge purple fog appeared in front of them.

The thick fog seemed to shoot up in the sky, as it completely surrounded the central region.

According to the map in Shun Long's hands, the 'King's palace' was just behind this fog.

Little Black was stunned when he found out, that even his soul sense was unable to pierce through the fog.

Seeing that little Black's soul sense was actually obstructed, Shun Long thought for a bit before he said

"Return back to the 'Stone of Time' for now."

Little Black looked at Shun Long worriedly who smiled as he explained

"Right now, we are too close to the central region. With the number of sects that have entered the 'Vermilion realm', it will be too dangerous if you are exposed."

Little Black nodded his head and landed on the ground, before he returned back inside the 'Stone of Time'.

Although he knew that there were probably no dangers for Shun Long in the purple fog, he still couldn't help but be worried because of the obstruction that it posed to his soul sense.

Looking at the thick purple mist in front of him, Shun Long circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass' as well as his golden eyes before he entered inside.

After stepping inside the fog, he noticed that aside from impeding his vision, the fog didn't seem to have any other effects.

Although Shun Long was confident that his 'Monarch's Eternal body' could protect him from many different kinds of poisons, as an alchemist, he could only count on himself if he somehow still got poisoned in the end.

Without little Black's soul sense and with his own vision obstructed, he could only walk straight ahead until he reached the other side of the fog.

2 days quickly passed since Shun Long had entered the purple fog, when he could finally hear faint voices ahead of him.

Speeding up his footsteps, he soon reached the end of the purple fog, where a vast plain field appeared in his eyes.

Beyond the plain fields, was a magnificent white palace, that seemed to have been situated there for countless years.

In front of the palace gates were 2 statues, one of a handsome young man, and the other of a voluptuous woman that could invoke countless desires in the eyes of the young men here.

Shun Long was surprised to see more than 1000 disciples sitting cross-legged on the plain fields, while even more of them were slowly making their way towards the white palace.

From the struggle of their movements, it was obvious that not just anyone could reach the palace gates.

Seeing that no one seemed to have paid any attention to his arrival, Shun Long followed the crowd as he started walking towards the palace as well.

Shun Long didn't feel anything abnormal, until he was 500 miles away from the palace gates. At that moment, he felt the eyes of the 2 statues lighting up for a second as a wave of pressure crashed upon his body.

This pressure could instantly bring any early-stage earth grade expert to his knees, and yet, in front of Shun Long's 'Monarch's Eternal body' it felt like nothing more than a gentle breeze.

Shun Long seemed to be walking leisurely towards the palace, but he could still feel the pressure around him increasing with every step that he took forward.

It seemed that, to at least reach the palace gates, one needed to have a certain level of strength.

As he approached closer to the palace, Shun Long noticed a group of inner and outer disciples of the 'floating cloud sect' who had almost reached the palace gates.

Shun Long noticed that although their advancing speed was extremely slow, it was still steady, as they all walked as a unit one behind the other.

When he saw the people in this group, a chilling look flashed through his eyes as he hastened his speed.

The last person in this group was a handsome young man dressed in outer disciples robes. There was a determined look in his eyes, as he stared at the white palace gates in front of him, completely unaware that Shun Long was also staring at him at the same time.

This was the eldest son of the dead Xiao marquess.

Based on his aura, Shun Long could guess that Xiao Juyan was close to breaking through to the early rank 7 in earth grade.

After his brother had 'mysteriously died' in the sect, Xiao Juyan had done everything he could to become stronger and take revenge. He didn't know how he would face his father when returned back to the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom', if he didn't kill his brother's assassin.

Although he was certain in his heart that the person who had killed Xiao Shitou was Shun Long, it was impossible to do anything against him since he hadn't left behind any clues that night.

At the same time, Shun Long's mind had similar thoughts as Xiao Juyan.

Having killed both his brother and his father, Shun Long didn't intend to allow Xiao Juyan to live. If he ever returned back to the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' and heard that his father had also died, it was very possible that he would choose to take his anger on Shun Long's family.

Finally, a few minutes later, Shun Long had arrived just 100m away from Xiao Juyan.

After making sure that there was no one around him, Shun Long immediately activated his 'Monarch's Domain' as time around Xiao Juyan completely came to a halt.

With his eyes completely focused on Xiao Juyan's back, Shun Long slashed the air in front of him with his finger, as he opened a tiny space tear.

Chapter 133 - 133 The King's palace

This space tear was almost impossible to notice with the n.a.k.e.d eye, unless one stood right in front of it.

Without any hesitation, Shun Long thrust his finger inside it, and a small popping sound sounded from Xiao Juyan's body at the same time.

Although this sound was nearly inaudible, the disciples of the 'floating cloud sect' in front of Xiao Juyan head clearly noticed it, as they all turned their heads to look at him.

Looking at the unmoving Xiao Juyan, a stern expression appeared in the leading disciple's face.

The disciple who was leading the group was named Liu Huan and was Liu Jian's nephew, as well as Liu Changpun and Liu Mei's cousin.

Seeing that Xiao Juyan was intentionally stalling their group, Liu Huan looked at him in impatience and asked

"Xiao Juyan, what do you think you are doing? Do you think that everyone here has time to wait for you?"

Seeing that Xiao Juyan was still unmoving after his berating, caused the expression on Liu Huan's face to change into one of anger.

At the same time, a warm liquid had stained Shun Long's finger when he had thrust it inside the space tear.

After all, this space tear, was leading directly to Xiao Juyan's heart.

After closing the space tear, Shun Long retracted his 'Monarch's Domain', and saw Xiao Juyan taking a step forward before he fell on the ground.

Incredulous looks had appeared on the faces of the members of the 'floating cloud sect', as they finally understood that something was wrong.

Xiao Juyan's mouth was vomiting blood non-stop, as soon as time around him had started to flow normally again.

The rest of the disciples of the 'floating cloud sect' simply couldn't understand what had happened to him, while his sudden collapse even attracted the attention of other people as well.

Shun Long completely ignored the commotion that Xiao Juyan's death would cause as he kept walking towards the palace gates.

When he was just 100m away from the palace Shun Long could sense that the pressure around him was strong enough to incapacitate a peak rank 6 earth grade cultivator.

In other words, only those disciples whose strength had exceeded the middle stages of the earth grade were allowed to step inside the palace.

However, with his 'Monarch's Eternal body' that had already reached the peak of the second stage, this pressure felt nothing more than a slightly strong gale.

Arriving in front of the half-opened gigantic palace gates, Shun Long didn't hesitate as he walked inside.

The interior of the palace was decorated with gold, emerald jade, and other rare materials.

Walking deeper inside, Shun Long noticed that these scenes were becoming all the more common, as gold and rare jades could be found everywhere inside this palace.

Even the knights' armors that were decorating the halls were made from a mysterious type of gold.

However, Shun Long also noticed that none of these 'decorations' could actually be moved from the palace.

The moment that his hand tried to touch one of the golden armors, a powerful repelling force erupted from the knight's armor that pushed him backwards.

At the same time, little Black's voice then sounded as it said

"Master, it looks like these armors were most likely created by a gold grade formation master. Otherwise, the repelling force wouldn't be so powerful that it could effortlessly push master away."

A bright light appeared in Shun Long's eyes when he heard this, as this was the first time that he had seen an item created by a gold grade formation master.

In the 'floating cloud sect', even a rank 1 silver grade formation master was considered an incredible expert, let alone a gold grade formation master.

Looking at the golden armors around Shun Long, little Black sighed as he continued

"Unfortunately, the restrictions around these armors are too strong, even for me right now."

Since he could only see and not touch, Shun Long didn't waste any more time staring at the armors around him any longer, as he kept walking deeper inside the palace, until he eventually arrived in front of an enormous silver door.

The door was more than 50m(160ft) tall, while its handles seemed to have been made from some kind of red ruby.

Walking through this half-opened silver door, Shun Long found himself inside a huge hallway.

Looking around him Shun Long thought, that everything in this palace seemed to have been created with the mindset of 'the bigger it is, the better'!

The hallway in front of him however, seemed to lack the usual luxurious decorations that were previously present everywhere in the palace.

Aside from 1000 black doors that were located on the sides of this hall, Shun Long didn't see anything else.

For a moment, he even wondered whether this hall was really created by the same person who had also created the rest of the palace.

As he looked around, his eyes immediately noticed the difference in some of these doors. More than 300 of them had a character with the word 'SEAL' that seemed to be enveloping the doors with a layer of white light.

Shun Long's curiosity was piqued as he looked at these black doors, when little Black's voice once again sounded in his head

"Master, I can sense people fighting behind some of these sealed doors. It's very likely that some trial will start after master enters inside."

Shun Long nodded his head as he heard this, while the excitement in his eyes was obvious.

If this was the palace of a Dao King, then what sort of trials and what kind of treasures will await inside?

After taking a deep breath to calm his excited heart, Shun Long circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass' and his golden eyes, before he walked towards one of the unsealed black doors.

The moment that he entered inside the black door, Shun Long's vision instantly turned dark, before an emotionless voice that seemed to have come from the depths of this darkness sounded in his ears

"Trial taker number 323, I officially welcome you to the King's palace!"

Chapter 134 - 134 The rules of the King's trials

"Trial taker, number 323, I officially welcome you to the King's palace!"

The great king has set a number of trials for the young people of the Desolate east to test themselves. At the end of every trial, there will be a corresponding treasure that will match the trial's difficulty.

This is the first of the trials that the great King has set and the difficulty is also the lowest.

Nod your head once if you wish to participate, or shake it twice and I will teleport you out of the King's palac-... Oho? Interesting..."

Little Black's voice then sounded inside Shun Long's head, as the black dragon said in a somewhat panicked tone

"Master, we are in trouble! That's an early rank 4 Nascent soul cultivator and he has already noticed my soul sense!"

At the same time that little Black's voice ended, a powerful soul sense from the depths of the darkness had already locked on Shun Long, as it scanned him from head to toe.

The voice seemed surprised that it couldn't locate little Black's soul any longer, but it still chuckled as it said

"I am certain that I noticed a soul sense coming from your body just now, but no matter. In front of my watchful eyes, no one can cheat inside the King's trials. If you want to participate you will have to use your own strength, otherwise you will be disqualified and forcefully ejected from the King's realm. Weapons below the silver grade are also allowed during the trials.

Now make your decision!"

Shun Long had felt cold sweat dripping from his forehead, when he had heard that this voice had already sensed little Black's soul sense earlier.

After all, to Shun Long, Little Black wasn't just one of his secrets or a simple magic beast, but also an important companion.

Although this voice didn't seem to care about little Black right now, Shun Long had the feeling that if he shook his head and refused to enter the trial in an attempt to escape the palace, this voice would definitely try to force little Black out of the 'Stone of Time'.

The moment that a weak dragon revealed himself, Shun Long was certain that a bloodbath would follow.

With these thoughts in mind, Shun Long almost subconsciously nodded his head.

The voice's tone seemed to have turned somewhat cheerful at that moment as it then said

"Very well. In that case, let me explain the rules.

In this trial, you will fight against a magic beast that has reached the middle of rank 2.

If you don't manage to defeat this magic beast within 24 hours, the fight will stop and you will be given 4 hours to rest. After these 4 hours are over, you will once again have to fight until you either win, or this process repeats itself.

Remember that you cannot quit in the middle of the trial. If you don't win, you cannot leave the King's palace, and will have to keep fighting until you either die, or the King's realm closes. "

The moment that the voice in the dark faded, light once again illuminated Shun Long's surroundings, as he found himself inside a large cage.

The cage was around 300 square meters (3000sq ft) wide, while a 2m(6.5ft) tall and 5m(16ft) long black bull with red horns, was standing on the other end of the cage.

Shun Long immediately recognized this magic beast as he mumbled smilingly

"A middle rank 2 'crimson-horned bull'?"

The bull's eyes were staring at Shun Long the same way a hunter would look at his prey, before its hooves kicked the ground as it rushed towards Shun Long.

Watching the magic beast running towards him, Shun Long was still smiling, as he gathered his strength in his left arm, and met the 'crimson-horned bull's' charge head-on.

Without any suspense, the bull's charge was immediately halted, and the look in its eyes changed into one of fear as it stared at Shun Long.

Raising his right arm, Shun Long punched the bull on the ribs, sending it flying sideways until it lost consciousness.

The moment that the bull landed on the ground, 3 shining red fruits appeared out of nowhere in the air in front of Shun Long, before the same emotionless voice once again sounded in his ears

"Congratulations, you have passed the first trial! Your reward will be 3 'Blood Vermilion fruits'.

If you wish to take on the second trial then nod your head once. If you wish to leave the King's palace then shake your head twice."

Shun Long was stunned for a bit as he observed the 3 shining red fruits in his hands, and recalled that the reward for the 'outer sect examination' was precisely this 'Blood Vermilion fruit'.

"It seems that this is where the 4 sects got their 'Blood Vermilion fruits' from."

Smiling, he placed the 3 fruits in the 'Stone of Time' before he nodded his head, accepting the second trial.

A black door then materialized in front of him, seemingly out of thin air, as the emotionless voice once again sounded in his ears

"Very well! You are the 281st person in this century's batch who is entering the second trial.

However, this trial will be completely different than the first. This time, it won't just be your strength that will be tested, but your scheming ability as well as your perceptiveness."

Shun Long was curious as to how the second trial was going to differ from the first, when the emotionless voice continued

"You will be sent to join the rest of the contestants that are currently undertaking the trial inside the King's garden.

Kill a rank 3 magic beast and take its beast core, and you will have successfully passed the second trial."

The voice then paused for a moment as if it had just remembered something, before it continued explaining

"You can also team up with other contestants, and you can even kill them if you want to, but only the person who gets his hands on the magic beast's core first, will be considered to have passed the trial.

Additionally, using any other form of external help, including talismans, weapons at the silver grade and above, or... helpers that are not officially participating in the trial... will immediately cause you to get disqualified.

If you are ready, step inside the black door."

Shun Long felt realization dawning his mind when he heard everything regarding the second test, as he then mumbled to himself

"This must probably be the main reason, why Liu Changpun wanted Wen Zihao and Kang Sun to become his followers."

Then, with a serious look in his eyes, Shun Long circulated the 'Monarch's Hourglass' as well as his golden eyes, before he pushed the black door open and stepped inside.

Chapter 135 - 135 Coincidence or Fate?

The moment that Shun Long's feet passed through the black door, a blinding white light forced him to close his eyes, as a familiar feeling of spatial teleportation passed through his body.

The moment that Shun Long opened his eyes again, he noticed that the scene around him had changed, as he found himself inside an unfamiliar forest.

The colorful trees around him, as well as the cries of the magic beasts in the distance made it obvious that Shun Long had arrived in the king's garden.

After remembering the restrictions that the emotionless voice had set before he had entered the second trial, Shun Long sent his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time', and looking at the black dragon who was now happily munching on the flesh of the 'Nine-eyed giant worm' he said

"Little Black, make sure to avoid using your soul sense again until we leave this place.

Although I didn't sense any hostile intentions from that voice, I'm not sure if things will remain the same if you end up being exposed. So unless it's absolutely necessary, you must not use your soul sense until we leave this 'Vermilion realm'."

Little Black suddenly stopped eating, as he looked at Shun Long with serious eyes, and nodding his head he said

"Master, I will try to breakthrough to the 5th rank, as soon as I finish with the 'Nine-eyed giant worm's body. After my breakthrough, even a peak rank 5 Nascent soul expert won't be my match!"

Shun Long shook his head as he heard little Black's words and said seriously

"Don't rush your breakthrough until you are ready. If worse comes to worst, then we can just flee from this place. I'm also not sure how strong a rank 4 Nascent soul cultivator really is, but I doubt that he will be that much stronger than the 'Nine-eyed giant worm'."

The black dragon felt warmth in his heart as he heard this, and nodded his head in response as he continued eating the 'Nine-eyed giant worm'.

Shun Long's consciousness then returned to his body, and after taking a look around him, he climbed on top of the tallest nearby tree, as he observed the area he was in.

A cloud of dust had been raised a few miles away from him, as Shun Long could sense the violent clash of auras all the way to his current location.

After deliberating for a bit, he still decided to head over and check what was going on.

Although Shun Long's strength had grown exponentially, especially after he had reached the peak of the second stage in his 'Monarch's Eternal body', he still didn't know if he could defeat an early rank 3 magic beast.

After all, even the weakest rank 3 magic beasts, were as strong as peak rank 3 Heaven grade cultivators.

A few minutes later, Shun Long had already arrived at the scene, only to see 6 disciples in tattered black robes lying on the ground.

Shun Long recognized the emblem on these disciples' chests, and understood, that they belonged to the 'Poison Hall'.

Liu Jian had already warned the disciples of the 'floating cloud sect', that there were 3 main powers that they shouldn't offend inside the 'Vermilion realm'.

The 'Golden Buddha temple' was the first on this list, as they were the strongest power in the Desolate east.

The second was the Bright Moon academy. Liu Jian had even mentioned that this academy didn't lose out to the 'Golden Buddha temple' by much in terms of power, and their roots even extended beyond the Desolate east.

The third power on Liu Jian's list was precisely the 'Poison Hall'. If a disciple of the 'floating cloud sect' was to offend the disciples of the 'Poison Hall', then the sect wouldn't offer them any protection.

All of a sudden, less than a mile away from Shun Long, the sounds of fighting once again resumed.

Shun Long followed the sounds until he arrived at the foot of a small mountain.

The scene unfolding in front of his eyes had left him tongue-tied.

3 black-robed disciples of the 'Poison Hall', 2 of them at the early rank 1 Heaven grade, and the other one in the middle of rank 1, had surrounded a gorgeous girl in green clothes.

The girl was holding a thin but long white sword, and seemed to be at the middle of rank 1 in Heaven grade as well.

The moment that Shun Long's eyes landed on this girl's face, his mind almost blanked out for a moment.

Shun Long didn't even immediately move as a series of questions flashed through his head

"Do these coincidences really exist? Or is this what people refer to as fate?"

Shun Long had never believed that one day he would have to play the hero for a damsel in distress.

Although he had believed himself to be a cold person, one who only cared about his close ones, the moment that his eyes saw Liu Mei with blood all over her robes, he felt like someone was tugging the strings in his heart.

"Is it because she stood up for me when I first entered the sect? Or is it because I felt pity for her after hearing about her life from Fu Li?"

Shun Long didn't know when or why, but he just found out that at some point, he had already developed a soft spot for this peerlessly beautiful girl in front of him.

The young man at the middle of rank 1 in Heaven grade, finally woke up Shun Long who had fallen into a stupor with his loud laughter, as he looked at the injured Liu Mei in front of him and said

"HAHAHAHA Bitch! Did you think that you could escape after injuring so many of my brothers? This young master simply asked you to accompany me for a drink, and yet you dare to not give face to my 'Poison Hall'?!"

Then, with a lewd smile on his face, the young man from the Poison Hall looked at Liu Mei who was still on the ground as she struggled to get up with the help of her sword, and said

"Don't worry, I, Su Honghui am known for being benevolent after all. Come here and beg this young master, and I can still forgive you."

Chapter 136 - 136 Sinister methods of the Poison Hall

Shun Long quickly understood what had happened, while the look in his eyes had turned a bone-chilling cold.

Since Liu Mei had refused to "accompany Su Honghui for a drink", the situation had probably ended with her injuring the disciples of the Poison Hall and fleeing, until it lead to the current scene that Shun Long was watching right now.

Seeing the frosty look on Liu Mei's face, Su Honghui snickered angrily as he pointed at the saber in his hands and said

"Bitch! How many poisons do you think my blade has been laced with over? Do you think that you can stay alive without my help?"

"Senior brother Su, there is no need to get anxious. Did you forget about junior brother Pei's dagger?"

'Junior brother Pei' also looked at Su Honghui with a lewd smile on his face as he winked at him.

After seeing the looks on his junior brothers' faces, Su Honghui's eyes brightened, as he once again burst in a loud laughter. Looking at Liu Mei, he no longer suppressed the l.u.s.t in his eyes as he said

"It's okay even if you don't want to beg this young master. With my junior brother's 'special poison', let's see for how long you will be able to even move your own body. Seeing the look on your helpless face, will bring m-"

Pfftt

Before he could finish his words, Su Honghui clutched his chest, and fell on his knees, as blood had started spurting from his mouth non-stop.

"Senior brother!"

"Senior brother!"

The 2 other disciples of the Poison Hall, quickly rushed to Su Honghui's side as they couldn't understand what had suddenly happened to their 'senior brother'.

Su Honghui who was now clutching his chest, had clearly felt that his heart had suddenly ruptured, as a wave of pain assaulted his body.

Trying to suppress the excruciating pain, Su Honghui quickly took out a few pills from his spatial ring and consumed without a second thought. Knowing that these pills could only suppress the pain he was feeling but couldn't actually heal him, Su Honghui took a deep breath, as a sinister dark green color had appeared in his palm.

After a moment of hesitation, he placed his palm on the left side of his chest, and using his Dao of Poison, he attempted to temporarily mend the hole in his heart.

Shun Long retracted his bloodied finger from the space tear that he had just opened, and was actually surprised to see that Su Honghui hadn't died yet.

"It looks like this guy is using poison to stop the blood loss from his heart."

Although he hadn't managed to kill Su Honghui immediately, Shun Long was still satisfied with the result, since at least one of the 3 disciples from the Poison Hall was practically incapacitated.

Liu Mei looked at the kneeling Su Honghui in shock, while a burning feeling had already started to spread through her body. At the same time, the 3 cuts on her arms had started to slowly turn black, as a heavy poison was spreading through her body.

"Watch out! There is someone else here!"

After sealing the hole in his heart, Su Honghui spoke in a low voice to his 2 junior brothers, afraid that if he pushed himself to speak louder, his injury would worsen.

The sound of footsteps suddenly sounded from behind Su Honghui and the other 2 disciples of the Poison Hall, as they turned their heads to see Shun Long slowly walking towards them.

Su Honghui and his junior brothers retreated a few steps backwards after seeing Shun Long's unfamiliar face appear behind the trees, while Liu Mei's eyes couldn't conceal the shock she was feeling.

Shun Long's face wasn't unfamiliar to her after all, and from his yellow robes, the 2 disciples of the Poison Hall understood that this must be another disciple of the 'floating cloud sect'.

'Junior brother Pei' wasn't sure if this was the person who had injured his senior brother, but taking a step forward he unleashed his early rank 1 Heaven grade aura as he asked threateningly

"Brat who are you? Are you the one who sneakily attacked my senior brother? Do you even know who we are?"

'Junior brother Pei' was certain that even Liu Changpun would back off after seeing the members of the Poison Hall, let alone a normal disciple of the 'floating cloud sect'.

Liu Mei looked at Shun Long's eyes, as the shock in her heart gradually intensified.

She had never expected for him to appear here, especially when she was at the weakest point of her life.

The look in her eyes however revealed her struggle, as she knew that Shun Long hadn't even joined the 'floating cloud sect' for a year, and it was clearly impossible for him to fight against the disciples of the Poison Hall.

Finally, with a determined look in her eyes, she looked at him and said in a determined tone

"Don't meddle in other people's business. Quickly leave!"

The cold look on Shun Long's face had started to warm, as he looked at Liu Mei who was trying to give him a way out, when he asked with a smile on his face

"Didn't you also choose to meddle in my business in the past?"

Don't worry, since I have already attacked one of them, I can also take care of the other 2 as well."

The look in Su Honghui's face had turned both cold, as well as somewhat fearful when Shun Long had confirmed that he was indeed the one who had attacked him. After all, the mysterious method that he had used to attack his heart, had left Su Honghui completely terrified.

'Junior brother Pei' however, didn't seem afraid in the least, as he stared at Shun Long and said in a confident tone that left no room for discussion

"Very good brat! Since you have dared to attack the disciples of our Poison Hall, then don't expect to escape alive today."

After taking out a second dagger from his waist, 'junior brother Pei' turned to look at the other black-robed disciple next to him, and said

"Senior brother Bo, let's take care of this brat together!"

Senior brother Bo nodded his head, as he and 'junior brother Pei' both flanked Shun Long from the sides.

Chapter 137 - 137 Killing a disciple of the Poison Hall

Senior brother Bo nodded his head, as he and his 'junior brother Pei', both flanked Shun Long from the sides.

Shun Long first activated his 'Monarch's Hourglass', before his eyes turned golden, and looking at the 2 disciples of the Poison Hall on his left and right sides, he still decided to activate the 'Monarch's Domain'.

The invisible figure of an Hourglass extended from Shun Long's body, as it covered both 'senior brother Bo', and 'junior brother Pei' inside it.

Although the 'Monarch's Domain' seemed to not be as effective when Shun Long fought with people whose cultivation was far above his, it could still slow down the two early-rank 1 Heaven grade experts by 20 percent.

'Junior brother Pei' almost laughed when he noticed Shun Long's cultivation that was at the early rank 7 in earth grade, while he hadn't even realized that his own actions had slowed down considerably.

Shun Long didn't wait for the 2 of them to flank him, as he kicked the ground in front of him and rushed at 'senior brother Bo'.

Looking at Shun Long who was running towards him, 'senior brother Bo's' eyes narrowed, as a purple glow covered the saber in his hands, before he slashed it horizontally towards Shun Long's neck.

Shun Long's right fist, met with the glowing saber directly, as the powerful collision created a small shockwave, that pushed both Shun Long and 'senior brother Bo', a few steps back.

Now that his 'Monarch's Eternal body' had reached the peak of the second stage, Shun Long was confident that even a peak bronze grade saber couldn't bring any harm to him.

The moment that Shun Long's punch collided with the saber, 'senior brother Bo' felt a sharp pain in his hand as the skin between his thumb and his index finger was violently torn apart.

Feeling the force from Shun Long's punch, 'senior brother Bo' stared at him in horror as he felt his saber leaving his hand.

Shun Long was also surprised as he felt a stinging pain in his fist, but looking at the unprotected 'senior brother Bo' who was trying to open up the distance between them, Shun Long didn't hesitate as he quickly caught up to him and sent a full-powered punch towards 'senior brother Bo's' stomach.

It was only after seeing the saber that was sent flying in the air, that the disciples of the Poison Hall had realized, that Shun Long was a dual cultivator of both qi and body refining.

"QUICKLY! FLY AWAY!"

Su Honghui's urgent voice sounded in everyone's ears, as he saw the terrified 'senior brother Bo' about to get hit by Shun Long once again.

'Senior brother Bo' had just remembered that his opponent couldn't fly, as he was still an earth grade cultivator, but before his feet could actually leave the ground, he felt a sharp pain coming from his abdomen.

Shun Long's left hand that was now filled with blood, had already pierced a hole through 'senior brother Bo's' body, under everyone's astounded eyes.

'Senior brother Bo' looked at the hole in his abdomen with disbelief, as his internal organs were destroyed, while his blood painted the ground beneath him red.

Feeling the strength getting sapped from his body, 'senior brother Bo' crashed on the ground with his face facing the sky, as he inched closer and closer to death.

Liu Mei looked at Shun Long agape, as she couldn't believe that this man who had just defeated a Heaven grade expert in a few breaths of time, was the same disciple whom she had met in the 'Alchemists' Guild' a few months ago

"NOOOOOOOO!"

'Junior brother Pei' let out an ear-piercing scream, as he threw the dagger in his left hand towards Shun Long without a second thought.

Woosh

The dagger flew through the air with a lot of momentum, but as it neared closer to Shun Long, its speed instantly diminished, until it was finally frozen in mid-air, 3m away from Shun Long.

The 'Monarch's Domain' that was still active, had easily neutralized the danger of the flying dagger, as Shun Long then turned his head to look at the dumbfounded 'junior brother Pei'.

Anger, fear, terror, and disbelief, were written all over his and Su Honghui's face as they watched Shun Long walking towards them.

"Run!"

This was the first thought that came to 'junior brother Pei's' mind, as he took flight and turned to leave the scene.

"Wait!"

Su Honghui shouted at his junior brother in horror, seeing that he had forgotten about him, but to his surprise, he received no response as the black-robed 'junior brother Pei' kept flying away.

The look in Shun Long's eyes turned serious as he chased him through the woods.

Although Heaven grade cultivators could fly in the air, as an early rank 1 Heaven grade cultivator, 'junior brother Pei's' speed wasn't considered fast, since he had only broken through to the Heaven grade very recently.

'Junior brother Pei' watched Shun Long who had easily caught up with him, but laughed sinisterly after feeling assured of the distance separating them.

"Hahaha! Brat, just wait! Once my senior brothers and sisters learn of what you did, your entire 'floating cloud sect' will have to pay the price for your actions!"

Since he was flying at an altitude of more than 30m(100ft) in the air, 'Junior brother Pei' was sure that even if Shun Long was a body refining cultivator who could jump that high, he would still be able to move away in time and avoid him.

Shun Long smiled mockingly as he heard this, before he suddenly stopped his chase.

'Junior brother Pei' who saw this, sighed in relief as he kept flying away, certain that he had managed to properly intimidate Shun Long.

However, in his heart he still vowed to take revenge for his senior brother today.

Shun Long's eyes were focused on 'Junior brother Pei's back', before he slashed the space in front of him open with his left hand. Without missing a beat, his right hand immediately followed suit, as Shun Long sent a full-powered punch inside the space tear.

Crack!

'Junior brother Pei' suddenly felt, as if a huge hammer had just connected with his spine, before his body was sent crashing to the ground, kicking up a cloud of dust in the process.

After the cloud of dust receded 'junior brother Pei' who opened his eyes, felt an indescribable terror gripping his heart, as he saw Shun Long standing above his head.

Although he wanted to beg for his life, 'junior brother Pei's' mouth only made some indiscernible sounds as he saw Shun Long's foot descending on his chest.

Crack

Crack

The sound of bones getting crushed reverberated throughout the surroundings, before the black-robed disciple of the Poison Hall finally stopped breathing.

Without the slightest shred of guilt, Shun Long took the spatial ring from his hand, before he returned back to the foot of the mountain where Liu Mei and Su Honghui were.

Shun Long wasn't afraid that Su Honghui, or even 'senior brother Bo' would manage to run away in the short time that he had chased 'junior brother Pei'.

Let alone that Su Honghui couldn't even stand up, it was also unknown whether 'senior brother Bo' was still alive or not.

Chapter 138 - 138 Resolving the poison

Shun Long's conjecture was right, as after arriving at the foot of the mountain he saw 'senior brother Bo' who was unmoving on the ground, the earth beneath him painted red with his blood, while Su Honghui was struggling to crawl away.

When they saw Shun Long returning, Liu Mei's face was painted with joy, while Su Honghui felt fear from the bottom of his heart.

He didn't even ask anything about his junior brother who had abandoned him earlier, while deep inside him, Su Honghui even hoped that Shun Long had managed to kill that traitor who had dared to abandon him and run away alone.

Looking at Shun Long who was walking towards him, Su Honghui didn't even know what he should say to beg for his life.

Shun Long didn't plan to let Su Honghui live in the first place, as he effortlessly crushed his neck without another word, and took his spatial ring before he threw his body to the side.

After making sure that 'senior brother Bo' was also dead, Shun Long took his spatial ring as well, and after putting it inside the 'Stone of Time', he walked up to Liu Mei.

Liu Mei looked at the bloodied Shun Long who had just killed 3 disciples of the Poison Hall to save her, and gave him a dazzling smile that took his breath away for a moment.

Shun Long felt his surroundings dimming after seeing this peerlessly beautiful girl's smile, before his eyes suddenly fell on her injured arms that had started to turn a blackish green color. It looked like the poison had already started to seep into Liu Mei's body, as Shun Long looked at her and said with a serious look

"The poison is quickly spreading throughout your body. If you don't expel it soon, then once it enters your meridians, it will be a miracle if you are still alive."

Liu Mei looked at her slender, jade-like arms, and saw that there were indeed 3 dark green spots that were slowly expanding in her body.

Using her long white sword, she tried to stand up, but her body simply didn't listen to her. Shun Long's eyes widened as he remembered Su Honghui's words, and understood that there must have been some kind of paralyzing poison in 'junior brother Pei's' dagger.

roar

At the same time, both Liu Mei and Shun Long were startled as magic beast roars sounded from the forest behind them.

Liu Mei lowered her head embarrassed, while a tinge of red had painted her face, as she said

"Uhm, ju-junior brother... can you... help me?"

Shun Long was stunned when he heard Liu Mei's request, but after noticing that she couldn't move her own body, while magic beasts seemed to be quickly approaching them from behind, he nodded his head as he said

"Alright, make sure to hang tight!"

Liu Mei seemed a bit confused after hearing Shun Long's words, until she saw him placing one hand on her back and the other one on her feet.

Lifting her up in a 'princess hug', Shun Long completely ignored Liu Mei's tomato-red face as he ran towards the mountain in front of him.

Although he tried not to think about the peerlessly beautiful girl in his arms, after feeling the supple body in his hands, Shun Long couldn't stop his heartrate from speeding up, especially since Liu Mei was the first girl that he was in such a close contact with.

Similar thoughts were also flooding Liu Mei's head as she turned her head to look at this man who was carrying her in his arms.

A warm feeling filled her heart, when she felt Shun Long's loud heartbeat that betrayed his nervousness, despite his calm facade.

A few minutes later, Shun Long had already climbed halfway up the mountain, until he finally found a natural-made cave nearby.

After making sure that there was no magic beast inside the cave, he exhaled a sigh of relief before he gently placed Liu Mei on the ground.

A feeling of loss suddenly filled Liu Mei's heart after she was separated from Shun Long's warm embrace.

Shun Long also felt a similar feeling, but he quickly suppressed it as he looked at Liu Mei's wounds and said

"Senior sister it looks like the poison is still expanding on your arm. You should circulate your qi around it to stop it from seeping deeper inside your body. I will look at their spatial rings and see if they have the antidotes on them."

Liu Mei nodded her head and smiled lightly, before she closed her eyes and circulated her qi around her wounds.

Shards of ice appeared on top of her skin, as the dark green spots seemed to have stopped expanding any further.

Then, opening her eyes to look at Shun Long who was now searching through the spatial rings in search of an antidote, her eyes formed 2 crescent moons as a smile that could dazzle anyone who could see her at this moment, had unknowingly appeared on her face.

Searching through all 3 of the Poison Hall disciples' spatial rings, Shun Long found more than 70.000 spirit stones in total, along with various poisonous herbs, as well as 2 small boxes.

The boxes were filled with black and green ointment respectively, but the scent they emitted was anything but pleasant.

Usually, poison masters would always carry the antidote for their poisons with them, in case they accidentally affected themselves while fighting so Shun Long didn't find this unexpected.

Opening his eyes, Shun Long was captivated by Liu Mei's bewitching smile.

A moment later, he recomposed himself, and taking out the 2 black boxes with the antidotes he said "Senior sister, these ointments need to be applied externally on your injuries."

Liu Mei looked at the black boxes in front of her and embarrassedly nodded her head once again.

She was surprised to find out that her heart was actually looking forward to Shun Long's hands touching hers once again.

Chapter 139 - 139 Leave the sect?

Nodding his head, Shun Long smiled as he first dipped his fingers inside the black ointment.

His hand then stroked Liu Mei's slender hand, like a brush painting on a canvas.

The feeling of his hand touching Liu Mei's milky-smooth skin as he applied the ointment was something unique to Shun Long, while the atmosphere around the 2 of them was slowly changing.

It felt like the distance between them, was shortening with each stroke of his hand.

After Shun Long finished applying the black ointment on Liu Mei's hand, he looked at her and said "Senior sister, you should be able to move your body very soon. The paralyzing poison will quickly go away and you should be able to apply the green ointment on yourself."

Looking at Liu Mei's face who seemed somewhat sad when she heard this, Shun Long smiled as he continued

"However, if you happen to feel any discomfort and don't want to move just yet, I can certainly help you apply the rest of it."

Feeling that her thoughts had been seen through, Liu Mei felt embarrassment, but she still happily nodded her head with an enchanting smile on her face, as she then whispered

"You don't have to call me senior sister anymore... just call me Liu Mei."

Shun Long nodded his head, and with the same smile as before, he said

"Then, you should also call me Shun Long."

Feeling her cheeks heating up, Liu Mei lowered her head but she still felt happy in her heart.

After Shun Long had finished applying the green ointment on her hands, he said

"You should start feeling the effects of the green ointment in less than 10 minutes."

Liu Mei then stared at Shun Long's eyes intently, and after taking a deep breath she said in a serious voice

"Shun Long... you should leave the 'floating cloud sect'."

...

The moment that he heard Liu Mei's words, Shun Long was dumbfounded, as he stared at her with eyes full of surprise.

He hadn't expected to hear something like that, especially from the sect master's daughter.

Liu Mei however, didn't seem to mind Shun Long's reaction as she continued

"Unless you plan to stay an outer disciple forever, you should leave the sect while you still can... because once you become an inner disciple, you may no longer have that chance.

After all, the 'inner city' isn't as simple as it actually seems.

Don't you find it weird that I'm all alone inside this second trial, since Liu Changpun had ordered all the inner disciples and Elders to rush to the central region 5 days after entering the 'Vermilion realm'?"

Indeed, this thought had passed through Shun Long's mind, but he had simply assumed that Liu Mei hadn't managed to meet with anyone else up until now.

However, Liu Mei had also called Liu Changpun by his actual name instead of calling him 'elder brother', and based on the hatred and disgust that she displayed, it seemed that there was more to this than what meets the eye.

Seeing that Shun Long was pondering over what she had said, Liu Mei then continued

"The reason I am not together with the rest of them, is because I don't plan to ever return back to the 'floating cloud sect'!"

It seemed that after she had finally said these words that she had been keeping in her heart, all of Liu Mei's suppressed emotions burst out along with them, as she then continued explaining everything, without any intent to actually conceal the inner matters of the sect.

"Do you know why none of the disciples or Elders of the 'inner city' protested, when Liu Changpun said that everyone must gather in the central region 5 days later no matter what?

It's because once you become an inner disciple, you will be forced to choose one of the 5 families that you want to 'follow'.

The family that you choose to follow, will then offer you enticing rewards depending on your strength and potential, but once you join them you will have to follow their every order.

Everyone that entered the 'Vermilion realm' from the inner city, has to listen to the words of the 'future sect master'.... while as for the top 100 in the arena rankings? It is because they are all the strongest outer disciples as well as the 'future of the sect'.

As long as they don't die in here, everyone in the top 100 will enter the 'inner city' sooner or later, and become inner disciples. Therefore, allowing them to enter the 'Vermilion realm', is still in the best benefits of the sect in the end."

Shun Long had trouble believing what he had just heard, but deep in his heart, he felt that what Liu Mei had told him was the truth.

Unknowingly, Shun Long couldn't help but blurt out a question that had suddenly appeared in his mind

"Then, did Fu Li know about all of this?"

If fatty Fu really knew about this and didn't tell him, then things would be completely different.

Liu Mei shook her head as she said

"I don't know. As the heir of the Fu family, Fu Li should have known, but... because of his character it is quite possible that his family hasn't told him anything yet."

Liu Mei's answer however, didn't reassure Shun Long, as many different scenarios had now formed in his mind.

"Did Fu Li and Lu Wen approach me because they wanted to draw me in their families? It's actually possible for Lu Wen who claimed that he was 'forced' to return back to the sect, but Fu Li didn't know anything about me when he had met me in the 'Alchemists' Guild'."

Coming to this conclusion, Shun Long's furrowed brows slightly relaxed, but he had still decided to obtain a clear answer from fatty Fu in the future.

"So, will you still stay in the 'floating cloud sect'?"

As Liu Mei voiced her question, she hadn't realized that she was eagerly staring at Shun Long with sparkling eyes, as she waited to hear his answer.

Chapter 140 - 140 A pair of fishermen

Shun Long fell in contemplation for a while, after hearing Liu Mei's question, before he finally answered

"I wasn't planning to stay in the 'floating cloud sect' forever, so, leaving the sect after exiting the 'Vermilion realm' isn't such a bad choice then."

What Shun Long had said was the truth. After all, he was still planning to find out more things about the 'Stone of Time', visit the 'Ruins of the Universe', and become strong enough to protect himself and his parents. He also had to learn more about little Black's origins, so he wasn't planning to stay in the 'floating cloud sect' for the rest of his life.

Liu Mei felt happy when she heard Shun Long's answer, as she then continued

"Then, why don't you also come to the Silver sword city?"

Shun Long's eyes betrayed his puzzlement as he looked at Liu Mei, since he had never heard of the name Silver sword city before.

Liu Mei understood that Shun Long must not know about the internal secrets of the King's realm, as she then said

"Ah, let me explain what I know first.

There are actually 2 ways to leave the 'Vermilion realm'.

The first, is the normal way, where you just have to wait for 3 months to pass. 3 months after everyone has entered the 'Vermilion realm', a teleportation array will force us to return back to the Lightning Wasteland.

The second way however, requires one to have passed the second trial. After we pass the second trial, the overseer of the King's palace will allow us to choose, if we want to stay in the Desolate east, or... if we wish to go to the Silver sword city of the Night star continent.

Both the 'Golden Buddha temple', as well as the Snowcloud country where Yang Gongsun is from, are actually located in the Night star continent as well, while the 'Golden Buddha temple' here, is said to be just a branch of the actual temple.

The Night star continent is actually located very close to our Desolate east, and even experts at the Nascent Soul realm are not rare there.

...But as for why the overseer would choose to send us in the Silver sword city... I don't know that."

After listing everything that she knew about the King's palace, Liu Mei looked at Shun Long who was still digesting all this information.

A few breaths of time later, Shun Long smiled at Liu Mei while his eyes were staring at her deep black eyes, before he said

"Thank you.

I still have to consider the matter about that Silver sword city for some more, but before that, we still need to kill 2 rank 3 magic beasts to pass the second trial."

Liu Mei felt her cheeks reddening after seeing Shun Long's smile when she nodded her head. Indeed, Shun Long couldn't just decide to leave the Desolate east on the spot.

Then, with a serious look on her face she said

"That's why Liu Changpun had ordered everyone to gather in the central region.

I believe that he has already passed the second trial long ago. After all, his aim is to get the legacy inside the King's palace, so, passing the second trial earlier gives him more time to fully focus on the third trial."

Just as Liu Mei finished her words, tremors sounded from the top of the mountain, while the cave that the 2 of them were in seemed as if it was on the verge of collapse.

Shun Long and Liu Mei quickly rushed out of the cave, as they turned their heads to look at the top of the mountain.

2 magic beasts seemed to be fighting, and based on the destructive power that they were exhibiting, it was clear that they weren't simple early rank 3 magic beasts.

Shun Long and Liu Mei turned to look at each other before they slowly ascended the mountain.

After they reached closer to the mountain's peak, Shun Long immediately understood what was happening.

In the world of magic beasts, there were certain beasts that were natural enemies, one example of which was the 'iron-winged eagle' and the 'earth bear' that Shun Long had seen in the Demonic Mountain region.

Once they started fighting, these magic beasts usually wouldn't stop until one of them was dead.

The scene in front of him now was another such example, as a middle rank 3 'Ice hawk' was fighting with a middle rank 3 'Demonic spider'.

Looking at the 2 magic beasts that were fighting with reckless abandon, unwilling to rest until the other one was down, Shun Long's eyes shone as he gestured at Liu Mei to be silent.

Liu Mei's eyes widened as she understood what Shun Long wanted to do and whispered

"Is it really possible to act as the fishermen on 2 middle rank 3 magic beasts?"

It wasn't that Liu Mei didn't believe in Shun Long, as she had already seen his strength when he had killed the 3 disciples of the Poison Hall.

But even an early rank 3 magic beast could also kill Su Honghui and his 2 brothers, let alone a middle stage one.

Shun Long smiled as he heard Liu Mei's question and said

"Before entering the second trial, that ethereal voice had said, that this trial wouldn't only test one's power, but also their scheming ability as well as their perceptiveness.

If there was no other way to pass the second trial aside from banding together, then wouldn't those like Liu Changpun who got help from their sect members, be the only ones who pass through it?"

Liu Mei looked as if she had just understood a critical point that she had previously missed regarding this trial.

Right! The second trial also tests one's perceptiveness.

After all, it was common knowledge that average magic beasts, could usually dominate cultivators who were at the same level as them, so how could those disciples who were still at the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade or lower, kill magic beasts at the early rank 3 or even higher?