

Time 61

Chapter 61 - 61 Requirements

It was unknown if Shun Long's luck was good or bad, but not long after he left the 'earth bear's cave', an early rank 2 "silver-haired fox" attacked him.

Without using any of his qi, just by relying on the 'Monarch's Eternal body's' strength, Shun Long sent a full-powered punch towards the fox's ribcage.

Although the 'silver-haired fox' also managed to bite Shun Long's hand before the punch had connected, Shun Long only felt a sting before the fox was sent flying towards the nearby trees.

As a rank 2 magic beast, the 'silver-haired fox' had expected its teeth to tear through the human's arm without a problem. However, Shun Long's body was extremely durable and the fox didn't even last one punch before it was heavily injured.

At this point, unless a magic beast had some sort of natural weapon, like the 'iron-winged eagle's' sharp wings, they probably wouldn't be a match for Shun Long, unless the beast had reached the middle level of rank 2.

"This 'outer sect examination' truly is a survival test. You may die at any moment if you aren't careful here." Shun Long thought.

After killing the 'silver-haired fox' and storing its body, he then headed deeper inside the Demonic Mountain Region.

"Master, there are plenty of rank 2 beasts in this area" little Black warned.

Shun Long was more than 50 miles away from the Demonic Mountain Region's entrance by now, and the more he walked the more he noticed how the rank 2 magic beasts around him had started to increase in number.

However, with little Black scanning the area around him, he didn't have anything to worry about, as he avoided the magic beasts that were at the middle stage of rank 2 and above.

Night soon arrived and Shun Long jumped on top of a tree when he heard little Black's voice inside his head

"Master, I feel that as we are heading deeper inside this Demonic Mountain Region the qi around us is becoming purer compared to when we were still on the outskirts."

Shun Long nodded his head as he too had discovered this earlier. As he activated the 'Monarch's Hourglass', his qi balls were being refined faster than usual.

"Did you find out the reason behind this change?"

Little Black shook his head before replying

"There is definitely something extraordinary deeper in this Demonic Mountain Region or the density of the qi in the air wouldn't have changed for no reason."

Then with a joyous voice little Black said

"Master, the rank 2 'blood wolves' that we were looking for earlier have now appeared almost 4 miles away from our east."

Elated, Shun Long stood up and followed little Black's directions as he quickly headed towards the wolves' location.

The 'blood wolves' were magic beasts that always hunted in packs, and it wouldn't be easy to kill them, but their hearts as well as their beast cores were important to Shun Long who wanted to refine the 'Profound earth fruit' into a pill.

After a short while, Shun Long had arrived in front of a valley where 5 early rank 2 'blood wolves' had encircled a small group of blue-robed disciples.

There were 4 people in this group, one man and three women, each of them covering each others' back so the 'blood wolves' wouldn't pick them off one by one

Shun Long could sense that the strongest among these disciples was the good-looking young man with the blue sword in his hand, who was at the early rank 3 in earth grade, while the 3 women's strength was only at the early rank 2 in earth grade.

Just as he was about to sit at a tree and wait until the 'blood wolves' had tired themselves with this group of disciples from the 'Roaring wind pavilion', Shun Long's mind had a sudden idea as he looked at this group of 4 people before he walked towards them.

As soon as the good-looking young man noticed Shun Long, he waved his hand as he screamed "Brother please help us" He was fighting off 3 wolves on his own while the 3 young women behind him were also struggling to contain the 2 wolves that were left for them.

Shun Long then looked at the young man whose body was riddled with bites and claw marks as he asked bluntly

"What will I get if I help you?"

Both the young man and the 3 young women were stunned.

Right! Why will he risk his life to help us?

The young man then gritted his teeth as he said determinedly

"We can give you 4 survival points"

But Shun Long just shook his head at this suggestion as he responded

"Won't I be able to get your survival points if I just let the 'blood wolves' kill you? I will also be able to get all your possessions by then."

The young man was shocked at Shun Long's bluntness but he knew that his words were correct. He then asked in a frantic voice

"What do you want then?"

"I want the 4 survival points, as well as the 'blood wolves' hearts and beast cores."

As soon as they heard Shun Long's demands, all 4 of them were furious as the girls were the first to scream

"Impossible!"

The young man also shook his head as he said

"I can concede and also give you the 'blood wolves' hearts along with the 4 survival points but I need the beast cores as well as the wolves' pelts."

Shun Long shook his head at this group's greed as he turned and walked away.

While he may have sounded to be asking for too much, the truth was that if he didn't help them, not only would these people have no chance to kill the 'blood wolves' by themselves, but at least 3 of them if not their entire group, would end up dead here.

As the young man in blue robes saw that Shun Long was leaving, he gritted his teeth as he shouted "Wait!"

He then took a deep breath as he continued

"If you can really help us, then you can take 3 of the beast cores as well.."

Chapter 62 - 62 You don't know?

Shun Long thought for a moment, before nodding his head as he unleashed his aura of an early rank 8 qi condensation cultivator.

Before the young man and the 3 young girls had any time to get angry at this qi condensation rookie who had been playing them for so long, Shun Long had already arrived behind a 'blood wolf' as he gathered his qi in his right hand and punched towards the wolf's back.

As Shun Long's fist connected with the wolf's spine, a cracking sound was heard as the wolf whimpered before it collapsed on the ground and after twitching for a while, it stopped breathing entirely.

The group of disciples from the 'Roaring wind pavilion' were shocked, when the young man was the first to recover as he shouted

"Careful!"

As one of the 3 women was still absorbed watching Shun Long kill the wolf, another one had appeared above her head as its sharp claws headed straight towards her neck.

The girl screamed and turned to run but the wolf's claws had ripped off the robes on her back as a bloody imprint of a huge claw was left on her skin.

This girl instantly passed out, while the rest of the 'blood wolves' had suddenly turned frenzied as they smelled the scent of blood from this young woman.

Shun Long who had just killed one of the 3 'blood wolves' that were attacking the young man, saw what happened and rushed to kill the other 2 wolves which were now madly attacking the 2 girls.

His speed was extremely fast as he had arrived in front of the 2 wolves in less than 2 breaths, before he ruthlessly kicked with his left foot in a sweeping manner, towards one of the 2 wolves' front legs.

A cracking sound was heard as the wolf's front legs were broken, and before it had much time to react, one of the 2 girls used her sword as she stabbed its head.

As this wolf died, the other one was also taken care of quickly, before Shun Long turned to help the young man who was fighting off 2 wolves with his sword.

The hunters had turned into prey as the wolves tried to escape, but in a 2 against 4, their heads were soon chopped off by the sword-wielding young man.

As soon as the fight was over, the 3 disciples of the 'Roaring wind pavilion' quickly rushed to help the young woman whose back was injured by the 'blood wolf' and was now unconscious.

After they made sure that she was going to be alright, the young man looked at Shun Long as he said

"Thank you for your help brother"

Shun Long just shook his head though as he replied

"It was a mutual exchange"

Just as the young man was about to speak, one of the 2 girls looked at him as she whispered

"Senior brother, are we really going to give him the wolves cores along with our survival points? No matter how strong he may be, he is just a qi condensation rookie in the end.. if we all fight against him then maybe we can..."

Shun Long's eyes turned chilly as he heard this, and he turned to look at this woman with undisguised killing intent.

Now that he had saved them this woman wanted them to go back on their word?

The woman staggered back a few steps as her face paled when she thought of how brutally Shun Long had killed the 'blood wolves' just now.

Contrary to her wishes though, the young man headed towards Shun Long as he cupped his hands before he handed the survival points that he had promised.

After that, he turned his head to speak to the woman who had 'whispered' to him just now as he answered with anger obvious in his voice

"Since we promised something, it's only proper to hold our own end of the deal as well."

The woman hanged her head dejected as she replied in a weak voice

"Yes senior brother, Fei Fang was wrong."

Shun Long was impressed by this man's forthrightness as he nodded at him before he turned to remove the wolves' hearts and beast cores.

Among the 5 wolves, they found 4 beast cores, while the last wolf hadn't formed one yet.

However as per their agreement, Shun Long took 3 of the cores for himself as he left the other one for them.

Just as he was about to leave, the young man from the 'Raging wind pavilion' asked

"Brother, judging from your robes, you must be a disciple from the 'floating cloud sect' correct?"

Shun Long nodded his head as the man continued by cupping his hands

"My name is Yong Ru and these three are my junior sisters from the 'Roaring wind pavilion'. They are Fei Fang, Ming Zhu and Qiao Lian. Please forgive Fei Fang as she is still immature. May I ask for brother's name?"

Although Shun Long was just a qi condensation cultivator, Yong Ru who had witnessed his strength, actually considered him to be a peak rank 3 earth cultivator who was seemingly hiding his true strength for some reason.

"My name is Shun Long." Shun Long also cupped his hands at Yong Ru.

Yong Ru tried to think, but he didn't seem to have heard about any strong disciple from the 'floating cloud sect' with this name.

He then put that matter on the back of his mind as he continued

"To tell the truth, brother Shun, me and my junior sisters are heading towards the central mountain. If brother Shun is also heading there, perhaps we could travel together."

Based on Shun Long's extraordinary strength, Yong Ru knew that their journey would be a lot safer if he joined them.

"Central mountain?" Shun Long was perplexed as he hadn't heard anything about a specific mountain in the Demonic Mountain Region.

"Brother Shun doesn't know?" Yong Ru asked bewildered as he started explaining

"Well, it isn't really a secret anyway. The Demonic Mountain Region covers a vast distance of more than 5000 miles. Among those 5000 miles, there is a large number of mountains. However, the most important of them all is the one at the center of this region, the central mountain."

Chapter 63 - 63 Unable to hide

"Around the central mountain, there are also many other mountains, and most of them are filled with priceless treasures." Yong Ru said in a tone filled with desire.

Shun Long felt that something was wrong as he asked

"If there are so many treasures around the central mountain, then why haven't they all been picked by the various sect Elders, or at the very least the disciples who were here at the previous 'sect examination tests'?"

Yong Ru shook his head as he said

"Your words are slightly wrong here brother Shun. Actually this involves a big secret that my grandfather told me.

My grandfather is an Elder in the 'Roaring wind pavilion' and in the past, he and some other Elders, followed the pavilion master inside the Demonic Mountain Region to pick these very treasures.

That day, a terrifying magic beast at the peak of rank 4 emerged from the central mountain and as it attacked them, barely half of their group managed to escape that day, while the rest of them perished.

Ever since that day, no one above the earth grade has stepped foot inside the Demonic Mountain Region, in fear of being attacked by this magic beast. That is why this region is now used as the examination ground by our sects.

As for the mountains around the central mountain with their priceless treasures? All of them are guarded by magic beasts who are at least in the middle of rank 3 if not higher, hence why no one has managed to obtain any treasures from them.

However, the qi coming from the central mountain is much thicker than the qi inside any of our 4 sects, and that's the reason why every sect believes that there is a huge secret inside the central mountain.

However, with a peak rank 4 magic beast standing guard..."

As Yong Ru finished speaking, he sighed as he thought of the many unobtainable treasures that they couldn't be able to get their hands on.

"However, there is also a bout of good fortune even for us. Every 30 years, the central mountain erupts with pure qi, that enriches the atmosphere in the Demonic Mountain Region. The closer you are to the central mountain during the eruption, the more benefits you would be able to obtain if you manage to absorb the pure qi."

As Yong Ru finished speaking, Shun Long said

"And yet, the closer you are to the central mountain, the bigger the danger to meet a high-rank magic beast right?"

"That is why I asked brother Shun if you wanted to come with us. We can better protect each other until we find a place to hide near the central mountain, while we will wait for the qi eruption to start."

Shun Long nodded his head at Yong Ru's words as he said

"Traveling together doesn't sound so bad. We can at least go together until we reach the perimeter of the central mountain"

Everyone in the group was excited to hear that Shun Long would be joining them, as they would now have another strong person to rely on.

"Haha, thank you brother Shun. With you in our team, it will be an even more enjoyable journey!"

Shun Long smiled, as he had already formed a favorable opinion of Yong Ru earlier, as he now asked

"Right, I have a question. Won't the sects care if a disciple somehow manages to find a priceless treasure near the central mountain?"

Yong Ru shook his head as he said

"How could they not care? Even if a disciple finds something precious, how are they going to hide it without a spatial ring? When we leave the Demonic Mountain Region, the Elders will check all the disciples for treasures, and they will of course offer to recompensate the disciples with sect points if they have found anything valuable.

In other words, if you find something precious, you won't have a chance to hide it from the eyes of the sect and you would be practically forced to exchange it for sect points.

Unless of course, a disciple has a spatial ring. Disciples at the early earth grade who have spatial rings, usually belong to the large families and the sects won't strain their position with those families if it's not for a good reason. However, if the treasure is important enough, then of course anything can happen."

Shun Long smiled as he cupped his hands and thanked Yong Ru, however deep inside, he started detesting the 4 sects.

"So the disciples would be forced to risk their lives in the 'outer sect examination', and yet if they find something they would have to give it to the sect in exchange for sect points whether they like it or not? The sect would also make sure that the disciples would be searched in case they tried to hide something from them?"

As Shun Long thought of this, his opinion of the 'floating cloud sect' drastically dropped.

Since it was already night time, their group decided to camp here for the night before heading towards the central mountain in the morning.

Groupping around, Yong Ru started a small fire as they began to cook the 'blood wolves' meat.

"Senior brother, won't the magic beasts around us be attracted by the fire?" The girl who had her robes torn earlier, had now changed in a new set as she asked Yong Ru nervously

Shun Long shook his head while Yong Ru smiled and answered

"When the blood wolves die their bodies emit a poisonous substance, and if another magic beast below the rank 3 consumes them, they will most likely die from this poison. However, by cooking the wolves meat, the poison is excreted along with the fat of the wolves, leaving behind the purest of their meat. Hence, no beast below the rank 2 would come close after smelling the blood of the 'blood wolves', so this could also be considered the best form of protection for us."

Shun Long nodded his head at Yong Ru's explanation. He was impressed as pretty much everything he had said was correct. It seemed that Yong Ru was very well prepared for this sect exam.

"But senior brother, what if a rank 3 magic beast spots us?"

"Are rank 3 magic beasts that idle that they would be casually roaming outside their territories for no reason?"

Yong Ru asked in return, when suddenly, the excited voice of a man could be heard around 100 meters away from their group as it shouted

"Boss, we found some more prey!"

Chapter 64 - 64 Killers

As this voice was heard, 2 young men, followed behind a huge burly man. They were all wearing brown robes, indicating that they were disciples from the 'Iron-hardened sect'.

The burly man in the front was over 2 meters(6.5ft) tall and his fingers were dripping with blood, while the other 2 behind him, also had blood all over their robes.

At that moment, the young man behind the huge burly man shouted

"Look boss, they even prepared food for us"

"Ah you are right Xiao Li, what a good first day we had. First we killed those ants from the 'floating cloud sect' and gathered so many survival points, and now there is food and even beauties to keep us company"

"The boss is right, there are 3 of us and there are just 3 beauties, one for each of us HAHAAAAHA"

"Little beauties, you should obediently listen to our boss, or you won't be the first women to die by his hands today"

"That's right. If you are obedient, our boss will definitely let you live"

Shun Long's eyes slightly narrowed while the 3 girls rushed to hide behind him and Yong Ru.

Yong Ru faced the burly man as he said in a bold tone

"Who do you think you are to dare speak to us like this?"

The man named Xiao Li then looked at Yong Ru mockingly as he replied

"Punk, who do you think you are to talk to boss like that? If you are sensible, you will quickly hand over your survival points before scrambling."

The boss though looked at the other young man beside him as he said

"Xiao Wan, Xiao Li, just take care of these punks quickly!" After he gave this order, the burly man started walking towards the food.

"Of course boss"

Both Xiao Wan and Xiao Li immediately responded as they slowly walked towards Shun Long and Yong Ru.

"Senior brother!!!" The 3 girls shouted but Yong Ru looked at them and said

"Just stay back, you can't help here"

Yong Ru had noticed that these two men's auras were at the same level as him, the early rank3 in earth grade, that's why he just told the 3 women to stay back.

Xiao Li didn't immediately start to fight and instead looked at Shun Long as he said

"You will be the 3rd person I kill today. Too bad that you didn't cherish the opportunity to give up your survival point and flee while you had the chance kid. But you can still be considered lucky to be killed by me. If the boss had decided to kill you guys, you wouldn't be dying as easily, while I will make sure to give you a quick death in return"

Xiao Wan and Xiao Li then, both unleashed their auras at the early stage of rank 3 earth grade.

Xiao Wan fought with Yong Ru while Xiao Li was holding a saber as he rushed towards Shun Long with a big smile on his face.

Shun Long immediately activated the 'Monarch's Hourglass' followed by the 'Monarch's Domain' as everything around him went still.

In a sphere around Shun Long, time was frozen. Inside the 'Monarch's Domain', Shun Long was king. Unless the discrepancy in cultivation was too big or a person had some kind of secret technique, no one could move inside the 'Monarch's Domain'.

Not just Xiao Li, but even Xiao Wan and Yong Ru along with the 3 girls, everyone was now in a frozen like state.

It wasn't just their bodies that couldn't move, even their thoughts were all frozen. The 'Monarch's Domain' had grown even stronger after Shun Long had advanced into the 8th rank in qi condensation.

The boss was the only one who could somewhat move his body and thoughts, but even he was extremely slow under the suppression of the 'Monarch's Domain', as he turned his horrified eyes towards Shun Long.

Shun Long who was now at the early rank 8 in qi condensation, could render an early rank 3 earth grade cultivator, absolutely helpless.

Even their boss who was at the middle of rank 3 in earth grade was heavily affected by the suppression.

Xiao Li's face was still frozen with that smile on his face as Shun Long walked towards him.

Shun Long had arrived in front of him as he spoke in a low voice, even though he knew that Xiao Li couldn't hear him

"Unfortunately for you, I won't be the third person that you kill today."

After that, Shun Long's hand was clenched in a tight fist as he punched ferociously towards Xiao Li's abdomen. That was the place where a person's dantian was at.. the place where Xiao Li held all his qi and cultivated from.

Shun Long's heavy punch went through Xiao Li's body as it completely shattered his dantian.

Then he turned his head to look at the boss who was still struggling under the heavy suppression of the 'Monarch's Domain' as he said

"Although I don't consider myself some kind of hero, thanks to you I can now see the truth. This is just a survival test and a dog eat dog world after all. You have killed people on your first day here just because you wanted to do so. I was so immersed in the mentality from earth, that I had almost forgotten that people attacked me outside of the 'Blue Forest' that day. I almost forgot that, that punk Xiao Shitou threatened to break my limbs inside the imperial palace. Threatening to kill me again and again, I guess this is the true 'cultivation world'."

After Shun Long finished speaking, he walked towards this man step by step as he slowly approached him.

"That's right master. This is the world of cultivation after all. When I was born, people tried to kill me again and again, just because they were stronger than me. While you shouldn't become like those people, you still shouldn't be afraid of killing those that threaten your life."

Little Black's voice sounded inside Shun Long's mind.

Shun Long looked at the man in front of him whom these people called the boss, and his eyes narrowed as he told him

"From the first moment I saw you walking here, I knew what kind of person you are. You walked with your hands filled with blood, acting so proud while you boasted of the disciples that you had just killed before you stole their survival points.

Don't misunderstand, I am not doing this for justice or because I care about those that you have killed. It's simply because in my eyes, sc.u.m like you just doesn't deserve to live."

Chapter 65 - 65 Killing

The burly man could sense Shun Long's killing intention.

His voice was resolute as he sounded like there was nothing that would stop him from killing this man.

Shun Long looked at the man right in the eyes as he said

"Prepare yourself"

He himself also took a deep breath as he tried to calm his breathing that had turned somewhat erratic. Despite everything else, Shun Long still hadn't killed a man in his life. He has killed magic beasts, but beasts only act on instinct, not intelligence. They either kill you or you kill them.

But killing a man was different.

There were 2 types of killers. People who killed wantonly and people who killed with a goal and reason in their minds. In the end, no cultivator could escape from the cycle of killing. To advance in life, you must step on someone else.

"Wait! Do you know who I am?"

I am Wong Huo from the 'Iron-hardened sect'!"

The burly man could sense Shun Long's disturbance in his frame of mind as he quickly tried to take advantage of it.

If Yong Ru could hear this man's name, he would definitely be startled! It was too bad that he was under the suppression of the 'Monarch's Domain' and couldn't even sense that time had stopped around him.

Shun Long just shook his head as he tightly clenched his right hand. As the 'Monarch's Eternal body' provided abundant energy, Shun Long sent a punch at Wong Huo, straight at the temple.

"NOOOOO! YOU CAN'T KILL ME!"

Wong Huo screamed terrified as he saw the approaching punch but couldn't escape fast enough due to the restrictions of the 'Monarch's Domain'.

As the punch connected with his temple, Wong Huo's head exploded like a watermelon as his body was then sent spinning through the air.

Blood filled Shun Long's right hand and robes, as brain matter splattered all over the ground.

Shun Long watched this scene and his hand started to tremble. The scene of Wong Huo screaming before he died reverberated in his ears for a good while.

Shun Long took a few deep breaths, as if trying to digest the whole scene and calm his rapid heartbeats when little Black's voice was heard in his head

"Master, don't think too much into it. Killing is part of the natural cycle. It's the same whether it involves animals, magic beasts or humans.

Animals kill each other to survive, whether it is for food or because they feel threatened.

Magic beasts kill everything that they encounter to consume their flesh and become stronger. They don't differentiate between humans, animals or even other magic beasts.

Humans are the same as well.

They kill animals and magic beasts for food, while they kill other humans for countless reasons, whether that involves a personal feud, treasures, and many other reasons.

This is the life of cultivators, stepping through countless corpses as they walk forward."

Shun Long found himself slightly lost in little Black's words. After all the mental impact of when you kill a person the first time doesn't go away that easily.

However, the more he thought about it, the more he found that little Black's words made sense. Although his soul originally belonged to this world before it was split into 3 parts, it was only now, after killing Wong Huo, that Shun Long had started to truly accept this world. The mental barriers in his heart had now started to slowly unshackle themselves.

Shun Long then stopped the 'Monarch's Domain', and a scream that sounded like a pig being butchered was heard.

Xiao Wan and Yong Ru who were heading towards each other, suddenly turned their heads to look at the source of the scream, only to see Xiao Li sprawled on the ground unable to move.

"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

Xiao Wan rushed to Xiao Li's side as he supported him while Xiao Li was still screaming in pain.

"Brother what happened to you?" Xiao Wan asked anxiously, but Xiao Li didn't reply. He couldn't reply. The pain from having your dantian shattered was both a mental and a physical torture, beyond what most humans could endure.

At the same time, another scream was heard, this time from behind Yong Ru.

Yong Ru turned around and saw his junior sister, Qiao Lian staring at something with frozen eyes. Yong Ru and his other 2 junior sisters also followed her line of vision, only to see a headless corpse dressed in the 'Iron-hardened sect's' robes lying on the ground.

Shocked, Yong Ru's eyes looked around searching for Shun Long, only to see him sitting on a patch of grass with his eyes closed, as blood dyed his robes and his right hand.

This headless corpse obviously belonged to the leader of the enemy's group, Wong Huo.

Yong Ru didn't ask anything and instead turned his head to look at the 3 girls behind him. As if in tacit understanding, the girls followed Yong Ru as they encircled Xiao Wan who was still trying to calm the screaming Xiao Li.

Earlier, the 3 girls at the early stage of rank 2 would be completely useless in such a fight, but now, surrounding just the early rank 3 earth grade Xiao Wan and the crippled Xiao Li, they could definitely turn the tables on them.

Xiao Wan looked around warily as he saw the 4 of them surrounding him and his brother, and he asked in an angry voice that tried to conceal his fear

"What do you want? What did you do to my brother?? If you don't answer.. I-I will kill you all!"

Yong Ru and the 3 girls who had now surrounded this pair of brothers, all looked at Xiao Wan disdainfully as Yong Ru was the one who spoke

"Even I can see from here that your brother's dantian has shattered, don't tell me that you haven't noticed it yet."

Xiao Wan's face paled as he shouted

"BO-BOSS! SAVE MEE!"

As he screamed, Xiao Wan turned his head around to plead for help from Wong Huo, but when he saw the headless corpse behind him, his head almost blanked out.

Chapter 66 - 66 Death and aftermath

"B-BO-BOS-S! H-how? How is this possible?"

Xiao Wan's eyes had turned frantic, as despair started gripping his heart.

He knew that even if he was stronger than Yong Ru one versus one, he couldn't win against him combined with the 3 girls that surrounded him. As for wondering how his brother got crippled and his boss died? He had no idea, while his frame of mind just couldn't process that information right now. His only goal was to escape as far as he could.

He turned his eyes to look at Yong Ru as he said in a pleading tone

"Please, let us leave. We will give you our survival points and everything else we have. Please!"

Xiao Wan was practically begging at this point, and Shun Long who had just heard him, opened his eyes from the distance as he watched this scene coldly.

Yong Ru looked at Xiao Wan with cold eyes. Although he didn't want to kill a man who was begging for his life, he didn't have many options right now. These people didn't just want to take their survival points earlier, they also wanted to kill them, and even r.a.p.e his junior sisters. He simply couldn't allow people like them to live, now that they are in a bad spot, even if they are begging for their lives.

"Kill!"

Yong Ru shouted as he and the 3 girls attacked Xiao Wan.

Yong Ru who was brandishing his sword was enough to keep Xiao Wan at bay, however, now that the 3 young women were also added into the mix, Xiao Wan quickly found himself caught in a bad situation.

Yong Ru's attacks were all powerful and his sword was extremely sharp, while each one of the girls was holding a small dagger as they looked for opportune moments to attack.

Xiao Wan quickly found himself riddled with injuries as Yong Ru's sword had left deep cuts in his body. His arms, legs, and even his face were already injured.

After an incense stick of time, Xiao Wan could no longer keep up against the heavy barrage of attacks and finally turned to retreat.

As he parried away Yong Ru's sword with his own and looked to escape, a dagger was suddenly plunged in his back, as it reached all the way inside him until it pierced his heart.

Blood filled Fei Fang's hands as she pulled the dagger out of Xiao Wan's body.

Xiao Wan's eyes turned dull and unfocused, as his breathing grew weaker and weaker. He couldn't even turn his head to look at the face of his killer, as he collapsed on the ground, a pool of blood forming underneath his body.

Yong Ru threw a last look at Xiao Wan's body, before turning his head to look at Xiao Li whose screaming had just stopped after he heard a loud *bang* and saw his brother's body fall to the ground.

Shun Long was watching everything from the distance as he saw Yong Ru walking towards Xiao Li step by step.

Xiao Li wanted to speak but his fear had overtaken his reason. His mouth made inaudible sounds as he saw Yong Ru raising his sword and slashing it towards his neck.

His head rolled off from his body as a fountain of blood spurted from his neck. The headless corpse rolled on the ground before it finally stopped moving.

Shun Long watched everything as he observed the cruelty of this world and mumbled in his head

"I was right. It won't matter if you beg, it won't matter if you cried, it won't matter if you are right or wrong, it won't even matter if you are good or evil... in the end, the only thing that matters is who will be stronger. The 'floating cloud sect' is stronger than its disciples, so it can afford to take everything for them without an explanation, and just give them 'sect points' if they want to. These people too thought that they were stronger, so they decided to rob everything from us, including our lives, without an explanation. Yet now that the situation changed, Yong Ru who was stronger than them got to decide the 2 brothers' life and death. There isn't even a need for explanations or reasoning. The strong live and prosper while the weak kneel and get stepped on or... they die."

"Master, do you think that's cruel?"

"No, I understand this world now. There is only one rule if you don't want to get trampled on... become stronger. If Wong Huo was stronger than me, I also would have died."

After Shun Long finished speaking to little Black, he stood up as he walked towards Wong Huo's body.

There was a red jade just like his own 'sect identifying jade' near Wong Huo's chest.

Shun Long grabbed it and sent his spiritual strength inside it, only to be extremely surprised.

There were 13 survival points inside it. Aside from the survival points, he also found two early rank 2 magic beast cores inside a small bag.

After absorbing them inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long walked towards Yong Ru and the 3 girls.

Seeing the fresh blood in his right hand and robes, the 4 of them were perplexed and Yong Ru couldn't help asking

"Are you okay brother Shun, what happened to you?" No one of them could understand how Shun Long had suddenly got injured.

"I'm fine, how about you guys?" Shun Long shook his head as he responded.

"Thankfully, no one got hurt!" Yong Ru exclaimed.

Yong Ru still thought that Shun Long had somehow gotten hurt but he didn't want to explain it so that he wouldn't embarrass himself.

Yong Ru tacitly stopped mentioning it, but after turning his head to look at the headless corpse of Wong Huo, his voice started trembling as he asked with dread evident in his eyes

"Brother Shun, do you have any idea what happened earlier? How is it possible for their boss to have been killed in a split second, and for that Xiao Li to be also crippled?"

Chapter 67 - 67 Regions

In his mind, Yong Ru didn't even connect the death of Wong Huo directly to Shun Long. Although Shun Long was strong, he couldn't kill someone in the blink of an eye. Especially someone as strong as Wong Huo, even if he was at the peak of rank 3 in earth grade. However, since he was quite a bit stronger than Yong Ru, perhaps Shun Long should have noticed some clues. At least that's what Yong Ru had assumed.

Shun Long just shook his head at Yong Ru's question though.

Obviously, he wouldn't admit that he was the one who did it. Keeping his trump cards hidden was extremely important. In the past, when he had used the 'Monarch's Domain' inside the imperial palace, the pressure from it was truly similar to the 'Pulverizing gravity art' from the 'mortal world'.

However, after advancing to rank 8 in qi condensation, the 'Monarch's Domain' had also evolved. What it exhibited wasn't just pressure like it did in the past, but a type of temporal restriction that stopped everything around Shun Long.

It was almost as if Shun Long only had access to an elementary part of the technique at the start, and it was becoming stronger as he advanced in his cultivation.

Yong Ru and the 3 girls were disappointed after seeing Shun Long's reaction. If even he hadn't seen anything then they wouldn't know what happened.

How terrifying would it be to have an enemy that can kill you without knowing when or how you were attacked?

Yong Ru then took out 2 red 'sect identifying jades' as he said

"Right! These guys also had 7 survival points on them. To tell you the truth brother, me and my junior sisters are attending this 'sect examination' for 2 reasons. The first, is to take advantage of the qi that will erupt from the central mountain, to advance our cultivation, while the second reason is to try and find a 'hell flower' for my grandfather. We know that it's impossible to get to the top 100 spots with just our strength, so we don't aim to gather survival points at all. My grandfather is an Elder in the 'Roaring wind pavilion' and the measly amount of 10 or 100 sect points is useless to me anyway."

As Yong Ru finished speaking, he handed the 'sect identifying jades' to Shun Long.

Shun Long didn't refuse and instead said

"Thank you. If we do find a 'hell flower' I will help you obtain it. However, I don't think it's going to be that easy to find one."

Yong Ru shook his head as he said

"No no, how could these 7 survival points match up to the value of a rank 3 spiritual herb like the 'hell flower'?"

Shun Long however shook his head and didn't respond. Yong Ru had treated him sincerely and had shared with him a lot valuable information. If they were going to find a 'hell flower' then Shun Long would really do his best to help him obtain it. However, as a rank 3 spiritual herb, the 'hell flower' was usually guarded by rank 3 magic beasts which were equal to Heaven grade cultivators, and it was an issue whether there was a 'hell flower' in the Demonic Mountain Region in the first place.

As Shun Long extracted the survival points from the 2 'sect identifying jades' of Xiao Li and Xiao Wan, as well as counting Wong Huo's 13 survival points that he had obtained before and the 5 that Shun Long already had, he had now gathered 25 survival points.

After throwing away the 'sect jades', Shun Long and the rest finally started eating the 'blood wolves' meat.

"Ahh, this meat is so tasty!"

"Yes, senior brother we should eat this wolf meat more often!"

"I agree senior brother, this is so good"

As the 3 girls were praising the taste of the meat, Shun Long could even sense that his body had started to slowly absorb the energy inside it. Qi cultivators could also use the energy inside the meat of magic beasts to replenish their qi faster, but it wouldn't help them advance in cultivation.

However, it was completely different for body refinement cultivators. Shun Long could sense that although minimal, his body was slowly becoming stronger as he consumed the magic beast meat.

Yong Ru just smiled at the 3 girls' words as he asked

"Was it that easy for us to kill this group of 'blood wolves'?"

The 3 girls' faces turned red from embarrassment. If they weren't lucky enough to meet Shun Long earlier, they wouldn't be eating 'blood wolves' meat, but instead the wolves would be having a grand feast right now.

Yong Ru was still smiling as he saw the 3 embarrassed girls and said

"Don't worry, if I manage to advance two more minor stages and reach the peak of rank 3 in earth grade, then we can hunt for 'blood wolves' without any problems"

Then Yong Ru's eyes turned serious as he said

"This will probably be the last time that we will get to be so relaxed in this 'sect exam'. From now on we will have to be more careful, as we will soon enter the inner regions of the Demonic Mountain Region."

"Senior brother, what do you mean by 'inner region'?" Ming Zhu asked as everyone's attention was on Yong Ru

"My grandfather told me that the Demonic Mountain Region is split into 3 main parts. The outer region where we are right now, the inner region where we will soon enter, and the most dangerous

of them all where few people enter and even fewer survive, the central region where the central mountain lies.

The outer region is the weakest, where you will only find rank 1 magic beasts, or at worst, early rank 2 magic beasts roaming around. There are of course some very rare places in the outer region, where even higher rank magic beasts reside, but they will usually stay in their territories and you should avoid provoking them at all costs. However, the inner region is completely different. One wrong step in there, and our entire group is dead."

Chapter 68 - 68 Heading towards the inner region

"One wrong step in there and our entire group is dead."

Although the Demonic Mountain Region covered a vast distance of over 5000 miles, the biggest problem was the many magic beasts that were increasing in strength as they walked deeper inside the region, so they had to proceed with caution.

The 3 girls sucked in a cold breath while Shun Long had already estimated that even without Yong Ru's warning.

"Senior brother, are the magic beasts in the inner region that much stronger compared to the outer region?" Fei Fang asked nervously

"The outer region could only be considered a playground if you compared it with the inner region. Not only are most of the beasts at the middle stage of rank 2 or higher, but there is a possibility that we will even meet rank 3 magic beasts in there"

"Then, senior brother, how about we don't-"

Yong Ru cut her off as he said

"Even though it's dangerous, the deeper we go inside the Demonic Mountain Region, the bigger the benefits we will be able to obtain from the qi eruption of the central mountain. Don't worry, there is also a safe place in the inner region as well."

The 3 girls' eyes darted between each other as they looked at Yong Ru pleadingly, who then sighed as he asked

"Why did you even want to come along if you are that afraid? You can just stay in the outer region if that's the case. Me and brother Shun can just go to the inner region by ourselves. But it's true that there is a safe place. Almost every disciple who makes it to the inner region will probably gather there to rest and take shelter as they wait for the qi eruption to start."

The 3 girls hanged their heads low in embarrassment. Yong Ru had probably seen through their intentions already.

"We..."

Before they entered the Demonic Mountain Region, the 3 girls had insisted on following Yong Ru inside, in order to form a better relationship with him and hopefully, rely on him when they returned back to the 'Roaring wind pavilion'. But now, after hearing about the dangers in the inner region, and after they were almost killed twice in the first day in the outer region, these girls no longer had the courage to follow Shun Long and Yong Ru inside.

Shun Long sighed inside with disappointment. No matter what, in the end not only did the 3 girls forget that Yong Ru had fought for them twice already today, but they also chose to abandon him now that they learned of the dangers inside.

"Master don't be disappointed. Such is human nature. Not many people are willing to do things that will put their lives in danger."

"I understand. Yong Ru needs to search for a 'hell flower' and he also wants to absorb the qi from the central mountain, while these girls only wanted to rely on him. Now that their goals don't align, or should I say, now that they don't consider the benefits good enough to risk their lives over, they decided to abandon him."

Shun Long shook his head as he left that scene and climbed atop of a tree to cultivate for the night.

Yong Ru had a ridiculing smile on his face as he said

"I was such a fool to not understand earlier the reason that you wanted to travel together. You truly understand a person only when you are in a difficult situation. After all, everyone can add flowers to a brocade, but few people will actually send charcoal during the snow. Let us part ways here then."

"Senior brother Yong!"

As he finished speaking, Yong Ru walked in the distance as he too climbed on a tree near Shun Long and closed his eyes.

Dejected, the 3 girls didn't have any reason to stay around as they left towards the outskirts of the region. Yong Ru opened his eyes as he saw them walking away and thought that if they were lucky, they would find a place to peacefully wait out the period of one month, until the sect examination ends.

After a few hours, the sun soon rose and the morning rays warmed Shun Long's body as he opened his eyes. His cultivation was slowly advancing towards the middle of the rank 8 in qi condensation. It would probably take a few days to advance, but fighting in the Demonic Mountain Region was also helping him get accustomed to the rapid increase in his strength.

Yong Ru seemed to have just opened his eyes as well as he greeted Shun Long.

After eating some fruits from a few nearby trees, their group of 2 started walking towards the inner region.

Traveling by just the 2 of them, Shun Long and Yong Ru didn't waste much time in their journey. Shun Long had little Black constantly scan the way, so he could avoid any situations that they couldn't deal with.

They traveled during the day while they cultivated during the night.

Their second day proved to be relatively uneventful. Aside from meeting one early rank 2 magic beast and a few rank 1 beasts, nothing notable happened.

The central mountain was estimated to erupt in around 15 days since the disciples had first entered the region, but it could still erupt earlier or later than the 4 sects' original estimations. Hence, it was better to get to the inner region earlier.

On the third day however, as Shun Long and Yong Ru were heading towards the inner region, they were ambushed by a big group of people.

There were more than 15 people in this group as they threateningly surrounded the two of them.

The disciples in this group belonged to the 'Flying sword sect' and surprisingly, the 'floating cloud sect'.

A woman in yellow robes as well as a man dressed in white with a red sword strapped on his waist walked out from the front of the group.

The woman was around 16 years old with a pretty face and beautiful blonde hair as she looked at Shun Long and Yong Ru before saying in a commanding tone

"Hand over your 'sect identifying jades' and we will allow you to pass"

Chapter 69 - 69 Gaining experience

Of course, little Black had already warned Shun Long about the ambush beforehand, but he didn't bother changing directions. He was participating in the 'outer sect examination', what would he gain by avoiding every fight?

After taking a look at the blonde young woman and sensing her early rank 3 earth grade strength, Shun Long's eyes focused on the white-robed young man.

This young man who had a red sword on his waist was at the middle stage of rank 3 in earth grade, and he was the strongest person in their group.

The man's eyes were also staring intently at Shun Long, as he then turned his head to look at the pretty young woman beside him before speaking gently

"Lei Xiang, I will take care of this guy. You can take care of that guy from the 'Roaring wind pavilion'."

"Yi Zeming, are you okay?" the blonde girl asked the young man after she saw him staring at Shun Long intently

Yi Zeming had a feeling that Shun Long was more dangerous than Yong Ru, even though he couldn't sense his strength, so he decided to test him out directly. As for the rest of the disciples, they had surrounded Shun Long and Yong Ru as they waited for orders.

Although Lei Xiang was also from the 'floating cloud sect', she didn't have any scruples teaming up with a disciple of the 'Flying sword sect' or attacking another disciple from her sect. You could do anything you wanted in this 'outer sect examination' after all and the sect wouldn't care.

Yong Ru pulled out his blue sword as he stared at Lei Xiang who was holding a yellow bow in her hands.

"What do you think? Do you feel like surrendering your survival points now?" Lei Xiang asked Yong Ru smilingly.

Yong Ru shook his head as he charged straight towards her.

Shun Long instead, looked at Yi Zeming, who had unsheathed his bright red sword as he said to the disciples around him

"Make sure to assist Lei Xiang properly!"

As they heard Yi Zeming's words, both the disciples from the 'Flying sword sect' as well as the 'floating cloud sect' who had surrounded them, charged towards Yong Ru while Lei Xiang had taken cover behind the trees as she shot arrow after arrow at him.

"Draw your weapon!" Yi Zeming said sternly but Shun Long simply shook his head as he clenched his left fist.

He could use his 'Monarch's Domain' to take care of the guys attacking Yong Ru as well as this Ye Zeming, but he didn't do so for 2 reasons.

The first reason was that Yong Ru had already seen the inexplicable scenario where Wong Huo had died 'in a split second' a few days ago and he would instantly connect the dots if the same thing happened again now. While the second reason was that Yong Ru didn't seem to be in a bad spot and was seemingly smiling as he fought the disciples of the 'Flying sword sect' and the 'floating cloud sect'.

These disciples' strength was ranging between rank 9 in qi condensation while the strongest among them was just at the middle rank 1 in earth grade. However, Lei Xiang's arrows that were covering these disciples were truly dangerous.

"Are you looking down on me?" Yi Zeming roared in anger after seeing that Shun Long wasn't using a weapon, as he then rushed towards him with his sword in hand.

Shun Long didn't directly attack Yi Zeming and instead focused on dodging his attacks. With the enhancement in his speed from the 'Monarch's Eternal body' he could actually keep up with Yi Zeming's fast attacks as he dodged his sword again and again.

Yi Zeming was advancing forward while Shun Long was moving backwards, but no attack had connected with him just yet. This was a very frustrating fighting style where you couldn't hit your opponent no matter how hard you swung your sword, but the truth was that this was dangerous for Shun Long as well.

It wasn't easy to avoid a sword every time and it took a lot of mental focus as well as immense physical strength, to keep up with the speed of Yi Zeming's sword.

And yet, Shun Long could sense that he was getting better and better at fighting the more this fight dragged on. He had already spotted a few openings during Yi Zeming's attacks, but because he wasn't prepared earlier, he couldn't take advantage of them.

Yi Zeming seemed to be getting increasingly frustrated as beads of sweat were now rolling off his face as he roared

"Is dodging all you can do brat?"

Shun Long however ignored him as he continued to dodge repeatedly. Although his body had been reformed from scratch with the help of the 'Monarch's Eternal body', Yi Zeming's sword was definitely at rank 3 bronze grade if not higher, and Shun Long was sure that he wouldn't be able to withstand it just yet, if his fist were to directly clash with a rank 3 bronze grade sword.

Yi Zeming was starting to get tired after hacking with his sword unsuccessfully for such a long time. Hitting your opponent and missing them, were 2 completely different concepts. Constantly hitting the air affected not only your physical performance but your mental ability as well, as it both tired the mind and the body much more compared to if your attacks were getting blocked.

Yi Zeming had started hacking senselessly around him feeling extremely frustrated, as Shun Long's eyes narrowed while he gathered his strength in his right hand.

As Yi Zeming's sword once again slashed the air, Shun Long's right hand directly collided with Yi Zeming's lower ribs as a cracking sound was heard loudly before he was sent flying through the air.

Shun Long had used more than 80% of his strength in this punch and the results were devastating.

Yi Zeming's body flew through the air as it landed a few dozen meters away, on Yong Ru's and Lei Xiang's battlefield.

Chapter 70 - 70 Robbing back

"NO!!" A woman's scream was heard as Yi Zeming landed on the ground in the midst of their fight, while he was clutching tightly his left ribcage as he then screamed in pain.

Lei Xiang rushed to his side, and the fight suddenly halted while everyone's eyes turned towards Shun Long.

Yong Ru looked at him too as he laughed loudly drawing everyone's attention as he walked by his side.

"Haha as expected of brother Shun!"

Shun Long smiled at him as he asked

"Are you okay?"

"Just a few cuts here and there but I'm okay! I haven't been able to fight like this before in my life."

"I will make you pay for this!" Lei Xiang's voice was suddenly heard as she looked at Shun Long with eyes full of hatred

Shun Long however, looked at her disdainfully as he said

"Hand over your 'sect identifying jades' quickly."

"WHAT?" Lei Xiang's voice was incredulous as she couldn't believe what she had heard. This guy wanted to rob them instead?

Yong Ru looked at her as if he was looking at an idiot and asked

"Didn't you want to rob us first? Of course, you will lose your 'sect identifying jades' now. What do you have to complain about anyway? Isn't this a survival test in the first place?"

"Do you know who I am?" Lei Xiang completely ignored Yong Ru's 'logical words' as she looked at Shun Long and spoke in a threatening tone

Shun Long's look in his eyes chilled, when all of a sudden Yi Zeming struggled to stand up before he threw his sect jade over.

"Brother Yi!" Lei Xiang looked at Yi Zeming who in return simply shook his head at her.

Shun Long grabbed his sect jade and took his survival points that had already reached a staggering number of 43.

Lei Xiang gritted her teeth as she also threw her sect jade at Shun Long.

After Shun Long took Yi Zeming's, Lei Xiang's, as well as the rest of all their survival points, he now had close to 120 of them.

Yong Ru was laughing in schadenfreude as he looked at Lei Xiang whose eyes looked as they were about to spit fire after having lost all of her survival points and said in a mocking tone

"You are Lei Xiang right? Are you going to cry to your elder brother after you return to the 'floating cloud sect'? It's simply bad luck that you tried to rob me and brother Shun though."

"YOU..." Lei Xiang was extremely angry but she didn't know what to say as she watched Shun Long and Yong Ru leisurely heading deeper towards the inner region. After taking a deep breath she asked Yi Zeming

"Brother Yi what happened back then?"

Yi Zeming lowered his head as he whispered

"Xiang'er that guy is a monster! He is a body refining cultivator!"

"What? You mean that he is the same as Da Chong from the 'Iron-hardened sect'?"

"He is the same type of cultivator as Da Chong but he is definitely weaker than him in terms of strength. Da Chong beats people with his immense physical strength, while this kid used his speed to beat me. I'm not sure if he is a match for Da Chong at all, but he is definitely more than what we can handle now." Yi Zeming shook his head as he answered

"Hmph, since he is a member of my 'floating cloud sect' I will definitely have my brother teach him a lesson when we return." Lei Xiang frowned and her pretty face was filled with displeasure as she thought of this guy who stole all of her survival points.

Meanwhile Shun Long and Yong Ru were walking deeper inside as Yong Ru said

"Brother Shun, I have 3 important things to tell you"

Shun Long then looked at Yong Ru who continued speaking

"The first thing is this girl named Lei Xiang. Although she by herself isn't anything to worry about, I need to warn you about her elder brother. You have certainly heard about him since you are an outer disciple of the 'floating cloud sect', her elder brother is Lei Pong. Brother Shun, I'm saying this so you can be prepared when you return back in your sect, as this person may personally find trouble with you for messing with his sister. Although we didn't do anything that went against any sect rules, petty-minded people like Lei Xiang will definitely look to get back at us in the future."

Shun Long heard this and laughed coldly inside. If he managed to get first place in this sect examination and get the 'Blood Vermilion fruit' then he would probably be a match for Lei Pong by himself then.

As Yong Ru looked at Shun Long who seemed to be slightly smiling, he continued

"I'm certain that with your strength, brother Shun, you will definitely try to enter the top 3 in the overall sect rankings for this examination right? In that case there are 2 things that you need to pay attention to.

The survival points that you have gathered up to now, are not even enough to enter the top 100. I don't know exactly how many points you will need to enter the top 3, but it will definitely be at least 5.000 of them.

And also, since you aim to get in the top 3 rankings there are three people that you need to pay close attention to in this sect examination. These people are all at the peak of rank 3 in earth grade, but it is rumored that their strength is even a match for some early rank 4 earth grade experts."

Shun Long's eyes shone as he was intrigued by this. Seeing that he had captured his attention, Yong Ru said

"One of these 3 people, is my senior sister from the 'Roaring wind pavilion' and I'm sure that you have heard of her before, her name is Jiao Mingxia."