

Unfathomable 251

Chapter 251

He was finally at his destination, how it looked was a lot different than he had expected. When using his own eyes he could hardly see anything past ten meters in a circle around him. He had placed his flying sword back into his spatial ring by now and was just floating close to ground level.

"It's really quiet... too quiet... where are all the animals?"

He wasn't far away from the border wall now. He was expecting to get to the bottom of this but he couldn't see any bodies to tell him their tale. He did see some claw marks on the border wall and they weren't that old.

"Maybe I'll find something further in..."

This was still far away from the main Divine Fist Sect location. He used his system map to place a waypoint marker. He placed it on the location where Fang Heng was supposed to be. He was still surprised that there was no word from him whatsoever, it was odd but there could be one reason for it.

Before continuing further he decided to stop and land. He stretched out his hand while opening up his palm. He used some spiritual energy to slowly suck the mist towards his palm. He started condensing it together while gathering the fog up in a more solid form. He only stopped after getting about a marble-sized item, what he was left with was a cloudy dark gem that radiated strange energy.

He looked over it and could feel a peculiar demonic like aura coming off it. He gave it a little poke with his finger but nothing seemed to happen. The second test was similar but this time around he dispersed the holy energies from his aura that were protecting his finger.

There was a response. The moment his skin made contact with the concentrated mist he could feel his energies being drained. He quickly defended himself against them by reapplying his holy aura.

"It's draining my vital energies... but that's not all..."

He took out a teleportation beacon from his spatial ring. This one wasn't the same that he gave Fang Heng, it connected back to the United Element Sect's teleportation gate. He tried activating it but for some reason, it wasn't working. Something was blocking out the signal from going through entirely.

"So it's because of this mist..."

Zhang Dong had his answer to why he couldn't get in touch with the Divine Fist Sect elder. This fog was blocking out the signal.

He grasped the condensed fog with his hand and crushed it. The moment it made contact with his holy elemental energy it just crumbled into nothing.

He followed it up with another burst of his golden aura, this time he backed it by a lot more of his cultivation base. The bright energies spread through the area reaching about 100 meters in diameter. The mist was forced back or more likely the energies were destroyed due to the holy elementals.

The moment the area was cleared up he looked back to his teleportation beacon. With the fog slightly dissipated he couldn't feel a connection going through. He decided to fly up while dispersing the fog some more. With enough altitude, a signal started to finally go through.

It was too early to summon help for now but he used this chance to send his wife a quick message that he was inside.

Getting more people in here would be troublesome now. This mist was robbing people of their vital energies, he was only fine due to his unique cultivation method. No one from the nascent soul elders had a holy element to their cultivation method. They might be susceptible to this mist if they stayed too long in it. There were ways to help them out with it, but they would need to prepare some contingencies.

'I should probably wait.'

Zhang Dong decided to wait for now. He didn't need backup just yet and if he summoned help now the nascent soul elders in question could run out of spiritual energy. If that happened before they actually fought the monster and its minions it would be disastrous.

He floated back up and inspected the mist free area. The residual divine energy seemed to be keeping the fog back for now but he could feel it slowly closing in.

'This sect practices divine arts, they should have some kind of defensive formation utilizing it...'

He believed that these cultivators were still alive. The reason that the teleportation beacon wasn't working was because of this mist. Even with a protective formation in place, the signal wasn't still reaching him. This meant that the fog was probably still covering it from the top. If it was a dome-shaped barrier it all made sense.

The ground shook as he jumped upwards and headed inside of the Divine Sect Territory. He spread out his senses in all directions while examining the situation. There could have been survivors out here that could answer some questions.

He traveled further in, the mist continued to get thicker but he was unaffected by it. It looked more like it was trying to evade him instead.

After some time he finally came across a living being. It wasn't a human though but a beast, after further examining it he noticed something.

Frenzied Axe Beak [Qi Condensation 5th stage]

It was a bird-like beast. It looked similar to an ostrich with sharp taloned feet and a wedge-shaped beak. The most interesting part of the name was the prefix, the monster was in a frenzied state. This brought him back to the past when he first came across monsters like this.

'It's the same as that time...'

He spread out his senses into the surroundings and also glanced at his map while flying forward. There were more animals in the area and they were just wandering around without a purpose.

All of them had similar statuses after examination, it was clear that his favorite squid faced monster was involved. Just like in the past the monster was gathering other living beings and gaining strength. This mist that was all around the land was probably another step in its evolution.

‘The more of these it absorbs the stronger it will become, I must hurry...’

He needed to get to that city as fast as he could. He had no idea where those ruins were exactly and even with his speed it would probably take him days or even weeks to pinpoint the location on his own.

Zhang Dong took off into the air, flying high above the clouds and even getting above the mist. Everywhere he looked it was covered in white, it was as if a giant thick cloud was placed on the ground like a large white fuzzy blanket.

His plan was to continue right towards his destination, getting the Divine Fist Sect’s input and someone to guide him towards the ruins where the monster slumbered. Before that could happen though he finally came across his first human survivors.

They looked like regular people, they weren’t wearing any sect robes which probably meant that they were just commoners. Normally a person in Zhang Dong’s situation would see the bigger picture and leave them to their own fate. He would be wasting time and spiritual energy in helping here.

He wasn’t your usual senior though. He knew well that his emotions always got the better of him which caused a lot of trouble to him and the people he wanted to protect. But this was just how he was, if he saw someone in need and he was able to do something about it, he would.

The people he was looking at were a group of five. It looked like a family with two kids and a grandparent. The father was in front of them getting attacked by those frenzied birds he saw earlier. They all were weak cultivators at the Qi condensation level and the beast outnumbered them three to one. If he didn’t aid them, death or corruption was awaiting them.

He could see that they were wearing masks over their faces probably in hopes of not getting affected by this mist. They were still on their feet so these masks had to be working to some extent. He could also detect faint divine energy coming off from those, there was more to them than met the eye.

Zhang Dong finally sprung to action, doing it just in time. The man that was protecting the women and children was about to get clawed and pecked to death by those fearsome birds.

He was much stronger than those beasts, with a wave of his hand he just made them stop in their tracks entirely. It was as if time had stopped for everyone here. His golden energies dispersed the white mist from the area letting the folks here breathe in relief.

The people could barely speak as they saw their family member that was almost killed float up into the air. His wounds were healing themselves on their own in real-time. He was then dropped to his feet right in front of his wife by Zhang Dong.

He turned around to the immobile monsters and with a tiny motion of his finger made them explode into nothingness. They were all safe but he could see the fear in their eyes. The monster birds were replaced with an unknown cultivator that was many times stronger than anything here.

“Don’t worry I’m not going to hurt you, I just wanted to ask you, good people, a few questions.”

He spoke up first without waiting for them to reply. There were a few things he wanted to ask about before going any further.

“Y-yes senior! Whatever you wish! If there is anything this junior could do to repay this favor he will!”

The father started bowing instantly and his family members followed suit. He already felt stiffened by the tone they were addressing him with but this was just how people treated scary nascent soul elders like him, with unshaken respect.

“Relax, I’m here to help. Can you tell me when this mist started to appear and how are you resisting its effects with those masks...”

“The mist...”

The man gave out a sigh and stood up straight while looking out into the distance. He could notice that this elder in front of him was something special. He was even keeping this fog at bay with his cultivation.

“Great senior it happened about a week ago, it appeared out of nowhere in our cities and started to slowly sap our energies away....”

The man gave Zhang Dong the recap. The fog appeared unannounced and invaded their lands, at first they didn’t make much of it. They thought that it was only the weather playing tricks on them. Soon they discovered that it wasn’t the truth and they were slowly getting their spiritual energy sucked away.

The more energy they lost the thicker this mist became. Somehow this mist was growing while draining these people of their energies. After a few days, frenzied beast attacks started happening and the village these five lived in was overrun.

“And the masks? I can feel faint divine energies coming from it...”

Zhang Dong asked while the man looked back at his family. His wife gave him a nod and he finally removed his mask. On the mask, Zhang Dong could spot a flower petal, not really large but it was giving off a holy light.

“It’s a special flower that grows in these lands, it is able to slightly filter the air. With it we can move through the mist but not for too long...”

Zhang Dong identified the petal the moment he saw it. It was a type of spiritual sunflower growing in this world, this did explain how they were able to move through it without passing out.

He rubbed his chin in thought but before he could ask another question one of the children dropped down to her knees and started shouting out.

“Please save us senior!”

The young girl started sobbing while her family members tried to make her stop. From their perspective this elder here had done enough already, asking for more would be shameful. It could also get them all in trouble.

‘I was afraid that this would happen...’

He looked at the girl that was about the age of twelve, her face covered in snot and tears.

Chapter 252

Zhang Dong was criminally susceptible to the cries of women, even worse if it were children involved. This all due to him becoming a father himself. It would be more reasonable to leave these people here and continue towards the main location of the Divine Fist Sect.

He might lose a lot of time if he started helping everyone along the way. The problem was that it could cost people's lives. Even now if he didn't intervene here five lives would have been extinguished. If he let something like this happen when being in close range of helping here, he would hate himself later on.

This was something that he had started and now he needed to see it through to the end. In his head, he now was responsible for these five people. He would need to see it through to the end, he would also be able to gain some more information after checking out their village.

"Is it here?"

"Y-yes great senior, just a bit further."

The family head said while looking down. The five of the people that Zhang Dong saved were surrounded by a bubble of golden energy. They were flying through the air at astonishing speeds. They were quite baffled by this display of might as they had never seen a cultivator of his caliber before.

Zhang Dong had asked about their circumstances. The five had escaped from the village together after some frenzied beasts attacked it. The people in it took out quite a bit but they were overrun by the constant beast tide.

They believed that there still were people there as their village grew out of those special sunflowers. The fog wasn't able to penetrate past those fields and some people supposedly fled towards them.

"You were speaking the truth, I can sense some people in that direction..."

He arrived at the spot where the village was and could see widespread destruction. The buildings were mostly made from wood which didn't pose much of a problem for the enraged beasts. With the cultivation boosts, they were getting from the frenzied state it was even easier.

He could feel a large gathering of people in one particular building. The house wasn't big but there were at least 30 people in it. Outside of it, there was a field with those sunflowers. These spiritual plants were giving off a faint divine aura, even this was apparently enough to force the mist away.

'The mist isn't penetrating further... no wait... it is moving slightly...'

With the help of his enhanced senses, he could tell that fog was inching further in. It was in millimeters but it was advancing. Probably in a couple of days, it would seep all the way into the field. He could also tell that the plants were slowly dying, they were not enough to combat this demonic miasma.

He pointed his finger down from the air while concentrating. The people from the side looked with interest as an electrical discharge was visible at his digit's tip.

Soon a bolt of golden lightning shot out. It traveled with immense speed and connected with one of the beasts below. The monster exploded into dust the moment the bolt of lightning made contact with it.

The lightning didn't just stop there, no it traveled on to the next creature closest to it. In a matter of moments the lightning starter arcing from monster to monster taking out each one in the vicinity of the village.

"Incredible..."

"Such might..."

The family of Qi Condensation cultivators couldn't believe what they were seeing. The mass of monsters that had caused them so much trouble was dead in a couple of seconds. This master had taken them out with just one attack. It seemed as easy as breathing to him, truly unfathomable might.

"That's all of them."

He nodded while the people behind him had their jaws down. While they were coming to terms with his show of strength, he decided to land on that field of sunflowers. The people in the farmhouse peeked out and could tell that a master had come. One of them moved outside while the rest remained inside.

"Honorable Senior have you arrived to aid us?"

He clasped his hands while looking past Zhang Dong and clearly saw the family of five that he knew.

"Something like that, I don't have much time. I will get to the bottom of this but for now, you will have to stay here and wait."

Zhang Dong spoke out while the old man moved his head down, he looked a bit saddened after hearing what he had to say. He probably hoped that this mysterious elder would somehow aid them in this time of need.

"Don't worry, you will be safe here...just wait a moment..."

He flew up into the sky and pointed both of his hands down while having his index fingers extended. His hands started moving at an astonishing speed, the people below could only see them blurring around. No one was sure what he was doing but not like they were brave enough to speak up. He was drawing lines into the earth below, strange symbols were being placed around the farm. He was drawing a formation while using the divine sunflower plants as a power source. After a moment it was all finished the formation sprung into action and pushed the mist away even further.

The village that was covered by the thick miasma was being slowly washed clean from it. Zhang Dong flew down, he took out a pill from his spatial ring and threw it at the sunflower field. He made a crushing motion with his fist which made the pill explode into many small particles. These seeped into the ground and nourished it, in a matter of seconds the plants grew twice in size while radiating, even more, divine power.

"T-this is..."

"I have placed a defensive formation around your village, it will use this field as the core. The demonic miasma won't seep into it for the time being and the weaker demons will stay away."

The village people would be safe against the mist and probably most of the monsters lurking outside. With the nourishing pill that he inserted into the soil, the sunflowers should last for a couple of weeks. He thought that he would have things resolved by that time.

“Well, then I must be on my way.”

He was about to go. He felt like he had done enough and the people here would be safe enough with this defensive formation. Before he could leave though, one of the villagers called out with tears in their eyes.

“Please wait senior!”

It was a young man in his twenties, his cultivation was a bit higher than the rest of the people here. The others looked at him with surprise, probably still afraid of Zhang Dong’s motives but at this point, they were willing to put their trust in him. With that they let the man speak without being frightened that Zhang Dong would take it as being rude.

“M-my wife... she has been affected by the strange fog there are also others...”

“Affected by the fog?”

He looked to the farmhouse with narrowed eyes. He had felt for life signatures but didn’t really go into it further. He inspected the insides once more but this time doing a more thorough search.

“This is...”

They were humans in there but he could feel something else, something was hiding inside of them. It was giving off a strange aura very similar to the frenzied monsters outside.

“Bring them all outside!”

He gave out the order while the villagers nodded and scrambled inside the house to bring out the affected people. The people started being brought outside, he could tell by one look that something was wrong. For one thing, they were all tied up and their mouths were even gagged.

There were four people affected, after peeking at their status with his system he could clearly see that they all had the ‘frenzied’ status. Without wasting much time he waved his hand to bring one of the bound people over.

It was the wife of the man that brought his attention to them. He didn’t remove the bindings for now while he started the examination. The people saw him walking around the floating woman while sometimes poking her body with his index finger.

“Hm... interesting...”

Zhang Dong had done extensive research in healing. It had been five years since the war was over so he had ample time. It wouldn’t be a stretch to consider him one of the best healers in the whole empire. Along with his extensive book knowledge, he had a high cultivation realm. Having a doctor or a healer reach his stage was truly rare.

“I see what the problem is... Okay everyone please stand back.”

Everyone backed away as he ordered, the only one that wasn't going back that far was the woman's husband. He could understand the sentiment so he didn't say anything about it.

With a flick of a wrist, multiple silver needles shot out from his spatial ring. With another flick, the bindings were removed along with the gag. The moment that came off the woman's maddened incoherent screams could be heard.

The people gasped slightly worried that the woman would attack someone. She wasn't able to move though, even though the ropes were gone her whole body couldn't move. Zhang Dong was keeping her in check with his immense spiritual energy.

The silver needles flew forward guided by him towards specific points in the woman's body. In a matter of seconds, she looked like a pincushion. His golden energies seeped into her body soon afterward which made her shine brightly.

There was almost an immediate reaction to this treatment. The woman's eyes bulged out and she opened her mouth wide. A thick dark mist cloud shot out from it, followed by something wicked.

Zhang Dong knew what it was as he had spotted this thing in the woman's body. He used his holy energies to force this thing outside.

"No, you don't!"

A specially prepared needle that was larger than the rest shot upwards. A strange high pitched sound was heard by the people. They all looked up, their eyes bulged in surprise at what they saw.

It was some kind of strange worm similar to a leech. It had no eyes but many long thin tendrils that were flailing around in all directions. The creature's body soon crumbled into dust after getting pierced by Zhang Dong's needle.

The woman's body was then gently guided to the ground, her pale complexion becoming rosier after the treatment.

During the examination, he noticed some kind of bug inside the woman. The small long noodle-like appendages connected directly to her brain. The creature had taken over her body in this way. The treatment forced the strange creature to escape while the holy energies nursed her body back to health without causing brain damage.

This wasn't an easy thing to do, one misstep and the patient could be put in a vegetable state. Luckily Zhang Dong was a proficient doctor who had treated many patients through all these years already.

"She should be fine, the creature has left her body but it might take some time before she wakes up. Now I'll take care of the rest. There could be some side effects like short term memory loss."

There were three more patients and he couldn't do this too fast as there was a probability of harming them. The more entrenched in the nervous system the creatures were the harder it became to pry them away.

'If I had the time I could make pills to simulate this healing process. I should probably capture one of these things as a sample.'

He gave out a sigh and made the other affected by the parasitic monster float over towards him. There was no time to wait, he needed to get to the source before it was too late.

Chapter 253

All of the villagers bowed down before him as if he was some kind of divine being. He had healed their sick and even set up a small defensive formation to keep them safe from harm. In their hearts, he was already an unfathomable being worthy of worship and devotion.

When he was about to remove himself from this village one of the elders spoke up. It was an old man that used to be the village head before this all happened.

"P-please honorable senior, grace us with your name, we will be sure to repay this favor in the future!"

The man's eyes were sparkling with devotion and Zhang Dong could already tell that he was in full worshiping mode. This happened from time to time when he pulled off stunts like this so he was used to playing the part.

"There is no need to know my name... but if you ever come across someone from the United Element Sect or one of their allies, please give them aid. Now I bid you farewell."

He left on that note. Maybe in the future, these people could repay him by helping one of his sect members. The world was vast and even these people could end up entangled with his sect. One of the young ones could grow up to be a powerful master that aids them in the time of need.

'Think I've read too many novels...'

He chuckled to himself while flying away as the scenario that he just thought about sounded like your generic fantasy setting. A mysterious master saves a village, someone from it then sets out on a grand adventure to find this benefactor and then they meet up many years later.

'Karma is a thing here, so getting a lot of it might be a good idea. As long as it isn't bad karma...'

He continued with his journey, the village was like a tiny dot without any mist around it now. He could only hope that the people living there would be fine from now on.

There were many other villages along the way towards the main city the Divine Fist Sect was stationed. He couldn't make a stop at each one of them, he would spend days clearing this mist himself like this.

'I need help... '

Zhang Dong realized that doing this alone would only cause more casualties to happen. He could very well see himself going from village to village, city to city, and helping people out by placing formations against the mist.

This would be like putting a bandaid on a severed leg. The true source of this miasma was elsewhere and even if he visited every single city in this region nothing would be solved. The fog would probably increase in its intensity and cause the lesser formations to crumble.

He activated his secret technique, the Embodiment of the Thunder God saw the light of day again. His entire body was covered with lightning bolts and his muscles expanded.

The increase in holy energies in the area caused this mist to vanish almost instantly as he propelled himself forward. What was left behind was a hundred-meter wide tunnel, golden arcs of lightning crackling inside of it as he flew forward.

It pained him but he decided to turn a blind eye to the people in the immediate area he was in. He saw the bigger picture but this would probably cause some of the people here to be lost. He would need to live with this decision but in the long run, it would save more lives, at least that is what he was telling himself while gritting his teeth.

He shut off his senses from the surroundings, knowing well that if he felt someone in need calling out that he would stop in his tracks and intervene. The fastest way of solving this problem was by taking it out at the root.

While flying forward he activated his system window. He needed to send a message to his wife and sect. Their help would be needed soon. He previously thought that he would be fighting the monster at the location it was recuperating. A mistake was made, the mist was an unexpected variable with which he would be needing aid from his people.

“Liena I need you to do something...”

After sending it he pushed his cultivation to its limit and propelled himself towards his destination. Everything blurred and lightning crackled as he booked it. With this speed, he was finally able to arrive at his destination, the Divine Fist Sect’s main location.

He stopped while looking at the waypoint on his system map. His glowing lightning form subsided and he let out a sigh. He had gone through quite a bit of his spiritual energy to arrive here this fast. Even though his body was already past the old human limitations he was still sweating.

‘This doesn’t look good either...’

He was floating a couple of kilometers away from the main sect site. Below him was a peculiar sight though. Many monsters and beasts were slowly walking towards where the sect was located. There were all types of beasts and monstrosities down there, even ones that were previously humans.

All of them were heading in one direction and that was a sect covered in a defensive formation. It was just like he had presumed, the sect was still there but it wasn’t quite untouched.

The city he was seeing here was built into some kind of giant rocky formation. It was as if the whole place was placed in a hole after a meteorite hit. The middle spot was slightly elevated and that was also where the main castle-like structure was. There was a large tower standing tall, he could even feel powerful divine energies coming off from it.

The rest of the city was below ground level and it was surrounded from all sides by natural rocky walls. He could see that the people living here had inserted their own structures into those natural walls. There were two giant towers constructed with a main gate in the middle. It looked like this city only had one main entrance.

The structures had the usual eastern fantasy vibe to them. There were giant pagodas and buildings with slanted roofs everywhere and there was a staggering amount of them. The whole area where these structures were was surrounded by a faint golden barrier that exuded divine energies.

These energies were similar to his own holy elemental but they were of lesser quality. They were from a lesser dao of the divine which took its might from the greater dao that he was still learning.

‘That divine aura is faint... it’s not going to last more than a day unless they recharge it somehow...’

He wasn’t sure how things looked on the inside but from his standpoint, it was looking grim. There were millions of monsters going towards this defensive formation and at the front, he could even see them slamming their bodies into it.

The mist was everywhere, its concentration was higher than the one back in the village he saved. This meant that he was probably a lot closer to the source.

Zhang Dong had arrived here in a flashy way so the monsters and the people in the city were very much aware of his presence. It didn’t take long for some of the beasts that had flying capabilities to say hello.

“Not so fast ugly face...”

A monster that looked like a pterodactyl approached him. The most characteristic part besides the long beak and the webbed wings were the mass of tentacles sticking out of its head. They had clearly pierced this creature’s brain and were now in charge of its motor functions.

It was quite large, the size of a truck. It opened its large beak to reveal razor-sharp teeth and even more tentacles. It had chosen its opponent poorly though as before it could reach Zhang Dong it found itself cut into a thousand tiny pieces by his blade.

The monster wasn’t alone, there were many similar ones right behind it with more odd-looking companions. Some he recognized as altered flying beasts, there was even one that looked like a phoenix just instead of the fire it was made from more black tentacles.

There were many opponents but none of them was above the core formation level. They weren’t his match and after a couple of swings of his blade, they were turned into sashimi. Their body parts landed down below to only be devoured by the mass of monsters on the ground.

Some of the beasts even fused with the body parts that he had sliced apart. They created new fused monstrosities that looked like they were straight out of a horror flick.

Zhang Dong was like a light bulb in the dark, the monsters that had previously focused on the Divine Fist Sect’s defenses quickly turned around. They focused on the person in the sky and tried to devour him. Luckily for him, they had only numbers on their side.

He flew towards the city at a moderate pace while taking out anything that got in range of his blade. With his sword heart, nothing could stand in his way. The beasts and creatures on the ground clamored, the tentacles from their bodies extending upwards but when they got close to his radiant aura they crumbled into dust.

The people inside the city could clearly see him approaching slowly. He also made sure that he was flashy in his movement that they would take notice.

Zhang Dong had a bit of a flashback to the old times. To the time he aided his clan members during the fight against the other clans. This had a very similar feeling to it, but this time around he didn’t need to be careful he could just force his way in without any reservation.

.....

“W-who is that person? The beasts stand no chance and he can move in that demonic mist without a problem!”

A Divine Sect elder that was standing on one of the watchtowers said while looking at Zhang Dong flying over. A disciple had already been dispatched to alert the grand elder who was the only nascent soul elder capable of fighting.

Fang Heng was this person, he was Fang Meili’s grandfather that Zhang Dong had rescued not so long ago. He appeared at the watchtower next to the core formation elder that was responsible here. Even before getting a report, he shouted out so that everyone here could hear him.

“Lower the power to the formation and open a path for Senior Dong!”

The man looked tired and had bags under his eyes. He was also a lot thinner than the last time Zhang Dong had seen him. He thought that all hope was lost and that no help would be coming but now there was some light at the end of the tunnel.

“Well? What are you waiting for!”

He barked out the order once more as the sect elders weren’t sure about going through with this. They knew that opening up the barrier would weaken it exponentially. There would be no next time after that and the monsters would invade the city. Their elder knew this man though and he was exuding a tremendous amount of divine spiritual energy, he looked like an ally.

A small human size hole opened up for Zhang Dong who promptly sliced up the remaining flying enemies and dove inside. The people that greeted him started bowing but before they could finish and before Fang Heng could greet him, Zhang Dong waved his hand for them to stop.

“Yeah, yeah... honorable senior this... esteemed elder that. Stop wasting time and show me the way to your grand defensive formation, we have some work to do!”

He said in a commanding voice while descending down. It was time to bring his sect members over and take the fight to these monsters.

Chapter 254

Fang Heng looked at the white-haired man that was walking in front of him. This was the person that had aided his granddaughter in the banquet. He didn’t expect to see him here of all places.

He had received a device to set up a teleportation gate with him but it wasn’t working. When he and some of his sect members examined it further they found out the problem. It was this blasted mist. It was somehow blocking out the signal from traveling further.

There was a proposition of carrying it above clouds but that would put many lives at risk. There were many monsters outside the protective formation that would instantly swarm them. He was the only nascent cultivator there that would be able to contend with these beasts.

His allies were mostly at lower realms and these creatures outnumbered them one to a hundred. They had no way of knowing if that plan would even work. Even if they got this beacon high enough for the signal to go through. There was no guarantee that the man that gave him it would appear instantly.

They had abandoned this idea, taking a more passive approach while waiting. They were hopeful that this mist would clear up with time but instead it was only getting thicker.

“So, the mist appeared even before you returned?”

Fang Heng’s thoughts were interrupted as Zhang Dong spoke up to ask him a question.

“Yes senior, it began going through the lands about the same time we arrived at the banquet. It wasn’t as bad as this when I arrived here... but it has been getting worse with time passing...”

Zhang Dong nodded while rubbing his chin.

“So it started after you forced that monster back into its lair... it might have changed strategies. How long has this attack been going on for?”

Fang Heng nodded as Zhang Dong pointed this out. This was also what he and the people from his sect deducted. With the mist, the beasts outside, and even the humans were all corrupted by something. If the monster was intelligent it would try to take care of their enemies with the help of its minions, it was a basic strategy.

“It started with my return, with each day the monsters get stronger and our defensive formation weakens. These beings are susceptible to our divine arts but there are just too many. If this continues the array won’t last for more than a few days...”

Fang Heng replied while moving his head down in distraught. He hasn’t been able to sleep for days and was slowly reaching the end of his rope. But after seeing Zhang Dong in action he was feeling invigorated. The power that he showed outside was immense, he took out a quarter of the monsters outside just by himself while slowly approaching. With him around Heng was feeling hopeful once more.

“First let me look at your grand formation, I must strengthen it. This miasma is blocking out my teleportation treasures, I need to seek aid from my sect members. This is not something I can take care of myself.”

Zhang Dong proclaimed, the people next to him were surprised that someone of his status was so humble. He actually was willing to say that he wasn’t able to take care of this situation even with the immense amount of power that he wielded.

He was led towards the large castle structure in the middle of the meteor impact. It had a giant tower right in the middle that looked like a lighthouse. There was a bright yellow light shining from within it. The light slowly moved clockwise in a circular pattern while illuminating the whole sect.

This was one of the treasures that the Divine Fist Sect was proud of. It was a holy stone that radiated divine Qi, it was placed in the middle of a massive formation and it was powering it. The only problem was that the light was slowly dimming, with each spin the brightness dwindled by a small fraction.

The two nascent soul elders headed up towards this lighthouse. Fang Heng was skeptical about what Zhang Dong could do but he did possess one of the purest divine auras that he had ever seen. It was even above their sect leader and also above any of the hidden council members.

Those were also down to only three, they were all resting in the middle of this lighthouse. Sleeping in a self-induced coma as they had almost given up their lives to fight against that monstrosity.

“Interesting...”

Zhang Dong looked at the tennis ball-sized gem inside of this ‘lighthouse’. It looked like a yellow diamond and was giving off a strong divine aura. It was similar to his own but wasn’t quite there when it came to purity. It was also running low on spiritual energy, luckily for the Divine Fist Sect, he had looked into spiritual battery technology.

With a slight wave of the wrist, his spatial ring was activated and three small cubes appeared. Fang Heng looked with interest at the items Zhang Dong produced. These items were the size of a regular rubix cube, they were silver and shiny. Their surface was covered with strange runic patterns that the older elder had no way of discerning.

Zhang Dong didn’t want to waste time. He moved his hand forward and with the help of his cultivation base the cubes floated towards the shiny gem. The cubes formed a triangle around its target while gently floating around it.

With a snap of his finger, the treasures that were used for storing vast amounts of spiritual energy were activated. Thanks to the large spirit vein running under his sect Zhang Dong was able to produce these items. They were lesser versions of the cubes that he discovered previously in his travels.

Fang Heng’s eyes opened wide as he saw Zhang Dong performing some kind of strange hand movements. As he did small arcs of electricity started shooting out of those small cubes. First, they connected to each other via those electrical passages.

The three cubes started floating faster and faster while the arcs of electricity connected them together. With a bit of time those bolts of energy connected with the gem in the middle. It started out slowly but soon enough the lighthouse treasure started radiating bright light.

There was something off, Fang Heng felt that the energy that this treasure was giving off was vastly greater than what it was previously capable of. The faint yellow light was also changing into a deeper color, it looked more akin to Zhang Dong’s aura that was pure gold.

A strange buzzing sound filled the entire lighthouse as the cubes started spinning faster than a plane’s propeller. This was followed by an explosion of energy that caused the light to burst in all directions.

The people from the sect that were waiting outside the tower were hearing all of this while standing outside. This caused them to look up high at the strange phenomenon.

“W-what is that?”

They were baffled by what was happening, they were all old men and women that had spent all of their life here. This beacon of light had stood there illuminating their lives since they were children.

After that cultivator from the United Element Sect had entered it changed. Instead of the faint yellow light that they were used to, they were greeted with a deeper golden color that illuminated their sect brighter than before.

The protective shield that was close to flickering out of existence was invigorated almost instantly. The shield expanded in scope while pushing the outside monsters back. The ones that were the closest started burning up. It was as if the holy light was burning these demons to cinders, angry at their unholy existence.

"I'll have to apologize for what I'm about to do, but this is necessary for now..."

"Huh?"

Fang Heng wasn't sure what to expect but he saw Zhang Dong cracking his fist together. Then he pulled it back while gathering his spiritual energy into it. It was clear to him that he was winding up for a punch. Before he could stop him or ask about what he was aiming at the fist was thrown toward the ceiling.

A large boom reverberated throughout the whole sect area and the people below were stupefied even more. Their holy beacon of light, the divine lighthouse of legends that was their sect's symbol had its top blown right off. They dodged to the side while the white marble rocks crumbled down below.

The moment the tower's ceiling was opened the light shot up through it. This was Zhang Dong's aim. He needed this holy light that he empowered with a support array and his battery cubes to go higher. To reach the skies and to part the clouds along with this miasma that was blocking out the signal to his teleportation beacon.

So it did, the burst of light caused the protective formation to expand even further than before. The monsters that were circling above them in the hopes to attack were quickly turned to grilled tentacle meat.

Zhang Dong shouted out while moving his hand forward. He wasn't done yet, there wasn't quite enough power flowing into this divine treasure. There was also a little problem with the whole procedure, the gem started to crack, it was unable to handle so much spiritual energy at one go.

Fang Heng also saw this, sweat appearing on his forehead as he didn't know what he should do. He wasn't someone that was versed in holy treasures, nor was he a craftsman. Besides cultivation, he had no other passions so this was above him. He looked to the white-haired man that was exuding an even brighter glow than this whole lighthouse. It was up to him to take care of this, if he failed a battle against a horde of monsters was waiting for them.

Zhang Dong utilized all of his knowledge that he had gained in the last five years to mend this fissure. The gem was nothing more than a source of power that converted spiritual energy into divine might. But due to the abrupt rise in this spiritual energy, it was being overloaded, he just needed to streamline the process for it to stabilize.

It was simple in theory but he was rushing which caused him to actually blunder. If he had done it slower the gem would have probably not cracked at all. He now needed to aid it with his own cultivation base. Luckily the healing energies that he possessed would work on this item as well, after a couple of moments the cracks that were previously there started mending themselves back.

The whole formation churned with astonishing power as it finally stabilized itself. The whole Divine Fist Sect was bathed in golden light. The disciples, elders, and even the animals here quickly noticed the change in the divine aura that was now many times purer. Some of the people could even feel their wounds being mended by just being closer to the tower of light.

“T-this is... so pure... such a refined saintly glow... how is this possible?”

Fang Heng had to cover his eyes for a moment as the glow was even too bright for him. He could feel invigorated by just being in the presence of this enhanced holy formation. He could even tell that some of his old bottlenecks were getting cleared up. Old doors that remained shut for ages were getting forced to open and he knew that if he stayed here to cultivate he might even reach the late stage.

“Phew...I mean... It went just as planned, now I should be able to call my sect members!”

Zhang Dong quickly corrected himself while trying to appear as the unfathomable senior that everyone saw him as. The formation was in full swing now, what remained was to get his people over here and go kick some monster ass.

Chapter 255

Zhang Liena was walking through one of the corridors in her mansion. It had been about a week since her son was born. Normally it would take at least a month to get back to full health. With the technology that her husband supplied the sect with the time required went down dramatically.

She was just returning from one of the better sect doctors. The man didn't hold a candle to her husband but he was the next best thing. She was given the seal of approval, now was the time to get ready to move out. Her husband had sent her a message that he had arrived at the Divine Fist Sect headquarters and that he would be setting up a teleportation gate.

He also sent another message that worried her. Previously the plan was for only the nascent soul elders to move out. Now on the other hand she was supposed to bring over more people. He gave her instructions to take the formation masters as well as the healers that were proficient with holy energies.

Zhang Dong had set up various branches of his own original dao. There were special sections that trained people in his advanced heavenly lightning skills. The other one was for his healing dao with the holy spiritual energy. Even with those two created there was no one who was proficient in both as him. Even his two current disciples had a hard time in adding a second dao to their repertoire.

Both of them tried with limited success, Liena even let her younger sister try one of them out but she failed miserably with both. Nuana her sister was handed the wind cultivation method that she herself was cultivating instead. She already knew that Zhang Dong was the person that made him and not his so-called master, Wei Hung.

While she continued to walk she thought back to the time the two got married. She had been quite eager to be accepted as Zhang Dong's bride. Who wouldn't be? He was a young nascent soul master, any woman in her position would have given herself to someone like him. He was handsome, strong, and still young with a bright future ahead. There wasn't really anyone that could match him in his age bracket.

She might have gone through with the wedding with superficial reasoning. At that time she thought that she was in love, there was a sense of longing to be together with that man. In time she realized that it wasn't that easy.

It was more due to her upbringing that this sense of wanting originated. He was just the perfect partner for any young lady at her age. He was just the right business choice with the best future prospect out of them all.

She came to a stop and glanced to the side. There she could see her young daughter running around along with some of the maids, her grandfather was also there. Liena started smiling as her little boy was also out there. He was sleeping in a special protective crib that would keep him warm even in cold weather.

'That might have been then... but now I see that the choice was the only right one.'

After some time passed she noticed that her stone-faced husband wasn't quite the man that she thought he was. The word that she would describe him the most would be 'quirky'. He would put up a facade to keep people out but after it melted, his true character surfaced.

Zhang Dong the Patriarch that everyone loved was just a face that he used. In reality, he was very awkward and even shy. He had trouble in expressing his emotions at first but the two had crossed that bridge with time.

Even now Liena remembered one of the times that he prepared a surprise for her. It was exactly a year after they got married. He called it an 'anniversary', it was quite the novel experience. There was a surprise dinner party with only the two of them at a faraway location. A nice moonlight dinner with just the two of them. The way that he blushed that time was something that she would remember fondly to this day.

'Think it was since then...'

"Matriarch Liena, we are ready for your inspection. Lord Qiang has been informed and he will be arriving shortly."

Her train of thought got interrupted after she arrived at her destination. This was a hidden gathering room with enough space for over a thousand people to fit in. This would be also close to the number of sect brothers and sisters that would be attending in this expedition.

"Ah yes, tell him to hurry up, we can't have the Patriarch wait after he activates the teleportation gate."

She covered her face with one of her battle fans while speaking. These weapons were brand new and of the heaven grading, specially made by her husband. It was also one of the anniversary gifts that he had offered her.

Actually, after the two had started doing these anniversary events the sect people picked up on the trend. It started to be popular for couples to do things such as this. Both of them would give each other some kind of gift each year.

This left Liena in a bit of a bind. She wasn't that good at making items and could only spend spirit stones on buying them from other people. She tried making up that gap in other fields that her husband greatly appreciated.

She blushed a bit after thinking about that last part. The person that called out to her was still there but couldn't see her face that was behind that large jade green fan. She decided to move forward to inspect her troops.

She could see many people in various robes. There were about a hundred sect elders here that were above the core formation level. After five years of cultivating most of the elders that were stuck at the foundation establishment realm made a breakthrough. With the spirit vein in place and Zhang Dong's improved cultivation manuals, everyone soared.

The United Element Sect was slowly making up for the time. They now had a similar number of core formation seniors to similar-sized sects. With the better cultivation methods, they were also of higher quality.

"Yes, like that. Please make sure to form a line towards the teleportation gate, the moment the Patriarch activates the beacon we will move through. We aren't sure what will be on the other side so be ready for battle!"

There was a large teleportation gate in the middle of this room. It was connected to the beacons that Zhang Dong had with him. The sect members clasped their hands and nodded.

The people that were gathered here were composed mostly of core and inner disciples and also elders. They were the backbone of the new generation that was still developing, within time some of them were primed to reach the nascent soul level.

"Did someone say battle?"

Liena looked to the side and spotted a large red-haired man flying over. She covered half of her face with her fan while looking him over.

This was Huo Qiang, the other founding member besides her and Zhang Dong. He was wearing a tight-fitting black shirt that showed off his pecks. His thick arms were covered by intricate looking ruby gauntlets, their thickness only made the man's arms look larger.

She still didn't like Qiang all that much. The man was self-centered and haughty, he was of the mindset that fighting was the end all be all. Liena also disliked the fact that he had a large harem of ladies stashed away in his estate. Her husband was different, he was monogamous, something rarely seen in this world of cultivation.

"You finally graced us with your presence, Qiang?"

Qiang smirked while looking at Liena. Both of them started staring at each other while the disciples and other elders sweated at the sidelines. Everyone here knew that these two didn't see eye to eye. The only person who could actually control them wasn't here so they were afraid that a fight might break out.

"Are those wrinkles that I see?"

“What did you say? Did your brain shrink even more?”

Qiang laughed out while throwing a small jab at Liena. She on the other hand quickly retailed with a few chosen words. The people around them started backing away even more, sweat covered their foreheads instantly. Luckily for them, there were two people present that could diffuse the situation.

“Please Aunt and Uncle calm down, you are scaring the other disciples.”

A person moved between the two. He had a similar look to the fabled Patriarch. His hair was pure white and he was very dashing. His name was Zhang Liu and he was Zhang Dong’s disciple.

“Yes, why don’t we drink some tea before Master opens up the teleportation gate?”

The second one was a white-haired maiden. She was the most beautiful woman in the sect from the junior generation. Her name was Zhang Xue and she was also Zhang Dong’s disciple. A bit further away was another young woman, this one had golden hair, her name was Fang Meili.

Liena turned her head to the side while giving out a sound of discomfort with her mouth. Qiang on the other hand shrugged as if this was something that he was already used to and didn’t care about.

She looked at the blond girl at the side and then back to Zhang Xue that was with her. She knew that her husband brought over a lady from the city that he had come from. The girl looked to be close to twenty years of age and was quite the beauty. Liena was out of commission for a week so she didn’t have the time to meet her.

Some people even started spreading rumors that she was a concubine that Zhang Dong brought over. This was something that her husband wouldn’t do. She was quite confident about this, even more after she examined the girl in front of her. Fang Meili’s lacked a set of assets that would make her husband interested in her. It would be highly unlikely for her husband to be attracted to this girl that was a bit too skinny for his tastes.

“This is cousin Meili, Master invited her into the sect, she is a relative from grandfather’s side...”

Zhang Xue moved her head a bit to the side while blushing. By just mentioning Zhang Jin everyone in here knew how this Meili was related to everyone.

“Is that so,... You have my condolences.”

Liena nodded while rolling her eyes. She had no idea how her husband was related to ‘that thing’. How one person’s desires could take over reasoning like that baffled this Matriarch greatly. She was really glad that her husband didn’t do these sorts of things when he went away. If he was like Qiang or Jin there would be quite a bit of babies running around the premises already.

Meili looked at Liena with a strange look on her face. The girl wasn’t sure why but whenever this Zhang Jin was mentioned people tended to look away. She herself had evaded meeting her ancestor from the other side of the family. Somehow Zhang Xue had always evaded questions about him whenever she prodded for answers.

Everyone was ready for departure and just in time as Liena received a message from her husband. Following it the gate received the coordinates for its activation. It was time to depart and show off the skills of the United Element Sect.

Chapter 256

Zhang Dong had gotten the lighthouse running up again. The holy light filled the entire city and bathed its citizens with healing energies. These were much purer than the divine ones that they were used to. The people that were stuck in lower cultivation realms could feel themselves advancing by just being in the presence of this energy.

He had destroyed the roof of this tower but the people here didn't care. They were looking at Zhang Dong with worship in their eyes and he knew it. This was the usual way people in this world reacted when someone above them helped them on their cultivation journey. They were probably already considering him half a teacher by this point.

This wasn't why he was here though, the miasma was cleared up. It was time to call over his people to this place.

"Elder Heng, I need a wide plot of land to set up the teleportation array..."

"Elder Heng?"

Zhang Dong called out twice while Fang Heng spaced out. The old man was still looking at the dazzling golden gem in the middle of the lighthouse. He was also staring at the big hole in the ceiling.

"Ah? Yes, excuse me for my rudeness Senior."

The old man shook his head around while he gathered his thoughts. Zhang Dong gave him some time to relax as he knew that what he did here was unprecedented.

"Please follow me, We have already prepared an area."

The two nascent soul masters finally descended from the tower. Both of them flew down and into an open field. The ground was pure white marble and he could see a large fountain right in the middle. There were various statues here and there but most of it was just open space. It was in front of the large lighthouse and probably just a spot for people to gather or look at it.

"Yes, this will do. After I set up the teleportation gate please guide me to your sect elders, I might be able to heal them. It would be best if we had more people helping our cause."

Zhang Dong wanted to examine the people that went against the upgraded version of his old enemy. Supposedly the sect leader was one of the survivors. All of them practiced some form of divine arts so they would come in handy in the coming battle.

Elder Heng nodded and quickly passed on the information to some of his sect members. They would prepare everything as well as clear up the rubble from the partially destroyed divine lighthouse.

"That would be reassuring, the sect leader and the other elders are beneath this lighthouse. With the new divine energies filling it they might recover much faster, Senior Dong. If you wish to see them, I will guide you myself." "Good, let us begin then. This won't take long."

Zhang Dong pulled out the teleportation beacon that he had brought over from home. If it was him he could use the system to teleport to such a device but it wouldn't be that easy for his sect members to do

the same. He needed to create a teleportation array here along with a teleportation gate. It would need to be connected to the one at his sect ground and only then would his troops be able to come here.

He waved his hand, his spatial ring was activated once more and a large metallic box dropped down to the ground. It looked like a wide platform, it seemed quite heavy as the floor buckled under the pressure creating some cracks.

Other people from the Divine Fist Sect gathered around. Everyone was curious about what this man was capable of. After what he did to their tower they were taking notes, it was like looking at a hidden master giving them pointers.

After the strange piece of metal was placed Zhang Dong reached out with his hand. He pushed out a faint amount of spiritual energy while pointing at it. As it seeped into the piece of metal the people around here could hear faint crackling noises.

The large piece of metal started moving into action. First, more runes appeared on it before it started changing shape. The metal started unfolding itself and in a short time, a round object that looked like a giant halo appeared before them. At the base, it still had a metallic platform on which it was balancing its weight.

Zhang Dong took out the cube-shaped teleportation beacon and threw it towards this halo. The cube floated towards it and embedded itself into the base where there was a small square spot for it. The moment the beacon was attached to this gate a humming sound was heard.

The inside of it started to slowly fill up with blue spiritual energy. It looked like water was coming together out of the outermost parts of this empty halo. Slowly but surely the energies connected with each other, it looked like an ocean that was rippling with waves.

The teleportation gate was now in place. The shiny parts that made out the edges continued to glow with strange runes. These magical symbols continuously changed shapes until settling into a static pattern. When they did the gate churned with power and the unruly waves started calming down till they looked like a surface of a lake.

Before signaling his people to come through the gate Zhang Dong turned to look at Fang Heng before speaking up.

"I will signal my sect members to go through the gate, is that fine with you?"

Fang Heng just nodded at the question. Zhang Dong posed it as a courtesy, he was bringing over his people here and more or less taking things over. This would normally be a hit to the face of any sect. No one liked when other forces got involved and they now had to listen to them. This was an emergency situation, Fang Heng was just grateful that his sect had a fighting chance now.

"If you wish to send other members of your family away from here they can go through the gate. They will arrive in my lands and be safe even if the monster isn't contained."

Fang Heng rubbed his chin while hearing Zhang Dong talk. Having an option to evacuate the non-combatants was something that they could use. The problem was that if he announced it now, some of the sect members might panic and try to force themselves into the teleportation portal.

“You have my thanks senior, I will bring it up with the other elders and we will decide on it with haste.”

Within a moment's notice, people started walking through the teleportation gate that he created. The first person that appeared through it was a large muscular man with red hair. Zhang Dong expected his wife to be the first one through but he also knew that it would be Qiang's style to muscle his way through as a prank.

“Greetings brother, I heard there would be many monsters to fight?”

He walked through with a big grin on his face while exuding plasma energy. Zhang Dong could feel that his sect brother was close to pushing through the early stage and the people here also took note. The moment he stepped through they backed away in fright, Qiang was not hiding any of that energy away which put some strain on the cultivators here.

“Hey stop that, we are guests.”

Zhang Dong's lower lip moved downwards slightly as he waved his hand around to disperse the oppressive nascent soul aura from seeping through. This made the others relax somewhat.

“Is that idiot causing trouble already?”

The next person to walk through the gate was a beautiful woman. She couldn't be considered a jade beauty by this world's standards, her looks were quite more unorthodox. It was his lovely wife all dressed up in a light green robe that went well with her wind elemental esthetic.

Zhang Dong's eyes moved from his flaming friend over to his wife. He hadn't seen her for a week and even back home she was bedridden. Seeing her this lively brought a smile to his face, this smile quickly faded though as he needed to keep up his stone-faced senior persona.

This didn't go unnoticed by the tanned beauty. She moved one of her green fans closer to her face to cover a smile of her own. She wanted to move towards her husband and give him a hug but she knew that this wasn't the time or place to show affection. She knew that this was serious as her husband did explain the whole situation back home. “It's nice to see you, are you feeling well?”

Zhang Dong asked while walking towards his wife with an outstretched hand. He did it to help her go down from the platform. It was kind of a strange thing to see, someone helping a nascent soul master walk down a platform. He still wanted to be courteous towards her, slightly worried that she didn't fully recover after giving birth.

“You don't need to worry my husband, I have eaten all the spirit medicine that you left me. You should stop worrying about small things. Think we had some lowly beasts to slay?”

“Yeah, where are they? I'm itching for a fight.”

Qiang proclaimed from the side while cracking his large fist. It was already covered in red energy as he was ready to let loose some of that pent up rage.

“They are outside this protective formation, take some of the elders with you. There are a lot of them you might need some help. Also, try not to harm the possessed humans, we might be able to cure them, use our sect members for this task.”

Zhang Dong replied while snapping out of it, looking at his wife brought his mind back home. He remembered that this was no time for such things. They needed to take care of those monsters outside and then go to those ruins, the main enemy was waiting there.

While the three original elders from the United Element Sect talked more people started walking through the portal. Zhang Liu was next, followed by Zhang Xue and Fang Meili. Everyone moved by rank and after the nascent soul masters, Xue and Liu had the most prestige. They were young core formation disciples of the sect leader. There were also other people from the clans walking with them, they looked similar to Qiang by their looks.

The moment Fang Meili walked out her grandfather Fang Heng's eyes bulged out. He was not expecting to see her here.

"Meili'er what are you doing here?"

"Grandfather!?"

The blond girl jumped up with joy and quickly ran towards her grandfather. She gave him a big hug while the old man placed his hand on her head with a mixed expression. The young girl started sobbing, the rest of the United Element Sect members just moved to the side as they started coming in.

There were a lot of them using that teleportation gate. They were wearing similar robes to the ones Zhang Dong had created all those years for the secret ground expedition. The biggest difference was that they were color-coded by rank, which meant that most of them were dark violet.

After everyone was inside the gate was turned off to not waste the spiritual energy. Gates like this were very power-hungry and the further a person had to travel the more Qi they drained. With everyone here the plan could finally continue, there were about one thousand sect members here with a hundred of them being core formation experts.

"Everyone listen up. We have all gathered here to aid our friends from the Divine Fist Sect in their time of need. We need to cleanse these lands from these despicable demonic beings! There is one problem, the monsters that are outside are only a diversion, the true evil demon lies further away..."

Zhang Dong started speaking to his people. It was time to organize his troops. Huo Qiang would be responsible for clearing out the immediate threat of the monsters outside. He on the other hand with the sect members that were versed in healing arts would try to help out the remaining nascent soul elders from the Divine Fist Sect.

It was time to bring the fight to the demonic beings.

Chapter 257

Huo Qiang smashed both of his large fists together. After these five years, he had grown a nice red beard to go with his crimson hair that was now longer as well. He was getting ready to jump out of the protective formation along with some of his sect brothers. There was also a particular group of youngsters among them, each one with similar crimson hair as Qiang.

"Father, the barrier will be opening soon."

"Great, are you and the boys ready?"

Huo Qiang was grinding wide while looking behind him. There were about ten youths that looked similar to each other in one way or another. At the front stood Huo Kong that was looking like a younger version of his father already. The others behind him were his brothers that Huo Qiang had sired.

They were all at the core formation level all of them were at the early stage. Kong was the furthest one in and the closest to reaching the middle stage. With the United Element Sect's new techniques and ample spiritual resources, people that were core members could rise up their rank rather quickly.

"I'll be taking care of most of them, try not to get in my way when we are out there!"

He grinned while his body started shining in crimson. He started flying upwards toward the protective barrier. Now when it was empowered there was no fear of it closing. Qiang just needed to wait a moment for the Divine Fist Sect elders to open a path for him. When they did the United Element Sect would show these monsters their might.

The youths looked at their father flying into the distance. They knew that it was wise to not be too close to their pops. He liked to go wild, he had a hard time containing his power and when someone sparred with him they ended up injured in one way or the other. The only person that they knew that could contend with him was Zhang Dong.

Even though he was the number two of the sect, they were still very proud to be his kids. But due to the fact that there were a lot of them here, some family infighting was inevitable. Huo Qiang had a similar outlook about relationships as Zhang Jin. He didn't have as many wives or kids as the old man, still there were over a hundred of them.

Every child wanted to be on top then they could inherit the family head title. There were also kids from side families and now new sect members that could affect the power dynamics of their clan. The group here wanted to prove themselves to their father, if they were useful they were hoping for rewards such as status.

"Don't think you will be on top forever, brother..."

One of the red-haired youths stuck his chin up while looking at Huo Kong.

"You can try little brother, but we both know who the superior one is!"

Huo Kong replied while smirking at the other youth. He could see that the moment he did the younger brother's forehead started showing quite the bulging vein. The redness in his face wasn't something that he wouldn't notice either.

"You just wait! I'll be sure to kill more monsters than you do. Do you dare to make a wager with me if you are that confident!"

Huo Kong raised his eyebrow at the callout. This younger brother of his had quite a mouth to him but he also had some skills to back it up. He wasn't far behind Kong in cultivation but he always managed to be a step ahead so he wouldn't fear making a wager.

"What do you want to wager? Spirit herbs? Spirit stones?"

"No, those are plentiful and easy to come by... We will wager Fairy Xue!"

Huo Kong almost tripped over as the large smirk covering his face turned upside down. He was clearly having trouble processing what this younger brother was talking about.

“F-fairy Xue?... w-what do you mean Kueng?”

The younger brother was called Huo Kueng smirked while looking to the side. There she was in the distance, Zhang Xue. She was in the process of walking together with her master Zhang Dong. She and a group of sect members were following the Patriarch into the lighthouse to check up on the comatosed Divine Fist Sect elders.

Huo Kong noticed this and he also looked, their conversation continued but in whispers as the red-haired youth started getting bashful.

“How dare you propose a wager over Sister Xue!”

He also started getting angry, his face showing a similar bulging vein on his forehead as his brothers did earlier. Huo Kueng was the one smirking now as he knew his older brother’s weak point.

“What are you afraid that you would lose? I thought you were confident in your skills, brother Kong?”

The other brothers looked at these two fighting. They were interested in where this would lead to and if Zhang Xue was on the line even they were considering taking part in the wager.

“Afraid? Me?... never! What is the wager about exactly? Tell me now!”

Huo Kong was easily irritated just like his father, he also didn’t think that he would lose to his younger brother. Kueng on the other hand straightened himself out and started listing the rules of this wager.

“It’s simple brother, whoever wins will be the one to go ask for Fairy Xue’s company in the coming yearly sect festival. The one that loses will not interfere and promise not to bother Fairy Xue for a year! How is that, do you dare take this wager or are you too scared to accept it!”

Huo Kueng pointed with his finger at Huo Kong that was starting to fume. His short temper was clearly getting to him.

“If I accept this bet... how will we determine the winner? Will we count how many monsters we kill?”

Huo Kong was skeptical, how would they even go about this? Would someone be following after them and doing the counting, he couldn’t really trust his younger brother to not cheat if he didn’t have someone trustworthy performing the task.

“No, remember what the Patriarch said about the people. We are to carry them over here to our healers. The one that carries over the most will win. Our doctors were tasked to write down the number of infected, they will do the counting for us.”

The younger brother smirked as if he was the smartest person around. To Huo Kong this would fix the issue of cheating, the doctors would be marking down who carried who over for future reference so that no people get lost.

There was one small problem with this, Kong didn't feel like it was very ethical to make a wager where people's lives are involved. Someone might die if any of the youths were too overzealous in their rescuing.

It didn't sit too well with him to use these people's lives during a bet. Before he could decline this offer he heard a high-pitched voice from the side. He recognized who it belonged to almost instantly due to how childlike it sounded.

"What are you idiots doing? If the Senior Sister hears about this you will be punished!"

The group of brothers turned to the side. The voice sounded cute and sweet yet annoyed, it clearly belonged to someone of the female gender. What they saw was quite the small looking girl with an overdeveloped chest and light pink hair. The skin tone and all-around style was similar to their sect's Matriarch but her demeanor was quite different.

"Nuana?"

Huo Kong called out while the rage inside of him started to subside. This girl was Zhang Liena's younger sister and where she was Zhang Liu was probably not far away. It didn't take him long to notice the white-haired man standing a bit behind her, looking at him with an awkward expression.

"Stay out of this sister Nuana, this is between us brothers!"

Kueng was quick to stop the girl from talking. All of these youths here were from the same generation so they didn't consider the Matriarch's young sister above them. They were the sons of the number 2 person in the whole sect. In their eyes they might be even above them, they would be close in prestige to Zhang Dong's own children.

Even though Zhang Dong wanted to be done with the bloodline system. The people of this world weren't willing to abandon it just yet. Even Zhang Xue and Liu, who were Zhang Dong's disciples, weren't that closely related by blood. He was only a distant uncle while these youths were direct descendants of a grand elder.

But in the end, it also depended on how close the given person was to the elder in power. Zhang Dong wasn't that great in asserting the pecking order. He evaded the struggles of the inner members of the sect along with the politics involved. He mostly kept to himself and let others take care of things like inner disputes. Even now he was long gone and not here, the junior members would have to clear things out amongst themselves.

"Between you? This isn't a picnic you fools, I'm going to tell my elder brother about this! You all will be sorry!"

Nuana was part of the family now, she referred to Zhang Dong as 'elder brother'. This was quite different from calling him 'senior brother'. It was more intimate and showed a closer relationship between the two involved parties.

The group of red-haired youths instantly shrunk back in fear when they heard that. The small girl was angrily pointing her finger at them while shouting. If she brought this up with the sect leader it could bring them trouble. There also was a chance that he wouldn't care but would they be willing to anger that man?

“Hah.”

Zhang Liu that was to the side finally decided to come over after hearing the commotion. He gave out a sigh while pushing Nuana to the side with his hand.

“Stop with your nonsense all of you, can’t you see that Elder Qiang is already leaving the barrier? The other elders are also working, we from the junior generation can’t fall behind!”

Huo Qiang and his younger brother turned to the side and could see their father powering up. His aura spiked while his soul beast was summoned, the path forward was now open and he was starting to attack.

The older members from the sect that was also at the core formation level sprung to action as well. Almost all of them formed battle formations that took on the forms of various serpents and dragons. They looked similar to the old Zhang Clan formations but their quality and strength was far greater.

“Now stop playing around all of you!”

Zhang Liu’s expression shifted into one of contempt as his aura exploded forward. He was the top fighter of his generation and everyone knew that. He didn’t intend to fight these people, instead, he quickly jumped onto his flying sword and propelled himself towards the opening.

Huo Qiang’s sons looked slightly dejected. Getting shouted at by Zhang Dong’s disciple was quite the hit to their face. He was also the brother of Zhang Xue that they all were aiming for which could cause some problems in the future if they tried courting her.

“W-wait Senior Brother Liu, I’ll aid you!”

“M-me too!”

The brothers pulled out their own flying swords and gave chase. Huo Kong and his brother glared at each other before also taking off.

“We will resolve this later.”

“Yes, we will...”

Everyone from the United Element Sect that was strong enough to face these monsters was now outside the barrier. Everyone here was greeted by millions of strange creatures, they all looked horrifying. They were also burning up due to the high amounts of plasma Huo Qiang’s Ifrit soul beast was now discharging towards them.

“Leave the big ones to me, you all just save the people!”

Huo Qiang gave his order while punching forward, his fiery fists causing widespread destruction and turning the monsters to ashes in just fractions of a second.

Chapter 258

Zhang Dong looked at Huo Qiang fly away towards the monsters. The little conversation that his sons and his disciples had evaded him as he was busy going towards the bottom of the light-tower. His wife

wasn't here with him as she remained outside to aid Qiang if anything out of the ordinary appeared outside.

There were no nascent soul monsters out there yet but that didn't mean that ones wouldn't come to be. He knew how these tentacle beings operated. He only hoped that some of the affected humans that were out there could be saved.

"Here's a sample of one of those demon spawns, analyse it."

He gave the monster worm that he extracted from one of the villagers to his best healer. The man's name was Huo Fu, an oddball from the Huo clan.

This man looked quite different from all the other muscle men that were born in that clan. He was quite short and lanky, his hair was messy and he didn't look like the other warriors from that clan.

Zhang Dong had discovered his high intelligence and talent for making remedies after having everyone scanned by his scanner. This happened years before the sect examination and was done to bring the people with talent to the forefront.

This man had no knack for the teachings of his own clan, the element that he was best suited for was also the exact opposite which was water. After this discovery, he was given the correct teachings and he proved himself as one of the best pill and potion makers from the new sect. Now, Zhang Dong relied on him to perform certain tasks, examining a monster like this would fit Huo Fu's expertise quite well.

"This is..."

The man looked at the bottle with the monster inside. The worm was wiggling around and its thin tendrils lashed out at anyone that it could detect.

"Such a magnificent sample... as expected of the Patriarch!"

The man's eyes bulged out wide, he was looking at this horrifying monster as if it was a Christmas gift that Zhang Dong handed down to him. He looked to the side where some other sect members in similar robes to him were.

"Quickly, set up the portable lab, we must analyze this specimen with haste!"

He bowed to Zhang Dong while going outside. About twenty of the foundation establishment elders went along with him as they were part of his research team. He himself didn't have time to work on the cure so he would leave it to this man. He was hoping that they could develop a remedy for the people and save them.

"This way Senior Dong."

Fang Heng called out to Zhang Dong as the two descended down below the lighthouse. There were no stairs here, probably so that anyone below the core formation level wouldn't be able to come here.

The descent was quite dramatic but he could feel that the holy energies from above were being pushed towards this area.

'Are those plants?... they are similar to the ones that were back in that village...'

He expected to see something different. Instead of some kind of extensive healing array formation, he saw a green meadow with many large sunflowers. These sunflowers were the size of trees and they were giving out divine energies. These energies were far greater than what the smaller sunflowers were able to output.

The next interesting discovery was where these three surviving nascent soul elders were. They were directly in the center of those giant plants, their bodies were bandaged up almost fully with only their heads being outside. They were just lying there in the center of the large sunflower while the bandages somehow aided them in absorbing the divine energy.

He could discern this with his eyes. The gentle holy like energy was slowly flowing inside of their bodies and nourishing them. He could also sense something else, an evil demonic energy signature below.

“Evil Qi?”

He called out, which prompted Fang Heng to look at him with astonishment.

“So you can tell Senior Dong? Yes, the elders were affected by that creature’s corrupt evil energy. We were able to halt the corruption with the help of the specially crafted wrappings made from special divine silk. It was made from the cocoon of the holy moonlight moth.”

Zhang Dong tried to ignore the long-winded explanation. In short, these were special bandages that were good at holding back demonic energies. He examined the three bodies with his system, what he saw was two old men and one old woman at their death bed.

The strongest person was at the late stage of the nascent soul. Zhang Dong could feel that there was something wrong. This elders realm was declining, it was closer to the middle stage now and still decreasing. Even with the healing energies in place these people were slowly deteriorating, with time they would probably perish. The increase in the holy energies of the lighthouse was probably slowing down the process even further but it still wasn’t enough.

“Yes, let me examine them first.”

Zhang Dong got to work, he focused on the sect leader as it seemed that he took the brunt of the attack. The demonic energies on his body were even seeping through those wrappings and giving them a darker coloring.

His needle healing technique was utilized first. Fang Heng and the other people in the room stayed quiet while he got to work. They all watched as the pointy silver needles pushed themselves into the Divine Fist Sect leader’s body. He was sure to aim for all the correct pressure points to nourish his body back to health.

The technique produced a lot of golden light as it went to work. After a few moments, he could see the man’s eyes quivering but they didn’t open. Even after adding more energy, he remained in the comma and the demonic energies only slightly subsided.

“The corrupt energies have been in his body for too long, it won’t be that easy to get them out of his system...”

“S-senior is there nothing that you can do?”

Fang Heng called out from the side while his forehead perspired with sweat. He was clearly distraught after seeing Zhang Dong's healing technique fail.

"There is a way, it's just going to take some time to prepare and..."

Zhang Dong paused at the end while rubbing his chin as he didn't finish the sentence, this prompted Heng to ask about it.

"And?"

"Ah nothing, we need to prepare a pill, please get everything ready."

Zhang Dong shook it off while glancing at his sect members that were also there. They were ready to do his biddings and started pulling out various pill making items along with a big cauldron that they placed in the middle.

"Set up the formation!"

Fang Heng stopped asking after the whole United Element Sect personnel started working. Some of them were putting various herbs into the large cauldron while others were drawing strange symbols on the ground below.

Fang Heng moved to the side while trying not to bother anyone. He could feel that his Patriarch's spirit was slightly invigorated after Zhang Dong treated him with his healing technique. If he said that it was possible then he would put his trust in him, not like he had much to lose at this point.

"Okay everyone, get in your positions we will be going with variation Zeta 6C this time around."

Everyone from the United Element Sect nodded while Zhang Dong moved into the middle. He started floating directly above the large cauldron that was already at the boiling point. There were thirty other members of the healer unit with him. They would aid him in making this special medicine. They wouldn't add much to the finished product but would allow him to push it past a certain threshold. Even improving the medicine by 1% would be enough to decide life or death.

The formation churned with power and everything in this area started glowing in gold. The large sunflowers started reacting and the faint yellow light that they were exuding changed into a deeper color.

Zhang Dong started tossing various herbs into the cauldron without using his hands. Those were clasped together and making various hand seals. He was also performing some chants in a language that some of the people here wouldn't understand.

While the restorative pill was being produced noises from the outside reached here. Everyone could hear explosions and strange wails, this was probably Huo Qiang at work as the monster eradication outside started taking place.

The rumbling outside was a bit distracting but the experienced team of alchemists and healers was able to stay calm. In time a pill started to take form, it radiated massive amounts of holy energy. When it was completed it caused an illusory image of a golden dragon to appear and roar. This was a sign of this remedy's qualities reaching close to the maximum of the heaven grade.

"It's finished..."

Zhang Dong gave out a sigh of relief. Even for him making such a pill wasn't easy. Without the help of his team of healers, the pill would have probably dropped a small realm in quality.

He looked at it, the pill was golden and a bit longer in an oval shape. It was about the size of his thumb but was more uniform without any blemishes. It looked as if it was made from pure shiny gold instead of various herbs.

"S-senior this is?"

Fang Heng moved closer after the process was done. His eyes were bulging wide after seeing the item before him. His cultivation instincts were telling him to grab this pill and flee, if he could swallow it he would probably reach the late stage instantly. He held his desires back as he knew that other things were at stake. He also didn't think he could wrestle it off Zhang Dong's hands even if he wanted to.

"Good... now we need to give it to your sect leader... could you do the honors, Elder Heng?"

The old man was surprised by the request that was given. But he wasn't one to refuse, even holding this pill in his hand could be very beneficial.

The pill floated into his hand, Zhang Dong then moved over to the sunflower where the Divine Sect Patriarch was. He used his telekinetic like technique to move the old man's body up. He was gently turned around and then placed in a strange position.

"Senior?" Fang Heng asked while looking down at his sect leader. His body was leaning forward and the thing he could see was his posterior protruding his way.

"Uh... you see, the demonic energies are far too great so swallowing the pill normally wouldn't be advised. We must apply it to your Patriarch's... uh... rear...opening"

Zhang Dong rubbed his neck while slowly moving the bandages out of the way. Fang Heng looked at the pill in his hand and then at the wrinkly bare man butt that was presented to him.

"Y-you mean?"

"Yes, this is a suppository. Please apply it gently ah, give Elder Heng some lubricant."

Zhang Dong replied while calling to his sect members that brought over a jar with a transparent gel-like substance. The pill was then dipped in it to allow for a more gentle experience.

"Ready when you are Elder Heng, please hurry your sect leader's life depends on it!"

Zhang Dong gave the man a thumbs up while flying to the side. The old man with the pill covered in lubricant started sweating. He was now looking at a respected pillar of his sect his bare bottom exposed before him. After a moment he steeled his resolve as he realized that this was a matter of life and death.

"Forgive me Patriarch but it has to be done!"

"GAHHHHHhhhh...."

A strange sound of a screaming man was soon heard by the people that were keeping guard outside the lighthouse. Some of them recognized those shouts as the voice of their beloved leader. What really

happened down below would be kept secret; the true way of how the Patriarch was healed would remain a mystery for centuries to come.

Chapter 259

Zhang Dong turned his head to the side as he didn't really want to see the 'booty play' between two old men. The moment the 'task' was done the sect leader from the Divine Fist Sect was cured almost instantly. His loud shout of 'gratitude' could be heard by everyone here. The truth about this day would be kept hidden due to the old man's embarrassment.

"Let me help him contain the energies inside of his body!"

Zhang Dong shouted out, he placed his hand on the old sect leader's head and brought his screams to a stop. He would have done this sooner but he was a bit surprised at the instantaneous scream. The suppository was more effective than he expected, if he knew that the medicine was this potent then he might have just given it to him the normal way. Now it was best not to mention this fact to this person.

With his aid, the bandaged up old man started lighting up like a Christmas tree. The wrappings that were around him burst as they weren't able to contain this degree of Qi. This left the sect leader nice and naked, the doctors from the United Element Sect didn't care much but the sect members from the Divine Fist Sect that were there started looking away. They were having a hard time seeing their leader getting treated like that. First was the suppository and now he was all bare before them.

"Almost there!"

He shouted while controlling the golden energies in the patient's body. After his naked form came to light the patches of black demonic energy were seen. They were shrinking away as the golden energy touched them. The holy Qi was successfully killing off the evil qi that was inside this man's body, soon enough none of it was left behind. The man was fully healed and even looked a bit younger than he did before. His skin wasn't as wrinkly and color returned to his face.

"It's done!"

Zhang Dong waved his hand and brought over some white cloth to cover this naked grandpa. He then floated him down to the ground where his own sect members could take care of him. The two other patients weren't as affected by the evil Qi as the sect leader. He could probably heal them by making one more pill and split it between the two.

He got to work on it along with his sect members. While he and they were concentrating Fang Heng moved over to his sect leader and started calling out to him.

"Sect leader are you awake? Sect leader Wuying?"

He could see him looking much better than before. His complexion had improved, the healing pill had worked wonders. In time the sect leader that was named Mao Wuying started waking up. His eyes quivered a bit but soon enough he could see Heng's wrinkled up face looking down at him.

"Elder Heng?"

"Oh thank the heavens, you are alive sect leader!"

The old man smiled, with the sect leader alive and then the other two elders he wasn't the only nascent soul elder left. With them around, this situation could be salvaged somewhat. They still had a strong base of operations with a powerful defensive barrier that was now reinforced. Now after defeating that monster they would be able to wait and slowly recover. With four nascent soul masters on their side, that would be a possibility.

"What happened... I feel strange..."

The old man looked close to sixty, he had a full beard and gray hair to match it. His face was round and he looked like a friendly fellow. He looked confused and disoriented, he was also grasping his rear while rubbing it. Something back there wasn't right, the pill had melted during the healing process but the feeling it leftover still lingered.

"I-I feel like I have lost something... something precious... uh..."

The man rubbed his head while trying to grasp the situation. He recalled the last things he remembered. He and his sect members activated the grand formation and used up their trump card to drive a menacing monster back. He then succumbed to the wounds along with the backlash of activating that old relic. Then he woke up with a headache and an even larger ache in his backside.

"Elder Heng please give me an explanation..., why am I naked and who are those people?"

Mao Wuying gathered himself to his feet while holding the white cloth around his body. He could see Zhang Dong not that far away producing another pill for healing. He could feel that the white-haired man wasn't anyone simple.

"Let me explain, sect leader. That man is the Patriarch of the United Element Sect, I met him at the annual banquet after you and the other elders went into a coma I..."

While the pill creation and healing process continued Fang Heng started explaining what happened. He gave his sect leader a short version of the events that happened as there wasn't enough time to go into much detail. He painted Zhang Dong and his sect in a good light. They were their saviors and would probably need to get rewarded in some way.

Heng filled Wuying in on the information while the two watched Zhang Dong heal the other two elders. This time around the pill was inserted into their mouths which was enough to cure them both. These elders were at the middle stage of the nascent soul level. The sect leader was at the lower end of the late stage but now with this healing pill in their bodies, they could push their cultivation to the next level. That is if they survived the coming days to do so.

"Elder Yun!, Elder Xinyi!"

Heng called out while being ecstatic. He wasn't alone anymore, he had his sect leader back with him along with two other elders that were at the same middle stage as he was. With them around they would be able to somehow survive through this. While those two were waking up, the sect leader Wuying took this chance to converse with Zhang Dong. The two Patriarchs looked at each other, the older one was a bit reserved while the younger one felt more awkward than anything.

"If what elder Heng says is true, then you have my gratitude Patriarch of the United Element Sect."

The man clasped his hands and did a little bow. After feeling out Zhang Dong he noticed that the man's divine aura was far greater than his. This was enough for him, holy energies were a good gauge for character. Someone that was evil and conniving would never be able to cultivate a Dao like that.

"No need to thank me, we just find ourselves against a common enemy. The creature that attacked your sect is an old foe that I had battled before. From what I've heard it is much stronger than when I last faced it. Could you disclose any information about your battle to me?"

Wuying was a bit surprised at this but it would make sense for someone with such a divine Dao to hunt demonic beings.

"Anyone that is an enemy of that demonic creature is an ally to this sect, I will tell you what I know but first let us go out!"

The man had been given a replacement robe and the other two elders were already conversing with Fang Heng. He would bring them up to speed while everyone else floated up to see what was happening around the sect grounds.

Wuying was surprised instantly after getting out of the lighthouse underground. The first thing was the increase in the divine might of their tower, it was many times stronger than what he could remember. Then the divine protective barrier was also fully charged and exuding even more power than before.

'BLAM'

His attention was then pulled to a faraway explosion. In the distance, he could see some kind of strange red demon with horns. It was giving out the fluctuations of a nascent soul beast at the early stage. It was burning up the flying monsters around the city barrier in droves. After further inspection, he realized that it was a soul beast and its owner wasn't far behind.

This man was a bit further away throwing giant plasma covered fist. Each time his punch descended thousands of corrupt beings fell. The only thing that remained was their ashes along with the man's boisterous laugh.

"Are you done?"

Zhang Liena moved out from the side, she glided towards her husband that was next to Mao Wuying.

"Yes, this is Elder Mao Wuying. He is the Divine Fist Sects Patriarch. There are also two other elders that I managed to heal."

Liena nodded at the old man that was standing next to her husband while also giving him a formal hand-clasp and bowing combo. After they got acquainted it was time to move out. With so many nascent soul masters out here there was no reason to leave these monsters all up to Qiang.

"Elder Wuying I propose we clear up these demonic beings. We must then attack the creature at its lair before it's too late. This monster uses the beings it corrupts to further its cultivation realm. If we leave it to its own devices it will swallow up these lands and no one will be able to stop it."

This was Zhang Dong's biggest fear. The monster leveled up by absorbing others, it was similar to how his old system worked. If he still had that then the beast wouldn't pose a problem. He could probably farm all these monsters that it made and strengthen himself further.

This was impossible now, he would need to do it the old fashioned way by cultivating diligently. There was also the option of absorbing vast quantities of spiritual energy and adding that to his cultivation but that process was quite wasteful.

“Yes, I agree.”

Wuying wasn't fully recovered just yet but he was more than enough to battle these monsters. Three nascent soul masters were added to their little army. All of them soon took off towards the protective barrier to get outside.

Zhang Dong looked around after getting out. The numbers had dwindled slightly but there were still a lot of those monsters around. The mist was getting pushed back by the radiations of the protective array which allowed even the core formation cultivators to move around freely. He could actually see Zhang Liu and Xue apprehending some people that were affected by the strange tentacle slugs.

Various colorful nascent soul ranked attacks descended down on the battlefield. Liena called forth her storm phoenix, Zhang Dong utilized his golden dragon to aid in the fight as well. His soul beast was able to discharge holy lightning passively which caused the mist to vanish wherever it went.

The three nascent soul elders from the Divine Fist Sect were a bit weakened. They couldn't quite aid by summoning their soul beasts to battle but they could act as backline support. They pelted the monsters with ranged attacks from a safe distance, the beast started to fall like flies.

The monsters had no way of resisting the combined might of six nascent soul experts. Within a day's time, they had managed to clean up the evil beings. The efforts to heal the affected humans would continue for a while. The most important thing on their agenda was going towards the ruins where the monster slumbered, it was finally time to bring the fight to it.

Chapter 260

The fog around the Divine Fist Sect was slowly clearing up. It didn't fully go away but instead cleared up in a one-kilometer wide radius. When the cultivators standing on the walls tried to look beyond that they would only see the thick mist. If they listened closely they would also hear the strange shrieks of the monsters that lurked within it.

Down on the ground, the rescue initiative was in full swing. With the combined powers of all the nascent powerhouses, the beasts had been slain in a short amount of time. Some of the affected humans that weren't too far gone were apprehended. They were now being kept in quarantine while the divine healers from both sects tried their utmost best in getting them under control.

The people from the Divine Fist Sect had a lot of their own members succumbing to the infection so they were motivated in getting their sect brothers and sisters a cure. With the live specimens that Zhang Dong caught and with Huo Fu's medical expertise, a cure was being developed. A cure that didn't require a nascent soul master versed in holy healing.

“I must thank you on behalf of this sect.”

Mao Wuying along with the other three nascent soul elders clasped their hands while standing opposite to the three grand elders from the United Element Sect. Huo Qiang just smirked while Zhang Dong nodded weakly.

"I'm glad that we could save some people but this isn't quite over. The problem still remains, this mist is proof."

He looked into the distance where the miasma was still lingering. The protective formation that was enhanced by him was keeping the fog away for now. With it pushed back the monsters wouldn't be able to approach the sect ground.

Zhang Dong found it strange that this version of his old foe needed this mist. When he first came to this world there wasn't such a requirement. The frenzied monsters could freely move through the lands but they weren't as strong as the ones here. He could only attribute this to the monster being weakened or the starting area being some kind of special case.

"Elder Heng informed me that you have faced off against this monster before?"

Wuying asked while looking to Zhang Dong who nodded at the question.

"Yes, but back then it was much weaker. Only at the core formation level. It wasn't that strong and it could only boast high regenerative capabilities. By the way, Elder Heng described it, it is probably the same demonic beast but it had probably advanced further. I fear that I underestimated its regenerative capabilities and it somehow survived our last encounter..."

Zhang Dong replied while wondering if this was actually the same version of the Cthulhu that he fought twice already. It could have been another one that laid dormant for one reason or another. If it was the one he previously met he hoped that with the current holy Dao that he possessed he would be able to deliver a finishing blow. By the looks of things, this version was susceptible to divine and holy energies. The mist that wasn't able to penetrate here and the monsters that started burning up when they got closer to these divine energies were proof.

"Aye, the way this monster draws energy from other beings would explain how it could have gotten stronger in such a short period of time... First let me explain what happened on that day."

Mao Wuying added his two cents, the story was close to what Fang Heng had reported. The sect leader only shone some light on how exactly the relic worked that they used. That item wouldn't help them much though as it had crumbled to dust after activation.

From what the elder explained the item was a holy sword that was at the highest grade that a heavenly item could reach. It was also just a hilt with most of the blade broken.

"Some of the divine blade's shards might still be in the monster's body. This might be just my guess but the creature should have trouble healing itself with our divine item inside of its body."

This made a lot of sense, the Cthulhu that he knew was a creature that could heal itself from any wound. He had to disintegrate it into small particles to get rid of it both times. Even then it might have been the same one and survived.

It should have been able to mend itself from a wound like that. It looked like the divine energies that were inside that damaged blade proved more deadly to the beast. It had to even flee and send its underlings instead of attacking by itself.

“That does make a lot of sense. We will move towards the ruins where you found the monster, I must ask you to lend me a guide.”

“Of course United Sect Patriarch, we will aid you however we can.... but...”

Mao Wuying looked behind himself with a troubled look, Zhang Dong kind of knew why this old man was hesitating. His sect was now in shambles and they were down to four nascent soul masters. Even the lesser sects that were at the banquet had more manpower than they had now.

The man probably wanted to prioritize his own people and fighting that demonic creature might not be on his agenda. He was probably thinking about abandoning this city and seeking refuge elsewhere. If Zhang Dong told him to jump into the portal into his lands he would probably take him up on the offer instantly.

“I’ll guide them, sect leader!”

The one to step forward was Fang Heng, the man that he was most familiar with. He was a powerful nascent soul powerhouse so it would be nice to have him along for the ride. The other nascent soul elders didn’t trust him just yet. This was understandable as he just barged into this city not that long ago. The fact that he was saving them without asking for anything in return was already raising some eyebrows. This wasn’t something a cultivator in Zhang Dong’s position would do for free. They could understand it if this creature had something like an immortal treasure but it looked like he was just killing it to save lives.

Was he a saint or was there some other reason that he was doing this? The people from the Divine Fist Sect were skeptical but they couldn’t really do much about it. They weren’t in the position to complain nor could they ask the other sect about their true motives.

“Are you sure Elder Heng? We could let another elder from the information pavilion do it instead? ”

Wuying wasn’t really keen on having one of his remaining nascent soul elders being the guide. He would rather use one of the core formation sect members instead. They were a bit more disposable. He wasn’t sure how this undertaking would work out and he had to look at the bigger picture here. Losing someone like Elder Heng would be a big blow to the sect’s future.

“I understand sect leader but our sect has a debt to repay to this man. I would like to aid him in this crisis, it is the least I can do.”

The old sect leader looked into Heng’s eyes and could see that the man had made a decision. It would be impossible to change it now as he knew that look well.

“I see that you have made up your mind Elder Heng...”

Zhang Dong stayed to the side and waited for the two old men to make up their minds. He didn’t care that much about who would guide him there but it would be better if it was Heng doing it. The man owed him one and was also a strong nascent soul cultivator that practiced divine arts. He would probably be a nice addition to his fighting force against the demonic beings.

“Are you finished?”

“Yes Senior Dong, I will guide you towards the ruins. I just have one more favor to ask of you...”

“Is it about Meili?”

Fang Heng nodded at the question. Zhang Dong knew more or less what the man wanted to ask about so he just spoke up first so that they wouldn’t beat around the bush for too long.

“If you are worried about her well being, don’t worry. We will open the gate and if you wish she and more of your family members can leave towards my sect. They will be safe there.”

Fang Heng just clasped his hands as a sign of gratitude. Zhang Dong and he discussed some things before the old man went away to inform his family. He and Meili would have some catching up to do.

The girl was hanging out with Zhang Xue in the background and the two were in the middle of contending with some red-haired youths. He recognized one of them at least, they all looked similar to his sect brother Qiang.

While the evacuation and healing were underway Zhang Liena moved over to Zhang Dong.

“Little Xue has it tough, the spawns of that idiot are always swarming around her.”

It looked like Liena wanted to go over there and deliver a few smacks with her fans to those boys. Zhang Dong just smiled before moving over to his wife to calm her down.

“Xue can take care of herself, they wouldn’t dare to do anything drastic, probably wouldn’t even be able to. Our little Xue is quite strong.”

Liena moved a bit closer, bumping her shoulder into Zhang Dong’s chest while the two looked at the youths messing around. They could see Liena’s younger sister moving into action and shouting at the young males. Liu was hanging in the background, Zhang Dong knew that the youth had given up on the notion that he would ever get rid of Nuana by this point.

Probably the fact that she was the little sister of the woman his master was married to only made it more difficult for him to deny her advances. He wasn’t one to interfere in their relationship as it wasn’t really his problem. He also got a chuckle out of how the little girl was overzealous and always seemed to cause chaos around her.

After a moment he looked to his own wife but before he could move his hand around her waist a sect member walked over to make a report.

“Sir, the gate is ready for activation. We are just waiting for your order. The preparations for departure are also underway, we should be ready within the hour. ”

He had to move away from his wife that turned away to the side, one emerald fan covering her face so that the interrupting sect member wouldn’t see the frown on her face. Zhang Dong was a bit worried about this sect member’s future by how his wife was looking at him. He knew that she wouldn’t do anything drastic but he might find himself cleaning the beast stables, for a prolonged period of time.

“Begin the evacuation but keep it organized, we can’t have people panicking.”

He knew that some people would want to escape as quickly as they possibly could. Getting surrounded by strange mist and flesh-eating tentacle monsters would do that to you. Order had to be kept though and children came first, the adults would be last.

After wrapping things up here they would depart. More backup would be coming after the gate was opened in the form of his favorite battleship. It wouldn't be able to fit through the gate on its own but with the spatial technology that this world had it wouldn't have to. With it around, he could safely take more of his sect members to those ruins.