

World 2071

Chapter 2071: Alliance Competition

Zhao Hai was currently in the training ground supervising Qiu Tie who was training. Qiu Tie was currently holding a wooden blade. The wooden blade he used was made out of ironwood. This meant that the wooden blade was heavier than common wooden weapons but wasn't as heavy as iron weapons. It was just right for Qiu Tie to use.

Zhao Hai didn't allow Qiu Tie to use iron blades to practice because he was afraid that Qiu Tie's body wouldn't be able to bear it. Although Qiu Tie was walking the path of body cultivation, he was still less than ten years old. If he used iron blades to practice, it might stunt his growth and cause internal injuries. Therefore, Zhao Hai only allowed him to use wooden blades for now.

There was also another reason, and that was the blade that Qiu Tie uses. Qiu Tie doesn't use ordinary blades like other people, instead he liked to use the glaive.

Back when Zhao Hai fought in the beast tide, his image of charging towards the beast tide using a large glaive had a huge influence on Qiu Tie. When Zhao Hai asked what weapon he liked to train, Qiu Tie didn't hesitate and boldly declared that he would use the large glaive. In the end, Zhao Hai had no choice but to agree.

Naturally, Zhao Hai complied not only because he was fond of Qiu Tie. He agreed because Qiu Tie was suitable for using large glaives.

Large glaives belong to the heavy weapon category. It couldn't be used by those with little bodily strength. Since Qiu Tie was pursuing the body cultivator route, his body would naturally be strong. Therefore, it was appropriate for him to use a large glaive.

But because Qiu Tie was still young, it was not good for him to train with large glaives made of metal. The human body was very strange, if any hidden wounds were left inside the body, it wouldn't be easy to heal. Therefore, Qiu Tie couldn't practice metal-made weapons while he was still in his growing stage.

For Qiu Tie to be familiar with the large glaive, Zhao Hai manufactured large glaives made of wood. He used ordinary wood first and progressively used heavier and heavier wood. A huge assortment of glaives with different weights were prepared for Qiu Tie.

Qiu Tie's progress surprised Zhao Hai. He expected Qiu Tie to be able to use ironwood glaives when he reached 12 years old. But Qiu Tie was able to use ironwood glaives before he was ten.

Although Qiu Tie wasn't using the heaviest glaives, his feat was still extraordinary. Zhao Hai was very satisfied with Qiu Tie's progress.

As Zhao Hai was observing Qiu Tie's training, he suddenly heard a voice, "Brother Hai, we have visitors." Zhao Hai turned his head to see Laura.

In these three years, Laura and the others became more familiar with the Tyrant Blade Sect's environment. There were even places where they knew more than Zhao Hai, especially matters regarding female cultivators.

Now, Laura and the others were in charge of the defensive formation of Zhao Hai's peak. It can be said that they knew more about the peak's matters than Zhao Hai. Although Zhao Hai constructed resident number 52, it was Laura and the others who installed the defensive formations around the entire peak. As for what these defenses were, even Zhao Hai doesn't know what they were.

Upon hearing Laura, Zhao Hai couldn't help but ask, "Who is it?"

Laura replied, "It's people from the sect. By their direction, they should be heading towards here. The sect might have something to tell you."

Zhao Hai knit his brows. At this time, a voice was heard, "Little Hai, get ready. You might be heading out this time."

Zhao Hai looked and saw the Yin Yang Elders. Zhao Hai and Laura immediately cupped their fists. Zhao Hai looked at the two elders and asked, "Master, what do you mean?"

The Yang Elder smiled and said, "The Alliance Competition that's held every ten years is about to happen. This time, you have to participate on behalf of the Tyrant Blade Sect."

Zhao Hai looked at the two elders in confusion and asked, "Masters, what's the Alliance Competition?"

The Yin Elder replied, "As you know, the True Spirit Realm is divided into three huge powers, the righteous, the demonic, and the evil. Our Tyrant Blade Sect belongs to the righteous faction. Every ten years, the faction will hold an Alliance Competition which all sects in the Righteous Dao League would participate in. The sects will send their geniuses to compete against each other."

"The competition is divided into three divisions. The first division is the competition between Clone Stage cultivators. The second division will be between Soul Fusion Cultivators. And the third division is for Earth Monarchs. If you win in any of these divisions, the sect will give very rich rewards. The sect will also get a lot of benefits in the competition. This competition will promote the talent of the sect's young disciples. Since it's just a competition, killing is not allowed."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Does the sect want me to compete in the Clone Stage division and win first?" Zhao Hai's words were very impolite. It was as if the first place was already in his hands.

But Zhao Hai's words weren't unwarranted. He dared to play around with a Teleportation Stage cultivator. How could Clone Stage cultivators contend against him?

The Yang Elder nodded and said, "Right, the sect wants you to compete in the Clone Stage division. Don't expect that getting first place would be easy. In this competition, in addition to your weapon, no other artifacts are allowed. Even beasts couldn't be summoned during the fight. Formation cultivators or artifact cultivators can bring no more than five artifacts with them. Since the Imperial Beast Sect mainly used beasts, they are only limited to three battle beasts."

Zhao Hai raised his brows and said, "So we can only use our weapons and nothing else? Transportation artifacts and other supporting artifacts aren't allowed?"

The Yin Elder nodded, "Correct. Before the competition, all participating parties must report what weapon they will use. If they use anything else during the competition, they would be disqualified immediately. This is also for the safety of the competitors."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I understand. Master can rest assured. I will get first place."

The Yang Elder laughed, "With your strength, we're not worried. But you need to be careful. It's possible that the Ghost Cultivators, Demon Cultivators, and Evil Cultivators might attack during the competition."

Hearing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but ask, "There's such a thing? Don't we use transmission formations to go to the competition?"

The Yang Elder shook his head, "The sects will send elders to spectate the battle. These elders can go to the competition using transmission formations. But for the participants, you will group up into small teams according to your divisions. Then you will travel to the competition's venue. Along the way, you will be met with all kinds of attacks. But this will also act like a trial for you. Sects might not lose disciples in the arena, but they will definitely lose people to the attacks of the Ghost Cultivators, Demon Cultivators, and Evil Cultivators."

Zhao Hai knit his brows and asked, "Do the sects just allow this to happen? Their low-level disciples are being killed by the enemies."

The Yin Elder shook his head and said, "Of course not. In fact, this is an agreement that the Righteous Dao League has reached with the Demonic Dao Alliance and the Devil Dao Coalition. We would send disciples to attend the competition while they would send disciples to attack. But they must also send disciples in the Clone Stage, Soul Fusion Stage, and Earth Monarch Stage."

Zhao Hai quickly understood. He nodded and said, "So this is a trial for the disciples of the three factions."

The Yin Elder nodded, "Correct. This is a trial by the three factions. But sometimes, ghost cultivators would join. These ghost cultivators don't follow the rules and would send high-level cultivators."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I understand. Master can rest assured. If the sect sends me, I will definitely try my best."

The Yin Elder forced a smile, "With your present strength, we don't have to worry. Don't worry, the sect will definitely send you."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. Just as the Yin Elder said, it would be strange if the sect didn't send him to the competition. The Tyrant Blade Sect would definitely send him to participate and get good achievements. Not only would it elevate the sect's prestige, the sect will also gain huge benefits.

At this time, an alarm sounded out. Then a voice was heard, "Brother Zhao, can we come in? We came to deliver the Sect Master's orders."

With the person's voice, the alarm in resident complex 52 disappeared. Zhao Hai replied, "Senior Brother, please come in." After that, a person appeared in mid-air and slowly fell to the training ground.

Zhao Hai looked at the person and saw that it was Li Hao. Zhao Hai cupped his fist and said, "I have seen Senior Brother Li. I didn't expect Senior Brother to deliver the Sect Master's orders personally."

Li Hao smiled faintly and said, "Junior Brother is too polite. I have seen the two Elders." As he said that, he cupped his fist towards the Yin Yang Elders. With his status, he naturally had to be respectful towards the two elders.

The Yin Elder waved his hand and said, "Is this about the alliance competition?"

Li Hao nodded, "The Sect Master wants Junior Brother Zhao to participate. What do the two elders think?"

The Yin Elder nodded, "He should. He's always cultivating here, and he can use this opportunity to gain experience. Will Little Hai compete for the Clone Stage division? How many Clone Stage disciples will the sect send out?"

Li Hao replied, "Yes, Junior Brother Zhao will fight in the Clone Stage division. Excluding Junior Brother Zhao, there are 20 disciples that the sect would send out."

Chapter 2072: Becoming the Team Leader

Hearing Lin Hao, the Yin Elder couldn't help but knit his brows, "We're sending only this many? In the past, we sent 30 to 50 people."

Li Hao nodded, "Yes. But all of them are elites. The Sect Master received information that the Demon Alliance and the Devil Coalition would also send out elites to attack us. To reduce casualties, we also reduced the number of people we send."

The Yang Elder frowned, "Senior Brother's intention is good. But with this, not a lot of disciples could obtain experience." Then he shook his head and said, "Forget it, we'll look for less dangerous trials for them to undergo."

Li Hao didn't say anything. In the entire Tyrant Blade Sect, only a few people could comment on the Sect Master's actions. The Yin Yang Elders belonged to this group of people. Li Hao wasn't qualified to comment on this.

The Yin Elder looked at Li Hao and said, "When do they leave? Has the destination been decided?"

Li Hao immediately replied, "They leave seven days later. The destination is Topfire Mountain."

Hearing this, the Yang Elder raised his brow, "Topfire Mountain? They actually chose a good place. It's quite far from our Tyrant Blade Sect. We'll suffer some losses."

Li Hao nodded, "It's indeed far. But this is the place that the representatives have voted for. There's no way to change it."

The Yin Elder coldly snorted and said, "Those fellows are clearly targeting Little Hai. If that is the case, then there's no need to be polite. They will learn that the Tyrant Blade Sect's position isn't easy to attain."

The Yin Elder wasn't speaking nonsense. Topfire Mountain was indeed very far from the Tyrant Blade Sect's territory. The further they were from the destination, the more they would suffer. This was because the time they would spend on the road would be longer, which would increase the window for them to be attacked.

Zhao Hai was now famous in the True Spirit Realm. With his Clone Stage strength, he was able to play around with a Teleportation Stage cultivator. Although Lu Sheng just broke through, he still had a foot inside the Teleportation Stage. This was proof of Zhao Hai's strength.

Although the competition had certain rules that needed to be followed and Zhao Hai might not be able to use all of his strength, Zhao Hai's blade techniques were also well-known. If the other sects were afraid of Zhao Hai and the possibility of him getting first place, then they would definitely find ways to give him trouble. The competition being held in Topfire Mountain might be one of the ways these sects had thought of in order to deal with Zhao Hai.

Because of this, the Yin Elder immediately thought that this arrangement was aimed at Zhao Hai. The competition had never been held in Topfire Mountain. So, his suspicions were possible.

Li Hao didn't say anything, but the expression on his face wasn't good. In fact, when he heard the competition's arrangement, he immediately thought the same as the Yin Yang Elders.

At this time, the Yang Elder said, "Alright, no matter what, Little Hai will participate. Moreover, he will take first place. This will show those people that no matter what schemes they come up with, they can't stop Little Hai from taking first place."

The Yin Elder coldly snorted, then he looked at Li Hao and said, "You can go back. We'll let Little Hai leave when it's time." Li Hao cupped his fist to the two elders and then to Zhao Hai before leaving.

After Li Hao left, the Yin Elder looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Since you already know about the competition, prepare for it in the next few days. Remember, if you meet cultivators on the way, don't travel with them, don't show favor towards them. Those people might attack you at any time."

Zhao Hai replied, "Yes. Master can rest assured. I know what to do."

The Yin Yang Elders nodded and then they left the courtyard. Zhao Hai sighed and then turned to Laura and the others before saying, "I've just returned. I didn't expect that I would go out once more. This time, I don't know how long I will be gone."

Laura smiled and said, "It's alright. We're used to it. Don't worry about here, we will deal with the courtyard's matters. We'll also observe Little Tie's progress."

Zhao Hai sighed and said, "Thank you."

Laura smiled faintly. To be honest, they were already used to Zhao Hai's absence. So, they weren't too worried about Zhao Hai this time.

Several days passed in a blink of an eye. On the seventh day, Zhao Hai used his transmission formation to go to Heaven Slashing Peak. All participants were to meet in the palace before departing together.

When Zhao Hai arrived in the square in front of the palace, he discovered that there were already people. These people were at least at the Clone Stage while the strongest were Earth Monarchs. They grouped up into twos and threes as they talked with each other.

Zhao Hai's appearance captured the crowd's attention. By this point, there were only a few people in the Tyrant Blade Sect who couldn't recognize Zhao Hai. Although they might not have seen Zhao Hai, the sect's disciples have at least seen his image. Therefore, seeing him arrive, everyone immediately turned their head to look.

Three years was not short, but it wasn't enough for the disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect to forget Zhao Hai. Those close by greeted Zhao Hai who also politely greeted them back. He had a faint smile on his face giving people a favorable impression of him.

Those who saw Zhao Hai for the first time were surprised. They couldn't relate this faintly smiling and temperate person to someone who could exterminate an entire realm all by himself. The contrast was very big.

While greeting everyone, Zhao Hai arrived at the place for Clone Stage disciples. Then he looked around to see the situation.

Now, there were about a hundred people in the entire square. There were around 20 Clone Stage disciples, 30 Soul Fusion disciples, and 50 Earth Monarchs. It seems like the sect would send exactly 100 people to participate in the competition.

Not long after Zhao Hai arrived, a melodious sound of the bell rang. The entire square immediately fell silent. At this time, three cultivators walked into the square. These cultivators were above the Teleportation Stage, Zhao Hai can't exactly tell. But from looking at them, they should be elders of the sect.

As the three elders stood in front of everyone, they looked at Zhao Hai and the others. Then an elder with white hair said, "You should already know why you are here. Now, we'll give you half an hour to elect a team leader for each cultivation stage. These leaders will lead you in the competition."

After the elder said this, the humming sound of murmur was heard in the square. Soul Fusion disciples and Earth Monarchs immediately discussed with each other. However, their thoughts differed from each other. Only the Clone Stage disciples were quiet. All of them were looking towards Zhao Hai.

Feeling the gazes of his fellow disciples, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then cupped his fist towards the Clone Stage disciples, "If everyone has no other opinion, then I'll be impolite. This one will act as the team leader of the Clone Stage disciples. Does everyone agree?"

"I agree" "I agree" "It's right for Senior Brother Zhao Hai to be the team leader."

The Clone Stage disciples immediately opened their mouths and expressed their agreement. Besides Zhao Hai, nobody else has the strength, reputation, and influence to become the team leader of the Clone Stage disciples. Therefore, it was natural for Zhao Hai to become team leader."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Then I'll impolitely accept the appointment. As the team leader, I'll just be leading everyone to the destination. I won't exert any control. So, you don't have to worry."

The Clone Stage disciples all laughed. Zhao Hai also laughed and then cupped his fist towards everyone once more. Then he turned his head towards the three elders.

The other two groups looked at Zhao Hai's group and couldn't help but look at each other in dismay. They were somewhat embarrassed. It must be said that these people were very familiar with each other. They knew each other's strength and character. They might even know who the team leaders would become. They only fought for the position to save face.

Seeing the progress with the Clone Stage group, the other two groups straightened up and seriously elected the team leader. Before long, the three team leaders have been selected.

Seeing this, the three elders couldn't help but nod. Then the white-haired elder said, "Alright, the three team leaders come to me to receive this jade slip. Marked inside is your traveling route. Only the three leaders know of the route. The team leaders only have one duty, and that is to bring everyone to Topfire Mountain safely."

Zhao Hai and the other two nodded and then received the jade slip. As he used his spiritual force, Zhao Hai saw their route. Surprisingly, huge sections of their route involved waterways while the rest were on main roads, which could be said to be safe. However, this caused their route to be quite long. Zhao Hai calculated that even if they went on horseback, it would take them 20 days to reach Topfire Mountain.

Moreover, their route would take them through five sect territories. Two of these sects didn't have a good relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect. Safely passing through their territory wouldn't be easy.

Zhao Hai knit his brows, but he didn't say anything. Instead, he bowed and said, "Elder can rest assured. We will bring everyone to Topfire Mountain."

The elder nodded, "The sect will provide mounts for you. You can select which mount you want. Naturally, you can choose to not use the mounts. But you need to reach Topfire Mountain within a month."

Zhao Hai nodded. Then he went to the Clone Stage Disciples and said, "Everyone, I've already acquired our route. The sect will also provide us with mounts. However, I don't plan to use them. Instead, we'll be using my mount. If you trust me, we can depart immediately."

Hearing Zhao Hai, the Clone Stage disciples couldn't help but stare. Then they quickly replied, "We'll listen to the team leader's plan!"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Alright. Then we're departing. Let's go down the peak first." After he said that, he walked down Heaven Slashing Peak. The other Clone Stage disciples also followed behind him. They don't know why, but they discovered that Zhao Hai had a convincing temperament that made the Clone Stage disciples unknowingly follow him.

The other two team leaders looked at each other and bitterly smiled. They were aware that Zhao Hai had all sorts of beasts. He even had flying beasts in hand. On the other hand, they don't have any flying beasts. They can only rely on the mounts that the sect provided.

Zhao Hai didn't care about what the others thought of him and just led the Clone Stage disciples down the mountain. To be honest, he could easily transport 20 people to Topfire Mountain using a few of his Nine-winged Cloud Centipede. However, he didn't plan to do that. He knows that the sect must have some arrangements in place. This route was also a trial. If they were to reach Topfire Mountain easily, then the purpose of the trial would be trashed. Therefore, Zhao Hai planned to follow the route that the sect has provided. He would also use his demon horse to travel.

When the group of 21 reached the foot of Heaven Slashing Peak, Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "Brothers, there are all kinds of beasts we can use to travel. Our route will take us through waterways. If we used the beasts provided by the sect, when we reach the waterways, those beasts would need to use boats to travel. In that case, we would need a big boat. A huge boat isn't easy to find, and it would slow down our travel time. Because of this, we will be using the beasts I have. This way, we can use different beasts according to our situation. It will make our travel more convenient."

When they heard this, the other disciples immediately understood why Zhao Hai didn't use the sect's beasts. The way they looked at Zhao Hai quickly changed. Just now, as they were heading down Heaven Slashing Peak, they were holding their feelings back. At that time, they were enticed by Zhao Hai to follow him down. But when they were halfway down the peak, they couldn't help but feel regret. The sect only gave them a month to reach their destination. The sect would also provide beasts. This proved that Topfire Mountain was quite a distance away. If they can't reach Topfire Mountain within a month, then they would return with nothing.

Because of this, they were feeling bad deep inside. But Zhao Hai's words just removed the bad air in their hearts. Instead, they believed that they would succeed with Zhao Hai.

Chapter 2073: Hostile Gaze

What these people didn't know was that Zhao Hai was once a commander of million-strong armies. If he can't see into the minds of these people, then he would have lived in vain. Therefore, he had to explain his decision.

Sure enough, Zhao Hai's explanation was useful. Although the others didn't say anything, their eyes clearly showed that their disappointment had disappeared.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Alright, everyone, let's depart." After saying that, Zhao Hai waved his hand and released 21 Demon Horses.

Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "Get on the horses, let's go." Everyone answered and then jumped on to their demon horse. Before long, the group galloped forward.

Demon Horses were very fast, but the rider couldn't feel any jolting while on horseback. The riders were comfortable sitting on the back of their Demon Horses.

The other Clone Stage disciples couldn't help but look at the Demon Horses in surprise. They didn't expect a beast such as this could exist. It looked strong, and it was very fast.

Because they were still in the Tyrant Blade Sect's territory, they didn't need to worry about safety. Their speed of advancing was very quick.

At noon, Zhao Hai and the others didn't encounter a village, so they could only rest in the forest. Everyone jumped off their demon horse. Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "Did you bring food? I brought a lot. It's made by my wife. Do you want to try it?"

Hearing Zhao Hai, everyone smiled. Zhao Hai's strength was very well known, especially to the Clone Stage disciples. He was also known to have wives, and each of them were top-grade women. To be honest, these disciples were extremely envious of Zhao Hai.

One of the Clone Stage disciples went to Zhao Hai and said, "I must say, team leader, you really know how to lead. Of course I'll take your food. I want to taste sister-in-law's dishes."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Alright, everyone come have a taste." Then he took out a few dishes as well as bottles of liquor. The other Clone Stage disciples happily took their share.

The group had an enjoyable lunch. They ate a lot, but only drank a few cups of liquor. After their lunch, they rested for a while before continuing their travel. By evening's time, they arrived in a small town.

Three days of traveling quickly passed. Zhao Hai was now more familiar with the other Clone Stage disciples. He now knew everyone's name. People's impression of Zhao Hai also improved.

After three days of traveling, Zhao Hai and the others finally left the Tyrant Blade Sect's territory. Then they entered the nearby sect's territory, the territory of the Purity Origin Sect.

The Purity Origin Sect was a member of the righteous faction, but it wasn't a great sect. It was just a small sect that was quite weak. However, the Tyrant Blade Sect let the sect exist. Firstly, because the sect has a good relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect. Secondly, the Purity Origin Sect had a good relationship with the Top Purity Sect, a Great Sect. According to legend, the first generation disciple of the Purity Origin Sect studied in the Top Purity Sect. The relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect and the Top Purity Sect was very good. Because of this, the two sects were in continuous peace. Their relationship was better compared to the Tyrant Blade Sect's relationship with the Butterfly Sect.

When Zhao Hai's group entered the Purity Origin Sect's territory, they didn't feel any difference. They would see villages along the way and rest in those villages. The villagers were also very respectful towards them.

If there was any difference, then it would be the presence of scholars in the villages of the Purity Origin Sect. The role of the scholars was to teach the children of the village basic lessons. Whether these children became cultivators or not, they would learn how to read. This scenario wasn't visible in the villages of the Tyrant Blade Sect.

In the territory of the Tyrant Blade Sect, the martial spirit was very strong. Villagers would practice martial arts even if they have no talent. Majority of these practices involved body cultivation. Although most of the people won't reach the Rebirth Stage their entire lives, they still continued to practice.

In the Purity Origin Sect's domain, the literary lifestyle was prevalent. After arriving, Zhao Hai and the others discovered that the way the villagers talked was different. They talked like educated people, which was commendable for people of their status.

After walking for a day inside the Purity Origin Sect's territory, they finally arrived at a city. The city was called Fragrant Ink City. Naturally, the name wasn't taken out of thin air. Fragrant Ink City was famous for their product, fragrant ink.

As Zhao Hai and the others rode to the gates of Fragrant Ink City, they saw two rows of cultivators each wearing scholar's robes. Some of these cultivators held books in their hands. They looked like scholars instead of cultivators. These people were disciples of the Purity Origin Sect, and they were responsible for guarding the gates of Fragrant Ink City.

Zhao Hai and the others didn't ride their horses directly towards the city. They were wearing their sect robes and rode on top of demon horses. If they rushed towards the city without any signal, the Purity Origin Sect might think that they were looking for trouble. So for people like Zhao Hai and the others, they would have to report their presence to the Purity Origin Sect before approaching.

Zhao Hai and the others were well aware of the rule, so they slowed down when they arrived at the gates of Fragrant Ink City. When they reached the gate, Zhao Hai waved his hand. Then everyone jumped down from their demon horse.

The Purity Origin Sect disciples also noticed Zhao Hai and the others. They looked at their clothes and then at their strength. They immediately understood Zhao Hai's identity. They wanted to see what Zhao Hai would do.

Seeing Zhao Hai and the others getting down from their horses, the disciples of the Purity Origin Sect smiled. They didn't plan on pressuring Zhao Hai's group when it comes to etiquette. But if Zhao Hai and the others acted insolent, then the disciples of the Purity Origin Sect wouldn't give them face. After all, the sect still has to preserve its dignity.

Zhao Hai cupped his fist towards the guards and said, "Tyrant Blade Sect's Zhao Hai has seen the Senior Brothers from the Purity Origin Sect."

The disciples of the Purity Origin smiled at Zhao Hai. Then one of them replied, "Purity Origin Sect's Dongfang Yu has seen Junior Brother Zhao Hai. Junior Brother, are you going to the competition? Let me be the first to wish you good luck."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Thank you, Senior Brother. This is our clearance document. Please check it."

Dongfang Yu smiled and said, "Since Junior Brother Zhao is leading the team, there's no need to check. We won't hold you for long. Everyone, please enter."

Zhao Hai expressed his gratitude towards Dongfang Yu, then he led everyone inside Fragrant Ink City. The city wasn't very big, but it had plenty of shops inside. Some of these shops were book stores. Not only do they sell books, they also sell paper and other materials.

Zhao Hai looked for a fairly good hotel and rented rooms for everyone. Then they all went out to eat. Because everyone was now familiar with each other, Zhao Hai invited them all to eat at a restaurant. After eating, the sky was already a bit dark. The people of Fragrant Ink City slept neither early nor late. When night came, shops of the city would hang paper lanterns with riddles inscribed on them. Those who answered the riddles correctly would receive a prize.

This wasn't like the lantern festival held on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month back in China. This was a custom of Fragrant Ink City. If nobody answers the lantern's riddle, then the lantern will be given a seal. Moreover, the reward would be tripled.

Because of this custom, a special profession existed in Fragrant Ink City, the riddle maker. These people make lantern riddles for a living. As long as their lantern riddles weren't answered in a short period of time, they would earn enough to support their families.

Zhao Hai looked at the lantern riddles, but he didn't answer any of them. He only looked at the people on the road. Zhao Hai could see cultivators joining in on answering the riddles. To be honest, in front of the lantern riddles, everyone was equal. Whether they be cultivators or mortals, if they cannot answer the riddles, they wouldn't be rewarded.

As Zhao Hai was walking around, he suddenly felt a hostile gaze directed at his back. However, he didn't stop and continued walking. However, he left behind a silver needle in his path. He wanted to see if someone would follow him.

Unfortunately, Zhao Hai would be disappointed. He couldn't see anyone after him. But this caused Zhao Hai to become more vigilant. The trial has arrived earlier than he thought. Perhaps they would be attacked as soon as they left Fragrant Ink City.

Thinking of this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but knit his brows. He was wondering why the other party was targeting him inside the Purity Origin Sect's territory. The Purity Origin Sect has a very good relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect. If they attacked now, then the disciples of the Purity Origin Sect would definitely offer their support. This wouldn't be advantageous for the attackers.

But after thinking about it, Zhao Hai understood the motive of the enemy. If they manage to attack Zhao Hai and the others without alerting the Purity Origin Sect, then they would not only get rid of Zhao Hai's group, they could also put a strain on the Purity Origin Sect and the Tyrant Blade Sect's relationship. It was killing two birds with one stone.

Chapter 2074: Midnight Attack

Zhao Hai calmly walked outside before returning to the hotel. He didn't discuss the matter with the other Clone Stage disciples. He knew that if told the others, then they would become more vigilant. This might cause the other party to be less careless. Therefore, Zhao Hai didn't talk to the others and just returned to his room to rest.

The next morning, Zhao Hai and the others ate their breakfast at the hotel before riding out of Fragrant Ink City on their demon horses. As he sat on his demon horse, Zhao Hai sent a secret voice transmission to the others, "Everyone, be vigilant. Yesterday, I felt a hostile gaze. We might be targeted."

Hearing Zhao Hai, the others couldn't help but raise their brows. But they weren't newbies who didn't understand anything. Seeing that Zhao Hai didn't turn his head back, they quickly understood what he meant. They also pretended to be unaware. But they replied using secret voice transmission, "Team Leader, what's going on. Are there people going after us?"

The secret voice transmission isn't an ordinary technique. It uses spiritual qi to compress sound and transmit it using spiritual force. This technique has no strength, but it could send voices to others without alerting people around.

This kind of voice transmission technique was different from the common usage of spiritual force to communicate. Using the common spiritual force method to communicate involves sending noticeable waves of spiritual force. The secret voice transmission technique only sends a very small amount.

The technique was also different from common voice transmission techniques. Common voice transmission techniques compress sound with spiritual qi and then passes it on to the person. But the fluctuation caused by this method was quite large. It was easily detected by other people.

It was precisely because of these fluctuations that secret voice transmission technique used a combination of spiritual qi and spiritual force to condense and wrap the user's voice. The fluctuation

would be minimal while the energy usage would be decreased. This was the best method to use for short-range voice transmission.

Hearing the others speak to him, Zhao Hai replied, "I felt the other party staring at me yesterday. I'm afraid that they would notice, so I didn't tell all of you. Be vigilant. If we're attacked, listen to my commands."

Everyone complied. But although they had already reached an agreement, nobody changed their expressions. It was as if they were just traveling like before.

Before long, they left Fragrant Ink City's vicinity. Zhao Hai and the others maintained their speed. But as they traveled, Zhao Hai was releasing liquid silver dust to pay attention to the surroundings.

After traveling for two hours, they still haven't met anyone. However, everyone was very patient. If they were impatient, then they would have no place in the path of cultivation. They could afford to wait. And while on the road, they talked and laughed with each other. Everything seemed normal.

But in reality, everyone was very careful. They just didn't show it on the surface.

The morning passed but nothing happened. At noon, Zhao Hai called everyone over again to talk and eat. But in the process of eating, Zhao Hai reminded everyone to pay attention. He already felt that the other party was setting their eyes on them.

The group continued hurrying along that afternoon. Although they haven't been attacked, they didn't lower their vigilance. They didn't dare underestimate Zhao Hai's warning. They knew that Zhao Hai wasn't someone who was careless with his words.

The skies slowly darkened, but Zhao Hai and the others missed a place to stay. They passed through a village earlier, but hundreds of miles have passed. It would be too late to go back. They can only proceed forward.

Seeing the moon coming out, Zhao Hai looked at the sky and then at his surroundings. They were now in the middle of a forest. To be honest, this wasn't a good place to camp. Not only were they susceptible to being attacked by cultivators, the beasts of the forest might also attack them.

But since it's already dark, Zhao Hai and the others need to find a place to camp in. After looking around, Zhao Hai said, "Brothers, it seems like we can only spend the night in the woods. Go find a place and clean it up. We're staying here for the night."

When the others heard Zhao Hai say this, there was a burst of complaints. Naturally, they were pretending. They knew that Zhao Hai wanted to camp in the forest to lure the other party out.

It must be said that demon beast skins were really good. Not only were they moisture-proof, they were also comfortable to lie on. It's precisely because of this that beast skin has become a necessary item for low-level cultivators.

In the True Spirit Realm, only a few low-level cultivators use spells to build houses to camp at night. This was because the pressure of the True Spirit Realm was too high. If your cultivation was low, you would use all of your spiritual qi maintaining the house. Otherwise, the house would crumble.

Naturally, low-level cultivators of the True Spirit Realm can use formations to maintain their house. But only a few people knew such formations. Therefore, if low-level cultivators want to stay outdoors, then they would use beast skins.

Before long, a temporary camp has been established. Everyone created a bonfire and then chatted around it. After they ate, Zhao Hai appointed two people to keep watch while the others went to their sleeping mats to lie down.

Zhao Hai also laid down on his sleeping mat. However, his spiritual force was constantly scanning the surroundings. He felt the hostile gaze getting stronger and stronger. He knew that the other party was preparing to act.

After two hours, heavy breathing was heard around the camp. Besides the two watchmen, the others seemed to be asleep. Then at this time, the sound of wind was heard. The two night watchmen immediately stood up and alerted everyone, "Enemy attack!" Then they pulled their blades out.

The camp fell into panic. The disciples have just woken up and they seemed to be flustered. From time to time, screams could be heard. Zhao Hai looked and could see that the sound of wind was caused by arrows flying towards them.

After this first rain of arrows, another shower of arrows came. And as soon as he saw the arrows, Zhao Hai's expression changed. He felt that the second rain of arrows was stronger than the previous one. This showed that the other party was getting closer.

After the arrow rain, the camp seems to be in confusion. Cultivators were lying motionlessly on the ground while others were groaning in pain. The rest had a shaken appearance. Even so, there were still about ten people standing.

Zhao Hai coldly snorted and said, "Rats. You actually used such a despicable method to deal with us. Come out!"

"Hahaha!" A laugh was heard from the trees. Then a reply came, "I didn't expect Demon Blade Zhao Hai to be afraid. Alright, I'll let you know who will kill you." After speaking, a group slowly appeared around Zhao Hai's camp.

Zhao Hai looked and saw around 40 people surrounding them. Each of them wore gray clothing. In their hands were crossbows.

Looking at this, Zhao Hai's complexion changed as he said, "Divine Armament Sect. It's you. We will enter your sect's territory in two days. I didn't expect that you would attack us this time."

One of the cultivators coldly snorted and said, "Of course we'll attack you this time. If we attacked you when you entered the Divine Armament Sect's territory, then there's no need to guess who attacked. We don't want to be chased down by the lunatics of the Tyrant Blade Sect."

Zhao Hai looked at the cultivator like he was stupid, then he said, "Are you an idiot? As long as the Tyrant Blade Sect takes a look, they would know that we're attacked by the Divine Armament Sect's crossbows. So why would it make a difference if you attack us here or in the Divine Armament Sect's territory? Also, if we're attacked in the Divine Armament Sect's territory, you can even deflect the blame to someone else. Now that you attacked us here, isn't that equivalent to telling others that you did it? You're an idiot."

The leader of the enemy team's face couldn't help but turn red. It was clear that the attack was his idea. Then he harrumphed and said, "Stop wasting your breath. Zhao Hai, you will die today. Even if the

Tyrant Blade Sect finds out that it's us who attacked you, we won't acknowledge it. Now, die!" After saying that, he aimed his crossbow at Zhao Hai. With a springing sound, the crossbow bolt flew towards Zhao Hai.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai waved his blade, protecting himself as well as the other disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect. Zhao Hai's blade techniques were very strong, and he didn't use his most powerful defensive technique. The crossbow's bolts were all blocked by Zhao Hai's blade.

Seeing this, the cultivator from the Divine Armament Sect coldly snorted and said, "What a talent of the Blade Dao. It seems like the rumors are true. Unfortunately for you, you will die. Lightning Palm!" Then the attackers turned their hands, taking out dark spheres. Then they threw the spheres towards Zhao Hai and the others.

Zhao Hai's complexion quickly changed. He quickly shouted, "Use your blades! Block the lightning palm!"

Chapter 2075: No Stepping Back

The Divine Armament Sect was a special sect. They're known for manufacturing mechanisms for hidden weapons. Their hidden weapons have been famous for their great power and great use.

However, there were some people who thought that the weapons of the Divine Armament Sect weren't that much. This was because although the weapon of the sect was powerful, they were quite large. They couldn't be made too small. This has always been the mindset of the Divine Armament Sect. But due to this, there were some people who said that the weapons of the Divine Armament Sect couldn't be called hidden weapons. They were too large and can't be concealed. They should just be called artifact weapons.

This idea became very popular in the True Spirit Realm. But the first people who spread this idea were the people of the Tyrant Blade Sect. It's because of this that the relationship between the two sects wasn't very good. The Divine Armament Sect would always find trouble with the Tyrant Blade sect.

The lightning palm that was used by the people of the Divine Armament Sect was a very special weapon. It's a weapon made of formations that sealed in heavenly thunder. When thrown, the lightning palm

would explode as soon as it touches anything. The heavenly lightning inside would be released and cause huge damage.

But the lightning palm has a weak point. If a lightning palm was hit in advance, then it would explode.

Due to this, lightning palms weren't used on their own. If a lightning palm was used on its own, cultivators like the disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect would just use their blade qi. As long as their blade qi touches the lightning palm, they would explode in advance. This would limit the damage of lightning palms.

Lightning palms were used together with hidden weapons. Zhao Hai's group was now seeing this in action. They had to deal with the crossbows, but they also had to deal with the lightning palms. This increases the effectivity of the lightning palm.

Although Zhao Hai reminded everyone, making them release blade qi towards the lightning palm, there were too many lightning palms released. They simply couldn't block all of them. A lot of lightning palms exploded right next to their targets.

A dazzling light flashed. The Divine Armament Sect cultivators couldn't help but close their eyes. When their eyes reopened, they saw the disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect, besides Zhao Hai, lying on the ground.

The leader of the Divine Armament Sect group sneered at Zhao Hai, "Zhao Hai, you're still resisting? Give up. You're finished."

Zhao Hai's eyes were blood red as he roared at the Divine Armament Sect disciples, "Despicable bastard. Besides ambush, what else can you do? Fight me with real skill!" As he said this, a drop of blood slid down Zhao Hai's mouth, as if showing that he was injured.

There were just too many Divine Armament Sect disciples present. People who were on the verge of death would often mouth the same words. Although Zhao Hai's words were insults, to the Divine Armament Sect disciples, it sounded like praise.

The leader of the Divine Armament Sect disciples laughed at Zhao Hai, "Zhao Hai, you're too naive. But I will accept your request. I'll give you a fair fight. We won't use hidden weapons. What do you think?"

Zhao Hai looked at the Divine Armament Sect disciple and angrily cursed, "Despicable. You will die like a dog!" The reason Zhao Hai scolded them was because the other party wasn't really offering a fair fight. Although they won't use hidden weapons, they didn't mention that they wouldn't gang up on Zhao Hai.

The Divine Armament Sect laughed and said, "I've given you the opportunity, and yet you scold me. But it doesn't matter. Brothers, receive your hidden weapons. Let's give him the fair fight he wants."

The Divine Armament Sect disciples complied and received their hidden weapons. Then they took out their own personal weapons as they surrounded Zhao Hai. The weapon in their hands differed. This was also a characteristic of the Divine Armament Sect. They could choose what weapon they want. In any case, these weapons wouldn't be their main method of attack.

Looking at the 40 enemies surrounding him, Zhao Hai's complexion turned ugly. At the same time, he released his clone. Then he defended against his enemies along with his clone.

Zhao Hai's struggling appearance caused the Divine Armament Sect disciples to be excited. In their minds, Zhao Hai was fighting on his final leg. As long as they continued attacking, Zhao Hai would fall. Therefore, they all excitedly attacked Zhao Hai. They failed to notice that the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples on the ground had already grabbed their blades.

The Divine Armament Sect disciples were initially guarded against Zhao Hai's counter-attacks. But before long they discovered that Zhao Hai seemed to be spent. He didn't use any defensive techniques and was even spitting out blood. They could see that he was heavily injured.

This excited the Divine Armament Sect disciples even more. They felt that they were cats playing with an old mouse. They could just play long enough, and the old mouse would die.

After attacking Zhao Hai for ten minutes, the Divine Armament Sect was still unable to pass through his defense. But in their minds, as long as they tried harder, they would break through. This was because Zhao Hai's defence was getting weaker.

At this time, Zhao Hai suddenly shouted, "Begin!" Just as Zhao Hai shouted, the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples suddenly jumped up and released their own auras. Then they attacked the Divine Armament Sect's disciples.

The disciples of the Divine Armament Sect were unable to respond. Moreover, close-combat wasn't their strong point. Their reaction was closer to ordinary cultivators. So before long, 30 people were killed, leaving only the people closest to Zhao Hai.

While the disciples of the Divine Armament Sect were being killed, Zhao Hai also attacked. He used his blade to get close to the enemies around him. Then he began cutting them down.

The Divine Armament Sect's disciples were flustered. They were played by Zhao Hai. Those who remained couldn't help but give Zhao Hai a resentful glare.

Zhao Hai looked at their expressions and laughed, "You guys think that you can plot against me? You're still too tender. Do you know how much effort it took to act out this play? Now suffer."

After he said that, Zhao Hai's blade became faster. The Divine Armament Sect simply couldn't take their hidden weapons out. Zhao Hai didn't hold back and showed the might of his blade. He didn't give the opponent an opportunity to retaliate.

The Tyrant Blade Sect disciples were standing on the side looking at all of this. By this point, they were completely convinced by Zhao Hai. The reason they were able to eliminate the enemy was due to Zhao Hai's planning. He was aware that they were going to be attacked and came up with a plan. He made estimations of the situation to deal with it appropriately. Back when they were attacked by the arrows, he immediately knew what to do.

Because of this, Zhao Hai was prepared ahead of time and told everyone about what to do. So, by the time the enemy showed themselves, the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples knew what reaction to make.

When the Divine Armament Sect disciples attacked, the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples feigned panic and fear. Because of this, the enemy were convinced that their plan had succeeded. Then the Divine Armament Sect disciples focused on Zhao Hai, the only remaining person standing. This created a situation where the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples were in the perfect position to sneak attack.

Now, the Divine Armament Sect disciples were in an inescapable situation. Zhao Hai's blade techniques were extremely strong. This display also showed the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples the extent of Zhao Hai's proficiency in the blade.

The Tyrant Blade Sect disciples were initially unaware of Zhao Hai's strength. They only heard of his reputation. Zhao Hai was quite famous in the Tyrant Blade Sect, but the majority of the disciples hadn't seen him make a move. Now, the disciples finally had the opportunity to see Zhao Hai's blade.

Zhao Hai made the disciples aware of how terrifying he could be. Zhao Hai's blade was domineering, far beyond their expectations. The disciples of the Diving Armament Sect weren't bad, two of them had even reached the Soul Fusion Stage. But they can only defend against Zhao Hai's onslaught. They couldn't find any opportunity to attack.

As the battle continued, the state of the Divine Armament Sect's disciples became more dire. After ten minutes, Zhao Hai exploited an opening in their formation and began cutting them one by one.

After dealing with his opponents, Zhao Hai waved his hand and sent all of the corpses to the Space. Then he looked at everyone and said, "Let's leave immediately. This place isn't safe. The beasts will locate the smell of blood. If we get entangled with them, it would be troublesome." Then he waved his hand and released the demon horses. Everyone complied and quickly escaped the forest.

While they were escaping, Zhao Hai said, "Now that we've dealt with the people of the Divine Armament Sect, we will certainly face trouble when passing their territory. Everyone needs to be careful."

Everyone nodded. Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "The Divine Armament Sect didn't follow the rules. They sent two Soul Fusion Stage cultivators. It seems like the rules could no longer be followed. You should all prepare, the path ahead wouldn't be peaceful."

A nearby disciple coldly snorted and said, "The Divine Armament Sect is becoming more and more arrogant. They might be thinking that we're afraid of them. Hmph. If it weren't for the Purity Origin Sect being in the middle, we would have cleaned them up a long time ago."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "They won't dare go too far. If they do, the Sect will deal with them. Do you really think that the sect couldn't deal with them?"

The others coldly snorted. They also knew that Zhao Hai was telling the truth. Despite this, they felt aggrieved. They could only wait for the attackers to attack them. They have no other choice but to defend. To the aggressive blade users, this feeling was very uncomfortable.

Zhao Hai said, "We're going to pass through five sect territories. The Divine Armament Sect and the Riverfront School don't have a good relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect. These two sects would certainly send people to deal with us. The sect has thought of this a long time ago. The reason they sent us on this route is for us to take this opportunity to sharpen ourselves."

"As long as the Divine Armament Sect doesn't cause too much trouble, the sect wouldn't make a move. So, we must be careful. As long as the Divine Armament Sect doesn't send a Teleportation Stage cultivator, the sect wouldn't make a move. We can only depend on ourselves."

Hearing Zhao Hai, the complexion of everyone couldn't help but change. They were only at the Clone Stage. If the enemy really sends a Soul Fusion Stage or an Earth Monarch, then they would be in danger.

Naturally, this danger didn't include Zhao Hai. After all, Zhao Hai has experience fighting against a Teleportation Stage Cultivator. As for the others, they were ordinary elites in the Clone Stage. Even if they were stronger than their peers, they would still suffer against Soul Fusion Stage cultivators. Not to mention Earth Monarchs.

Seeing everyone's complexion, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile, "Brothers, who are we? We are cultivators. We cultivate to go against heaven's will. If we don't fight against the heavens, if we don't have the courage to face hardship, then what's the point of cultivation? To be honest, we can use my flying mount to reach Topfire Mountain in no time. But I didn't do that. I'm using this trip as a trial. Only after such a trial can we grow as cultivators. Only then can we step further into the dao."

Zhao Hai's words caused the others to ponder. They thought about Zhao Hai's path. He ascended from the lower realms. If an ascender like Zhao Hai wasn't afraid, then what were they afraid of? Thinking of this, everyone's vision of Zhao Hai couldn't help but change.

In the True Spirit Realm, locals don't look down on ascenders. Conversely, locals of the True Spirit Realm look up to lower realm ascenders. These people experienced numerous hardships to enter the True Spirit Realm. No matter their cultivation, all of these ascenders were worthy of respect.

Zhao Hai could feel the gaze of everyone. He smiled faintly and said, "Brothers, let's continue forward. The great dao is in front of us. Let's advance step by step. Take a step back, and you might lose your path. Only doom awaits us if we retreat. We're cultivators, we always move forward!"

"Forward!" Everyone cheered along with Zhao Hai. Their hearts were pumping with Zhao Hai's words.

Chapter 2076: Ghost Cultivators Appear

The sound of wind rustling was heard, then several black-robed men appeared in the place where Zhao Hai battled against the disciples of the Divine Armament Sect. Looking at the battle site, one of the black-robed men sneered, "Those fools from the Divine Armament Sect. Forty people can't deal with twenty. They even used crossbows. How incompetent."

Another cultivator coldly snorted, "This Zhao Hai is really hard to deal with. He runs away after battle, and his vigilance is very high. No wonder our previous plans have been destroyed by him. But this time, we'll make sure to take his life."

A nearby cultivator replied, "But we also need to be more careful. Although the True Spirit Realm has been calm, don't forget that those Great Sects are still tracking our presence. We might have given up on the surface, but once we show an opening, those bastards will swoop in immediately."

The others nodded. They knew their current state. Although the Great Sects seems to have given up on tracing them, they were in fact not. The Great Sects were looking for them secretly. And as long as they show an opening, they would immediately use the opportunity to capture them.

One of the black-robed men coldly snorted, "No matter what, Zhao Hai must die. This fellow destroyed several of our plans. If we don't kill him, my heart won't be settled."

The others agreed. Then they disappeared in a flash. Zhao Hai and the others were now very far away from the location of the battle. They didn't stop for a moment and continued on their way.

Although Zhao Hai has eliminated everyone from the Divine Armament Sect, he still felt unsafe. This feeling caused him to urge the group to continue traveling.

Zhao Hai was completely unaware that Ghost Cultivators were at his tail. But he knew that the farther they were from the battle location, the safer he would feel.

The words he spoke to everyone before weren't false. He has the thinking that if a cultivator lost their courage, then that would be equal to giving up. And they would slowly wither.

The Clone Stage disciples followed behind Zhao Hai on their demon horses. They were currently feeling empowered. They had been completely conquered by Zhao Hai.

The demon horses were very fast. After running for a hundred li, Zhao Hai stopped, then he turned to the others and said, "Alright, we'll rest here. At dawn, we resume our travels."

The others stared. One of them said, "Team leader, you want to rest here? Why don't we continue on?"

Zhao Hai replied, "There's no need. We don't know what we'll encounter along the way. We should maintain our peak state at all times. Otherwise, if something truly unexpected happens, we can deal with it. Now, dismount. Adjust your breathing." Everyone complied and jumped down from their demon horses. Then they sat down and regulated their breathing. This time Zhao Hai didn't take away the demon horses.

When dawn came, people opened their eyes one by one. They stabilized their breathing and regained their peak condition. Seeing that everyone was refreshed, he gathered them together. Then the group departed.

The day went along smoothly. However, compared to before, Zhao Hai and the others traveled at a faster speed. The reason for this was because Zhao Hai felt a dangerous aura behind them. It made him feel uncomfortable. Because of this, Zhao Hai unconsciously sped up. He wanted to get rid of this feeling.

However, it was clear that getting rid of this feeling isn't easy. Zhao Hai felt that he was being followed by a ghost. It made him feel extremely uncomfortable.

After several days of this feeling, Zhao Hai's complexion couldn't help but turn ugly. Fortunately, they didn't suffer any attacks. But Zhao Hai didn't lower his guard. They had now entered the Divine Armament Sect's territory. It was possible that the Divine Armament Sect would put pressure on them.

The Tyrant Blade Sect disciples noticed Zhao Hai's complexion, they saw that his expression wasn't very good. One of them couldn't help but ask, "Team leader, what happened? We noticed that your complexion hasn't been good. Is something wrong?"

Zhao Hai looked at the person and nodded, "There's something. These days, I've been feeling that people are following behind us. Therefore, our speed has increased. Unfortunately, we still can't get rid of them. This feeling has been annoying me. Brothers, do you believe me?"

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, everyone's complexion changed. They were quiet for a while before one answered, "Team Leader, we believe you. You mean someone is following us? They want to deal with us?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "That's right. They're following us because they want to get rid of our group. They didn't attack us in the Purity Origin Sect because they knew that attacking us would attract the Purity Origin Sect's attention. The relationship between the Tyrant Blade Sect and the Purity Origin Sect is very good, they will definitely save us."

"But now, we're in the Divine Armament Sect's territory. As the matter stands, they have an opportunity. The Divine Armament Sect hates the Tyrant Blade Sect. Additionally, we killed 40 of their disciples. They definitely won't help us. They might even block our way. No matter who is behind us, they would certainly attack in the Divine Armament Sect's territory."

Hearing Zhao Hai, everyone frowned. After some time, a cultivator asked, "Team leader, what are your plans? Do we avoid the Divine Armament Sect?"

Zhao Hai shook his head, "That won't do. The Divine Armament Sect attacked us, this means that they know our location. Even if we hide, we won't be able to. So, we can only move forward. Moreover, we won't take the side roads. We'll travel along the main road. If the Divine Armament Sect doesn't plan on going into an all-out war against the Tyrant Blade Sect, they wouldn't dare to deal with us in the open. This will save us a few troubles."

The others nodded. They were already convinced by Zhao Hai's skills, so nobody opposed his plan. Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "Alright. Don't think about it too much. I want to see who wants to attack us. I just hope that they don't push me too hard. Otherwise, I won't care about the competition's rules."

As soon as they heard Zhao Hai, their eyes couldn't help but shine. They knew that Zhao Hai wasn't just a simple Clone Stage cultivator. He was an expert that could go head-to-head against a Teleportation Stage cultivator.

Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "Let's go. Everyone, increase your speed. Let's see if the one's behind still intends to chase after us." After he said that, he coldly snorted and began to pick up speed.

Before long, noon arrived. Zhao Hai and the others could spot a small town from afar. Seeing that it was quite late, Zhao Hai said, "Everyone, let's speed up. We'll rest in the town up ahead." Everyone complied and sped up with Zhao Hai.

Shortly after, the group arrived outside the town. When they got close to the town, the group couldn't help but stare. This was because the gates of the small town were closed. Cultivators were standing on the town's walls. All of them had crossbows in their hands and gave Zhao Hai's group an ugly look.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but knit his brows, "Senior Brothers of the Divine Armament Sect. My name is Zhao Hai. We've been sent by the Tyrant Blade Sect to participate in the competition. I ask Senior Brother to allow us to rest in your town."

The town's cultivators were still glaring at Zhao Hai. The expression on their faces weren't good. After some time, one of them said, "Junior Brother, I'm very sorry. Our town has just been attacked by beasts and rogue cultivators. We're currently under martial law. We have no way to let Junior Brother in. We can give Junior Brother some supplies in return. We'll give them to you for free. I can only ask you to go rest in another town."

As soon as they heard this, Zhao Hai and the others' expressions turned ugly. The town has no signs of battle. It was clear that they hadn't been attacked. This only meant that the town wasn't giving them any face.

Zhao Hai looked at the disciples of the Divine Armament Sect. He didn't think they would be so narrow minded. They even went so far as to block them from entering towns. Such a sect was unworthy of being the Tyrant Blade Sect's enemy.

Zhao Hai also discovered that the cultivators in the town were beginning to lift their crossbows and aimed at them. There was a cold sparkle in their eyes. Zhao Hai knew that if their group made a drastic move, then these people wouldn't hesitate to shoot them.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai knew that the Divine Armament Sect was plotting something. They want to enrage him using this method. As long as Zhao Hai was angered to take action, the Divine Armament Sect can use this as a reason to attack. Even if they killed Zhao Hai and the others, the Tyrant Blade Sect wouldn't be able to reasonably settle the grudge.

Thinking of this, Zhao Hai smiled, then he said, "I didn't know that Senior Brothers are having difficulties. This Junior Brother is being insensitive. Then our group won't bother you anymore. Senior Brothers, I wish you well." After saying that, Zhao Hai cupped his fist towards the wall and then led his group of Clone Stage Disciples away from the town.

Zhao Hai's actions caused the cultivators in the town to be surprised. One of them said, "Senior Brother, didn't you say that the people of the Tyrant Blade Sect are overbearing? You said they would certainly act, then we can use this opportunity to kill them off. Who do we do now?"

Chapter 2077: Unification of Man and Horse

Another person from the Divine Armament Sect coldly snorted and said, "It looks like this Zhao Hai isn't as simple as we thought. No wonder Junior Brother Meng and the others fell in his hands. I don't believe that they didn't make a move. Zhao Hai's group are now going around the town. If they encounter any attacks on the way, it won't have anything to do with us."

Hearing this, the other cultivator couldn't help but stare. Then he couldn't help but smile, "I see, this is Senior Brother's scheme. But can we really chase after them? The beast they ride isn't slow."

The Senior Brother sneered, "Looking at the direction they went towards, they should be going to Green Hill City. From here to Green Hill City, even if they use their fastest speed, it will take them about two

days. We can use the transmission formation to go to Green Hill City. Then we use our connections in the city to run into them and clean them up.”

When the cultivator heard this, he couldn't help but give an excited nod. Then they turned around and left. On the other hand, the cultivator who talked about Zhao Hai looked at the direction they left in. The corners of his mouth couldn't help but reveal a sneer. At the same time, ice-cold killing intent appeared in his eyes.

Zhao Hai doesn't know that the other party was already moving against him. They have already circled around the town. The others in the group were feeling uncomfortable. Just like the cultivator from the Divine Armament Sect said, the people of the Tyrant Blade Sect have overbearing temperaments. Now that they had been treated like this, they would naturally feel unwell.”

Fortunately, Zhao Hai already established his status in the group. Although they felt that Zhao Hai's decision wasn't right, they didn't act unreasonably. But they expressed their dissatisfaction with their silence.

Zhao Hai also felt the change of the others. He turned his head to them and said, “What's wrong? Are you unhappy? You think I'm afraid of them?”

The disciples looked at each other but didn't speak. Their expressions said it all. Zhao Hai looked them all in the eyes and said, “Don't be angry. Didn't you notice? Those guys did it on purpose. They want us to attack them in anger. Then as soon as we move, they will shoot us with their crossbows. At that point, we would be in the passive position.”

Hearing Zhao Hai, the others couldn't help but give him a confused look. One of them said, “Team Leader, are you sure? Those fellows are truly bold. Would they dare deal with us in the open?”

Zhao Hai replied, “It's not that they don't dare. Don't forget, we killed 40 disciples of the Divine Armament Sect. Perhaps some of those we killed have relationships with the people in the town. They want revenge. There's nothing they won't dare to do.”

Zhao Hai wasn't speaking nonsense. What he said was the truth. The 40 disciples who attacked them had already been interrogated. Among the 40, a disciple called Meng Qi belonged to the town. The

cultivator who spoke ill of Zhao Hai was Meng Qi's Senior Brother. Naturally, he would avenge his Junior Brother.

Because of this, Zhao Hai didn't fight them. He was aware that they were in the Divine Armament Sect's domain. If they really get into a fight, it wouldn't be favorable towards them.

The disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect didn't say anything. They knew that Zhao Hai's words held some truth in them. Even they would have relatives living in towns in the Tyrant Blade Sect's territory. If these people died, they would also seek revenge. If some of the 40 disciples they killed belong to the town, then it was natural for the town to seek revenge.

Zhao Hai looked at the road in front of them and said, "From the performance of the Divine Armament Sect, they aren't people who would suffer a loss without making a noise. They would certainly use all their means to deal with us. We're currently in their territory. They have plenty of methods to stop us. We must be on guard at all times."

Everyone nodded. Zhao Hai looked at the demon horses and said, "Our demon horses are fast and very strong. Their charging speed is formidable. This is advantageous for us. You must be feeling comfortable using your blade on horseback by this point. If we encounter any danger, we'll have to use our demon horses to charge. This will give us the best chance to escape."

When they heard this, they couldn't help but stare. But they immediately nodded and said, "Team Leader can rest assured. We'll follow your instructions."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly when he saw their reaction. He knows that they were thinking about basic cavalry charges. He sighed and said, "Don't look down on the demon horses. Although the cultivation of the demon horses couldn't match up to yours, their charging strength is unimaginable. If you can achieve unification of man and beast, then even cultivators a realm higher than you won't be able to block your charge."

After saying that, Zhao Hai waved his hand, causing jade slips to appear in everyone's hands. Then he said, "In the jade slip is the meridian path of the demon horse. You can use this to practice unification of man and beast. I believe it won't be a problem for you to practice. You only need to merge your spiritual qi with the demon horse's spiritual qi."

The disciples stared at the jade slip in their hand. They haven't heard of this technique before. But they believed that Zhao Hai wouldn't deceive them. Therefore, they immediately nodded and scanned the jade slip with their spiritual force.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly. This is a result of multiple days of preparation. He had everyone adjust their breathing on top of the demon horses in preparation for this day. In the past they weren't like this. Not only do they eat on top of the demon horses, they would also train while riding the horse. Zhao Hai did this because he felt that their path ahead would only become more difficult.

Unification of man and beast wasn't difficult for cultivators of their calibre. After reaching the clone stage, their spiritual force was already very powerful. At the same time, they would have a high understanding when it comes to controlling spiritual qi. It shouldn't be a problem for them to unify their spiritual qi with the demon horse.

Naturally, without knowing the meridian paths of the demon horse, it would be impossible for them to unify with the demon horse. The meridian chart allowed cultivators to easily trace the demon horse's meridians with their own spiritual qi.

Unifying their spiritual qi with the demon horse was only the first step of the unification of man and beast. The second step was controlling the demon horse using only spiritual qi. This is the true form of the unification of man and beast.

Because of Zhao Hai's instructions, the speed of the group decreased. In the beginning, the clone stage disciples were unfamiliar with the method. Several times, the demon horses were injured during the process of unification. Fortunately, Zhao Hai was there to heal them back up.

This day, the distance they traveled was only a third of what they traveled the day before. They were traveling extremely slow. However, their harvests were quite rich. By evening's time, the group had basically grasped the unification of man and beast.

Looking at everyone excitedly controlling their mounts, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. He knew what these people felt. Achieving unification of man and beast would make one feel that their mount had become their feet. They could feel the motions of the horse's leg. They can also feel the condition of the demon horse's spiritual qi. This method also provided good benefits to their cultivation.

Due to these benefits, everyone was in a celebratory mood. This was a novel experience for them. It would take some time for them to sober up.

Zhao Hai was also aware of this. Therefore, he didn't stop them. He continued to lead everyone to slowly proceed. At the same time, he paid special attention to their surroundings. He knew that this was an important time for those who just succeeded in the unification of man and beast. As long as they were left undisturbed, they would be able to comprehend the method to its highest degree. When the time comes, their combat strength on horseback would be stronger.

In the middle of the night, people began to wake up one after another. After waking up, they looked at the sky and couldn't help but smile faintly. To be honest, their gains were very good. They finally knew the importance of the unification of man and beast during battles. Once the spiritual qi of the cultivator and their mount became unified, they would be able to share their spiritual qi. For cultivators, this was an important aspect.

The demon horse might not have a high level, the spiritual qi they hold wasn't small. Moreover, Zhao Hai's demon horses contain very thick spiritual qi along with wide meridians. Therefore, those who unified with them would restore their spiritual qi faster. Not only will the unification aid in the cultivator's attacks, the method also ensures that they could fight for a longer time.

Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "Alright, we'll rest here today and leave early tomorrow. Those people from the Divine Armament Sect won't let us enter the city. It's possible that they're waiting for us ahead. So, we have to keep ourselves in top condition and be always ready to fight."

Everyone complied and jumped down from their demon horse. But this time, things were different. Before, they would jump down from the horses and find a place to rest. This time, they were more intimate with the demon horses. The demon horses also reciprocated their intimacy. This caused the cultivators to be happy. They could feel that they became closer to their demon horses. They couldn't help but discuss their accomplishment with the others.

Seeing the group's expressions, Zhao Hai smiled. Their current state was the best for the group. Although the demon horses were his, he didn't mind giving them to the others. In any case, the Space could breed even more.

The next morning, Zhao Hai and the others got up full of vigor. After eating, they rode off with their demon horses. During normal times, there was no need to use the unification of man and beast. Otherwise, it would be equivalent to cultivating all the time, which wasn't a good thing.

But since everyone had just learned the unity of man and beast, they were excitedly chatting nonstop along the way. Thus, time passed by quickly.

After two hours of travel, Zhao Hai knitted his brows, then he said, "Brothers, from the time we departed until now, did we meet any carriages?"

As soon as they heard Zhao Hai, everyone stared. Then one of them shook his head and said, "We didn't. From the beginning, we didn't see anyone else. What happened? Is something wrong?"

Zhao Hai couldn't help but turn serious, "Everyone, be more careful. This is a main road of the Divine Armament Sect. It's been several hours and yet we haven't met anyone. Isn't this strange?"

Everyone was stunned, then their complexion changed. Originally, they didn't feel anything wrong. They simply didn't care about people they met on the road. Now that Zhao Hai mentioned it, it was indeed strange.

Zhao Hai said, "Prepare yourselves. I feel that something will happen today." After saying that, Zhao Hai urged his horse to continue. The others followed soon after. This time, everyone had lost the mood to converse. Instead, they sat firmly on their mounts and observed the surroundings.

Seeing everyone's reaction, Zhao Hai couldn't help but feel disappointed. These people were too tender. Their actions are clearly telling the enemy that they were on guard. When the enemy attacks, they would also be more thorough. But Zhao Hai didn't remind them. They need to experience these things slowly by themselves.

After traveling for an hour, Zhao Hai's group spotted a village. Upon seeing the settlement, Zhao Hai's pupils couldn't help but shrink. Then he said, "Everyone, be careful. Something is strange in the village ahead. Let's pick up speed. In one breath, we'll break through the village. Don't ever stop halfway." Everyone quickly complied. They used the unification of man and beast and began to charge.

Demon horses were innately large and heavy. With more than 20 demon horses running together, their momentum was equivalent to ten thousand horses galloping. The speed of the demon horses was also augmented by the unity of man and beast.

Meng Qi stood on a tree that grew in the village. His gaze was directed at Zhao Hai and the others. The village had already been vacated. Over a hundred Divine Armament Sect disciples were lying in ambush. In their hands were crossbows aimed at the main road of the village.

Seeing Zhao Hai's group accelerate, Meng Qi's eyes flashed a hint of solemnity. He couldn't understand why Zhao Hai and the others suddenly accelerated. Did they discover the ambush? How was that possible? But right now, Meng Qi couldn't think about it too much. Zhao Hai and the others were very fast. In a blink of an eye, they had already reached the village.

Meng Qi quickly waved his hand and said, "Fire!" Along with his voice, rows upon rows of crossbow bolts flew towards Zhao Hai's group. At the same moment, Zhao Hai and the others took their blades out to block the projectiles.

Then all of a sudden, Zhao Hai felt his demon horse landing on something soft. Zhao Hai stared and then lowered his head. He discovered that the village's roads were filled with pitfalls. The horse had fallen into a formation trap. As long as the demon horses step into the trap, their mobility would become limited.

Zhao Hai revolved his spiritual qi, giving strength to the four hooves of the demon horse. The horse proceeded to leap out of the trap. At the same time, Zhao Hai shouted, "Everyone, be careful. There are traps on the ground!"

Zhao Hai's reminder alerted the rest of the group. They immediately controlled their horses to leap. But later on, more and more traps appeared. This caused Zhao Hai and the others to have trouble moving. All this time, Meng Qi's group didn't stop their attacks. On the contrary, seeing Zhao Hai's group suffering from the traps, Meng Qi ordered everyone to attack faster. Zhao Hai and the others don't only need to be careful of the traps, they also need to block the crossbow bolts. For a while, the group was having a hard time, and two people became injured.

Seeing the situation, Zhao Hai coldly snorted. He waved his blade as eight golden colored gates appeared around him. All crossbow bolts were stopped by the gates.

Zhao Hai's group continued their charge and before long they managed to get out of the village. And in a blink of an eye, they vanished from sight. Meng Qi and the others were very confident that they could deal with Zhao Hai's group. They didn't expect them to be very fast.

Meng Qi's expression was ugly as he looked at the direction Zhao Hai left in. His hatred for him deepened even more. At this time, cultivators who held the ambush flocked towards him. These cultivators weren't very strong. Most of them were at the Rebirth Stage. They only depended on the crossbows to attack. This is also the reason why Zhao Hai and the others were able to safely escape. If these cultivators were at the Clone Stage, Zhao Hai might have a harder time escaping.

A cultivator looked at Meng Qi and asked, "Senior Brother, what do we do now?"

Meng Qi was still looking in Zhao Hai's direction, he coldly snorted and said, "We have plenty of cities and towns along the way. We have plenty of opportunities to deal with them. But by this point, Zhao Hai and the others know that we're out to deal with them. This is also good. I want to see what Zhao Hai plans to do next."

After escaping the village, Zhao Hai and the others ran another 100 kilometers before finally slowing down. Zhao Hai turned his head and looked at the two people who were injured. Seeing that their injuries weren't serious, he felt relieved. However, everyone's expression wasn't good.

Zhao Hai looked at everyone's expression and knew what they were thinking. A crossbow attack was a method of the Divine Armament Sect. This meant that the ambush was done by disciples of the Divine Armament Sect.

They were attacked by the Divine Armament Sect's disciples inside the Divine Armament Sect's domain. It seems like they could no longer stay here for long. And their future path would be more dangerous.

Zhao Hai looked everyone in the eyes and said, "Everyone, you've seen what happened. This is a blatant attack of the Divine Armament Sect. It seems like they no longer consider our face. We cannot just sit and wait for death. No matter who is following behind us, we'll have to take a risk. Let's travel on foot for a while. Put away your horses. This way, the Divine Armament Sect wouldn't find our whereabouts and we will be safe for the time being. I reckon the enemies behind us would be easier to deal with than the Divine Armament Sect. What do you all think?"

By this point, everyone was completely convinced by Zhao Hai. Their breakthrough from the village might seem safe, but thinking about it, it was very thrilling. If Zhao Hai didn't discover the strange situation of the village ahead of time, and if he didn't give them the method of unification, then they wouldn't have been able to get out of the village.

The Divine Armament Sect's crossbows were very famous artifacts. It might not be useful against powerful cultivators, it was very useful against cultivators in the Soul Fusion stage. If they didn't know the unification of man and beast, then Zhao Hai's group wouldn't have been able to jump over the traps. And they would have died in the village. They don't believe that the village didn't have any powerful experts. Once they were trapped in the village, then crossbows wouldn't be the only thing they needed to worry about.

Now that Zhao Hai asked for their opinions, nobody expressed their disapproval. Everyone nodded and said, "We'll follow the team leader." Zhao Hai nodded and then had everyone ride their demon horses into a valley.

The road was lined with dense forests. Not far away was a large mountain. It was quite famous in the Divine Armament Sect. The mountain was called Arrow Tree Mountain. This was because of the arrow trees growing on it. The tree was called such because it was the best material for making arrows.

Arrow Tree Forest wasn't tall at only three kilometers high. However, it was quite a long mountain range.

After Zhao Hai and the others entered the forest, riding the demon horses was no longer an option. The trees in the forest were big and tall. If they rode the demon horses, not only would they remain slow, the horses might not progress well. Therefore, not long after the group entered the forest, they began to walk on foot. Then once all of their traces were removed, they proceeded to head deep into the forest.

An hour later, Zhao Hai's group formally entered Arrow Tree Mountain. Huge and straight trees grew all around the mountain. Looking from the base, the trees looked as if they pierced through the heavens. It was truly the best material for arrows.

Zhao Hai took a few tree seedlings for the Space. Then he led everyone forward. Zhao Hai was very careful. This was because as soon as he entered the forest, he quickly felt that he was being haunted by a ghost. And this time, the feeling was more intense.

Zhao Hai led the group forward without making a sound. In turn, their speed wasn't very fast. He also made sure that everyone didn't consume too much spiritual qi. If they met an attack, everyone needs to be prepared.

The group remained safe when night came. They met some beasts along the way. These beasts were weak, but Zhao Hai didn't want to provoke them in fear of leaving traces. Therefore, he had the group go around the beasts.

The sky soon turned black. Zhao Hai knew that they had to rest. They passed through an ambush and marched the entire day on a mountain. The others should be tired. Unlike Zhao Hai, these people weren't body cultivators. They needed to rest.

Zhao Hai looked around the forest and saw dense clear ground. Then he looked at the others and said, "Alright, let's stop here. Rest for the evening. We'll depart tomorrow." Everyone let out a sigh of relief as they sat on the ground. To be honest, today was a very long day. They were exhausted.

Seeing everyone's tired eyes, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Alright, take out your beast skin mats. Let's eat and then sleep. I'll stand watch tonight." After saying that, Zhao Hai planned to go around the camp to plant a few formation discs.

After hearing this, the cultivators jumped up. Then one of them said, "Team leader, we can be the night watch. We'll divide into shifts. This way, everyone can rest well."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Forget it. Go and rest well. You don't have to worry about me." Before long, Zhao Hai set up the formations around the camp. He took his own beast skin mat out and spread it on the ground. He had also taken food out for the others to eat. Honestly, the others also brought their own food, but they preferred Zhao Hai's food. Compared to what they brought, Zhao Hai's goods were more delicious.

After eating, Zhao Hai had everyone rest. Everyone also knew that they needed to be at the optimum state. They sat on their beast skin mat and regulated their breathing before lying down to sleep.

Zhao Hai also sat on his mat and regulated his breathing. On the other hand, his clones distributed themselves around the camp. Some went underground while some hid inside arrow trees.

Zhao Hai felt that something would happen tonight. The feeling was becoming stronger. He could even sense killing intent.

He was too familiar with this feeling. Each time he was attacked, he would have this feeling moments before. Moreover, this attack was clearly directed at him. The killing aura was focused on him, the killing aura on the others wasn't as strong.

Zhao Hai sat in place and recalled. He wanted to know who would target him at this moment. From the killing intent, he could sense a gloomy and cold feeling. This was a familiar feeling. But as to where he felt it before, Zhao Hai couldn't recall.

As he sat on his mat, Zhao Hai's thoughts arrived at the time of his trial. He suddenly recalled the Wu Clan's village. As he went around the village, he could feel the same gloomy and cold aura.

Zhao Hai opened his eyes as he realized the source of the aura. It was from a Ghost Cultivator!

Chapter 2079: Young Master Soulhook

Ghost Cultivators! It was the Ghost Cultivators! Thinking of this, Zhao Hai's face couldn't help but show his surprise. He didn't expect that he would be meeting ghost cultivators at this time. This made things more troublesome.

Zhao Hai knew that the path to Topfire Mountain was a trial. Each sect would send people to attack the other sects. However, the strength of the attackers wouldn't be too far from each other. This can be seen on the 100-man ambush that was orchestrated by the Divine Armament Sect.

And during this trial, all the sects were afraid of ghost cultivators. Ghost cultivators and the others share a deep enmity. Ghost cultivators don't respect the rules of the trial. They were there to kill people, so they naturally wouldn't send their weak experts. In other words, with the presence of ghost cultivators, Zhao Hai and the others were no longer undergoing a trial.

But Zhao Hai was certain that the Ghost Cultivators wouldn't send their top-level experts to hunt them down. Otherwise, the great sects would take notice. Ghost cultivators won't risk their powerful experts

just to hunt down juniors of the great sects. It's possible that they would send strong experts, but not outrageously strong.

Zhao Hai sat in the camp and made calculations. Then he pressed his hand on the ground. A ripple appeared on the ground that Zhao Hai sat on before it disappeared.

What Zhao Hai did was send a few bugs into the ground. These bugs were small at the size of one's palm. They also weren't very strong. However, these bugs had one special attribute, and that was their poison.

This bug has a poisonous needle on their back end. This needle can send venom that had been enhanced by the Space multiple times. Even Earth Monarchs would lose their strength when subjected to the poison.

The bugs that Zhao Hai released could also hide from spiritual force detection. Even Teleportation Stage cultivators wouldn't be able to detect them. Although the bugs would emit rustling sounds while digging the earth, these sounds would be drowned out if there was a battle going on. It can be said that these bugs were the best underground assassins. Zhao Hai released the bugs not only to assist him during the fight, the bugs would also help him arrange a formation underground.

At this time, the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples who were sleeping suddenly heard a voice in their ears, "Brothers, wake up."

Hearing this, everyone quickly opened their eyes. However, they didn't make a move. This was because they heard the voice say, "Brothers, don't move. Pretend that you're still asleep. There are people moving towards us."

Everyone couldn't help but stare when they heard this. At this time, Zhao Hai added, "Brothers, listen carefully. The ones attacking us this time are Ghost Cultivators. I already arranged a formation around the camp. We still don't know how strong they are, so I can't say how long the formation will last. Therefore, you need to be ready. Once the Ghost Cultivators attack, immediately go to my side."

The group listened to Zhao Hai without moving. They also didn't respond. But Zhao Hai knew that everyone was already awake and had understood his instructions.

Zhao Hai added, "Remember, our enemy this time isn't simple. Ghost Cultivators don't follow the rules that are set by the three factions. They might be much stronger than us. If we can't beat the other party, I'll lure them away while you all run. Go to River City and wait for me there. If I don't return in three days, leave using the river. The river heads straight to Topfire Mountain. Don't reveal your status. Don't group up but you need to coordinate. Pretend to be rogue cultivators."

Nobody replied, Zhao Hai didn't say anything either. He continued sitting in the group as though nothing happened. Before long, the sense of crisis he felt became even stronger. Zhao Hai was certain that the other party was in range. They just haven't decided to attack. Zhao Hai patiently waited. He doesn't know what method the other party would use. Although he had been in contact with Ghost Cultivators in the past, those people were weak. Because of this, Zhao Hai has yet to experience a true attack by the Ghost Cultivators. He also wants to see what kinds of methods they have at hand.

Before long, Zhao Hai got his answer. He quickly jumped up. He thought about the ways the Ghost Cultivators might deal with them. But he didn't expect that they would use this method. A bunch of ghost soldiers appeared around Zhao Hai's camp. The lower bodies of the ghost soldiers were smoke with no feet in sight. But their upper bodies were all soldiers wearing armor. The armors and weapons of the soldiers varied. All of them were charging towards Zhao Hai's camp.

The ghost soldiers looked good. Not only were they hideous and terrifying, the most important thing was that their armors were striking. One could see that they were far from the lowest-level ghost soldiers. Those ghost soldiers don't have armor and only hold knives. Seeing the ghost soldiers, Zhao Hai stared. He didn't think that the ghost cultivators would use this method to attack them.

Although the ghost soldiers looked good, when Zhao Hai looked closely at them, he felt that they weren't true soldiers. Instead, they felt more like a group of bandits composed of defeated soldiers. And they just touched upon the classification. Routed soldiers could at least cooperate with each other. Meanwhile, the ghost soldiers just rushed over like a swarm.

Zhao Hai bitterly smiled. The same time he discovered the ghost soldiers, he also shouted, "Enemy attack!" Just as he said that everyone jumped up with their blades in hand. Everyone quickly formed a circle.

At this moment, the ghost soldiers arrived at the camp. But as soon as they entered, it seemed like they had lost their target. They kept running around the camp. And after going in circles a couple of times, they attacked the other ghost soldiers. It seemed like there was infighting among them.

While the ghost soldiers were attacking each other, a cold snort was heard, "Formation? You're careful. But it's useless. Soulhook bell, ten thousand ghosts. Break!" Along with this voice, a ring was heard. But this ring carried an aura of death. It made those who heard it terrified. Hearing this sound, Zhao Hai's complexion changed, "Sound attack! Everyone, be careful. Guard your minds!" As he said that, Zhao Hai turned his hand and took out a big drum. He placed the drum on the ground and slammed his palm on it. A low and deep beat sounded out.

It held the same tone as battle drums used in battlefields. Its sound could shake one's soul. The voice from before was heard once more. This time, it carried a tone of surprise, "Oh? I didn't expect the Tyrant Blade Sect to also have such artifacts. Interesting, let this Young Master Soulhook teach you how to properly use sound artifacts."

Hearing this, the Tyrant Blade Sect disciples couldn't help but shake, one of them said, "It's the Bewitcher, Young Master Soulhook!"

Zhao Hai turned his head to the cultivator and asked, "Li Fei, who is this Young Master Soulhook?"

Li Fei, the one who spoke, looked like a 30-year-old man. He wasn't tall, but his body looked sturdy.

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Li Fei couldn't help but force a smile as he replied, "Team Leader, I heard of the Bewitcher in the past. In fact, 30 years ago, in the True Spirit Realm, his name was very famous."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Continue."

Li Fei added, "Young Master Soulhook is a rare talent of the Ghost Cultivators. Thirty years ago, he reached the Earth Monarch stage. At that time, for some reason, he went out of the shadows and began slaughtering cultivators in all directions. It doesn't matter if they were the Righteous Faction, Evil Faction, or Demon Faction, he killed them all. He specially targeted young geniuses from the Great Sects. This included a Senior Brother of the Tyrant Blade Sect. That Senior Brother has Heaven-grade Spirit Roots. He's the most famous genius of the sect at that time."

Speaking of this, a hint of fear appeared on Li Fei's eyes as he continued, "His most famous battle was when he single-handedly fought against two top geniuses of the Demon Faction and the Righteous Faction, the Matchless Swordsman Feng Xue and the Reckless Blade Lin Yang." Hearing these two names, Zhao Hai's mind was also shaken. This was because he recognized the name of the two geniuses. Feng

Xue was a favored genius of the Righteous Faction. He was known to be the top genius of the younger generation. He was born in the Venerated Sword Sect and reached the Teleportation Stage 25 years ago. He hasn't made a move for 20 years. By this point, nobody knows how strong he is.

As for Reckless Blade Lin Yang, he's also a top expert of the Demon Faction's younger generation. He reached the Teleportation Stage 20 years ago. Just before that, he challenged a Teleportation Stage Senior while in the Earth Monarch Stage. He managed to injure that expert. The battle was judged as a tie. Also, that Teleportation Stage Senior wasn't a nameless expert like Lu Sheng that Zhao Hai fought against. This person was a famous Teleportation Stage expert. His strength was formidable.

Chapter 2080 – Stacked Array Reveals Its Might

Feng Xue and Lin Yang were rising talents of the True Spirit Realm. However, the two of them working together couldn't do anything to Young Master Soulhook. This showed the strength of the genius ghost cultivator.

Li Fei continued, "But according to the records, Feng Xue and Lin Yang killed Soulhook. How could he appear again?"

Naturally, Soulhook heard Li Fei's words. He coldly snorted and said, "You think the two of them can kill me? Stupid. You've been deceived. They said they killed me, but has anyone in the True Spirit Realm seen my body? Hmph. If they believed they really killed me, then the True Spirit Realm has indeed fallen."

Hearing Soulhook, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare, then he smiled and said, "I don't care if you're the real Soulhook or not. Perhaps you weren't really killed by Feng Xue and Lin Yang, but I'm certain that you've suffered heavy wounds. Moreover, you still haven't recovered. Hahaha. With your talent, how could you still be in the Earth Monarch Stage? In your current state, do you really think you can deal with me? How naive."

"Hmph!" A cold snort was the only reply. This was followed by another ring which stimulated the ghost soldiers. Their eyes turned blood red as they waved the weapon in their hands.

Zhao Hai's face showed a serious expression. He beat the drum in his hand harder, causing the other disciples to be uplifted. They were no longer afraid of the bell.

Li Fei and the others pulled their blades out and defended Zhao Hai. But soon enough, they discovered that the ghost soldiers were being held back by Zhao Hai's drum. The ghost soldiers simply couldn't approach. This caused them to relax.

At this moment, a sudden wailing was heard. Li Fei and the others turned their heads and found a rotating disk coming straight at them. Holes were specially bored onto the discs so that they would make a wailing noise when thrown.

Just as they were about to block the disk, it was bounced back by a sound wave. The disk was an artifact, so after it was thrown back, it immediately returned with strength a bit greater than before.

Zhao Hai said, "This disk shouldn't be hard to deal with. I will hold back on the drums. Pay attention to the direction of the disks. Whether it attacks from above or from below, use your blades to knock it down." Li Fei and the others complied and observed the disk.

The beat of Zhao Hai's drum slowed down. As soon as the beat weakened, the disks immediately flew over. Their speed seems to have slowed down. Li Fei and the others could clearly see the path of the disks.

Wen, wen, wen, wen. The sound of metals clashing with each other was heard as Li Fei and the others blocked several disks. This time, the disks didn't return but instead traveled straight up. Since the disks attacked from below, it was better for its momentum to travel up instead of going back the way it came.

The ghost soldiers used this opportunity to continue their attack. However, once Li Fei and the others managed to block the disks, the drum beat increased once more. But this time, the ghost soldiers didn't retreat. Their eyes were red as they attacked with their weapons.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but knit his brows. Then with a thought, a clone appeared on his side. The clone took out its own drum and began beating it. Zhao Hai received the drum that he used.

After receiving the drum, Zhao Hai looked at the ghost cultivators and coldly snorted, "Using ghosts against me, do you think I'll be afraid?" After saying that, Zhao Hai took out a magic staff. Li Fei and the others couldn't help but stare at Zhao Hai. They discovered that small luminous orbs appeared in front of Zhao Hai. They looked like the stars on the night sky,

But it didn't take long before they discovered that these weren't stars. These luminous spots were formations. Each one of them was condensed by spiritual qi. The might of these stacked formations was shocking.

Li Fei and the others couldn't count how many formations were in front of Zhao Hai. They couldn't understand how Zhao Hai could support so many formations.

What they didn't know was that the formations that Zhao Hai released were quite few. In the past, back in the Great World of Cultivation, Zhao Hai could condense as many formations as the stars in the sky. Right now, Zhao Hai only condensed 10 thousand formations, which was enough for his spiritual qi to support.

After 10 thousand formations were condensed, Zhao Hai felt a strain on his soul. He immediately released the formation, "Descent of the Holy Light. Purify the World!" With his command, the light dispersed from the formation and shot towards the ghost soldiers.

The moment they met the white light, the ghost soldiers became akin to extinguished lamps. They immediately vanished. They didn't even have the time to yell.

The white lights disappeared along with the ghost soldiers. Li Fei and the others couldn't help but stare at the vanishing lights. It took quite some time before they recovered.

"You actually destroyed my ghost soldiers. Zhao Hai, you're dead! I'll turn you into my ghost soldier!"

Soulhook's voice was heard from all directions. Meanwhile, Zhao Hai showed a tired smile on his face. Soulhook used his spiritual force to project his voice, making it difficult for Zhao Hai to trace his location. But now, his anger caused him to slip up. His location was immediately traced by Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai immediately commanded his bugs to charge towards Soulhook. At the same time, he controlled his breathing to recover his spiritual qi. Even with his fast recovery speed, he would still need time to get back to full.

But at this moment, the wailing of ghosts was heard. Then skulls began to appear from the forest around the camp. These skulls were from real skeletons. The entire skull was surrounded by a layer of

blue flame. The skulls were opening their mouths to release a gritting wail. They all floated in the air as they charged towards Zhao Hai's group.

Zhao Hai has yet to restore his spiritual qi. Now that the skulls were attacking, he couldn't deal with them. So, he asked the others for help, "Brothers, block them for me. I need some time."

Li Fei and the others have already recovered and quickly noticed Zhao Hai's state. Without hesitation, they stepped forward, encircling Zhao Hai. They used their blades to block the incoming skulls. This time, Zhao Hai's clone wasn't beating the drum. This was because sound attacks weren't effective against the skulls. Most importantly, Soulhook was no longer using his Bewitching Bell.

Zhao Hai's clone appeared beside Zhao Hai and used his blade to defend alongside Li Fei and the others.

At this moment, a scream was suddenly heard. Li Fei and the others were stunned. This was because their defense was very solid. None of them had been injured by the skulls. So where did the scream come from?

While Li Fei and the others were surprised, Soulhook's voice was heard once more, "Despicable! I never expected the Tyrant Blade Sect to use such a despicable method. You used poisonous bugs!"

Zhao Hai didn't reply. His spiritual qi has yet to recover, so he didn't have time to waste on Soulhook's shout. What surprised Zhao Hai was the fact that the skulls had slowed down. But he also felt that the bugs that he sent were quickly disappearing. There wasn't much left.

When Zhao Hai sensed that all his bugs were gone, his spiritual force was finally restored. He pulled his blade out and then attacked the skulls along with his clone.

Then Soulhook's voice was heard, "Kid, I'll let you live temporarily." After saying that, there was no more sound, and the skulls disappeared.

Li Fei and the others didn't know why Soulhook left. But Zhao Hai was aware. Soulhook must have left to save the other ghost cultivators.

Zhao Hai believed that Soulhook wasn't acting on his own. He certainly has followers with him. Although the bugs might not be a threat to Soulhook, they were to the other ghost cultivators. The poison from the Space wasn't easy to deal with. Although ghost cultivators were well versed in terms of poisons, it's impossible for them to get rid of Zhao Hai's poison in a short amount of time. Therefore, seeing that his companions weren't doing well, Soulhook decided to leave.

Zhao Hai didn't lower his guard. Upon confirming that Soulhook's group has indeed left, he immediately said, "Let's go. The sound of our battle will surely bring the Divine Armament Sect to us. Those guys haven't given up on tracking us down. If they find us, we won't have a good time."

The others nodded and immediately destroyed the camp. Although the formation that Zhao Hai set up was a bit useful, it was no longer needed. Everyone soon left the area.

Zhao Hai can't be careless this time. Because they were on a mountain, they were in the presence of beasts. If they faced powerful beasts, then they would be delayed even more. So, Zhao Hai released a few flying bugs to scout ahead. Then he led Li Fei and the others to cautiously go forward.