

World 2081

Chapter 2081 – Hundred-Mile River

Zhao Hai and the others didn't suffer any losses during the fight, but their mood was very heavy. The name of the person who attacked them constantly loomed over their minds. The Bewitcher Soulhook was a threatening figure.

Even if they haven't seen Soulhook, they were certain that the Soulhook they faced was real. Ghost cultivators have their own pride. They won't pretend to be anyone else. Moreover, Soulhook's combat methods were quite famous. The most important thing was the presence of the Bewitching Bell, Soulhook's personal artifact.

Soulhook's fame was greater than theirs. He has been famous for a long time. Although he disappeared and was proclaimed dead, it seems like he was alive and well. His strength might not be high, but it still placed a lot of pressure on Zhao Hai's group.

However, most of this pressure was on Li Fei and the others. They knew better than Zhao Hai how cruel Soulhook could be. They also knew how worse they were compared to Zhao Hai. Meanwhile, Zhao Hai was confident in himself. As long as Soulhook didn't enter the Teleportation Stage, Zhao Hai was fine.

The group carefully moved forward. With the bugs scouting ahead, Zhao Hai and the others were able to bypass the territories of several demon beasts.

After walking for about two hours, Zhao Hai looked at the weather as well as Li Fei and the others. The group were currently low on energy, they looked very tired.

Looking at the surroundings, Zhao Hai said, "Everyone, let's rest for a while. If we continue walking, we won't have the energy to face our enemies."

Li Fei and the others naturally agreed. Zhao Hai found a good place and the group proceeded to sit down. After half an hour, Li Fei opened his mouth and said, "Team Leader, should we inform the sect about what happened? The one who attacked us is Bewitcher Soulhook. That fellow is bad news."

Zhao Hai nodded, "We should tell the sect. Soulhook is very strong. If they weren't caught off guard by our bug attack, I'm afraid we would still be fighting against them right now."

After saying that, Zhao Hai took out his communication token. But looking at the token, Zhao Hai couldn't help but knit his brows. Communication tokens convenient items. The communication token in his hand right now could display a three-dimensional projection. However, communication tokens were very sensitive to fluctuations in energy. It wouldn't function if the surrounding spiritual qi was chaotic.

The spiritual qi in Arrow Tree Mountain was very chaotic. In other words, Zhao Hai couldn't use the communication token while they were in the forest. Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but criticize its reliability. Communication tokens were the same as cell phones back on earth, which wouldn't function on mountains due to weak signals.

With no other choice, Zhao Hai took out a small transmission formation. He recorded the events that happened on a jade slip and then sent it through the transmission formation. The jade slip would be sent directly to the sect.

After sending the message, Zhao Hai began to relax. The small transmission formation was for Li Fei and the others to see. Laura and the others should already be aware of what happened. They can explain to the sect in his stead.

Li Fei and the others breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing Zhao Hai send the jade slip through the transmission formation. Seeing their reaction, Zhao Hai was somewhat disappointed. Li Fei and the others experienced too few events. Being anxious just because of this kind of threat wasn't good.

However, Zhao Hai was also aware that it was impossible for Li Fei and the others to change in such a short period of time. Therefore, he could only wait.

Although Zhao Hai was sitting in place, he was actually paying attention to their surroundings. Knowing that there were no imminent threat, Zhao Hai and the others felt at ease.

After resting for two hours, Zhao Hai's expression changed. He stood up and then said, "Everyone, there's people coming towards us."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Li Fei and the others immediately became anxious. If it weren't for Zhao Hai's numerous methods, they would have already fallen under Soulhook's hands. Therefore, they believed Zhao Hai's caution.

Everyone quickly became vigilant as they pulled their lades out. Then they hid in the shadows of the forest and became quiet. They made sure that they wouldn't be discovered.

Although this method wasn't very useful, it would still have an effect on unsuspecting people.

After some time, the sound of wings flapping could be heard. Zhao Hai looked up and saw flying beasts in the air. On the back of the beasts were people. Each one of them had crossbows on their backs.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai understood that these people were from the Divine Armament Sect. The fight alarmed the Divine Armament Sect, so they sent people over to examine. After seeing the scene of the battle, they began to scan the surroundings. Zhao Hai has long known that they were coming because of the Space. Because of this, he was able to make everyone prepare in advance. On the other hand, there were no powerful experts among the group from the Divine Armament Sect. Therefore, Zhao Hai's group wasn't discovered.

Once the people of the Divine Armament Sect left, Li Fei and the others let out a long breath. Their view of Zhao Hai was elevated once more. They were certain that the flying beasts above them were domesticated. After all, the types of beasts varied. Wild beasts of different species wouldn't group up.

Also, ghost cultivators wouldn't dare use flying beasts on Arrow Tree Mountain. Only the Divine Armament Sect had the courage to fly over the mountain.

Nevertheless, this was not good news for the group. The Divine Armament Sect was circling above them. If they were discovered, then they would be in trouble.

Zhao Hai looked at everyone and said, "Let's leave immediately. Once morning comes, I'm certain that the Divine Armament Sect would send more people to look for us. It's better to be careful."

Everyone nodded. They knew that their battle against Soulhook has alarmed the Divine Armament Sect. And the sect would certainly think that one of the parties fighting was the group from the Tyrant Blade

Sect. With this in mind, they wouldn't hesitate sending more people to look for them. Arrow Tree Mountain was inside the Divine Armament Sect's territory. If Zhao Hai and the others weren't careful, they might be caged in by the Divine Armament Sect.

Most importantly, the Divine Armament Sect has a reason to encircle Arrow Tree Mountain. And that reason was searching for ghost cultivators. A lot of traces were left in the scene of the battle. The Divine Armament Sect could easily judge that ghost cultivators were involved.

Zhao Hai urged everyone forward. At the same time, he was thinking of methods to deal with their situation. The Divine Armament Sect was blatantly caging them in while the ghost cultivators were using all their methods to kill them. Both sides were a headache to deal with.

Arrow Tree Mountain was no longer safe. Before, although the Divine Armament Sect has enmity with the Tyrant Blade Sect, they couldn't blatantly attack Zhao Hai's group. But now things were different. Ghost cultivators have entered the equation. The Divine Armament Sect can use the ghost cultivators as an excuse to seal Arrow Tree Mountain. As time passes, it would be more difficult to escape from the mountain.

They had to leave Arrow Tree Mountain! After analyzing their situation, Zhao Hai quickly made a decision. Once they left the mountain, the Divine Armament Sect would still chase them down. But at the same time, the ghost cultivators can make a move on the Divine Armament Sect. The two sides would entangle each other.

Moreover, the Divine Armament Sect wouldn't dare tear the face of the Tyrant Blade Sect. They might still send people, but they wouldn't send powerful experts. Zhao Hai can deal with the people they would send.

And once they left Arrow Tree Mountain, Zhao Hai and the others could use their demon horses. The demon horses were fast and their momentum was strong. As long as the horses were used well, Zhao Hai and the others would be able to leave the Divine Armament Sect's territory.

Thinking of this, Zhao Hai turned his head to the others and said, "Everyone, prepare yourselves. We'll leave Arrow Tree Mountain as soon as possible. With traces of ghost cultivators present, the Divine Armament Sect would send a large number of people to search the entire mountain. If we're found, we will be in trouble. The best thing for us is to leave immediately. We can't allow them to encircle us."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Li Fei and the others nodded. Li Fei said, "Team Leader, we'll follow your instructions." The others also nodded to Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai looked at everyone's eyes, then he nodded, "Alright. But first I want to thank you all for your trust. We're leaving now. But we have to work a bit harder. I believe that the way out of Arrow Tree Mountain will be blocked by the Divine Armament Sect. The roads will be blockaded, so we can't head there. We can only go to the other side."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Li Fei couldn't help but knit his brows, "Team Leader, Hundred-Mile River is on the other side of Arrow Tree Mountain. It's famous in the Divine Armament Sect. Not only is the water flowing rapidly, it has unforgivable undercurrents. Also, we don't have a boat. If we walk along the river, we'll be discovered by the people of the Divine Armament Sect. Then we won't have the chance to run."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You don't need to worry about our ship. I can take care of that. However, we can only pretend to be ordinary people. Especially our clothing. We can't use our current clothes, and we can't show our weapons. Try to hide the fact that we're cultivators. Understood?"

Although they didn't fully understand Zhao Hai's words, everyone nodded. Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile faintly as he said, "Alright, let's go." After he said that, he led everyone towards the Hundred-Mile River.

The Hundred-Mile River was a river 100 miles wide. Its waters were turbulent and it was covered by dense rock formations. Actually, the river can be managed well. As long as a cultivator makes a move, then can clean up the rock formations, the river can become a golden waterway. Not only was the river wide, it was also deep. It can accommodate large ships.

Unfortunately, nobody was willing to do this. Cultivators would rather sit down and cultivate. They had nothing to do with what mortals needed. Because of this, Hundred-Mile River became another undeveloped gold mine. Although merchants continued to use the river for transport, they wouldn't dare transport too much. Moreover, due to the dense rock formations, only small boats and rafts could traverse the river.

Once Zhao Hai and the others crossed Arrow Tree Mountain, they quickly saw the Hundred-mile River. The river was a giant jade belt flowing on the waist of Arrow Tree Mountain. It was extraordinarily beautiful.

Fortunately for Zhao Hai and the others, Arrow Tree Mountain wasn't big. As cultivators, Zhao Hai and the others were able to quickly get through it. On the night of the second day, they finally arrived at the riverbank. They would have arrived earlier if it wasn't for the Divine Armament Sect's disciples passing through the air.

Looking at the Hundred-Mile River, Li Fei looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Team Leader, what do we do now? Cut down trees to make a ship?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Cut trees down? If we cut trees, we'll be discovered by the Divine Armament Sect. Don't worry, I have a solution." After saying that, Zhao Hai waved his hand and pulled out a pile of beast skin.

The pile was made out of sheepskin. Besides the neck and the four limbs, the skin remained intact. It was also covered by a thin layer of oil.

Li Fei and the others couldn't understand what Zhao Hai wanted to do. Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then tied a rope on the open sections of the sheepskin before using a wind spell to fill it with air. Before long, a sheepskin balloon was made.

After making the balloon, Zhao Hai looked at Li Fei and the others and said, "Did you see? Follow what I did and fill the sheepskin with air. Make sure that no air escapes. While you're doing that, I'll prepare something else."

Although Li Fei and the others were confused, they followed Zhao Hai's instructions and filled the sheepskin with air. For cultivators like them, this was an easy task. They were also curious about what Zhao Hai wanted to do.

At this time, Zhao Hai was strolling around the forest looking for thick branches. He plans to create a small raft using wood and inflated sheep skin.

Chapter 2082: Herb Merchant

Seeing Zhao Hai's actions, everyone understood what he wanted to do. Zhao Hai was making a sheepskin raft.

The flow of the Hundred-Mile River was the same direction that Zhao Hai and others would travel to. Therefore, Zhao Hai and the others could use it to go far away. Cultivators generally won't pay much attention to the river.

Few cultivators go to the Hundred-Mile River because it was too dangerous. Although it didn't have too many powerful beasts, the river was too wide and its current was too rapid. To cultivators who couldn't fly, using the river as a channel for transport wasn't safe. Therefore, only cultivators who had no other choice would use the river.

Additionally, the raft that Zhao Hai planned to build doesn't need a lot of wood. Zhao Hai and the others don't have to worry about the Divine Armament Sect noticing their actions.

Making a sheepskin raft wasn't a complicated matter. It didn't take a long time before Zhao Hai and the others finished it. After cutting a few branches to size, the raft was practically done.

The raft wasn't very big. At most, it could carry just a bit more than 10 people. Nevertheless, Zhao Hai was very satisfied with it. He also installed hoses to the raft. It is connected to the river below. On the other end of the hose was a mask that can cover a person's entire head. Zhao Hai also placed communicators inside the masks.

With this, once the raft was launched, more than ten people could stay underwater. Even if they were spotted by the Divine Armament Sect, they wouldn't get any attention since the number of people seen on the raft was wrong.

After everything was prepared, Zhao Hai turned to the others and said, "Brothers, we're being chased down by two groups of people. Although I don't know how the ghost cultivators managed to find us, I am certain that they could catch up to us. Therefore, we can only use this method. Twelve people need to go underwater. Those who are down there not only need to keep up with the raft, they also have to remind those on the raft about the reefs ahead. There are undercurrents in the river, only those on the surface could control the speed and direction of the raft.

Everyone nodded, "Team Leader, you go underwater. I'll go with the others underwater."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright, those who will stay above need to change your clothes. You need to wear gray clothing like rogue cultivators. Hide your weapons as well. We can't be seen wearing blades. From now on, I'm a merchant while you are rogue cultivators I hired." After he said that, Zhao Hai waved his hand and took out some clothes as well as weapons.

There were all kinds of weapons on the ground. The clothes were common clothes worn by rogue cultivators.

Li Fei couldn't help but look at Zhao Hai, "Team Leader, where did you get these things?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I killed some people. Don't ask more questions. Change your clothes." After saying that, Zhao Hai's figure changed as the clothes in his body transformed. He was no longer wearing his warrior clothing. Instead, he donned clothes often worn by merchants. His face also looked older. Most importantly, Zhao Hai's temperament changed into a frosty, 30-year-old man.

Li Fei and the others couldn't help but stare at Zhao Hai. They didn't expect Zhao Hai to be capable of such change. It was astonishing.

Seeing everyone looking at him, Zhao Hai said, "Alright, don't look. Go and prepare. With my calculations according to our experience, the Divine Armament Sect will arrive soon." When they heard this, everyone no longer delayed. They immediately changed their clothes. Those who would go underwater went down and wore the masks.

With Zhao Hai's order, everyone got on the sheepskin raft. Once on the raft, Zhao Hai took out two sealed boxes. Above the boxes was a seal. Seeing the two boxes, one of the cultivators said, "Team Leader, what is that?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's nothing. Now that I'm acting like a merchant, I naturally need goods to transport. These are my goods."

The cultivator nodded. Zhao Hai took out several wooden oars and gave them to everyone. Then he said, "Take these. Pay attention to the current. Let's depart." The disciples above the raft looked at each other before shrugging and beginning to row.

Controlling a makeshift raft wasn't easy. But Zhao Hai and the others were cultivators who had complete control over their strength. It didn't take long before they got used to maneuvering the raft. Although it was inferior to manufactured boats, it wasn't too far.

The speed of the Hundred-Mile River was quite high. So, they didn't need to row too much. The main use for the wooden oars was to steer the raft away from undercurrents or stray rocks.

With the speed of the raft, the disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect need to pay close attention. At the same time, those underwater kept giving reports about the state of the river. They simply had no way to think about the Divine Armament Sect.

The disciples might not be paying attention to the enemy, but Zhao Hai was. He continued paying attention to Arrow Tree Mountain's situation. He was using a unique qi gathering technique to hide any traces of cultivation from his body. Now he looked like a small merchant that was earning money for his family.

Not long after they entered the Hundred-Mile River, a patrol team of the Divine Armament Sect flew out from the Arrow Tree Forest. Naturally, with how high they were, they didn't care about Zhao Hai's small raft. This allowed Zhao Hai's group to travel smoothly.

The raft moved quickly. In less than an hour, Zhao Hai saw small black spots in the air above Arrow Tree Mountain. Zhao Hai knew that this was a patrol team from the Divine Armament Sect. Unlike the last patrol team, they were heading towards Zhao Hai and the others.

Seeing that the other party was approaching, Zhao Hai said, "Everyone pay attention. Cultivators from the Divine Armament Sect are coming. Remember, you are people of the Iron Sword Mercenary Group. I hired you to escort me from Feather Peak City to Green Leaf Town."

After saying that, Zhao Hai said, "Inform the people underwater to pay attention to their breathing. Don't be discovered by those fellows. The mounts they're riding might be sensitive to breathing."

Everyone quietly complied and returned to steering the raft. At the same time, Zhao Hai's orders were being transmitted to the people underwater.

Before long, Zhao Hai's raft was covered by a shadow. Zhao Hai wore a startled appearance as he looked up at the beasts above him. There were around 50 beasts in the air. All of them had crossbows on their back indicating that they were disciples of the Divine Armament Sect.

Zhao Hai quickly stood up and bowed, "I have seen the esteemed Masters."

The gazes of the disciples of the Divine Armament Sect were as sharp as blades, slashing at everyone's faces. Zhao Hai and the others bowed and didn't dare look up. At this time, the raft continued to be swept by the river's current. But because nobody was controlling it, it began to shake and become unstable.

A cultivator from the Divine Armament Sect saw this and frowned, "Alright, go control your boat." As soon as they heard this, Zhao Hai and the others breathed a sigh of relief and resumed controlling the raft. Zhao Hai also stood up and said, "This one is called Gu Yueyan. I have seen the esteemed sirs. I'm a merchant from Feather Peak City. These people are cultivators from the Iron Sword Mercenary Group. I hired them to escort me."

The disciple from the Divine Armament Sect nodded and said, "What is this thing? How come I haven't seen it before?"

Zhao Hai quickly said, "Replying to the esteemed sir, this one is a sheepskin raft. It's used to transport goods in short distances along the river. It can only go along the river's current. If you want to go upstream, then it would need to be pulled by people on the shore. Because it's very cheap and convenient to use, a lot of people use it."

The disciple from the Divine Armament Sect didn't say anything. The Hundred-Mile River was actually not under the sect's total control. Moreover, they didn't come here often. It's normal for them to not recognize the raft.

However, the disciple continued talking, "Where are you headed?"

Zhao Hai immediately replied, "Replying to the sir, this one needs to go to Green Leaf Town to deliver a batch of goods. Because I'm short on time, I have to use this raft."

The Divine Armament Sect disciple nodded, he looked at the two boxes and asked, "What's inside?"

Zhao Hai replied, "These two boxes contain medicinal herbs. Moreover, they're high-grade herbs."

Hearing Zhao Hai, the Divine Armament Sect couldn't help but ask, "Medicinal herbs? Open it up and let me see."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright." Then he quickly opened the boxes. Once the two boxes were opened, the smell of medicine immediately assaulted everyone's noses. The boxes weren't big, but their design was reasonable. Each box was divided into compartments each with a jade box inside. As for what medicinal herbs were inside, nobody knew. But the fact that they were medicinal herbs couldn't be doubted.

Sou! Without waiting for Zhao Hai to react, a jade box flew out of the box and landed on the hands of the disciple. The disciple wasn't polite and opened the jade box. Upon looking inside, he couldn't help but get stunned. Inside was an ordinary ginseng that was a few years old. It might be a treasure for ordinary people, but for cultivators from the Great Sects, it wasn't worth looking at.

The disciple from the Divine Armament Sect also knew that such ginseng was very valuable to merchants so he didn't snatch the medicinal herbs. After returning the jade box, the disciple from the Divine Armament Sect left along with his companions.

Chapter 2083:

Looking at the Divine Armament Sect disciples getting far away, a flash of glee appeared in Zhao Hai's eyes. Then he said, "I know that you're happy and want to laugh. But hold it for now. All we need to do is rush forward. As long as we get to Green Leaf Town, we no longer need to be nervous."

Zhao Hai didn't lie. Green Leaf Town was no longer inside the Divine Armament Sect's territory. The sect has no jurisdiction to chase them down until the town.

Although everyone was happy, they held it in just like Zhao Hai commanded. They continued to advance as though they were truly escorting an herb merchant.

Although they had fooled the Divine Armament Sect, Zhao Hai kept his attention to the surroundings. The feeling of being haunted by ghosts hasn't vanished. This was also the most pressing issue for Zhao Hai.

The raft moved very quickly. It was faster than Zhao Hai and the others using their movement techniques on land. This was mainly because the Hundred-Mile River's current was very strong.

After several hours, Zhao Hai saw a rock that signified a small pier up ahead. Zhao Hai immediately said, "Tell the brothers underwater to bring their masks and separate from the raft. Travel 10 miles downriver before going up. The raft will stop at the pier." The others complied and immediately informed the people underwater. Those under the water complied and quickly detached their breathing masks from the raft and continued down the river. Meanwhile, Zhao Hai and the others controlled the raft to head towards the small pier.

Before long, the raft arrived at the pier. There were plenty of wooden rafts parked beside the pier. However, Zhao Hai's sheepskin raft was very unique. A lot of people were curious and went over to Zhao Hai's group.

Zhao Hai brought the others on the pier along with the two boxes. Then they pulled the raft to the shore before tying it down and releasing the gas from the sheepskin bags. Then they took the sheepskin bags and placed them inside boxes. Before long, they left the pier. This left the people watching them stunned at what they saw.

The bystanders didn't think that they would see such a thing. Someone could actually arrive and then bring their raft with them. It was surprising.

Zhao Hai didn't think about the bystanders. He led the others as they entered Green Leaf Town and went to the biggest medicine shop. After selling the herbs in the two boxes, Zhao Hai led everyone to explore the town.

Although the others don't understand Zhao Hai's plans, they didn't ask. They just followed Zhao Hai. They believed that Zhao Hai wouldn't do anything useless.

After walking around for a day, Zhao Hai was able to ask about the prices of goods in the town. He even went to a porcelain shop and bought a few goods. Then he looked for a small place to rest in.

Once they entered the inn, Zhao Hai ordered some food for the group to eat. While eating, Zhao Hai sent a secret sound transmission to the others, "Brothers, someone was watching us when we arrived. If I guessed correctly, they're from the Divine Armament Sect. They've already left. But we still need to act out our entire play. Let's rest here for the evening. Tomorrow, we'll leave like the other merchants. Only when the observer is satisfied can we join up with our brothers outside."

Everyone complied. Then the group shared a few drinks with each other before returning to their rooms to rest. Sure enough, as soon as they saw Zhao Hai and the others sleeping in their rooms, the people from the Divine Armament Sect left.

Early next morning, after waking up and having their breakfast, Zhao Hai's group bought a few goods in the town before leaving. The people from the Divine Armament Sect no longer cared about them. It was common for merchants to wake up early, so Zhao Hai's actions weren't suspicious at all.

After leaving the town, Zhao Hai and the others walked along the Hundred-Mile River. To avoid any suspicion, they walked against the flow of the river for about ten miles. Once they were sure that nobody was following them, they quickly went back and went straight to where the others were.

In a forest downstream, they found the others. Everyone joined forces and traveled along the river. By noon, they were far away from Green Leaf Town. Zhao Hai also let everyone release the Demon Horses and they galloped away. This time, they didn't come in contact with any city. Whenever they encounter a city, they would go around it before proceeding. The Divine Armament Sect focused their attention on Arrow Tree Mountain and Green Leaf Town, so Zhao Hai and the others didn't meet any trouble along the way.

By this point, Zhao Hai and the others could finally relax. They were no longer in the Divine Armament Sect's territory. Although they weren't far from the border, they were now in the Blue Leaf Sect's domain. The relationship between the Divine Armament Sect and the Blue Leaf Sect could be described as basic. It's impossible for the Divine Armament Sect to send their hunting party to the Blue Leaf Sect's domain.

Because they lost a lot of time, Zhao Hai and the others rode for more than 1000 miles. If it weren't for the unfavorable roads they chose to follow, they would have reached farther.

In the evening, Zhao Hai's group didn't find a place to rest but instead kept sitting on top of their demon horses. The Demon Horses would continue traveling but at a speed slower than during the day. By the time night ended, Zhao Hai's group was more than 2500 miles away from Green Leaf Town.

However, the group didn't stop. The Blue Leaf Sect might have a basic relationship with the Divine Armament Sect, but this doesn't mean that they have a good relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect. It can be said that the Blue Leaf Sect also had a basic relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect. The people of the Blue Leaf Sect also thought that Zhao Hai and the others had been corralled by the Divine Armament Sect in Arrow Tree Mountain. Therefore, they didn't question Zhao Hai's group too much. This left the group free and unfettered during their travel.

Zhao Hai has no plans to cause trouble in the Blue Leaf Sect. Although he wasn't afraid of the sect, the haunted feeling he felt was still present. The ghost cultivators were still at their back. If he were to be entangled by the Blue Leaf Sect, then Zhao Hai and the others might suffer a three-pronged attack. Therefore, Zhao Hai's strategy was to rush forward at full power. They need to cross the Blue Leaf Sect's territory at the quickest time before the sect could notice their presence.

Zhao Hai's plan was successful. With the Demon Horses' speed and endurance, they simply didn't need to stop to rest. Before the Blue Leaf Sect could respond, the group had broken through their domain and entered the Riverfront School's territory.

The Riverfront School wasn't a Great Sect. It can only be considered as a medium-grade sect. But the sect's relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect was very good. Now that Zhao Hai has set foot in the school's land, they were finally safe.

However, Zhao Hai and the others have no plans to have too many contacts with the Riverfront School. Their schedule didn't give them any chance to stop. Now that they arrived in the Riverfront School's territory, they would need to take a boat and travel on water for some time. Then they would get back on land and take the land route heading directly towards Topfire Mountain.

Zhao Hai calculated that their trip would take ten days or so. They had already been on the road for more than ten days. If they are delayed even more, they might not be able to reach their destination on time.

Zhao Hai and the others didn't contact the Riverfront School. Upon arriving at the school's territory, they immediately headed to the river and hired a boat to take them away. Once Zhao Hai and the others

boarded the boat, the Divine Armament Sect, Blue Leaf Sect, and Riverfront School received the information.

The Divine Armament Sect and the Blue Leaf Sect's face turned ugly when they received the news. They were still looking for Zhao Hai and the others in Arrow Tree Mountain. They couldn't have known that Zhao Hai's group was already thousands of miles away. They felt their faces turn hot from embarrassment.

Zhao Hai didn't think about them. They were currently traveling along the river. Before long, Zhao Hai spotted their destination. They were still inside the Riverfront School's domain, so they didn't have a lot to worry about.

After getting off the boat, Zhao Hai found that the haunting feeling disappeared. Although he didn't know what happened, Zhao Hai knew that it was a good thing. So after he went on shore, he immediately contacted the people of the Riverfront School. He told them that they were in a hurry and apologized that he didn't send word of his arrival.

The relationship between the Riverfront School and the Tyrant Blade Sect was very good. Naturally, Zhao Hai couldn't ignore them. The Riverfront School was also aware of Zhao Hai's status in the Tyrant Blade Sect. Offending Zhao Hai was equal to offending the Yin-Yang Demons. So Riverfront School didn't make things difficult for the group.

After sending a message to the Riverfront School, Zhao Hai and the others rode their horses straight to Topfire Mountain. They arrived with five days left on the deadline.

Topfire Mountain wasn't far from Riverfront School. However, the mountain couldn't be described as famous. It doesn't have valuable minerals nor does it grow powerful herbs. Because of this, most sects wouldn't visit it.

The mountain was selected for the competition because its summit was flat. Topfire Mountain looks like a volcano from a distance. But Topfire Mountain wasn't a volcano. Its peak was merely flat land, which was a strange sight.

Topfire Mountain's summit was subject to many legends. Some people said that the summit was once a battle location of two ancient powers. Their battle caused the mountain to turn flat. But this is only a

legend. As to the real reason why the mountain's summit was flat, nobody really cared anymore. Instead, the main reason the mountain was known was just because its summit was flat.

Chapter 2084: Drinking On The Road

Zhao Hai and the others looked at Topfire Mountain in the distance. They had been on the road for an extended period of time. Although it seems like they had reached the bottom of the mountain, Zhao Hai knew that they would need at least an hour to reach it.

Fortunately, Zhao Hai and the others were now safe. They just left the reception station which was a small town two hours away from Topfire Mountain. Anyone who wants to participate in the competition needs to go to the reception station. After reporting their arrival, they would go to Topfire Mountain.

Naturally, once a group's arrival was reported, their safety was basically guaranteed. Even if they encounter a cultivator with a life-and-death grudge against their sect, the cultivator wouldn't dare to attack. Otherwise, they would be suppressed by the experts hiding nearby.

Zhao Hai rode on his Demon Horse, letting it go forward slowly. At the same time, his eyes were staring at Topfire Mountain. To be honest, Topfire Mountain doesn't look anything special to him. It was merely a mountain with a flat top.

Li Fei and the others noiselessly followed behind Zhao Hai. Their gazes were also directed at Topfire Mountain. Deep inside, they were very excited. They experienced a lot of tribulations along the way. If it weren't for Zhao Hai, they wouldn't have made it.

Li Fei and the others now held blind faith towards Zhao Hai. If Zhao Hai continued to move forward, they would move forward. If there was a blade in front of them, they wouldn't step back. Zhao Hai's strength, wisdom, and leadership has turned Li Fei and the others into his believers.

After some time, Zhao Hai let out a long breath. Then he laughed and said, "Brothers, after many days of travel, you should be tired. How about we stop here? Let's go to Topfire Mountain tomorrow. Let's share a few drinks. Let's see who dares attack us here." After saying that, Zhao Hai jumped off his horse and walked to the side of the road.

There were trees on the side of the road. It must be said that the environment of the True Spirit Realm was very good. Virgin woods can be seen everywhere. Naturally, these woods house plenty of demon beasts. Ordinary people couldn't deal with them and cultivators won't bother. Therefore, a lot of the realm's regions remained natural.

When they heard Zhao Hai, Li Fei and the others couldn't help but stare. They didn't think Zhao Hai would just stop here to have a drink.

However, the group were also excited. They had been hurrying along for several days. They ate and drank on horseback. It was about time for them to relax.

Li Fei and the others also jumped down from their horses and let the horses go to get their own food. Meanwhile, they helped prepare the area for eating.

Zhao Hai took out multiple food from the Space. He was truly intending to enjoy the moment with everyone. They had been tense in the past few days because of their pursuers. Therefore, Zhao Hai wanted to drink with everyone to help them relax. Li Fei and the others also share the same sentiment.

As soon as they took out the food and began pouring drinks, Zhao Hai and the others heard the sound of horse hooves. Then a group was seen running along the road. Zhao Hai's group camped not far from the road. They were far enough to see the people passing by, but not close enough for the dust to reach their location.

Seeing the people arriving, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile faintly. He could recognize the clothes they were wearing. These people were disciples of the True Dao Sect.

The True Dao Sect was an ally of the Tyrant Blade Sect, one of its closest. Back in the Soaring Dragon Realm, Zhao Hai had close contact with its disciples. In fact, if it weren't for Lin Ling getting in touch with Zhao Hai first, Zhao Hai would have joined the True Dao Sect. At that time, Feng Lingyun and Liu Xiu'er were very optimistic about Zhao Hai. Unfortunately, Lin Ling was a step ahead. When they noticed Zhao Hai's potential, Lin Ling already recruited Zhao Hai. In the end, they could only watch Zhao Hai become a disciple of the Tyrant Blade Sect. Regardless, with how they treated Zhao Hai in the Soaring Dragon Realm, Zhao Hai always had a good impression of the True Dao Sect's disciples.

Seeing the disciples of the True Dao Sect, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and his body moved, appearing on the side of the road. When the disciples of the True Dao Sect saw someone appearing on the road, they couldn't help but be stunned. Then they looked at Zhao Hai with vigilance. At the same time, they slowed down.

The horses ridden by the disciples of the True Dao Sect weren't as fierce as the Demon Horse. Although they weren't small, they couldn't compare against the Demon Horse. Most importantly, the horses had slender bodies, showing how they were bred for speed.

As the True Dao Sect's disciples looked warily at Zhao Hai, Zhao Hai smiled faintly as he cupped his fist and said, "Brothers, are you from the True Dao Sect?"

Hearing Zhao Hai, the group kept silent. Then a 30-year-old looking cultivator cupped his fist and replied, "This one is True Dao Sect's Zhao Yalong. May I ask who you are?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm Zhao Hai from the Tyrant Blade Sect. We just arrived here. We didn't want to go to Topfire Mountain yet, so we camped here to have a drink and eat. I happened to see you passing the road. Since the True Dao Sect is allied with the Tyrant Blade Sect, I want to invite you over. What do you think?"

Zhao Yalong couldn't help but be stunned. He has heard of Zhao Hai's name before. Not from other people, but from Feng Lingyun himself. Therefore, his impression of Zhao Hai was deeper than other people. Now that he saw the person, he couldn't help but be curious.

Zhao Hai smiled at Zhao Yalong. Suddenly, a low cough was heard from behind. Zhao Yalong quickly came back to his senses. He found that he was staring at Zhao Hai, which was a bit impolite. He couldn't help but get embarrassed as he cupped his fist and said, "So it's Junior Brother Zhao Hai. I've been impolite. Since our brothers from the Tyrant Blade Sect are inviting us, how could we decline? It just so happens that we're tired as well. We'll have to impose ourselves on you." After he said that, he waved his hand. Then everyone got down from their horses. Zhao Hai observed and saw that everyone was at the Soul Fusion Stage. Moreover, there were quite a lot of them.

Zhao Hai led Zhao Yalong's group back to their temporary camp. After inviting them over to sit down, Zhao Hai asked, "Senior Brother, because we've been chased down all throughout our trip, our group was very tired. Now that we're safe, we couldn't stop ourselves from taking a rest. We didn't expect Senior Brother to arrive just as we set our camp up. I hope Senior Brother doesn't blame me for being abrupt. Let me offer you a cup."

Zhao Yalong quickly held his cup as he said, "Junior Brother is too polite. Haha. To be honest, when I was at your level, I also entered the competition. At that time, we were also chased down and attacked. It's only after we arrived at the venue did we take a rest. Junior Brother's idea of stopping to rest before reaching Topfire Mountain is actually good."

Zhao Hai and the others also smiled. The relationship between the two sides became closer. They exchanged drinks and stories with each other. Several groups of people passed along the road, but they just looked at Zhao Hai and the others before proceeding. They weren't allowed to attack in this region, otherwise they would be bringing huge trouble to their sect.

The group drank throughout the evening. It was only when midnight came did the group disperse. The next morning, the two groups gathered around and hurried towards Topfire Mountain. After an hour, they finally arrived at the foot of the mountain.

Upon arriving at the foot of Topfire Mountain, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare. There were many tables lined up along the foot. Behind each table was a person along with a banner with sect names written on it.

Zhao Hai looked around and found the Tyrant Blade Sect's table. He also saw the True Dao Sect's table not far away. He turned to Zhao Yalong and said, "Senior Brother, it's time for us to separate. After the competition, if we have the opportunity, let's share drinks once more."

Zhao Yalong laughed, "Next time, I'll invite you. To be honest, it's been a long time since I've drunk until I passed out. Junior Brother, we'll be leaving first." After he said that, he cupped his fist towards Zhao Hai before leading the rest of the True Dao Sect disciples towards their table. Zhao Hai also led Li Fei and the others to the Tyrant Blade Sect's table.

After arriving at the Tyrant Blade Sect's table, Zhao Hai cupped his fist to the person on the other side and said, "This one is Zhao Hai, team leader of the Clone Stage group. Reporting."

The Tyrant Blade Sect disciple behind the table wasn't very strong. He's only at the Soul Fusion Stage. However, he was aware of Zhao Hai's details. Naturally, he wouldn't dare be neglectful. He stood up and cupped his fist, "Junior Brother Zhao Hai. You've arrived. I heard from the reception center that you arrived yesterday. Why did you only arrive now?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm sorry about that. Because of our travels, we're very tired. Knowing that we're safe, we decided to take a rest on the side of the road."

The disciple didn't mind it, he smiled and said, "Alright. I heard that your path hasn't been peaceful. It's good that you arrived safely, well done. You can climb up the mountain. The Tyrant Blade Sect has its own camp. You can continue resting there." Zhao Hai complied and then gave a salute before leading his group up the mountain.

They already received their Demon Horses long ago. Zhao Hai and the others climbed the mountain without using any movement techniques. They leisurely chatted as they walked up. Li Fei looked behind him before he smiled and said, "it seems like the sects really attached great importance to this competition. We need to work hard."

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Even if we need to work hard, let's not push ourselves too much. We might not know the strength of the others, but I reckon they won't be that much stronger than us. I'm confident that we can get first place. Do you agree?"

"Agree!" Everyone immediately answered. They were now aware of Zhao Hai's strength. Back when they heard that Zhao Hai managed to fight against a Teleportation Stage cultivator, they didn't believe that Zhao Hai was strong. But after fighting Soulhook, they knew that the rumors were true.

"Talking big!" Just as everyone was laughing, a voice was suddenly heard. Zhao Hai and the others couldn't help but be stunned for a moment. Then they turned to their side and found a cultivator not far from them. The cultivator wore black clothing and he had a half-meter long bar on his waist.

Seeing the long bar, Zhao Hai immediately recognized that it was a butterfly knife. This person was from the neighboring sect of the Tyrant Blade Sect, the Butterfly Sect.

Zhao Hai looked at the cultivator and smiled, "So it's a Senior Brother from the Butterfly Sect. Me and my brothers are merely chatting. Senior Brother doesn't have to take our words seriously."

The cultivator from the Butterfly Sect was also at the Clone Stage, so he was bound to face Zhao Hai and the others in the competition. So his previous words weren't complete nonsense. Hearing Zhao Hai take

a step back, the cultivator from the Butterfly Sect coldly snorted and said, "Remember, you cannot spout nonsense just because you want to. Otherwise, you won't be able to handle the consequences."

"You!" Hearing this, Li Fei was incensed. Zhao Hai was their team leader and benefactor. A mere disciple from the Butterfly Sect actually dared to lecture him. How could Li Fei and the others just ignore it?

Zhao Hai was also a bit angry. What he just said was a formality for the other party. He didn't expect the other party to slap his face instead. Zhao Hai's expression sank, he looked at the others and said, "What I want to say to my brothers is not up to you. If you have the ability, then I'll see you in the arena. If you have the time to talk to us, then you might as well go back and train some more. You're nothing more than a charlatan with cheap tricks."

Zhao Hai wasn't easy to offend. If you provoke him, he would of course fight back with all his strength. He no longer showed any politeness. This resulted in the Butterfly Sect disciple to turn red with anger.

The disciple from the Butterfly Sect didn't expect Zhao Hai's warm temperament to immediately turn cold. But he coldly snorted and said, "The true charlatan will be seen when the time comes." Then he turned around and left.

Seeing the other party's back, Li Fei coldly snorted and said, "What an idiot. He might not even survive long enough to face the team leader. He better wish that he doesn't face me in the competition. Otherwise, I will smash his face in."

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "Alright, if we meet him in the arena, we won't show him any mercy." After that, the group continued to walk up the mountain.

Chapter 2085: Familiar Location

Not long after Zhao Hai and the others climbed up the mountain, they finally found the Tyrant Blade Sect's camp. They actually didn't have a hard time finding the camp. There was a giant flag of the Tyrant Blade Sect. Only blind people couldn't see it.

When Zhao Hai brought Li Fei and the others to the Tyrant Blade Sect's camp, they discovered a huge cave residence carved out from the side of the mountain. There were two disciples standing outside, both of them Earth Monarchs. It can be understood at a glance that they're Inner Disciples.

Li Fei and the others were all in the Clone Stage. Besides Zhao Hai, there were no Inner Disciples who were in the Clone Stage. All Clone Stage disciples were Outer Disciples.

Zhao Hai led Li Fei and the others to the cave residence, then he cupped his fist and said, "Zhao Hai has seen the two Senior Brothers. I've been ordered to lead the Clone Stage disciples here. I ask Senior Brothers to please notify the sect."

The two guards naturally knew who Zhao Hai was. They didn't dare show any arrogance towards their Junior Brother. They immediately cupped their fist as one of them said, "Junior Brother Zhao, you're here. The Elder have been asking for your situation several times. Please head inside. Someone will bring you over to the Elder."

After expressing his gratitude, Zhao Hai led Li Fei and the others inside the cave residence. Once they were inside, two disciples welcomed them, both of them were at the Soul Fusion Stage. The two disciples cupped their fist and said, "Junior Brother Zhao, please come with me. The Elder wants to see you. As for the other Junior Brothers, he will lead you to your places."

Everyone nodded. Li Fei and the others cupped their fist towards Zhao Hai and said, "Team Leader, thank you very much. If we have time, we'll look for you to share a few drinks."

Hearing this, Zhao Hai laughed and said, "You guys don't have good intentions. You're after my wine. Hahaha. Don't worry, I have enough for us to drink."

Li Fei and the others also laughed. They cupped their fists towards Zhao Hai once more before they followed the other disciple. Meanwhile, Zhao Hai was left with the other Soul Fusion disciple. The other party looked at him with an astonished look. He didn't expect Zhao Hai's relationship with Li Fei and the others to be so good.

Zhao Hai didn't care about what the Soul Fusion disciple was thinking, he followed behind towards a big room. Upon entering the room, Zhao Hai saw an elder that he saw in Heaven Slashing Peak. The elder was sitting cross-legged on his mat. When he saw Zhao Hai, the elder nodded and said, "Come and sit. Tell me about your journey."

Zhao Hai didn't expect the elder to be so direct, but he quickly complied, "Yes Elder. Then he sat on the mat in front of the Elder. Then he detailed his journey.

Zhao Hai knew the elder's identity. The elder was called Elder Yue, his name was Yue Feng. He's an elder with a long history in the Tyrant Blade Sect. He also held some fame in the realm. His nickname was Swift Blade. His blade technique was known for its quick speed. His reputation was more ancient than the Yin Yang Elders.

However, Elder Yue's innate gifts were lacking. He was stuck at the Condensing Spirit Stage, which was lower than the Yin Yang Elders. But due to his ancient reputation, he was now in charge of the external matters of the sect. It also helped that he liked to teach the younger generation. He has a high evaluation among the juniors of the sect.

After Zhao Hai described his trip, Elder Yue looked at Zhao Hai and said, "You're saying that you met Young Master Soulhook of the Ghost Cultivators? Are you sure that it's him?"

Zhao Hai replied, "That person claims to be Soulhook. Also, he uses Soulhook's signature artifact, the Bewitching Bell. But since he hasn't shown himself, I can't fully guarantee that he's Soulhook or not. What I can say is that he's strong. Although he's only at the Earth Monarch Stage, he's difficult to defend against. I'm also sure that he followed us to the river. He only stopped following us once we crossed the river."

Yue Feng knit his brows and said, "I will keep this matter in mind. How about the Divine Armament Sect? Did you really kill 40 of their Clone Stage disciples?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes. They used their crossbows to attack us at that time. Since we knew that they were coming, we were able to set up and ambush and kill them all in one swoop."

Yue Feng had a slight look of disbelief in his eyes as he looked at Zhao Hai. He knows why the Divine Armament Sect wants to hunt Zhao Hai and the others down. Zhao Hai's group just killed 40 promising disciples. It would be weird if the Divine Armament Sect just let them off.

At the same time, Yue Feng understood why the Yin Yang Elders accepted Zhao Hai as their disciple. Looking at Zhao Hai's gentle smile, one couldn't associate him with a ruthless person. But it was clear that Zhao Hai was a person who showed no mercy once he made a move. He would destroy the other party without giving them a chance to retaliate. He was a person who didn't hesitate.

As for what would happen after he dealt with his enemies and what kinds of trouble it would cause, it wasn't under consideration. Zhao Hai just thought about destroying his enemies first.

To be honest, Yue Feng was being unjust towards Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai was far from being a mindless maniac. Since the other party wants to kill him, it was only proper for him to destroy them. If Zhao Hai belonged to a weak sect like when he was back in the Black Tiger Gang, then he might not have done it. But now, he belonged to one of the most powerful sects in the realm. He naturally wouldn't need to hold back.

Zhao Hai looked at Yue Feng's expression and knew what he was thinking, but he didn't say anything. What do people rely on to become famous in the True Spirit Realm? It's strength. Being ruthless was one of the ways to project his strength to everyone. In Zhao Hai's mind, he doesn't think that what he did was wrong.

Zhao Hai also asked Zhao Hai about his transit across the Purity Origin Sect as well as the Riverfront School. Naturally, Zhao Hai also described his method of crossing the Hundred-Mile River.

After listening to Zhao Hai's words, Yue Feng has to acknowledge Zhao Hai's genius. In such a situation, only a rare few people could keep their calm and form effective plans.

Once Zhao Hai answered a few more questions, Yue Feng nodded and said, "Alright, I know everything I need to know. Go back first. Use the next few days to familiarize yourself with Topfire Mountain's environment."

Zhao Hai complied. After giving Yue Feng a salute, he stood up and left. Outside, a disciple led him to his assigned residence.

The next morning, after resting for the rest of the day, Zhao Hai went out of his cave residence and looked for someone to answer some questions. He also found out that Li Fei and the others didn't live far from where he is.

The Tyrant Blade Sect's cave mansion was actually no more than a huge cave with plenty of smaller caverns. It was akin to a huge courtyard with plenty of smaller rooms. With this setup, Li Fei and the others also had their own individual residences. The Tyrant Blade Sect's treatment of them was very good.

Li Fei and the others were currently practicing inside their residences. Actually, they don't need to practice. Besides cultivation maniacs, most people would use this period of time to sharpen their weapons in preparation for the fights.

Since Zhao Hai was looking for them, Li Fei and the others left their residences and followed him out. The group walked out and walked around Topfire Mountain.

It was clear that the mountain had been cleaned up. The top of the mountain was filled with arenas made out of cyan stone. These arenas were hundred meters long and wide.

Altogether, there were 20 arenas on the peak of Topfire Mountain. They were neatly arranged throughout the flat peak. There were plenty of cultivators practicing in the arenas. They were familiarizing themselves with the stage.

Zhao Hai led Li Fei and the others around the mountain. To be honest, there was nothing to look at. Besides the location where the sect elders would sit, other places were average. It was only spacious.

As they strolled around, Zhao Hai and the others heard someone talking with a laughing tone, "Hmph, take a good look. After all, you won't be staying at this place for long."

Hearing this, Zhao Hai knew that it was the Butterfly Sect disciple who they met before. Li Fei and the others turned their heads and saw the Butterfly Sect disciple along with other people. Everyone in the group had a butterfly blade on their waists. It was obvious that all of them were from the Butterfly Sect.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You're here too? I must say, for someone who would leave the competition early, you're too loud. Next time, mind your volume, alright?"

Li Fei and the others laughed along. The Butterfly Sect disciple was clearly taunting them. Zhao Hai's words turned the entire table upside down.

Hearing Zhao Hai, the Butterfly Sect disciple coldly snorted and said, "You think we'll go home soon? It depends whether you have the ability or not."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Whether I have the ability, we'll see when the time comes." After he said that, Zhao Hai led Li Fei and the others away.

The Butterfly Sect disciple just coldly snorted as he looked at Zhao Hai's back. A disciple looked at him and asked, "Senior Brother Hu, what was that? He looks arrogant."

Hu Jilong coldly snorted and said, "Who else can it be? It's Zhao Hai from the Tyrant Blade Sect. They say that he managed to survive against a Teleportation Stage cultivator on his own."

Hearing Hu Jilong, the other disciple couldn't help but stare. Then his complexion changed as he said, "That was Zhao Hai? If it's really him, then we need to be careful. I heard that the Teleportation Stage cultivator that he went up against was Matchless Sword School's Lu Sheng."

Hu Jilong sneered, "Who cares? Let's see how strong he really is when the competition begins." After he said that, he also brought his fellow disciples away.

The disciple who asked questions looked at Hu Jilong's back. A sneer couldn't help but appear on his face.

Chapter 2086: Competition Starts

Hu Jilong was an emerging talent of the Butterfly Sect. Although he's only at the Clone Stage, the time he took to get there was very short. Moreover, he possessed heavenly spiritual roots. His body was compatible with seven attributes, which are metal, wood, water, fire, earth, wind, and thunder.

Compatibility with seven spiritual roots was very beneficial to cultivation. Naturally, the cultivator still needs to select a primary attribute. If they plan to cultivate all attributes, then they were bound to be stuck. They would be wasting their time.

Liu Wenzheng was confident in Zhao Hai because he was there during the battle between Zhao Hai and Lu Sheng. He was one of those watching below, one of the common cultivators on the ground.

This event made him remember Zhao Hai. Looking at the exchange between Zhao Hai and Lu Sheng, Lu Wenzheng knew that Zhao Hai's strength was already beyond the Clone Stage. Hu Jilong might be a talented Clone Stage cultivator, but compared to Zhao Hai, he was nothing.

Cultivators of the Butterfly Sect weren't as united as the Tyrant Blade Sect. Plotting against each other was fairly common in the sect. Therefore, Liu Wenzheng felt no guilt in trapping Hu Jilong.

Zhao Hai didn't know that the people of the Butterfly Sect were scheming against each other. But even if he knew, he wouldn't care. In any case, he was already planning on dealing with Hu Jilong, that guy was just too arrogant.

Li Fei and the others had ugly expressions as they followed behind Zhao Hai. Li Fei clenched his teeth as he said, "That guy should pray that we don't meet. Otherwise, I will make him pay."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "If you run into him, be sure to be careful. Although he's annoying and arrogant, I can see that he's quite strong. He's only a step away from the Soul Fusion Stage. His spiritual roots also look special. If you really want to deal with him, pay attention to his attacks. He may even possess mutated spiritual roots."

Zhao Hai said this because he noticed that Hu Jilong's butterfly blade was different from the others. The standard butterfly blade was characteristically thin. This was because butterfly blades were made to fold. If the blade was too thick, then they wouldn't be as agile.

Hu Jilong's butterfly blade was narrower than the others. In other words, his blade was lighter, which made its attack faster. If he doesn't have a special spiritual root, he might have practiced a special cultivation method. Zhao Hai felt the aura of thunder and lightning from Hu Jilong's body, perhaps this was the cultivation method that he used. The only reason Zhao Hai was able to notice it was because Hu Jilong's mastery over thunder and lightning wasn't too strong.

Hearing Zhao Hai, Li Fei and the others couldn't help but stare. Then their hearts immediately turned cold. They knew what mutated spiritual roots meant. No matter what kind of mutation he had, this meant that Hu Jilong wouldn't be easy to deal with. If what Zhao Hai said was true, then they would need to be careful.

After returning to the Tyrant Blade Sect's residence, Zhao Hai invited everyone over for a meal. Although the residence has a specified space for eating, Zhao Hai liked to eat casually in his own space.

In the following days, even if Zhao Hai and the others went out occasionally, they spent most of their time inside their rooms cultivating. They were preparing for the competition.

Surprisingly, the competition wouldn't begin until half a month after Zhao Hai and the others arrived. After asking around, Zhao Hai found out this was done for the sects that arrived later. After all there have been sects who just arrived a few days ago.

The competition adopted a single-elimination system. There were no limits to the methods used, but to minimize casualties, referees were set for every stage. If one side admits defeat, then the other side should no longer attack. Opponents would be decided by lottery. Those who weren't drawn yet would wait by the sidelines and watch.

The sects in participation were too many, so the competition would last for a whole month. The Clone Stage disciples would fight first, followed by the Soul Fusion disciples, and then finally the Earth Monarch disciples. This meant that Zhao Hai's group would fight first.

On the day of the competition, Elder Yue Feng brought all disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect to the venue. The Tyrant Blade Sect didn't bring a lot of people for the competition. There were around 100 participants and then another 100 guards and other staff.

Fortunately, Topfire Mountain was very big. Otherwise, it wouldn't be able to fit everyone. Even so, not everyone could stay at the peak of the mountain. They could only stay halfway and wait for the results.

There was no leader's speech or the like. Because the mountain was close to the Riverfront School, it made the sect the host of the competition. So the sect had several people talk to everyone before announcing the start of the competition.

Zhao Hai preferred this way. He didn't like someone talking about useless topics for half of the day. These kinds of people treated themselves as protagonists while everyone else were treated as side characters.

Actually, there was no need for Zhao Hai to worry. People of the True Spirit Realm were pragmatic. They didn't like wasting time on useless things.

It didn't take long before the first 20 groups were drawn to fight. This round, nobody from the Tyrant Blade Sect was selected. However, there were people from the Butterfly Sect. Naturally, Zhao Hai inquired about Hu Jilong upon hearing his name. He also researched the other participants from the Butterfly Sect. He doesn't know much about the Butterfly Sect's grudge against them. He was afraid that the other participants shared Hu Jilong's sentiment in dealing with the Tyrant Blade Sect. It was necessary for Zhao Hai to learn everything about them.

The first round quickly began. Zhao Hai and the others stood under the arena of the Butterfly Sect's disciple. On one side was the Butterfly Sect's disciple while the other side was a disciple of the Black Dragon Sect. This sect was quite interesting. Their main weapon was quite special. It was a nine-segment whip.

After both sides entered the stage, neither said anything. They just cupped their fists towards each other and then pulled out their weapons. The Black Dragon Sect's disciple had a nine-segment whip in his hand. The whip looked like a dragon as it moved in its user's hand. The whip was pitch black. On one end of the whip was the head of the dragon while on the other end was the dragon's tail. The whip gently swayed, seemingly prepared to take a bite out of the enemy.

The Butterfly Sect disciple was no worse than his enemy. In his hand was his butterfly blade. It looked like a butterfly flapping its wings.

The two inspected each other for a few minutes before sending exploratory attacks against each other. Zhao Hai paid special attention to the performance of the butterfly blade. It must be said, the butterfly blade can do a lot of things when in proper hands. It was flexible enough to be used in various angles. Zhao Hai saw many moves that he hadn't seen used with a blade before.

The participant with the nine-segment whip was a bit worse. Although the nine-segment whip was also a special weapon, Zhao Hai was no stranger to it. He studied weapons and techniques from earth. Nine-segment whips used by monks can only be regarded as decent. They weren't anything special.

After spectating for some time, Zhao Hai knew that the cultivator with the nine-segment whip would lose. Firstly, he wasn't as strong as the Butterfly Sect disciple. Secondly, his style wasn't as exquisite as the other party. And thirdly, it was clear that he hasn't met a butterfly blade user before. The butterfly blade allowed strange angles of attack. When facing these types of weapons, people would become

timid due to the inability to adapt. In this case, it would be strange if the nine-segment whip user would win.

The competition disallowed the use of clones and even beasts. For sects like the Imperial Beast Sect, they can only use at most three beasts. As for Formation and Artifact Cultivators, they cannot use more than 5 artifacts or formation disks. This allowed Zhao Hai to quickly extrapolate the results of the battle. And as he expected, the Butterfly Sect disciple won their battle.

Through this battle, Zhao Hai obtained a general understanding of the butterfly blade. If used well, the butterfly blade could deal huge damage to its enemy. It seems like a weapon that couldn't be underestimated once it was practiced to its peak.

Chapter 2087 – Zhao Hai Goes On Stage

Five rounds passed without any disciples from the Tyrant Blade Sect participating. Zhao Hai wasn't worried. He led Li Fei and the others to the other stages to look at the disciples of the other Great Sects.

The disparity between Great Sects and smaller sects could be recognized. And it wasn't a tiny degree. Great Sects held strong advantages in terms of techniques, environment, and other aspects. As long as a disciple of a Great Sect goes on stage, there is almost no chance for them to lose.

When the next round was announced, Zhao Hai and the others became excited. Someone from the Tyrant Blade Sect was finally called. This time, the disciple who would fight was called Zhou Hong. His opponent was a disciple of a smaller sect. Naturally, Zhao Hai and the others would support Zhou Hong. They quickly went to the eighth stage to watch the fight.

Upon arriving at stage number 8, Zhou Hong jumped on the arena and gave a salute to the elder official. His opponent has yet to arrive.

Zhou Hong didn't need to wait for a long time, not long after he arrived, another person jumped on the stage. This person was wearing black clothing and had an average stature. He had short hair and a calm face. What's special about him was his weapon, which was a dual tonfa.

Dual tonfas were quite unpopular weapons. The offensive strength of the weapon wasn't very strong, but its defense made up for the deficiency. Most importantly, one could use fist techniques with it.

Zhou Hong's opponent was from a sect called the God Arm Sect. It was a sect known for its fist techniques. They don't have a signature weapon because of their specialty. Because of this, their disciples were free to choose their weapons. There were disciples who used tonfas, hammers, and even gloves.

When the God Arm Sect disciple entered the stage, Zhao Hai's eyes couldn't help but narrow. The person had a very calm temperament. And when his foot stepped on the ground, one could see that his movement technique was very good. This person wouldn't be easy to deal with.

Zhao Hai didn't say anything to Zhou Hong. He wanted to see how Zhou Hong would deal with his opponent. After both sides exchanged their greetings, Zhou Hong pulled his goose plume blade out while his opponent raised his fists.

Zhao Hai had some understanding regarding Zhou Hong's skills. Zhou Hong specializes in water-attribute blade techniques. His blade was light and flowing. It can be said that his blade style held some fame in the Outer Sect.

Both sides looked at the other for several minutes and found that the other party was patient and didn't show any flaws. Then as if in agreement, the two attacked at roughly the same time. The goose plume blade in Zhou Hong's hand was like a goose flying over the sky without a trace. His whole body seemed to flow like water as he sent repeated attacks towards his enemy.

Zhou Hong's enemy was also quite good. He was able to use his tonfas to their full potential by blocking all attacks. One by one, Zhou Hong's attacks were stopped. What surprised Zhao Hai was the fact that Zhou Hong's opponent wasn't moving at their full strength. They looked very relaxed.

Naturally, Zhou Hong wasn't fighting at his full strength either. Both sides were merely probing the other party. Zhao Hai could see that Zhou Hong was putting at most 60% of his strength on his attacks. The same amount was used by the enemy.

Zhao Hai's brows couldn't help but wrinkle. Seeing Zhao Hai's reaction, Li Fei asked, "Team Leader, what happened. Zhou Hong is doing very well. Did you see something?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I didn't see anything. The movements of Zhou Hong's opponent are very hard to deal with. It seems like God Arm Sect's cultivation methods are very unique. If Zhou Hong wants to win, then he would need to show his real skills. Otherwise, he would suffer."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Li Fei stared, then he frowned. After thinking for a moment, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Team Leader is correct. Zhou Hong's opponent is a genius from the God Arm Sect. The sect is known for their fist techniques. However, the people in their sect don't only use their fists. They also use weapon techniques, among them are their Tonfa Techniques and Hammer Techniques. This made the sect hard to face. Now that Zhou Hong is facing them, he is bound to suffer."

Zhao Hai nodded and no longer said anything. To be honest, he heard of the God Arm Sect before. But he has no real understanding of the sect. This explains why he was surprised by their capability.

While the two were speaking, the contestants on the stage had already exchanged a few more rounds of moves. By this point, they were no longer using probing attacks, but were already fighting with their true strength. Blue light appeared one time and then a shadow fluttered in another, the fight was very lively.

Zhao Hai calmly observed the battle on the stage. The forms of combat exhibited by the combatants showed two extremes. Zhou Hong's technique was swift, continuous, and violent. It embodied the flow and rage of the rivers and streams.

On the other hand, the tonfa of Zhou Hong's opponent exhibited the rigidity of his technique. He was able to keep off Zhou Hong's attacks while maintaining his stability.

Li Fei couldn't help but frown. He didn't expect Zhou Hong's opponent to be difficult to deal with. The two had now exchanged more than a hundred moves. Although Zhou Hong held the upper hand, this doesn't fully describe the state of the battle. The other party had a stable defense. It would take Zhou Hong a bit of effort to break through.

Li Fei turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Team Leader, will Zhou Hong be fine? His opponent's defense is very good. Zhou Hong might fail to get through them."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "It's too early to say. Zhou Hong and his opponent are still not giving it their all. The other party can't find any openings in Zhou Hong's attacks while Zhou Hong can't find any

openings in his opponent's defense. The two can only drag this on for a while. They might have to exchange more moves before one of them shows any flaws. At this point in time, it's impossible to decide who's going to win."

Li Fei nodded, but he continued to look at the stage with worry. The battle continued on. Before long, 200 moves were exchanged, then it became 300. The two combatants looked tired. The attacking side was beginning to slow down. However, the defending party didn't take the opportunity to attack, this was because he was also tired from holding his defense. He has no spare energy to attack.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. Then he said, "Zhou Hong won. His opponent can't attack. In about 50 moves, the battle will end."

Sure enough, just like Zhao Hai said, the two exchanged 55 more moves before Zhou Hong finally broke through the defense of his opponent. It didn't take long after that before the victor was announced.

Zhou Hong was sweating when he walked down the stage. Zhao Hai and the others welcomed him with applause. Zhou Hong's win wasn't easy, but this doesn't mean that he was weak. In fact, Zhou Hong was already good for a Clone Stage cultivator. His opponent was just strong and was a counter to Zhou Hong's style. It can be said that the battle highlighted the best of the two combatants.

Zhao Hai handed Zhou Hong a jade bottle as he smiled and said, "Drink this and return to rest. I'm afraid the battles tomorrow won't be easier." Zhou Hong didn't say anything and just nodded. He received the jade bottle and drank its contents before heading back to rest.

In the next rounds, two more people from the Tyrant Blade Sect participated. One had a good opponent, a cultivator from the medium-grade sect. The other faced a disciple of a Great Sect. The battle was a struggle but in the end the two managed to win.

It wasn't until the 11th draw that Li Fei finally got up on the stage. Coincidentally, his opponent turns out to be from the Butterfly Sect. As soon as he heard that his opponent is from the Butterfly Sect, Li Fei became excited. Hu Jilong annoyed them several times. Now that he was faced with a disciple of the Butterfly Sect, Li Fei was prepared to teach them a lesson.

Looking at Li Fei's appearance, Zhao Hai held him back. Li Fei couldn't help but be confused. Zhao Hai looked at Li Fei and said, "Li Fei, remember, you can win this battle, but you absolutely cannot kill them.

You also shouldn't insult them too much. Even if our two sects have a deep entity, it's not to the point where we can slap each other in public. If we treat the Butterfly Sect too badly, it wouldn't do good for the Tyrant Blade Sect. There are always enemies around us, it's definitely not good if we get into more trouble. Do you understand?"

Upon hearing Zhao hai, Li Fei couldn't help but stare. Then he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Team Leader, should we just let them off?"

Zhao Hai sneered, "Let them off? They're dreaming. But we can't make the Butterfly Sect vigilant right now. Let's maintain a certain limit, make them think that we don't want conflict with them. If we let them hold a grudge against us, then it would be more difficult to deal with them in the future. Do you understand?"

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Li Fei's eyes shone, then he smiled and said, "Team Leader, you're really cruel. But I like that. Don't worry, I know what to do." Zhao Hai patted his shoulder and pushed him towards the stage.

The Butterfly Sect disciple has already stepped foot on the stage. He saw Zhao Hai stopping Li Fei and saying something while pointing at the stage from time to time. The Butterfly Sect disciple couldn't help but raise his brows. He was aware of the conflict between Hu Jilong and Zhao Hai. He thought that Zhao Hai was telling Li Fei to clean him up.

Li Fei was also famous in the Tyrant Blade Sect. His blade skills were good among Clone Stage cultivators. If Zhao Hai wasn't included, he was one of the contestants that one needed to be on guard against.

In the arena, Li Fei cupped his fist towards the Butterfly Sect disciple. Then he smiled faintly and said, "We've finally met. I can't wait."

The Butterfly Sect disciple coldly snorted and said, "I can't wait either." After he said that, he took his butterfly knife out and played with it. At the same time, Li Fei retrieved his own blade and settled his eyes onto his enemy.

The disciple of the Butterfly Sect looked at Li Fei, but his hand didn't stop playing with his butterfly knife. Both sides seem to be waiting for something. Then after some time, Li Fei suddenly shouted, "Kill!" After he said that, he waved his blade and swung it over.

Although the Butterfly Sect disciple has all of his attention on Li Fei's body, he didn't expect Li Fei to suddenly attack without even probing. He was unprepared. He quickly retreated while launching his butterfly knife to protect himself.

However, Li Fei's attack wasn't slow. His blade was very tight, as though he wasn't facing an opponent on the stage but instead his father's killer. Not to mention the Butterfly Blade Sect disciple, Li Fei's attack caused the onlookers to be alert. They wondered if this would be the competition's first death.

The Butterfly Sect disciple was frightened by Li Fei's domineering attack. His defense became chaotic and full of holes. Li Fei's blade used this vulnerability to strike. Seeing his situation, the Butterfly Sect disciple knew that he couldn't block. He couldn't help but think, "I'm finished!" Then he closed his eyes preparing to die.

But after some time, there was no pain. Instead, he heard the referee announce, "Tyrant Blade Sect's Li Fei wins." The Butterfly Sect disciple opened his eyes and saw that Li Fei has withdrawn his blade. He was smiling as he cupped his fist towards him.

The Butterfly Sect disciple couldn't help but relax. Then he cupped his fist and said, "Thank you for showing mercy."

Li Fei smiled faintly, "You're too polite. Our Sects don't share any enmity. If I really continued, then wouldn't that be unreasonable? Junior Brother, thanks for letting me win."

The Butterfly Sect disciple smiled and said, "Senior Brother is just too strong. This Junior Brother admits defeat." After he said that, he jumped down the stage and left.

Li Fei also jumped down from the stage and arrived by Zhao Hai before saying, "Team Leader, did I do great?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Good. Very good. Hahaha. Now I'm wondering if I would meet someone from the Butterfly Sect."

Li Fei smiled and said, "Rest assured, you'll meet them sooner or later." At this moment, the next draw was announced. This time, Zhao Hai was drawn along with an old enemy, a disciple from the Sword Hegemon Sect.

Hearing the announcement, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare, then his expression lit up as he said, "Sword Hegemon Sect, it's actually the Sword Hegemon Sect. Good, let's face them." After saying that, Zhao Hai moved and jumped into the stage.

The moment people heard the announcement, they immediately encircled the stage Zhao Hai was on. Three years ago, Zhao Hai gained fame from his battle against Lu Sheng. Although Lu Shen had just entered the Teleportation Stage, he was still a Teleportation Stage Expert. Moreover, the matter of Zhao Hai eradicating the Osmanthus Crystal Realm made him very famous as someone who wouldn't hesitate to kill. Hearing that Zhao Hai was going to fight, a large crowd was immediately formed. They wanted to see the outcome of the fight.

Chapter 2088: One Move To Defeat The Enemy

Zhao Hai stood on the stage and looked at the people below. There was no expression on his face. He just wanted to know what kind of person his opponent would be.

Just as Zhao Hai thought about this, a loud bang was heard as a person's figure leapt on the stage. The entire stage shook by his arrival.

Zhao Hai fixed his vision and immediately found that it was his opponent who shook the stage. This person's body was also valiant.

The person opposite Zhao Hai was a giant. There's no mistake, this person was no longer a big man, he was a giant man. His body was three meters tall, which was rare for a Human.

The giant man was wearing black clothing, and had a similarly giant sword. Zhao Hai measured the sword to be over two meters. Moreover, the sword was half a meter wide. The sword truly conformed to the Sword Hegemon Sect's name.

The giant was also sizing Zhao Hai up. Naturally, it saw nothing special about Zhao Hai. What he saw was an ordinary person with no special properties to him.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly at the giant, then he cupped his fist and said, "Please advise me."

The giant didn't expect Zhao Hai to be so polite, he couldn't help but stare. He also cupped his fist and said, "You're too polite." After that, he no longer spoke. He took his huge sword and held it with both hands. Then he pointed his weapon towards Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai also pulled his own blade out and held it in one hand while pointing it towards his opponent. The giant man saw that Zhao Hai had no intentions of attacking first, he coldly snorted and began to step forward. With each step he made, the stones under him cracked.

Zhao Hai also coldly snorted as he stepped forward and charged towards his enemy. The giant person saw this but continued. He had seen this situation plenty of times. He waved his sword with the intention of cutting Zhao Hai from the waist.

The giant man's reach was long, and with his already long blade, his slashes could cleave through a thousand soldiers. Moreover, he even utilized his sword qi. His attack carried an extremely heavy sword aura.

However, Zhao Hai was far from being the giant man's average opponent. Zhao Hai didn't care about the heavy aura as he continued to easily move forward like a swallow returning to its nest. When his figure reappeared behind his opponent, he stepped down and put his blade away.

The cultivators surrounding the stage were silent. They didn't know what just happened. The giant man also had a vacant look on his face. Just as he was about to turn around and deal with Zhao Hai, the referee announced, "Tyrant Blade Sect's Zhao Hai wins!"

The referee's announcement stunned everyone, including the giant man. He turned to the referee and said, "He won? How did he win?"

The referee looked at the giant man as though he was an idiot, but he still replied, "Of course he won. Couldn't you feel it? When he passed by you, he wiped his blade across your neck. If he just moved a bit more, your head would have already been on the floor."

Hearing the referee, the giant man couldn't help but stare. Then he noticed a cool metallic feeling across his neck. This discovery caused the hairs on the giant's body to turn upright. He naturally understood what happened. The skin of his neck was cool because it had come in contact with Zhao Hai's blade. If Zhao Hai had any intentions of killing him, then he would have been dead.

The giant lowered his weapon, but his gaze was complicated. His body was already facing Zhao Hai who was smiling. Zhao Hai cupped his fist and said, "Thanks for letting me win."

The giant also cupped his fist towards Zhao Hai before jumping down the stage. He couldn't stay on the stage for any longer. Not only was he defeated, he also lost face.

Zhao Hai also jumped down from the stage. Then he was surrounded by Li Fei and the others who were congratulating him. Zhao Hai's expression was light, he didn't show too much happiness.

Zhao Hai knew clearly that the only reason he was able to win easily was because his opponent had a huge body which focused on strength. With their body type, it was impossible for them to be fast. Zhao Hai's movement techniques were hard to catch and predict. Zhao Hai's sudden change in speed caused his opponent to lose track of him, allowing Zhao Hai to maneuver his way through their body. Due to his disorientation from Zhao Hai's speed, the giant man wasn't even able to feel the cold metal on his neck.

Although there were multiple moves involved, the battle on the stage was finished in a flash. Victory and defeat was cleanly decided.

There were a few experts among the audience who knew that Zhao Hai's attack was far from simple. Zhao Hai's observation of his opponent, his judgment of his opponent's attack, his sudden acceleration, his control with the blade, were all perfectly executed. This was what made Zhao Hai terrifying.

Zhao Hai's battle was the competition's fastest battle yet. But it was also the most memorable battle for the audience. The other cultivators were able to see how Zhao Hai fought. When they thought about Zhao Hai's battle, they found out that Zhao Hai's strength didn't lie on his strength, but on his battlefield analysis. It seemed like Zhao Hai had everything under control.

The day's battles quickly ended. A total of ten people from the Tyrant Blade Sect participated. Of the ten, the Tyrant Blade Sect won 9 and only lost one. This was already a good result.

In the evening, Zhao Hai sat in his residence to recall his battle. Although he only fought one battle, he had gained a lot of experience. His experience didn't only involve his battle, but all of the battles. Silver dust has been spread throughout Topfire Mountain, allowing Zhao Hai to record everything that happened on the various stages. All scenes have been sent to the Space to be analyzed.

One shouldn't underestimate the Space's analysis. It must be known that the competition involved the top Clone Stage disciples of various sects. After collecting their battle records, the Space could compile data according to each sect's strengths and weaknesses. Only Zhao Hai could do this.

After digesting his gains for the entire evening, Zhao Hai led the others back to the competition venue the next day. They observed the battles of the other sects for the entire day. Surprisingly, the Tyrant Blade Sect didn't battle anyone on this day.

On the third day, five disciples from the Tyrant Blade Sect participated. Of the five, two won their battles while three lost. The reason for this was because the sect encountered difficult opponents. All of their opponents were from Great Sects. It was already a miracle for them to win two battles.

After four days, the first round of the competition practically ended. The second round would happen on the next day. The second round was more difficult than the first round. The time it took to finish was also shorter. It only took two days for all battles to end. The Tyrant Blade Sect only had eight disciples left who could enter the third round. After the third round, only four people were left. Casualties also began to appear in the third round.

When the fourth round started, disciples of the Tyrant Blade Sect began getting eliminated one after another. Only Zhao Hai and Li Fei were left. The fourth round only took a day to finish.

Due to injuries they gained in the third round, there were plenty of lose-lose battles in the fourth round. In this case, neither of the two combatants were able to participate in the fifth round.

There were less than 100 participants left by the fifth round. Zhao Hai was in the fourth group to fight. This time, his opponent was more interesting. It was a disciple from the Imperial Beast Sect, another of Zhao Hai's enemies.

The Imperial Beast Sect became Zhao Hai's enemy quite early. In the Soaring Dragon Realm, both of them clashed. Unlike the Sword Hegemon Sect who was the Tyrant Blade Sect's enemy, the Imperial Beast Sect was Zhao Hai's personal foe.

As he stood on the stage, Zhao Hai was faced with a woman wearing beast skin. The woman wore a beast skin vest and a short beast skin skirt. Her arm and feet were fully exposed. She also wore a beast skin cloak.

The woman held two short swords in her hands. The swords were only half the length of ordinary swords. Along with her were three beasts. These beasts were snakes from different species.

The snake on the right side was more than ten meters long. It was from the python-species. Its body was very thick at a meter in diameter. It was a huge snake.

On the left was a fiery red snake. The snake was two meters long. On the head of the snake was a bump in the shape of a crown. It carried itself as though it was a ruler of snakes.

On the woman's head was a small snake around 30 centimeters long. It was green all throughout and was coiled like a head ornament. However, Zhao Hai knew that the snake was alive.

Chapter 2089: Shadows of Ghost Cultivators

The three snakes of the woman were clearly not ordinary. Zhao Hai had seen her fight before. Her skills were very formidable. The python helped defend its master while the red snake took charge of the main attack. The green snake would take openings and mount a sneak attack. The green snake was very smart, oftentimes taking the enemy by surprise. Plenty of cultivators ended up in the mouths of the snakes.

Most importantly, the three snakes were venomous. The red snake and the green snake administer venom through their fangs. As for the python, it was unique as its venom was delivered by its scales.

Zhao Hai pulled his blade out and gave the woman a cold gaze. Zhao Hai knew that the woman was no worse than her snakes. It can be said that the woman and her snakes were a whole team. Once the four of them worked together, they became hard to deal with.

Naturally, if Zhao Hai went with all his strength, he wouldn't need to worry about the woman. But the main issue was that Zhao Hai couldn't fight with all his strength. Therefore, he would need to be careful.

At this time, the red snake moved and shot towards Zhao Hai. At the same time, the woman ran towards Zhao Hai, commencing the battle.

Zhao Hai didn't attack immediately. This battle was different compared to his previous ones. In his first few battles, Zhao Hai was able to defeat his enemies with one attack. This time, he wouldn't be able to do that. So, he took a defensive stance.

During his previous battles, Zhao Hai mainly used his metal-attribute blade techniques. The main technique used was the Eight-gates Goldenlock Technique. Naturally, he didn't expose his full capability. Nobody knew that he had reached the highest level of the Eight-gates Goldenlock Technique.

Zhao Hai only utilized 50% of his blade technique. Even so, he was able to startle everyone present. Nobody could believe Zhao Hai's skill with the blade. Only those in the know were aware that Zhao Hai's true skills were far from what he has shown.

Despite using half the strength of his blade techniques, Zhao Hai's defense was still very hard to penetrate. The woman and her three snakes have no means of getting to Zhao Hai. Before this, people thought that Zhao Hai was a strong attacker but weak in defense. But now, they found out that Zhao Hai's defense may be stronger than his attack.

The battle continued on for half an hour. By this point in the competition, it wasn't easy for a battle to last a long time without a clear winner. One shouldn't expect the battle to be more difficult as the competition progresses. On the contrary, winners and losers were decided quickly during the last stages of the competition.

Each sect would send support staff along with their participants to observe each battle and collect information. Then these people would analyze each battle to find weaknesses. Then they would disseminate the information to their participants to prepare them. Therefore, during the late stages of the competition, each participant should have already known quite a lot of information regarding their future opponents. Each side would come up with a solution to end the battle as soon as possible.

The reason they wanted to end the battle quickly was because there wasn't time left. In the later parts of the competition, due to the number of participants left, each stage finished quickly. There was very little time for each participant to rest. So in order to get some breathing time before their next battle, each participant wished to end their battle as fast as possible while using the least energy possible.

Because of all these reasons, battles like Zhao Hai's which reached half an hour were very rare. Usually, battles would end in under ten minutes.

However, it was time for Zhao Hai to finish the battle. After attacking for half an hour, the woman and her three snakes couldn't help but slow down. It was at this point that Zhao Hai's blade technique unfolded. Zhao Hai surrounded his enemy with blade light. Although the woman defended with all her strength, she wasn't as good at defense as Zhao Hai. Ten minutes later, her defenses crumbled and she was defeated.

Both sides gave a salute to each other before going down the stage. Although Zhao Hai had a grudge against the Sword Hegemon Sect and the Imperial Beast Sect, he had no plans of killing anyone in the competition.

But even if Zhao Hai has no plans of killing, this doesn't mean that others don't. After getting down from his stage, Zhao Hai found that Li Fei was gone. He was stunned. Li Fei hasn't competed yet. Generally, whenever Zhao Hai competes, Li Fei would be right below. But now he was missing.

At this time, Zhou Hong walked over. Zhou Hong had been eliminated in the previous rounds, so he took it upon himself to collect information.

Zhou Hong's complexion wasn't good when he arrived in front of Zhao Hai. Then he said, "Team Leader, Old Li doesn't look good. You need to take a look." Hearing this, Zhao Hai's complexion changed as he asked, "What happened?"

Zhou Hong's face was filled with hatred, "It's Hu Jilong from the Butterfly Sect. Old Li was faced against him. You should know that Hu Jilong intends to deal with us. They were originally even during the battle up until Hu Jilong released a throwing knife. Old Li couldn't dodge it and was hit. The most hateful thing is that Hu Jilong poisoned his knife. Old Li is now poisoned. The antidote we have has no effect against the poison."

Hearing this, Zhao Hai relaxed, "Poison? Then it's easy. Let's go." After saying that, he walked with Zhou Hong towards the Tyrant Blade Sect's base. Before long, the two arrived.

Zhou Hong quickly brought Zhao Hai to Li Fei's residence. Right now, there were a lot of people outside Li Fei's room. All Clone Stage disciples were present as well as Elder Yue Feng.

Seeing Zhao Hai arrive, everyone immediately made way. Zhao Hai looked at Li Fei who was lying on a beastskin mat. Li Fei's face was currently layered with black gas, his appearance looked ghastly.

Zhao Hai didn't look at the others as he quickly walked to Li Fei's side and glanced at the place he was hit. The throwing knife hit Li Fei on his shoulder. The wound wasn't large, but the skin around it had turned black and it smelled putrid.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but wrinkle his brows. It hasn't been long since Li Fei has been poisoned, but the wound has already turned serious. This only explains one thing, the poison used was very powerful. Most importantly, the smell of the wound was suspicious. Poison that can emit this kind of smell generally relates to corpse poison. But in the True Spirit Realm, those who used corpse poison were the Ghost Cultivators.

Yue Feng looked at Zhao Hai's appearance and couldn't help but sigh, "This poison is too overbearing. Most importantly, I haven't seen this type of poison before. I don't know what it is. The antidotes we brought has no effect. It seems like Li Fei is only going to get worse."

Zhao Hai looked at Li Fei's complexion before turning his hand and retrieving a jade bottle. Then opened the bottle and began to pour the liquid to Li Fei's mouth. Those around began to notice that Zhao Hai's medicine was gold in color.

After pouring the entire bottle of golden liquid into Li Fei's mouth, Zhao Hai relaxed and said, "What poisoned Li Fei is possibly corpse poison, or a variation derived from it."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, everyone's complexion changed, especially Elder Yue Feng. He looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Are you sure?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I'm quite sure. From the state of the wound, it's corpse poison. If this poison is really from Hu Jilong, then he must have a relationship with Ghost Cultivators. However, the possibility of this is very low. Although there are heavy restrictions during the competition, we aren't disallowed from using hidden weapons. But nobody would dare use poison in their hidden weapons, they would just be looked down on if they did that. Hu Jilong might be arrogant and look down on us, but I'm certain that he wouldn't use corpse poison just to deal with Li Fei. This will be suicide for his reputation. He's not that stupid. It's possible that someone else poisoned Hu Jilong's knife. This needs to be checked immediately."

Yue Feng's expression was somewhat blank, then he nodded and said, "The Butterfly Sect has techniques involving throwing knives, but they generally won't use poison. Moreover, they won't store their throwing knives inside spatial equipment. It's possible that someone else smeared poison on the knives. That person must be close to him. Ordinary people wouldn't know where disciples of the Butterfly Sect kept their knives."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I think Elder should secretly investigate this matter with the Butterfly Sect. We need to find that Ghost Cultivator. Otherwise, not just the Butterfly Sect, but other sects would be affected. If the Butterfly Sect has been infiltrated by Ghost Cultivators, then that means the lesser sects have also been infiltrated. We need to be careful of this matter."

Elder Yue Feng's expression became more serious. He replied, "Don't spread this matter. In fact, forget about this. I'll deal with it." As he said that, he turned his head towards Li Fei. To his surprise, the black gas on Li Fei's face has significantly decreased.

Yue Feng couldn't help but stare, then his eyes shone. He looked at Zhao Hai and asked, "Little Hai, what did you feed Li Fei? How is it so effective against corpse poison?" One couldn't blame Yue Feng for being excited. It must be known that corpse poison was one of the most important weapons of Ghost Cultivators. Until now, the True Spirit Realm has yet to find a solution for it.

But now, one bottle of Zhao Hai's liquid was able to reduce the poison's effects on Li Fei. This was an extraordinary matter.

Chapter 2090: To Strike Quickly

Hearing Yue Feng, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile faintly as he said, "Elder, as you know, I'm a Dark Mage back in the lower realms. Poison is one of the fields we Dark Mages specialize in. This includes corpse poison. I noticed that corpse poison might be cured by an antidote that I have. I was hoping that it would work. I didn't think that it's extremely effective."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Elder Yue Feng's eyes couldn't help but shine. However, he didn't immediately ask Zhao Hai to hand the antidote over. Instead, he looked at Li Fei and said, "How long until Li Fei wakes up?"

Zhao Hai thought and said, "He should be up in about an hour. He'll be fully restored in a day. Naturally, the wound on his shoulder would still need to be healed."

Yue Feng nodded, "Alright, I'll leave two people behind to watch over Li Fei. As for the rest, they can go watch the competition." Those around them immediately complied and then left the residence.

The group returned to Topfire Mountain. By this point, the fifth round of the competition was finished. The sixth round was about to begin. Fortunately, Zhao Hai's name has yet to be drawn.

But just as Zhao Hai arrived at the venue, his name was called. This time, his opponent wasn't an acquaintance. Nevertheless, they weren't easy to deal with. Zhao Hai's enemy this time was one of the stars of the competition, Top Purity Sect's Chen Rufeng.

Top Purity Sect was one of the Great Sects in the Righteous Faction. Its relationship with the Tyrant Blade Sect could be said to be ordinary. However, the Tyrant Blade Sect has a particularly good relationship with the Purity Origin Sect which had a complicated relationship with the Top Purity Sect. Therefore, at the very least, the two sects didn't have any conflicts of interest.

Zhao Hai looked across the stage at his opponent. Chen Rufeng wore a scholar's attire while carrying a sword on his back. The sword was unadorned, it looked ordinary.

Chen Rufeng was also an unremarkable individual. He wasn't charming, but he had a temperament that wasn't unpleasant to be with.

His face didn't show any arrogance, but one couldn't help but lower their head when facing him. He had a temperate smile on his face and his eyes were as gentle as still water.

At the same time, Chen Rufeng was looking at Zhao Hai with surprise. This was because Zhao Hai's temperament was the same as him. Although Zhao Hai was wearing warrior clothing, he didn't give off a rude feeling. On the contrary, Zhao Hai's aura was heroic. Zhao Hai also had a gentle smile on his face that made people feel good.

It can be said that although the two had slightly different temperaments, both gave favorable impressions to everyone around them.

Seeing these two people on the stage, those watching their fight couldn't help but stare. Now that they were faced against each other, their temperament made them special.

Zhao Hai opened his mouth first. He cupped his fist as he smiled and said, "Tyrant Blade Sect's Zhao Hai has seen Senior Brother Chen. I've seen Senior Brother's previous battles. To be honest, you're one of the few people I don't want to face. Unfortunately, we drew each other. I can only ask Senior Brother to show mercy."

Chen Rufeng also cupped his fist as he said, "Junior Zhao Hai is too polite. I also saw your battles. I admire your blade techniques. I'll be the one asking Junior Brother for mercy."

Zhao Hai chuckled and said, "We shouldn't be too polite to each other here. Otherwise, everyone will scold us. Senior Brother Chen, please." After saying that, Zhao Hai pulled out his own blade and pointed it at Chen Rufeng.

Chen Rufeng also smiled as he pulled his own sword out. As soon as Chen Rufeng held his sword, Zhao Hai immediately felt something change. Chen Rufeng's sword was like autumn water but gave the feeling of being sharp and collected. It was a good sword.

Zhao Hai's eyes slightly narrowed, then he waved his blade and rushed towards Chen Rufeng.

The smile on Chen Rufeng's face also disappeared as he concentrated on Zhao Hai. Seeing this display, the cultivators below the arena exclaimed. This was because in Zhao Hai's previous fights, he had never attacked like this. At the same time, Chen Rufeng always had a smile on his face during his previous battles, and yet his smile disappeared. When they saw this, everyone understood that the two weren't using their full strength before. Now, they were beginning to treat their battle seriously.

Once the two fought against each other, the people in the audience couldn't help but be surprised. This was because the two had truly placed their full strength into display. Chen Rufeng's sword technique was quick and rapid. The moment he waved his sword, one could only see the sheen left behind. Many people in the audience were unable to see the sword.

On the other hand, once Zhao Hai's blade was unleashed, the blade completely disappeared. The only thing that remained was a golden light. The golden light hid the form of the blade due to its intensity.

It can be said that the battle was the most spectacular fight in the competition yet. The two sides strove for more and more speed. As they sped up, the stage was beginning to be flooded with sword and blade light. The sound of weapons clashing became akin to raindrops.

Astonishing! The speed achieved by the two combatants was too astonishing. Most importantly, the two were boasting their endurance. The audience thought that the battle would end quickly. However, the fight went on for ten minutes without a clear winner being seen.

Everyone felt breathless as they spectated the battle. The fight was too intense. Nobody had time to breathe.

All of a sudden, the audience felt that their brains had shut down. The golden light on the stage disappeared as Zhao Hai's hand seemed to slow down. His blade moved as though it had the weight of a mountain.

Seeing Zhao Hai's blade, everyone was stunned at the contrast between extreme speed and extreme slowness. But it was Zhao Hai's opponent who was most affected by this.

Chen Rufeng could feel that although Zhao Hai's blade was slow, it actually blocked all of his offensive routes. He had the feeling that he couldn't evade. Most importantly, Zhao Hai's blade carried a momentum that could crush him!

Chen Rufeng was stuck about what to do. The sword in his hand also slowed down. The experts in the audience saw this and couldn't help but sigh. They knew that Chen Rufeng had lost. He had fallen to Zhao Hai's rhythm and would be led by his nose. In this situation, he could no longer defeat Zhao Hai.

Sure enough, as soon as Chen Rufeng slowed down, he began to be disadvantaged. In just five strokes, Zhao Hai's blade broke through Chen Rufeng's defenses, winning him the fight.

Chen Rufeng returned to his calm demeanor. Although he was disappointed by his loss, he wasn't bitter about it. He received his sword and cupped his fist towards Zhao Hai, "Junior Brother Zhao's methods are truly terrifying. I am inferior. I hope we can share notes once more in the future."

Zhao Hai also received his blade. He smiled towards Chen Rufeng and said, "To be honest, I was having a tough time dealing with Senior Brother's fast sword. If it weren't for my trick at the end, I wouldn't have won this soon."

Chen Rufeng replied, "Junior Brother doesn't have to put gold on my face. My master once told me that I need to take control over my fast sword, otherwise I would suffer. Now I understand. Junior Brother, let's share a cup of wine when we meet again." Then he cupped his fist towards Zhao Hai once more before leaving the stage.

Looking at Chen Rufeng's appearance, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and left the stage. The battle has ended. But this battle also allowed people to understand Zhao Hai's talent and strength. Chen Rufeng was famous in the True Spirit Realm. His fame was even bigger than Zhao Hai. But in the end, he was defeated by Zhao Hai's blade.

Although the True Spirit Realm knew that Zhao Hai fought against a Teleportation Stage expert on his own, those who were present saw that Zhao Hai had a small advantage in terms of artifacts and beasts. In fact, Zhao Hai didn't fight Lu Shen head on. Moreover, with the fact that Zhao Hai was an ascender, people merely thought that he had plenty of aces in his hand. They thought that his personal strength wasn't much.

This changed after the battle with Chen Rufeng. Being a genius from the Top Purity Sect, it can be said that he was one of the peak experts of his generation in the True Spirit Realm. According to the estimates of various powers, even if Chen Rufeng weren't the top expert, he could be placed in the top one hundred. This meant that Chen Rufeng's strength was recognized by all the major sects.

By this time, nobody suspected Zhao Hai's strength. Zhao Hai defeated Chen Rufeng's sword using his own blade in front of everyone. If there were people who still doubted Zhao Hai's strength, then they were blind.

The battle between Zhao Hai and Chen Rufeng attracted the most attention of all arenas. When their battle was over, the other battles were also done. This meant that the next round began immediately. This gave Zhao Hai no time to take a rest.

Zhao Hai's opponent in the next round was interesting. It was no other than Hu Jilong. Everyone knows that Hu Jilong defeated Li Fei with his throwing knife. They also know that Hu Jilong used poison on his knife. So as soon as they saw Hu Jilong on the stage, they couldn't help but boo. This was rare. Cultivators actually booted a person like a mortal. Naturally, Hu Jilong's face was ugly upon hearing this reaction.

Zhao Hai looked at Hu Jilong who was on the stage. To be honest, he has no dislike towards Hu Jilong. He felt that Hu Jilong was arrogant, but Zhao Hai was already used to such characters. Hu Jilong's provocations couldn't even raise his brows.

The reason he bickered with Hu Jilong in the past was completely for Li Fei and the others to see. The Tyrant Blade Sect had always been domineering. If Zhao Hai doesn't reinforce this ideal, then Li Fei and the others wouldn't listen to him. But in reality, Zhao Hai doesn't care much about Hu Jilong. He also saw Hu Jilong fight before. Although Hu Jilong was strong, he was still far from being Zhao Hai's opponent.

However, Zhao Hai was still a bit dissatisfied with Hu Jilong. This was because Hu Jilong was too proud for his own good, to the point of arrogance. If it weren't for him being arrogant, nobody would have been convinced that he almost killed Li Fei with the poison he used on the throwing knife. For such a person, Zhao Hai had a faint sense of disgust.

Hu Jilong wasn't conscious of this. He looked at Zhao Hai with hatred. It was as if Zhao Hai was the reason he was being booted on the stage. Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but be speechless. He

couldn't understand how such a person was able to cultivate to his current level. It was rare for such a brainless person to reach a high level.

Zhao Hai looked at Hu Jilong and said, "You attacked Li Fei with a knife, I'll return it to you twice. However, I won't take your life. Not today anyway."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Hu Jilong coldly snorted and said, "You want to deal with me with a throwing knife? Hahaha. Too funny. Let's see how you use throwing knives to defeat me. I'm standing here. Come."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh, "Alright, just stand there. Let's see if I can hit you." After saying that, Zhao Hai waved his hand. Then a shelf appeared beside him. The audience couldn't help but rub their eyes when they saw this. They couldn't understand what happened. How could someone take out a shelf during a battle? Moreover, what was inside those shelves. Are those throwing knives? If it was throwing knives, how many are there? A thousand, ten thousand? Was this a circus show, or a battle?

There was no mistake, Zhao Hai took out a shelf that was densely packed with throwing knives. Nobody could count how many there were. People couldn't understand what happened, but Hu Jilong did. His face became completely dark.