

World 2121

Chapter 2121: Guest Elder

Zhao Hai looked at the building in front of him. Outside the building was a sign that said, 'Blackwood Group'. Although the name sounded foreign, it wasn't from outside. It was just a small gang in Raging Flame City. The reason for its name was because it was in Raging Flame City's Blackwood Alley.

The reason Zhao Hai came here was because of a rule in Raging Flames City. Foreign rogue cultivators needed to register and pay a fee to a local gang in order to take tasks from the mission hall.

Most of the time, people would choose to register with the big gangs. However, Zhao Hai chose to register with a smaller gang. The big gangs have a stricter review for those who want to register. Smaller gangs like the Blackwood Group would be happy if someone registered with them and paid a fee. Their reviews also weren't as deep as the big gangs.

The reason the Blackwood group was established in this place was because the gang leader grew up in Blackwood Alley. Although he's only a rogue cultivator, his strength has reached the Soul Fusion Stage. After many years of wandering outside, he returned to Blackwood Alley. Then he found other rogue cultivators and established the Blackwood Group.

The gang normally did tasks for a living. Every year, they would give money to the Great Axe Group. This way, the Great Axe Group wouldn't clean them up.

Blackwood Group's reputation in Raging Flame City was very good. This was because the gang also taught people how to cultivate. By this point, plenty of gang members were from Blackwood Alley. They had a strong local presence, and they also supported the residents.

The Blackwood Group also doesn't have anti-foreign policies. They would accept any rogue cultivator who joined.

Zhao Hai investigated a lot of things in the past few days. He also absorbed news about the relationship of each gang. In the end, he chose to join the Blackwood Gang.

To put it bluntly, Blackwood Group was a gang of rogue cultivators. To protect themselves and their home, the rogue cultivators grouped together. The headquarters of the gang was a large courtyard. It

had no branches and the gang had more or less 50 people. Of the 50 members, 20 of them were rogue cultivators invited by the gang leader. Their levels were quite good. Most of them were at the Soul Fusion Stage or at the Clone Stage.

As for the other 30 members, they were people who grew up in Blackwood Alley. They had strength ranging from the Rebirth Stage to the Condensed Avatar Stage. They weren't strong.

Like most of the gangs in Raging Flames City, the Blackwood Group belonged to the bottom-level gangs. They were a level higher than solo rogue cultivators.

Nobody would attack gangs like the Blackwood Group. This was because they have nothing worth attacking. Other gangs also won't get any benefits if they attack the Blackwood Gang. It was precisely because of this that nobody was guarding the exterior of the headquarters.

Zhao Hai looked at the gate of the Blackwood Group and then knocked a few times before retreating two steps.

Before long, the gate opened, and a 20-year-old person walked out. He looked at Zhao Hai and asked, "What do you want?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Hello. I'm a rogue cultivator from outside. I want to take missions in Raging Flames City, so I'm here to register with the Blackwood Group."

The Blackwood Group member stared for a moment when he heard Zhao Hai. He seems to be unable to comprehend what Zhao Hai said. It must be known that ever since the Blackwood Group was established, no foreign rogue cultivator registered with them. Most foreign rogue cultivators would register with the three big gangs. This was because even if the three big gangs ask a lot of their members, the amount one could earn with them was also big. Because of this, no foreign cultivators registered with smaller gangs.

After staring for some time, the Blackwood Group cultivator recovered. Then with an excited expression, he said, "Mister wants to register? Fantastic. Please come in." After saying that, the member quickly opened the door and invited Zhao Hai in. Zhao Hai cupped his fist and then entered the courtyard.

The courtyard wasn't big, at least in comparison to Zhao Hai's courtyard back in the Tyrant Blade Sect. At this time, cultivators were practicing inside. Although they were using weapons, the strength they showed wasn't much.

After the gang member led Zhao Hai in, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, come with me." Zhao Hai nodded and walked towards a room with the cultivator. The cultivators practicing in the courtyard looked at Zhao Hai with a surprised expression.

Before long, the two entered a room. After asking Zhao Hai to take a seat, the gang member left.

When he was left alone, Zhao Hai gave a cursory glance at the room. The room wasn't big. Moreover, it was a small suite. He was currently inside a living room, and there should be a bedroom close by.

Before long, three people walked in from outside. One of them was the cultivator that led Zhao Hai in while the other two were older members of the gang. One of the older cultivators looked to be 50 years old. His strength was just close to reaching the Earth Monarch Stage. Zhao Hai knew that it was already an achievement for a rogue cultivator to reach this level. It was practically impossible to progress quickly as a rogue cultivator. The man wasn't tall, and he actually looked like a mortal. However, one could see wisdom from his eyes.

Seeing this person gave Zhao Hai the feeling that they were more like a merchant than a cultivator. But at the same time, Zhao Hai was relieved. If this person didn't have the tenacity of a merchant, he wouldn't have been able to establish the Blackwood Group from scratch. Not only did he escape from being annexed, he also allowed the gang to slowly develop.

The other person was a two-meter-tall man. His muscles made Zhao Hai think that he was a gladiator. One could see immediately that this person was a body cultivator. However, Zhao Hai was fairly certain that the person was using a bad body cultivation method. Otherwise, his muscles wouldn't have grown so big.

Body cultivation didn't mean bulking up one's muscles. Bodybuilding and body cultivation were two different things. Having larger muscles didn't mean that one was a strong body cultivator. The purpose of body cultivation was to use the body to fight, not to grow big.

Seeing the three people entering the room, Zhao Hai immediately stood up. The cultivator who led Zhao Hai in said, "Mister, this is our gang leader, Liu Wei. This is also our vice gang leader, Li Shan."

Liu Wei was the smiling middle-aged person while Li Shan was the body cultivator. Zhao Hai didn't guess their status wrong. One was the Blackwood Group's gang leader while the other was the vice gang leader.

Zhao Hai cupped his fist and said, "Zhao Ming has seen Gang Leader Liu Wei and Vice Gang Leader Li Shan." Zhao Hai used the name Zhao Ming because the character 'ming' can mean the brightness of the sun or the moon. This implied the meaning of yin and yang. Therefore, Zhao Hai's substitute name was specially created for the Yin Yang Elders.

Liu Wei quickly replied, "Mister is too polite. Please take a seat." After that, everyone sat down besides the cultivator who led Zhao Hai in. Instead of joining the conversation, he left the room and then brought back a pot of tea.

Liu Wei looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister is from the outside? Where are you from?"

Zhao Hai knew that Liu Wei saw his cultivation level at the Soul Fusion Stage. Such a person like him coming to a small gang was naturally suspicious. Therefore, he came to inquire about Zhao Hai's origins.

However, Zhao Hai was prepared. He smiled bitterly and said, "I might make the Gang Leader Liu laugh. I am a rogue cultivator from the Butterfly Sect's territory. Because I offended an inner disciple, I had to run away. That disciple is very famous in the Butterfly Sect. If I stayed in the territory of the Righteous Dao League, I would be found by them sooner or later. So, I fled to Raging Flame City."

Liu Wei stared, then he looked at Zhao Hai in confusion, "How did mister offend a cultivator from the Butterfly Sect? There should be no intersection between rogue cultivators and sect cultivators."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and answered, "I offended Hu Jilong. This person is a famous inner disciple of the Butterfly Sect. During the alliance competition of the Righteous Dao League, he represented the Butterfly Sect and broke into the top 50. In the Butterfly Sect, he's regarded as an expert of the young generation. In the end, he lost against Zhao Hai, a disciple of the Tyrant Blade Sect. This became the greatest shame of his life."

“When I was talking with a brother some time ago, I said that Hu Jilong’s strength could never compare to Zhao Hai. I don’t know how, but my words reached Hu Jilong’s ears. He sent people to kill me. Fortunately, I have friends among the rogue cultivators that helped me escape.”

When Liu Wei heard Zhao Hai, he believed him. In his opinion, sect disciples have their eyes above their heads. A few words were enough for them to kill people. They were beyond arrogant.

Liu Wei didn’t immediately agree to Zhao Hai’s application. Instead, he gave Zhao Hai a look and said, “May I know why Mister chose the Blackwood Group? I know that we are just a small gang with close to zero potential. If you register with us, it would be hard for you to receive good tasks.”

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, “Gang leader is too polite. To be honest, I arrived in Raging Flames City several days ago. I used those days to get familiar with the affairs of the city. The three big gangs of the city might be good, but they are somewhat linked with the Divine Fire Sect. I want to be as far away from the sects as possible. Although the Blackwood Group is a small gang, it has the cleanest record among all gangs in the city. That’s why I came here.”

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Liu Wei nodded. Although the Blackwood Group has no advantages over other gangs, it was the cleanest one of them all. For Zhao Hai who was burned by being in contact with the sects, choosing the Blackwood Group was a natural decision.

Liu Wei nodded and said, “So does Mister want to join the group?”

Zhao Hai looked at Liu Wei for a while, then he said, “I’ll join the Blackwood Group. But I can only be a member by name. To be honest, I won’t stay in Roaring Flames City for long. If you can agree to this, then I’ll join. Of course, I won’t disregard the matters of the gang. If the gang has matters to deal with, then I’ll stand by your side.”

Liu Wei wasn’t disappointed by Zhao Hai’s answer. Instead, his expression lightened up as he said, “Alright, that’s good. Mister’s words are enough. Please come with me. I’ll register you immediately. Later, you’ll carry the title of Guest Elder.” After saying that, he pulled Zhao Hai outside. Seeing the outcome, Zhao Hai didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

However, Zhao Hai also understood why Liu Wei was happy. Although Zhao Hai’s surface strength of Soul Fusion Stage wasn’t much to sects, for a gang of rogue cultivators like the Blackwood Group, he was

already an expert. This can be seen by the gang leader's Soul Fusion Stage strength. It was normal for Zhao Hai to be treated as a guest elder.

Zhao Hai didn't mind it and followed Liu Wei. Before long, the group arrived in an important room in the courtyard. Then Liu Wei took out a book. No mistake, it was a book. However, the book wasn't made of paper, it was made with beast skin. The beast skin looked cheap; it was probably from an ordinary beast.

Liu Wei wrote Zhao Ming in the book and then wrote the title 'Guest Elder' right beside. Liu Wei also gave Zhao Hai an identity token stating that he was a guest elder. The token was made from cheap jade. This was the first time that Zhao Hai saw such a simple identity token for a Guest Elder. Nevertheless, it showed that he was a guest elder of the Blackwood Group.

Zhao Hai received the token. Then Liu Wei introduced Zhao Hai to the rest of the Blackwood Group. From this point, Zhao Hai became the Guest Elder of a small gang called the Blackwood Group. He was now Zhao Ming!

Chapter 2122: Taking Tasks

An ordinary gang like the Blackwood Group wouldn't hold a welcoming ceremony for Zhao Hai. In fact, it simply couldn't afford to hold a ceremony. Because of this, Zhao Hai joined the gang in silence.

After joining the Blackwood Group, Zhao Hai also understood the gang's situation. To be honest, the Blackwood Group was truly struggling. Its monthly expenses just equaled the earnings of the members. The gang itself has no savings. Even if they had some extra money, they would use it to help the people in Blackwood Alley.

Zhao Hai didn't immediately take money out to help the gang. This won't solve the problem in the long term. The money might even cause a disaster to the gang.

If a small gang like the Blackwood Group suddenly obtained a large amount of money, its strength won't be enough to protect it. Having such abundance wouldn't be good.

The Blackwood Group belonged to the lowest gangs in Raging Flames City. Moreover, it has no background. In this case, if they suddenly had money, it would be strange if others didn't come to take it by force or by deceit.

After staying in the Blackwood Group for two days, Zhao Hai obtained an understanding of the Demonic Dao Alliance. The demon cultivators believed in the law of the jungle. Nobody held power in the city other than the gangs. But outside the city, the situation was different. In the demonic faction, banditry was rampant. There's a large number of rogue cultivators who became bandits. In their eyes, robbing people was better than taking missions.

It was because of this that merchants would spend money to hire escorts. In turn, it allowed the gangs to thrive.

Taking tasks was an important source of income for many cultivators. It can be said that bandits and gang cultivators were in an opposing relationship. One would feed the other, and vice versa. Any change in this balance would increase the burden on ordinary people.

However, these things were out of Zhao Hai's control. Now that he had stayed in the Blackwood Group for two days, Zhao Hai couldn't help but be stunned. He couldn't help but think about taking on a task immediately. This was because the Blackwood Group was very poor. If they didn't take on a task right now, they won't have anything to eat.

A gang being dirt poor was a strange thing. But later on, Zhao Hai found out that most of the gang's resources weren't given to the gang leader, nor to the guest elder. Instead, it was given to the youngsters who were cultivating.

Seeing this Zhao Hai couldn't help but be affected. He didn't expect a gang like this would exist in the demonic faction. Even members of the righteous faction couldn't achieve this.

Because he saw this situation, Zhao Hai could no longer sit still. He needed to go to the mission hall and accept a task. Only then could the gang have money to nurture the young.

On the third day after Zhao Hai joined the Blackwood Group, a group from the gang managed to accept a task. The task was taken two days ago. It needed ten people to complete, and it had a rich reward. Liu

Wei and the others already discussed and had Li Shan complete the task along with nine other members.

Originally, this task didn't have anything to do with Zhao Hai. But upon seeing the gang's situation, Zhao Hai took the initiative to participate. Liu Wei didn't decline. Zhao Hai was now a member of the Blackwood Group. Sooner or later, he would take on tasks. It's better for him if he gets acquainted soon.

With Liu Wei's consent, Zhao Hai would follow the group with Li Shan leading. Li Shan was experienced, naturally he would lead.

In the morning, Zhao Hai got up and had a simple breakfast. Then Li Shan led the members of the group to the city's business street.

Roaring Flame City's business street was a land of prosperity. There were shops on both sides with cultivators and ordinary people constantly leaving and entering.

Zhao Hai and the others stopped in a shop named Full Moon Pavilion. Li Shan turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Elder Zhao, come with me." Zhao Hai followed Li Shan inside.

Upon entering the Full Moon Pavilion, Zhao Hai saw that the shop's selection was quite broad. The shop sold items used by both cultivators and mortals. There were pills, weapons, beast skin, and herbs. There were also farming tools sold. Zhao Hai hasn't seen such a comprehensive shop before.

Back in the Righteous Dao League, shops for mortals and cultivators were separated. Besides inns and restaurants, shops were almost always separated. Shops selling mortal goods wouldn't sell cultivator goods. And shops selling cultivator goods wouldn't sell mortal goods. This has become an unwritten rule.

Li Shan looked very familiar with the Full Moon Pavilion. As soon as he entered the shop, he immediately went towards the shopkeeper. Upon seeing Li Shan, the shopkeeper immediately said, "Gang Master Li, you're here. Quick, have your brothers go to the back. The goods are ready to transport. We'll leave immediately."

Li Shan nodded, then he said, "Shopkeeper Chen, this is the Blackwood Group's new Guest Elder Zhao Ming. Elder, this is a long-time collaborator of our Blackwood Group, Full Moon Pavilion's Shopkeeper Chen."

Zhao Hai cupped his fist and said, "Zhao Ming has seen Storekeeper Chen."

Hearing what Zhao Hai said, Shopkeeper Chen couldn't help but stare. He was familiar with the Blackwood Group. He hasn't heard of the gang having a guest elder. But since he was a businessman, he also cupped his fist and said, "Chen Feng has seen Elder Zhao."

At this time, Li Shan looked at Shopkeeper Chen and said, "Shopkeeper Chen, I'll bring everyone to the back to check the goods." After that, Li Shan walked outside the shop and whistled to the rest of the Blackwood Group members. Everyone quickly went around the back of the shop using a side path.

Li Shan and Zhao Hai followed Shopkeeper Chen to the back. Before long, the three arrived at a courtyard. Inside was a caravan that was preparing to depart. The caravan was composed of ten horse carriages. Each carriage had plenty of cargo.

The goods were all packed in either boxes or bags. All in all, the ten carriages would transport quite a lot of goods. The carriage in front had a very wide space for the carriage driver. There was also enough space for Zhao Hai and the other guards.

Shopkeeper Chen looked at Zhao Hai and then turned his head to Li Shan, "Gang Master Li, please come with me. I have some matters to discuss with you."

Li Shan nodded. Shopkeeper Chen cupped his fist towards Zhao Hai and then led Li Shan back to the store. Zhao Hai also nodded towards Shopkeeper Chen before looking back at the convoy. Zhao Hai understood what Shopkeeper Chen was going to say to Li Shan. This wasn't the first time that Shopkeeper Chen worked with the Blackwood Group. Zhao Hai's sudden appearance would naturally cause Shopkeeper Chen to be vigilant. He was probably asking Li Shan for Zhao Hai's details.

Zhao Hai wasn't offended. This was very normal. After all, Shopkeeper Chen was a businessman. He would naturally ask about a previously unknown person that would escort his precious goods.

Looking at the Full Moon Pavilion's scale, Zhao Hai suspected that it also has a background. Otherwise, its business wouldn't be as big.

Before long, Shopkeeper Chen walked out with Li Shan. There were no changes to Li Shan's expression, but there was a smile on Shopkeeper Chen's face. At the same time, Zhao Hai noticed that Shopkeeper Chen also had a hint of surprise on his face.

At this time, the caravan was fully prepared to depart. Shopkeeper Chen cupped his fist to Li Shan and Zhao Hai and said, "I'll be leaving the caravan to you two."

Li Shan nodded and said, "Shopkeeper Chen can rest assured."

Zhao Hai also cupped his fist towards Shopkeeper Chen, "Shopkeeper Chen is too polite. We'll protect the caravan with all our strength."

Li Shan glanced at the convoy and said, "Elder Zhao, please guard the back. I'll lead the caravan." Zhao Hai nodded. Li Shan went to the first carriage while Zhao Hai went to the last carriage. The other also found carriages to ride. Before long, the caravan left the courtyard.

Naturally, Raging Flames City had routes for caravans to leave the city. The caravan proceeded with no problems until it reached the east gate. There were other people who left with Zhao Hai and the others. Some of these people were carrying goods on their backs. These people didn't dare get too close to the caravan, but they also didn't dare go too far away.

Looking at these people, Zhao Hai knew that they were prepared to travel with the caravan. They were taking advantage of the caravan's guards to ensure their security. Moreover, it was clear that this wasn't the first time they had done this.

Since the carriages had a lot of goods inside, the speed of the caravan wasn't fast. However, because the carriage drivers were familiar with the road, the speed increased by noon. Then the caravan stopped on a post house below a mountain. After everyone got out of the carriages, they looked for a place to eat. The carriage drivers also took out some grain to feed the horses.

Zhao Hai also got down from the carriage and found Li Shan. When he arrived beside Li Shan, he pointed not too far away from the caravan and said, "Brother Li, those people, are we alright with them following?"

Li Shan looked at the people following the caravan, then he shook his head and said, "It's fine. They're too poor to hire guards, so they follow caravans."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he looked around and said, "How many days is the trip going to take? The drivers seem to be familiar with the road."

Chapter 2123: Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain

"We'll travel for five days. The caravan travels these roads often, so they're familiar with it. Don't worry, there won't be any danger. At night, we mostly rest in villages or small towns. We only need to guard against small-time thieves. Large bandit groups are already familiar with us, they won't cause any trouble." Li Shan calmly replied,

Hearing Li Shan, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare. He suddenly felt that the Blackwood Group's style was the same to bodyguard services back on earth. Bodyguards don't rely on their superb martial arts to protect their clients. No matter how strong they were, other people would still have means to clean them up. Therefore, bodyguard services depend on their reputation. If other people gave you face, then they would give face as well. But if other people attack, they won't show any mercy.

Because of this, whenever bodyguard services escort a shipment of goods, they would show their flags. This was to remind others who they are, and for the onlookers to give them face.

Blackwood Group's conduct was similar. Bandits and robbers were already familiar with the Blackwood Group. Seeing that the caravan was being guarded by the gang, they wouldn't make their move.

Seeing that Zhao Hai was shocked, Li Shan said, "There's nothing strange about it. We actually know those bandits and thieves. In fact, the Gang Leader visited them one by one and promised them a cut of our payment. Naturally, these people wouldn't harm our benefits."

Zhao Hai nodded, "What about the others? What if we encounter the ones we don't know?"

Li Shan replied, "Then we have no other choice but to fight. Generally, those types of thieves aren't strong. We have enough strength to protect ourselves."

Zhao Hai nodded. Then Li Shan said, "Go eat something. We'll hurry along in the afternoon. We'll only rest when evening arrives." Zhao Hai nodded and then got some dry rations to eat.

The caravan took a quick break at noon and then proceeded to travel in the afternoon. Although nothing happened, Zhao Hai noticed two groups of people spying on the caravan. But in the end, they didn't make a move. It seems like what Li Shan said was the truth. The thieves were indeed familiar with the gang.

By evening, the group rested in a small town. Because the caravan was already familiar with the journey, they already have an inn for them to stay in. The night's rest went smoothly.

The next morning, after eating their breakfast and preparing more dry rations, the caravan left the small town. They didn't stop at noon and continued traveling. This allowed the caravan to reach a village when night came. Then after resting at the village for a night, they departed once more.

All in all, Zhao Hai found four or five more groups spying on them. Fortunately, none of them made any moves. It seems like this road was a familiar way for the Blackwood Group. The trip was bound to be without any troubles.

Just as Zhao Hai thought about this, the caravan suddenly stopped. Then there was a whistling sound coming from Li Shan's carriage. As soon as he heard this, Zhao Hai's expression changed. He knew that the whistle meant that there were enemies in front.

At this time, Zhao Hai's carriage also stopped. Zhao Hai jumped down from his carriage and went straight towards the front. When he arrived, he found that there was a carriage on the road ahead with five people standing in a row. These five people were dressed in black and each of them were holding a ghost head knife in their hands. What's surprising about this group wasn't their weapons, but their appearance.

The five people looked exactly the same. They looked like terror clowns; uncombed hair, upturned nose, thick lipsticks. They looked more like ghosts than people.

Zhao Hai looked at these five people and couldn't help but frown. He looked at Li Shan and said, "Brother Li, do you know these people?"

Li Shan shook his head and said, "I don't know them, but I heard of them. The Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain. These guys have been active in Pale Mountain for many years. They're ruthless characters and each one of them is strong. However, Pale Mountain is far away from us. They have never been seen in this region."

Zhao Hai looked at the five people and saw that they weren't very strong. They were just at the Soul Fusion Stage. Naturally, this evaluation was only limited to Zhao Hai. To other people, the five were strong, especially against the Blackwood Group.

Zhao Hai said, "I can deal with the five of them. I'm not afraid of their combination technique, my movement technique is very good. I just don't know what kind of technique they use. They might use something that I can't escape from."

Li Shan smiled bitterly and said, "The Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain are famous for their Five Ghost Soulseeker Technique. It seems like we're really in trouble this time. These people don't choose their targets, they will attack anyone they encounter."

Just as Li Shan finished speaking, they heard a laughter from the opposing side, "If you know who we are, then obediently hand over everything you have. Then this grandfather might spare your lives. If you don't, then this grandfather is known as Five Kings of Pale Mountain. Hand over your goods, or else you will have an ugly death."

Any cultivator would call these five people the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain. However, they call themselves the Five Kings of Pale Mountain.

Zhao Hai looked at Li Shan and said, "Leave those five to me." After he said that, he didn't wait for Li Shan to reply. Zhao Hai stepped towards the Five Ghosts and said, "Friends, this one is Blackwood Group's Guest Elder Zhao Ming. Please give me face and allow us to pass. If you do, our Blackwood Group will send you a gift of appreciation."

“Bah! Who cares about you, Blackwood Group? I haven’t heard of such a trash gang. You even dared to ask for face? Kid, know your limits and roll off! Otherwise, don’t blame us for being impolite.”

Hearing this, Zhao Hai’s complexion sank, “So you’re not willing to step back? Since I already asked and you declined, then I can only offend.” After speaking, Zhao Hai took out two hammers.

Zhao Hai didn’t use his blade since he might expose his identity. Fortunately, he was proficient with the eighteen weapons. To Zhao Hai, any weapon was the same.

Seeing Zhao Hai revealing his weapon, the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain laughed, “Alright, good. It’s been some time since someone dared to face us. Now, all of you won’t be able to run. You’ll die!”

Zhao Hai sneered, “It’s not easy to kill us.” After he said that, Zhao Hai roared and used his double hammers and attacked the Five Ghosts.

Zhao Hai’s hammer swing seemed simple, but to the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain, it felt completely different. Zhao Hai’s hammers didn’t only sever all escape routes, it also exuded a terrifying force behind it.

The oldest of the five ghosts looked at the hammers and his expression couldn’t help but change, then he shouted, “Not good, set up the formation!” With his voice, the other four immediately moved and surrounded Zhao Hai in the middle. Then the five ghost head knives attacked Zhao Hai simultaneously.

When Zhao Hai moved, his two hammers looked the same as fists. Each blow blocked the attack of the Five Ghosts, he even managed to make one or two counter attacks. This caused the Five Ghosts to defend themselves.

Seeing Zhao Hai’s attack, the look on Li Shan’s face froze. He knows that Zhao Hai’s hammers were heavy weapons. To be able to use these weapons, one would need formidable strength. Moreover, heavy weapons consume a lot of spiritual qi, much bigger than conventional weapons. If he kept fighting like this, Zhao Hai might not be able to last long enough to deal with the Five Ghosts.

Sure enough, just like Li Shan thought, after Zhao Hai exchanged around 50 moves with the Five Ghosts, his face began to sweat, and his breathing became heavy. The Five Ghosts saw this and they began to attack more vigorously.

At this time, Zhao Hai suddenly shouted, "There!" With his words, the hammer in his hand flew and hit one of the Five Ghosts. The member of the Five Ghosts didn't expect Zhao Hai to have this move and wasn't able to prepare. The hammer went straight for the head and smashed it like a watermelon. Red and white flesh began flying all over the place.

This sudden change caused everyone to pause. However, this wasn't the end, the other hammer in Zhao Hai's hand was also thrown towards another member of the Five Ghosts.

The remaining Four Ghosts seemed to be brought to senses by Zhao Hai's action. All of them cried, "Old Fourth!" Then they looked at Zhao Hai with red eyes and shouted, "Die!" Four knives attacked straight towards Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai blocked the attacks with all he had. After a while, he shouted once more, "Kill!" Everyone was startled, then they heard a shout. One of the Five Ghosts had a throwing knife stuck on his throat. Even a ghost wouldn't be able to see the knife.

At this time, Zhao Hai shouted, "Brother Li, it's time!" The dumbfounded Li Shan recovered when he heard Zhao Hai. Then his expression turned fierce as he shouted, "Kill!" He took a copper rod out and attacked the Five Ghosts. As for the others, they didn't make a move. They still guarded the carriages.

With Li Shan joining, one of the Five Ghosts became preoccupied. Although there were still two people fighting against Zhao Hai, they were no longer a threat.

Chapter 2124: Smooth Return

The two sides continued to fight against each other. Then suddenly, they heard Zhao Hai shouting, "Die!" As soon as Zhao Hai said those words, the remaining three Ghosts of Pale Mountain stopped their attacks and immediately used their knives to protect themselves.

But this time, they were mistaken. Zhao Hai didn't use his throwing knives. He fooled the three to stop their attacks.

After knowing what happened, the three ghosts couldn't help but turn pale. They looked at Zhao Hai with eyes full of hatred. Then they roared and attacked Zhao Hai and Li Shan.

After fighting for another ten rounds, Zhao Hai shouted once more. The three ghosts protected their bodies once more. And like before, Zhao Hai didn't do anything. This caused the faces of the three ghosts to turn uglier.

The five fought ten more rounds and Zhao Hai shouted again. This time, the five ghosts only pulled their knives back for a moment before attacking. However, unlike the last two times, the hammer on Zhao Hai's hand was thrown. Zhao Hai's target wasn't the two ghosts who were facing him. Instead, his target was the person that was fighting against Li Shan.

Bu! The hammer hit Li Shan's opponent on his back. The ghost who fought against Li Shan committed blood and chunks of flesh. Li Shan used this opportunity to smash his opponent's head, breaking it like a watermelon.

The eyes of the two ghosts who fought against Zhao Hai turned blood red as they shouted, "Second Brother!" Then the two desperately threw themselves towards Zhao Hai. They had completely abandoned their defense. They wanted to perish together with Zhao Hai.

Seeing this, Li Shan couldn't help but be anxious. He immediately shouted, "You Dare!" Then he used his staff to stop the remaining two ghosts. He saw that Zhao Hai no longer has any weapons in hand. If he faced the two ghosts, he would certainly suffer a loss.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai raised his brows and quickly flew back. Then he took out eight throwing knives. He threw the knives towards the two ghosts.

Now that they have given up on their defense, the two ghosts forgot that Zhao Hai once used a throwing knife to kill one of their brothers. When they saw Zhao Hai's throwing knives, it was already too late. Their bodies shook as the impact caused their bodies to pounce. Then after they took a few more steps, they fell to the ground. They convulsed a few times before they stopped moving.

Li Shan stared, then he stored his copper staff and looked at the bodies of the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain. A look of disbelief was seen on his face. He couldn't believe the five would die under the hands of the Blackwood Group. Was he dreaming?

Zhao Hai also stopped at this time. He stood in place as he gasped for air. Li Shan quickly went to support Zhao Hai, "Brother Zhao, are you alright?"

Naturally, Zhao Hai was just pretending. If he used his true strength, he could deal with the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain in mere minutes. But if he did that, he would arouse Li Shan's suspicion. Zhao Hai needs to behave like an ordinary cultivator in the Soul Fusion Stage.

Zhao Hai pretended to be exhausted, then he shook his head and said, "I'm fine. I'm just a bit drained. Let's take a break."

Li Shan immediately called two of his brothers to assist Zhao Hai back to the carriage. At the same time, he went to the bodies of the five ghosts and picked up Zhao Hai's hammers. He also took Zhao Hai's throwing knives and wiped it clean before returning them, "Brother Zhao, here are your things. I'll go clean up the battlefield. We need to leave immediately. Otherwise, we'll miss our stop for the night."

Zhao Hai nodded and then put his hammers and throwing knives away. Li Shan immediately commanded the other members of the Blackwood Group to search the bodies of the five ghosts and then loaded them into spatial items. After that, they looked for a place to bury the corpses before leaving immediately.

Zhao Hai didn't ask Li Shan how he dealt with the loot. He knows that there was no need. Li Shan would definitely remember his share. If Li Shan wasn't honest, the spirit of the Blackwood Group would immediately collapse. By then, the gang would be finished.

Zhao Hai also noticed that after the battle, the way the other members of the gang looked at him had changed. Originally, the other members of the Blackwood Group were treating him as a stranger. But now, they looked at him with intimate worship and awe. This was enough for Zhao Hai.

Needless to say, the drivers of the Full Moon Pavilion were thankful towards Zhao Hai. They were full of respect towards him. Zhao Hai didn't care about this as he pretended to be drained and controlled his breathing.

When evening arrived, Zhao Hai and the others rested in a small town. The caravan often stayed in the town, so they already had a place to stay. After Li Shan arranged for the night watch, he took Zhao Hai to the restaurant and asked the waiter to serve them dishes and wine.

After pouring Zhao Hai a glass of wine, Li Shan also poured himself a cup. Then he lifted his cup towards Zhao Hai and said, "Brother, I'll have to thank you for what happened today. Otherwise, we would have been wiped out. Let me show my respects with this cup."

Zhao Hai also raised his cup and said, "Brother Li is too polite. I'm now a member of the Blackwood Group. Naturally, I have to contribute."

Li Shan nodded and then raised his head to drink his wine. Zhao Hai also downed the contents of his cup.

Li Shan looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Zhao. This time, our harvest is very big. Don't worry, I won't forget about your share."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Brother Li, you're really treating me as a stranger. Although I have only been in the Blackwood Group for a short time, I already know about the gang's situation. To be honest, I really admire what Gang Leader Liu is doing. I have also seen groups in the Righteous Dao League, but I haven't seen anything like the Blackwood Group. I'm also willing to help the younger generation and contribute. My share may make my purse heavier, but it would help those children even more. Use my share to make them eat and dress better."

Li Shan looked at Zhao Hai and didn't say anything. Instead, he poured Zhao Hai and himself a cup of wine. Then he lifted his cup towards Zhao Hai and drank the wine.

Zhao Hai also followed Li Shan and drank the wine. After a while, Li Shan said, "Brother Zhao Hai, I have to thank you. For many years, cultivators have been laughing at our gang for being silly. In their opinion, we're ignoring our progress. In their eyes, we are a group of lunatics."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I don't think that you're crazy. On the contrary, what you're doing is meaningful. It impacts more than just the children. This is also the reason why I joined the Blackwood Group."

Li Shan let out a long sigh before giving a hearty laugh. His smile was wide, probably from letting go of the unhappiness in his heart. All the gloominess in his heart has been swept by the wind and clouds.

The two drank until very late at night. Their relationship between the two also improved by a lot. The next morning, everyone set off. Because of the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain, the caravan was more careful along the way. On the fifth day, they finally arrived at their destination. After handing the goods over, Zhao Hai and the others didn't return immediately. The Full Moon Pavilion still had some goods to transport back, and they still needed escorts.

The trip back went without anything happening. The Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain has been sighted and was dealt with. Zhao Hai's elimination of the five ghosts has spread throughout the region. Those who had intentions on the Blackwood Group now had to weigh their options when they heard the news.

After a smooth return to Raging Flames City, the caravan headed towards the courtyard behind Full Moon Pavilion. Li Shan could see a group of people standing at the back courtyard of the shop. When they got closer, he saw that it was Liu Wei and Shopkeeper Chen.

Li Shan hastily got down from the carriage and met with the two people. He cupped his fist towards the two and said, "Gang Leader, Shopkeeper Chen, why are you here?"

Liu Wei laughed and said, "Naturally, I'm waiting for you. Where's Zhao Ming?"

Hearing Liu Wei, Li Shan immediately knew what he meant. Zhao Hai essentially killed the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain on his own. Although he used hidden weapons, this was enough to show his strength. Therefore, Liu Wei took the chance to greet them.

Li Shan smiled and said, "Brother Zhao is in the last carriage. Gang Leader can rest assured." At this time, the ten carriages stopped. Zhao Hai and the rest of the gang members also got out. By this point, the task has been completed, and they can receive money.

Seeing Zhao Hai from afar, Liu Wei moved forward and then cupped his fist as he laughed, "Our hero is back. Brother Zhao Ming, you really hid your skills. I didn't expect that you would be an expert."

Hearing Liu Wei, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Gang Leader is too polite. What expert, I just used the enemy's weakness against themselves."

At this time, Storekeeper Chen arrived. He also cupped his fist in respect, "Elder Zhao Ming, I have eyes but didn't recognize Mount Tai. I hope that you can be patient with me. I have arranged a feast in the Full Moon Abode. I want to invite all the brothers of the Blackwood Group. I hope you can give me face by attending."

Liu Wei laughed and said, "Old Chen, all of us know that Full Moon Abode is a property of your Full Moon Pavilion. Why are you so polite in inviting us? Don't worry, we'll make sure to enjoy your sincerity. Hahaha"

Upon hearing Liu Wei, Shopkeeper Chen also laughed, "Others call me stingy, but if I have a rare guest, I'll have to make sure that they are satisfied. Just wait to see what food and drinks I've prepared." When the others heard Shopkeeper Chen, they also laughed. Zhao Hai heard that Liu Wei and Shopkeeper Chen had known each other for a long time, and they have a good relationship.

Zhao Hai's guess wasn't wrong. Liu Wei and Shopkeeper Chen were indeed old friends. Liu Wei saved Shopkeeper Chen's life, and they became close from then on. Afterwards, because of his skill in business, Shopkeeper Chen became the shopkeeper of the Full Moon Pavilion. Liu Wei just formed his Blackwood Group at that time. Because of the Full Moon Pavilion's background, its caravans were rarely robbed by other gangs. And since Liu Wei was a good person, nobody came to provoke the Blackwood Group. The cooperation between the two went smoothly up until this day.

The group arrived at Full Moon Abode. Shopkeeper Chen reserved an entire floor for the Blackwood Group. Shopkeeper Chen's action didn't incur any opposition from the Full Moon Pavilion. This was because the Blackwood Group really did a great job this time. The batch of goods escorted by the Blackwood Group was very important for the Full Moon Pavilion. If it was robbed, then the pavilion's losses would be big. It's because of this that Shopkeeper Chen rewarded the Blackwood Group with a banquet. Moreover, the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain was a famous bandit group. With the Blackwood Group dealing with the five ghosts, the Full Moon Pavilion was naturally grateful.

At the same time, the strength that Zhao Hai showed surprised the Full Moon Pavilion. Although the Full Moon Pavilion was a business group, it was also clearly aware of the movements of rivers and mountains. They were aware that the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain weren't pushovers. Their Soulseeker Formation was very famous. Zhao Hai's deed of dealing with the five ghosts made him worth winning over. Even if the Full Moon Pavilion couldn't poach Zhao Hai, it was good to have a good relationship with him.

Businessmen pay attention to whatever makes them money. For them, offending people wasn't a cost-effective action. Competition was inevitable, but they couldn't just offend anyone. On the contrary, businessmen liked to make friends. The more friends they have the more roads they could travel. This was a truth that all businessmen understood.

After drinking in the Full Moon Abode, the people of the Blackwood Group returned to the headquarters. Someone also reported to Lie Wei that several gangs have sent invitations.

Hearing this, he immediately asked someone to fetch the invitations. When he looked at the messages, Liu Wei quickly understood what was going on. These invitations were sent by other small gangs of Roaring Flame City. In the past, the Blackwood Group had no strength to speak of and it had no background to depend on, so the other small gangs disdained getting associated with them. But now, it is different. With Zhao Hai being a guest elder of the gang, the other small gangs were now willing to make friends with the Blackwood Group.

Liu Wei didn't dislike this development. People making friends with you only means that they see you as an equal. It was also good for the Blackwood Group to gain more friends. There were only benefits and no harm.

Chapter 2125: Mountain of Demon Beasts

Liu Wei's meeting with the other gangs had nothing to do with Zhao Hai. He didn't meet them. Although it was better for him to deal with those people than Liu Wei, Zhao Hai didn't want to see them. What Zhao Hai wanted to do now was to teach the young members of the gang and increase their strength.

Although Liu Wei and the others were also attentive towards the education of the young members, their capabilities were very limited. Whenever they taught the juniors, there would be mistakes and omissions. Because of this, the development of the gang's juniors wasn't great.

Not to mention that among the juniors, Zhao Hai found a few people with good talents. Naturally, this was relative to rogue cultivators. These juniors might be talented, but they weren't as talented as the disciples of a sect.

Zhao Hai chose juniors who all had earth-element roots. They were more suitable to take the path that Qiu Tie walked and become body cultivators.

Zhao Ming was supposed to be a cultivator who used earth-element techniques and was also a body cultivator. Otherwise, he wouldn't have used hammers as his weapons.

Hammers were fierce and destructive weapons, but they cannot be used by the physically weak. It was a weapon rarely used by conventional cultivators as they didn't have enough strength to use it. On the other hand, body cultivators liked to use hammers as a weapon. This was because hammers could become extensions of their fists. As long as the enemy was hit by a hammer, they would be either dead or wounded. It was the best weapon for body cultivators.

When Zhao Hai took his hammer out, Li Shan immediately understood that he was a body cultivator. Therefore, when Zhao Hai selected a few juniors, Li Shan immediately agreed.

Although Li Shan was also a body cultivator, he was very clear about his own strength. His muscles might look scary, but Li Shan knew that his cultivation method wasn't the best. Otherwise, his muscles wouldn't show that he was a body cultivator.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai was built like a normal person. This proved to Li Shan that Zhao Hai's cultivation method was better than his. If Zhao Hai wanted to impart his methods to the younger generation, then it would be good for the gang.

The death of the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain caused quite a stir in Roaring Flames City. The Raging Fire Group, Great Axe Group, and the Spirit Medicine Hall were all alarmed. They were well aware that the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain were strong. But now the five were killed. The three large gangs couldn't help but be alarmed.

Although the people of Roaring Flames City were alarmed, it was a matter of importance. Therefore, the matter quickly subsided. The three gangs were aware that Zhao Hai killed the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain, but they didn't care about him. In their opinion, Zhao Hai lucked out by being a sly body cultivator. If the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain didn't underestimate him, Zhao Hai might not be able to deal with them.

The matter might have subsided, but Liu Wei didn't stop using this opportunity to use his skills to establish relationships with other small gangs. By this point, the Blackwood Group was no longer a gang that was ignored.

Actually, the biggest harvest of the Blackwood Group wasn't the prestige and connections it gained, but instead it was the look from the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain. The five ghosts didn't have a territory, and they robbed wherever they could. People like them lived like there was no tomorrow. Therefore, they carried everything they had on them. After they were killed, these resources naturally fell into Li Shan's hands. At that time, Li Shan didn't look into what the gang had gained. It was only after they returned to the gang did Liu Wei and Li Shan know how much they got. They almost couldn't sleep from smiling too much.

The Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain robbed indiscriminately. They had a lot of good things on them. Besides items that couldn't be sold, other items have been exchanged for spirit stones or jade essences. The number of spirit stones equalled more than one million. There were also 100 thousand jade essences. Moreover, the treasures that the five ghosts were unwilling to sell held value more than the spirit stones and jade essences.

This was a lot of money for the Blackwood Group. With this money, the Blackwood Group's development would skyrocket.

Fortunately, Liu Wei and Li Shan were wise enough to keep the matter a secret to everyone. Moreover, they watched their spending to prevent people from being suspicious. At most, they improved the food offered to the gang members.

Naturally, Zhao Hai knew how much money they gained from the Five Ghosts of Pale Mountain. Liu Wei and Li Shan personally reported the amount to Zhao Hai. They were soliciting Zhao Hai for ideas on how to spend the money.

The money should be slowly spent for many years. Not only will this keep the other gangs from knowing that the Blackwood Group has gained a lot of money, it would also ensure that the members of the gang continued to work hard. The Blackwood Group thrived on its hardships. Everyone worked hard not only to become stronger, but also to make their lives better.

But if the members of the gang knew that they have a lot of money, what would motivate them from moving forward? If they were accustomed to eating and waiting for death, what future would the Blackwood Group have?"

Because of this, Liu Wei and Li Shan didn't tell the other members of the gang. Instead, they improved the meals of the gang as well as other small conveniences. Aside from that, everything was the same as before.

It was easy to go from simplicity to luxury, but it was extremely difficult to go from luxury to simplicity. This was a truth that not everyone understood. Otherwise, there wouldn't be so much nouveau riche.

Because the Blackwood Group has been low-key, nobody thought that the gang had been blessed. The gang continued to accept tasks without anyone knowing better.

To be honest, Zhao Hai was very satisfied with this result. The Blackwood Group's morals were in line with his. He didn't take any tasks in the next few days. The gang was currently taking easy tasks. This allowed Zhao Hai to rest for a while.

Roaring Flames City returned to its usual calm. At this time, it had been a month since Zhao Hai arrived in the city. Zhao Hai already taught some of the talented juniors of the Blackwood Group. He was now ready to take another mission and go out. After all, he was on a trial, he wasn't here to save the world.

Zhao Hai was about to tell Liu Wei about his plan, but he didn't expect Liu Wei to look for him first. When Liu Wei invited Zhao Hai into the room, Zhao Hai was stunned. This was because in addition to Liu Wei, Shopkeeper Chen was also there.

Seeing Shopkeeper Chen, Zhao Hai cupped his fist and said, "Shopkeeper Chen, why are you here?"

Shopkeeper Chen smiled faintly and cupped his fist, "I'm here to see Mister. I have something to request of you." Hearing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but raise his brow. From what he heard, Shopkeeper Chen was asking for his help, not the Blackwood Group.

Zhao Hai turned his head towards Liu Wei who gave him a bitter smile. Liu Wei didn't expect Zhao Hai to be so sharp. He was able to see the message between Shopkeeper Chen's words.

Liu Wei said, "Shopkeeper Chen is a close friend of mine. Although he is the Shopkeeper of the Full Moon Pavilion, he's only a shopkeeper of the Roaring Flames City branch. The Full Moon Pavilion is a

huge trading company in the Demonic Faction. There are more than 30 people like Shopkeeper Chen and their competition is intense. This time Shopkeeper Chen has met with some trouble. He had very few people he could trust, so he went here. He wants to ask for your help.”

Zhao Hai nodded, he looked at Shopkeeper Chen and said, “Shopkeeper Chen, you can tell me. You’ve helped the Blackwood Group a lot. I will naturally help if it’s within my power.”

Shopkeeper Chen nodded. He didn’t hesitate and said, “I want mister to enter the Mountain of Demon Beasts to look for a treasure.”

When Zhao Hai heard what Shopkeeper Chen said, he couldn’t help but knit his brows. He knew about the Mountain of Demon Beasts. It was a famous mountain in the Demonic Faction. There were plenty of demon beasts on this mountain. These demon beasts were actually variants of demons.

Demons were special cultivators recognized by the cultivation world. An example is a Tiger Demon. They were tigers that slowly developed wisdom as they trained. Then they gained their human form through cultivation.

Demon beasts were different. Demons and demon beasts might be of equal strength, but demon beasts didn’t have as much wisdom as Demons. Demon Beasts wouldn’t have human forms and they only relied on their instincts.

Although the wisdom of demon beasts wasn’t high, they certainly weren’t weak. Some demon beasts were even stronger than Demons and Cultivators. Because they relied on their instincts, their skills in hunting were trained to a fearful degree. This instinct was one of the most terrifying aspects of demon beasts.

Chapter 2126: Mysterious Clan

Instinct was a very terrifying thing, especially when it comes to attacking. A beast’s instinct to attack was much stronger than someone who has wisdom. Wisdom might be terrifying in the long run, but instinct would show its fangs in the most unexpected times.

Take a swordsman for example. If they didn't practice anything else other than the sword, they would carve their sword skills into their very bodies. Only very few people could stop them. This was the most terrifying point of instinct.

Demon beasts were beings with no wisdom and only had instinct. For a beast to become a demon beast, they need to have a very strong instinct. Because of this, cultivators would rather face demons and other cultivators other than demon beasts.

It was also because of their lack of wisdom that demon beasts wouldn't ever surrender. It was either you kill them or be killed by them, or they would run away or you would run away. Subduing them was close to impossible.

The Mountain of Demon Beasts was famous for its abundant number of demon beasts. All of the beasts in the mountain were demon beasts. There were almost no normal beasts in the mountain. Nobody could tell why this was the case. Nobody dared to go deep into the mountain either. This was because in addition to the fearless beasts in the mountain, there were also true demon beast powerhouses deeper into the mountain.

In the eyes of Righteous Cultivators, Demon Cultivators were lunatics while Evil Cultivators were sinister snakes. In the eyes of Demonic Cultivators, Righteous Cultivators were a group of gentlemanly hypocrites while Evil Cultivators were a swarm of annoying insects. And in the eyes of Evil Cultivators, Righteous Cultivators were arrogant people while Demon Cultivators were militant fools.

However, in the eyes of the three factions, the Mountain of Demon Beasts was a forbidden area. In their vision, demon beasts were a group symbolizing insanity. This made the mountain extremely fearful.

When Shopkeeper Chen saw Zhao Hai wrinkling his brow, he quickly said, "Mister, please don't misunderstand. I'm not planning on sending you to die. I will provide you with a map. You only need to follow the map and you will be safe. Even if you encounter demon beasts, you won't encounter the strong ones."

Zhao Hai looked at Shopkeeper Chen and said, "I can help. But I want to ask Shopkeeper Chen to tell me what you want to find and what uses it has."

Shopkeeper Chen thought for a moment before he finally nodded, "Then I'll tell mister. Strictly speaking, what I need you to find isn't a treasure but instead a family seal. Each clan has their own seal, so each seal is unique. As for the clan that owns the seal, I'm afraid I can't tell you. What I can tell you is that Full Moon Pavilion is owned by the clan in addition to multiple other industries."

Zhao Hai didn't react much but Liu Wei couldn't help but gasp. He was aware of the Full Moon Pavilion's status in the Demonic Faction. The Full Moon Pavilion was no doubt a huge trading entity in the Demonic Faction. Although they do business with both mortals and cultivators, they have always been known for their good quality goods and fair prices. They also have a great influence in the Demonic Faction. Liu Wei couldn't even imagine their annual income. But such a business was only one of many owned by that clan. It was astonishing.

Meanwhile, Zhao Hai's expression turned serious. He knew that for a clan to own such a business, they would have to be extremely powerful. And the biggest problem for Zhao Hai was that he had never heard of such a clan.

Zhao Hai wasn't Liu Wei. It wouldn't be strange for Liu Wei to be unaware of the clans outside Raging Flames City. After all, he was only a low-level rogue cultivator. His experiences were very limited.

But Zhao Hai's background was different. He was the golden son of the Tyrant Blade Sect. The Tyrant Blade Sect was one of the 80 great sects of the True Spirit Realm. Therefore, Zhao Hai knew much more than Liu Wei. But even so, he hadn't heard of the existence of this clan. This was what surprised Zhao Hai the most.

Shopkeeper Chen looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Shopkeepers of the Full Moon Pavilion have an opportunity to meet the clan head once a year. If we manage to leave a good impression, our career would rapidly advance. This opportunity comes on the birthday of the clan head. Whether the clan head takes a fancy on you or not depends on the gift your prepare."

After saying this, Shopkeeper Chen sighed, "Although the Clan Head is very powerful, not everyone in the clan is strong. The current Clan Head's grandson has never cultivated since he didn't have talent, not even a single spirit root. He wasn't suitable for cultivation at all. The child's father, the son of the Clan Head, was a genius. However, later in his life, he tragically died. While inside his mother's womb, the child was poisoned, which led to him not having any spirit root. His mother also died after he was born. This left the Clan Head to nurture his grandson."

“The Patriarch loved his grandchild very much. However, it can’t be helped for the child to be ridiculed by other children for not being able to cultivate. Although the Clan Head kicked those children out, the child stubbornly began to practice. But since he didn’t have any spirit roots, his progress was very slow. Even if he ate pills as snacks, his cultivation speed was still hopeless.”

“When the Clan Head’s grandson finally entered the Clone Stage, he left the family secretly and went outside for a trial. And the trial location he chose was the Mountain of Demon Beasts.”

After speaking up to here, Storekeeper Chen took a breath and continued, “Naturally, the child wasn’t able to return from the Mountain of Demon Beasts. Once the clan found out about this, they immediately sent an expert to scour the mountain to find him. But in the end, only the child’s bones were found. The clan determined the identity of the child through bone examination as well as identifying his clothes. Although the child’s remains have been brought back to the family, the family seal that was on the child wasn’t found.”

Hearing this, Zhao Hai couldn’t knit his brows, “If a powerful expert can’t find the seal, what hope do I have to find it?”

Shopkeeper Chen sighed and said, “I have no other choice. The competition between shopkeepers is very fierce. I don’t know how many people are eyeing my position. And the gifts I prepared in the last few years weren’t too outstanding. This is the only way I thought of to keep my position.”

Shopkeeper Chen looked at Zhao Hai, “I used a lot of resources to obtain this map from the clan. It details the dangerous and safe areas in the mountain. Moreover, it also contains the route that the Clan Head’s grandson took. Because of this, I want someone I can trust to help me go to the mountain to find the seal. If I can get my hands on it, then it’s good. If I can’t, then I’ll just prepare other gifts.”

Zhao Hai frowned as he thought about Shopkeeper Chen’s words. To be honest, Zhao Hai has no plans of going to the Mountain of Demon Beasts right now. After all, it was a place deemed by the three factions as dangerous. Although Zhao Hai was no longer weak, he was still not confident entering such an ominous area.

However, if he managed to help Shopkeeper Chen find the seal, then it would be a good thing for him. Zhao Hai was sure that the clan behind the Full Moon Pavilion had secrets that he didn’t know. If he could get in touch with the clan, he might get information he couldn’t get in the Tyrant Blade Sect. If this was the case, then the risk was definitely worth taking.

Nevertheless, Zhao Hai still thought that going to the Mountain of Demon Beasts was still a bit early for him. Fortunately, the demon beasts in the mountain weren't wise. Zhao Hai can use the power of the Space as much as he can. Even if the demon beasts see it, they won't be able to spread the news. In this way, Zhao Hai could still ensure his safety upon entering the mountain.

Thinking of this, Zhao Hai's eyes lit up. He looked at Shopkeeper Chen and said, "I'll help you find the seal. If I don't succeed, then naturally I won't ask you for anything. But if I manage to retrieve the seal, then I hope that you would help the Blackwood Group once you attain power. Make sure that the Blackwood Group isn't threatened by the other forces. Is that fine?"

Zhao Hai's request caused Liu Wei and Shopkeeper Chen to stare. They didn't expect Zhao Hai to put forth such a request. Before Shopkeeper Chen could say anything, Liu Wei stood up and said, "That won't do. If Brother Zhao really succeeds, then you should find a way for him to join the clan. What do you think?"

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "Gang Leader, I appreciate your kindness. Unfortunately, my aptitude is useless even if I join the clan. What would a clan do for a rogue cultivator like me? I'm already satisfied with my current state. You don't have to think too much about it. Shopkeeper Chen, I won't change my request. If you agree, then have someone send the map to me as soon as you can."

Shopkeeper Chen looked deeply into Zhao Hai's eyes and nodded, "I'll accept your condition. As long as you find the seal, not only would I ensure the safety of the Blackwood Group, I will also find a way for you to join the clan."

Hearing this, Liu Wei relaxed. At the same time, Zhao Hai was surprised.

Chapter 2127: Preparing For Travel

In Zhao Hai's mind, a huge clan must have a very strict hierarchy. They wouldn't just promote people just because of a gift, it was impossible.

But seeing how Shopkeeper Chen easily agreed, this matter might not be as big of a problem as Zhao Hai thought. Was a good gift really important for the clan head?

Shopkeeper Chen understood Zhao Hai's look. He smiled bitterly and said, "Mister, you might be unaware of how the clan handles its matters. In the eyes of the clan, if someone doesn't know how to prepare a good gift, then they also don't know how to do business with others. Because of this, this gift was actually a means of looking into someone's ability. This is the reason I treat it very highly."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. He didn't think the clan would have such strange views. But this also made Zhao Hai understand why the seal was so important to Shopkeeper Chen. If Shopkeeper Chen was able to present the seal and leave an impression, then his position would certainly skyrocket.

However, Zhao Hai suddenly thought of an issue. He looked at Shopkeeper Chen and said, "If you obtained the map from the clan, this means other people can also get their hands on it. With how important the seal is, other people should have looked for it. Has nobody found it yet?"

Shopkeeper Chen nodded, "It has yet to be found. If people found it, they would no doubt take it. The clan also sent plenty of people to look for it in the beginning, but they all returned empty-handed. Now, they still send people to search every year. It's also because of this that the map was no longer a secret. Someone of my status can also get it."

Zhao Hai nodded, "In other words, finding the seal this time is only an alternative. You're betting on your luck. You should have already prepared your gifts. Am I right?"

Shopkeeper Chen didn't hide the truth from Zhao Hai. He nodded and said, "Correct. Actually, I already have a gift prepared. I'm only trying my luck in finding the seal. But if you succeed, my status will become completely different. I can do more than help the Blackwood Group. Although I have a few cultivators under me, I am not at ease with those people. Those guys are only following me for money. Who knows when they will sell me to my enemies. So, I need someone I can trust but hasn't been noticed too often with me. You are the most suitable for this position."

Zhao Hai nodded, "You can send the map to me later."

But instead of giving the map later, Shopkeeper Chen decided to hand it over now. He reached into his pocket and took out a spatial bag. Then he took out a jade slip from the spatial bag and then handed it to Zhao Hai, "This is the map. Don't worry about people finding out about it. You can depart at any time, but you have to come back within three months. If you don't return in three months, even if you find

the seal, it would be useless since the clan head's birthday is in three months. I can only give gifts during the clan head's birthday. And I'm not certain if I will have a chance next year."

Zhao Hai understood Shopkeeper Chen's message. There are no impermeable walls in the world. If Zhao Hai can't hand the seal to Shopkeeper Chen within three months, then Shopkeeper Chen can only keep the seal in his hands for a year. But if within this year, someone found out that Shopkeeper Chen had the seal, they would definitely steal it. With Shopkeeper Chen's strength, he wouldn't be able to keep the seal.

Zhao Hai received the jade slip and said, "You don't have to worry when I'll leave. If I don't come back within three months, then there's only one possibility, I died in the Mountain of Demon Beasts. If I return within three months, then there's also only one possibility, I'm back with the seal." After speaking, he cupped his fist towards the two and then left.

Shopkeeper Chen looked at Zhao Hai's back as he was leaving, then he let out a long breath. He looked at Liu Wei and said, "Brother Liu, I feel that this fellow isn't simple. Perhaps he might give me a pleasant surprise."

Liu Wei smiled bitterly and said, "I also can't see through him. But I want him to come back alive. To be honest, you shouldn't look too much into his appearance. He acts very low-key. But I can be sure that nobody in the Blackwood Group is his opponent. Even if everyone in the Blackwood Group fought him, we can't defeat him. He's too strong."

Shopkeeper Chen looked at Liu Wei and said, "Where did you find him? With his strength, why is he willing to stay in the Blackwood Group?"

Liu Wei forced a smile, "I didn't look for him, he took initiative to come to our door. He should be from the Righteous Dao League, and he offended people there. I'm certain of this. He can't be from the Demonic Dao Alliance or the Evil Dao Coalition."

Shopkeeper Chen looked at Liu Wei in confusion and asked, "How can you be sure that this guy isn't from the Demonic or the Evil Faction?"

Liu Wei smiled, his eyes full of recollection as he replied, "It's simple. I have been to all three factions. Although I was born in the Demonic Dao Alliance, I have also visited the lands of the Righteous Dao

League and the Evil Dao Coalition. To be honest, compared to the other two places, rogue cultivators have an easier life in the Demonic Faction. The rogue cultivators in the Righteous Faction earn very little while rogue cultivators in the Evil Faction disappear from time to time. They were likely caught by evil cultivators for experiments or something else.”

After saying this, Liu Wei sighed and said, “It’s precisely because I wandered to these places that I’m very clear about the style of the cultivators living in them. Rogue cultivators from the evil faction might have similar cultivation methods as us, but they always carry a cold aura in their bodies. Rogue cultivators from the demonic faction carry a hostile aura because of how competitive we are. Righteous faction rogue cultivators are always low-key and quiet. This is because of the righteous faction’s strict control over rogue cultivators. Zhao Ming’s low-key and quiet appearance tells me that he’s from the lands of the righteous faction.”

Shopkeeper Chen nodded, “If he’s from the righteous faction, then things will be easier to handle. By the way, what kind of person do you think he is after coming in contact with him for a few days?”

Liu Wei sighed and said, “He’s a good person.”

Shopkeeper Chen didn’t expect Liu Wei to give such a reply. But those words were enough. He nodded and said, “Alright, then I’ll head back first. This meeting is made under the pretext of cooperation. If I stay any longer, others might get suspicious.”

Liu Wei nodded, “Just wait for the news. People like Zhao Ming wouldn’t accept anything without further thought. If he can do it, I really want you to help him join the clan. He has potential, unlike the rest of us. We’re basically just waiting and waiting to die.”

Shopkeeper Chen nodded and no longer said anything. He turned around and left the place with Liu Wei escorting him out. The two chatted as they walked out, no different from how they usually did.

Zhao Hai returned to his room and searched the jade slip with his spiritual force. After reading through the contents, he immediately contacted Laura and the others.

All this time, Laura and the others were in the Tyrant Blade Sect practicing earnestly. They were aware that Zhao Hai’s trial wouldn’t be short. However, they could still meet every night. Their peak now has

an underground base where they could return after the day finishes and then enter the Space. Although they seem to be separated, they weren't.

Hearing Zhao Hai call them, Laura and the others immediately went to the underground base. After securing the door, Cai'er immediately liked with Zhao Hai. It must be said that of all of Zhao Hai's women, he was the closest with Cai'er. Cai'er and the Space have unified, and the Space was Zhao Hai's ability. Because of this, no matter what Zhao Hai did with the Space, Cai'er would know. The first to know that Zhao Hai wanted to get in contact with the women was definitely Cai'er.

"Brother Hai, what's the matter?" Cai'er also knew that Zhao Hai wouldn't contact them during daytime unless there was something important. Therefore, she immediately got to the point.

Zhao Hai immediately replied, "Go pass this map over to the Space to be analyzed. First take a look if the map is real. If it's real, calculate the best route of travel. Second, go look into the matters of the Mountain of Demon Beasts. The more detailed information, the better."

Cai'er immediately complied and then passed Zhao Hai's words to Laura and the others. The women immediately analyzed the map that Zhao Hai provided. They even went to the Miscellaneous Hall to inquire about the Mountain of Demon Beasts.

The Righteous Faction didn't have a lot of information regarding the Mountain of Demon Beasts. After all, the mountain wasn't inside the faction's territory. The faction wouldn't be sending disciples to the mountain for trials. Because of this, information regarding the mountain was quite scarce in the Tyrant Blade Sect.

Cai'er and the others were also trying their best to analyze the authenticity of the map. This was actually an easy task. They only need to see through the details. The map that Zhao Hai got wasn't just a simple geographical map. It also contained records such as dangerous places as well as the tracks of the clan's young master. All of these were written in detail. It was because of this that Cai'er and the others judged that the map was real.

Now that the map was deemed authentic, the next step was to calculate the route. What Zhao Hai wanted to know wasn't the best entrance to the Mountain of Demon Beasts, but instead the entrance that the young master used.

Although Zhao Hai didn't know where the clan was, it could be seen from the map that there were quite a few entrances to the Mountain of Demon Beasts. All of them then concentrated in one direction, so Zhao Hai could ascertain the direction of the hidden clan. He could also use this information to calculate the movement of the young master. He would use that entrance to enter the mountain.

All of these were the preparations that Zhao Hai required. These preparations might be useless, after all, the other party has already died. Zhao Hai also wasn't aware of the other party's personality. The route that they plan might be wrong, but it would give Zhao Hai a starting point.

There were plenty of routes on the map. However, Zhao Hai was clear that those routes have already been searched countless times. The possibility of finding the seal on those places wasn't very high. Zhao Hai could only follow his own plan.

In less than a day, Laura and the others collected all the information about the Mountain of Demon Beasts that could be found in the Tyrant Blade Sect. This time, they asked a lot of people in the Miscellaneous Hall for help. These disciples were also willing to give a hand. Everyone knew that Laura and the others were Zhao Hai's wives. As long as Zhao Hai continues to get stronger, he would no doubt be one of the top experts of the sect. It was precisely because of this that nobody stopped Laura and the others from what they're doing.

Laura immediately had Cai'er send the information to Zhao Hai. The moment he received the information, Zhao Hai couldn't help but feel a headache. This Mountain of Demon Beasts wasn't a good place.

The mountain was very big. It spanned a very large region. It was almost as big as half of China. And this only involved the area that the cultivators have explored. Nobody knows the full extent of the Mountain of Demon Beasts.

With how big the mountain was, it was certain that it contained powerful beasts. But one thing was very strange. The demon beasts of the mountain rarely left. It was as if they were unwilling to leave the mountain.

The demon beasts of the mountain weren't easy to deal with. Compared to demon beasts of the same level outside, the combat strength of the demon beasts in the mountain was at least three levels higher. If a cultivator was caught unprepared, they would definitely suffer a lot.

What's most annoying about the demon beasts was that they weren't afraid of death. And even if they run away, they would certainly bear a grudge. From then on, one would need to watch their backs at all times.

The Mountain of Demon Beasts don't only contain demon beasts, it also housed multiple types of demon plants. In fact, these plants can also be categorized as demon beasts. Compared to demon beasts, these demon plants were more numerous. However, one shouldn't underestimate these demon plants. They were stronger than most beasts.

And now, Zhao Hai was about to go to such a place. He would face danger in all directions. He might not see ordinary grass. He might be stepping on demon grass if he wasn't cautious.

Chapter 2128: Nameless Town

A fast horse galloped on the road. Zhao Hai rode the horse with a calm face. His horse wasn't a demon horse but instead a horse provided to him by Shopkeeper Chen. From the time the map was given, it has already been seven days. Shopkeeper Chen thought that Zhao Hai gave up on the mission. Then all of sudden, Zhao Hai approached him asking him to provide a horse.

Naturally, Shopkeeper Chen would agree to Zhao Hai's request. He not only secretly prepared a fast horse for Zhao Hai, he also provided a spatial bag with a thousand jade essences inside along with medicinal herbs and pills. Evidently, Shopkeeper Chen attached great importance to Zhao Hai's mission.

The road to the Mountain of Demon Beasts wasn't a secret. Almost everyone in the demonic faction knew about it. However, only a few people walked this road. Because of this, the road seemed calm, and even a bit desolate.

Zhao Hai didn't pay attention to these details. His thoughts were on the path. Zhao Hai's seven days of preparation wasn't in vain. By this point, he had a good understanding about the matters around the Mountain of Demon Beasts.

The Mountain of Demon Beasts wasn't completely devoid of people. In the demonic faction, there were plenty of rogue cultivators who lived in the mountain and depended on it for a living. There were almost no powerful demon beasts in the periphery of the mountain. And the weaker beasts could be hunted and killed by the rogue cultivators. This became their main source of income.

There were six cities in the entire Mountain of Demon Beasts. The closest city to the clan can only be described as a small town. The town had no name and people didn't bother to name it. It was because it was a forgotten place.

It was truly a forgotten place. Every year, besides the merchants, only very few cultivators came. But those who were present treated themselves as equals. Without the presence of the Great Sects who bullies them, they had enough income with the demon beasts in the vicinity. In other places, they would be among the sect disciples who spoiled the air. Therefore, these cultivators never left the place.

Naturally, there were still cultivators coming to the nameless town every year. Some of these people would leave, but those who stayed were those who weren't happy with their current lives. Those who wanted to go into the Mountain of Demon Beasts were cultivators seeking to break through. Some of them were from sects who had been stuck in their realms for a long time. Besides these people, almost no other cultivators entered the town.

Cultivators would also leave the town every year, perhaps they already obtained what they wanted, or perhaps they didn't manage to find what they wanted to find. There were also rogue cultivators who stayed in the town for a long time and found their cultivation stuck. To them, staying in the Mountain of Demon Beasts was no longer useful, so they also left.

Because of this almost equal flow of people, the nameless town never expanded. There were also no gangs in the small town. All cultivators who came to the town follow an unspoken rule. No matter what status you have outside, in the town, you are only an ordinary cultivator. In front of the demon beasts, everyone was equal.

Naturally, the nameless town was not a paradise. It was very close to the Mountain of Demon Beasts and would sometimes be attacked. Of course, the demon beasts that attacked weren't powerful.

The casualties of cultivators in the Mountain of Demon Beasts were very large, greater than the casualties on other forbidden grounds. There were even rumors that cultivators in the Diamond Stage have fallen in the mountain.

Zhao Hai's target was the nameless town. If he was a disciple of a great clan and wanted to go to the mountain for a trial in secret, he would most likely choose to go to the nameless town. If he went to another place, he would spend too long on the road and might risk getting discovered by the clan. So,

after Zhao Hai's analysis, he thought that the nameless town was likely the town the clan head's grandchild last stop before entering the Mountain of Demon Beasts.

Zhao Hai rode his horse directly into the small town. Nobody came to cause trouble with him along the way. Although he didn't identify himself, the other rogue cultivators saw how arrogant he looked on top of the horse, so nobody dared to offend him. Sects in the demonic faction were different from sects in the righteous faction. If a righteous sect disciple was attacked, their sect would investigate the background of the attacker before making a move. Sects in the demonic faction were different. They didn't care where the attacker came from. If they didn't get chased down to the ends of the earth, the attacker would still be hunted down.

Zhao Hai jumped down from his horse when he arrived outside the small town. Then he led his horse to enter the town. The town looked like every other ordinary small town. It had some shops, restaurants, weapon shops, and medicine shops. All shops needed by cultivators were present.

However, the small town doesn't have an inn, nor did it have shops for ordinary people. The town had a peculiar rule. In the town, as long as a door was open, one could live inside it. Houses with open doors meant that the cultivators living inside have left and the house has no owner.

Moreover, one couldn't see normal people in the small town. Everyone in the town was a cultivator. Even the assistants in the shops were cultivators. Seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but be reminded of somewhere else. He felt like he had returned to the Soaring Dragon Realm.

In the Soaring Dragon Realm, all jobs were done by cultivators. The small town was all the same. This caused Zhao Hai to be surprised.

But what surprised Zhao Hai the most was the town's very clean streets. The houses were also very tidy, which Zhao Hai didn't expect. In Zhao Hai's opinion, such a small town should be in ruins. It shouldn't be as clean as it was.

The people in the town also noticed Zhao Hai's arrival. But everyone just glanced at him and went back to their own matters. It was as if they didn't notice him at all.

Zhao Hai doesn't know much about the town. The jade slip given to him by Shopkeeper Chen only contained basic information about the small town. And there was almost no information of the town in the Tyrant Blade Sect's records. This made Zhao Hai blind to the town's matters.

Zhao Hai looked at the people in the town for a moment before heading towards a restaurant. The restaurant should be the best place to gain information.

Zhao Hai walked towards a small restaurant and tied his horse to a post outside. Then he walked inside. When he walked in, Zhao Hai were stunned by the number of people inside. They were all cultivators and were eating.

Just as Zhao Hai entered the restaurant, everyone gave him one glance before shifting their eyes back to their food. Only the shopkeeper greeted him, he bowed towards Zhao Hai and said, "Welcome, Sir. Did you just arrive in our nameless town? What do you want to eat?"

Zhao Hai nodded, he cupped his fist and said, "I've disturbed the shopkeeper. I just arrived in the town. I came to eat and also inquire about some news." The reason Zhao Hai was plight was because the shopkeeper was also a cultivator in the Clone Stage. The shopkeeper's eyes were very alive, and he also had a hint of murderous aura in him. He wasn't a person to mess with. It's better to get along with him.

The shopkeeper smiled and said, "Mister doesn't have to be polite. Come and take a seat. I'll help you answer any question you have."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he sat by a table and then said, "Brother Shopkeeper, give me two dishes and a pot of liquor. If Brother is not busy, can you sit down with me and have a chat?"

The shopkeeper smiled and said, "Mister, wait a moment. Your food and wine will be delivered soon. Then I'll come to chat." The shopkeeper turned around and left. As soon as the shopkeeper left, a guest laughed and said, "Second, you finally found someone who would listen to you. You've been waiting for this for a long time."

The shopkeeper laughed, "So what. It's better than sitting with you. Otherwise, I'll die of suffocation." When everyone heard this, they all couldn't help but laugh. The person who talked also laughed along.

Although the shopkeeper was joking with the guest, his footsteps didn't stop. Before long, dishes and a pot of liquor appeared on Zhao Hai's table.

After putting down Zhao Hai's food and wine, the shopkeeper sat opposite Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, since you want to inquire about the affairs of this nameless town, then you must abide by our rules. No matter where you're from, all of us are equal here. You're an ordinary person, not a disciple of a sect, not a beggar. You are an ordinary cultivator."

Zhao Hai stared, then he nodded. To be honest, he welcomed such a custom. At least, it guaranteed that an oppressor wouldn't appear in the nameless town. It was a good rule for everyone.

Chapter 2129: Forming Relations with Rogue Cultivators

The shopkeeper looked at Zhao Hai and couldn't help but smile. Zhao Hai didn't have too extreme of a response, which means that Zhao Hai can stay in the town. If he's as arrogant as the disciples of the sects, he can't stay in the nameless town. When sect disciples enter the town, they would always command others. In the end, they would be driven out.

These people from the sects have thought of dealing with the people in the town, but they also knew that it was useless. The people in the town were all rogue cultivators. If the people from the sects come, the rogue cultivators could just leave. It was impossible for the sect to occupy the town forever. And because they would be attacked by the demon beasts regularly, they would lose more than they could gain.

And as soon as the sect leaves, the rogue cultivators would just return. It was akin to fighting guerillas. The sect would lose their patience and would no longer care about the affairs of the town. In other words, they deliberately forget about the town.

It was because of this that there was such a saying in the nameless town. No matter where you came from, as long as you were in the nameless town, you're just an ordinary cultivator.

The shopkeeper looked at Zhao Hai and nodded, "Since Mister agrees to the rule, then everything else is easy. There aren't too many rules in this town. But one of them is that all houses with open doors are ownerless. You can move in whenever you like. But after you move in, you'll have to take responsibility for the house's repairs. Not only the house, you also need to take care of the street right outside."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, it's no problem. Just a bit of effort."

The shopkeeper smiled, "That's good to hear. Since you agree, then there's nothing else to say. We also disallow private fights in the town. No matter how much enmity you have, you have to go outside the town to settle it."

Zhao Hai nodded, "It should be like that."

The shopkeeper also nodded, "Then I have nothing else for you. Just like outside, we transact with spirit stones and jade essences. Naturally, if you want to trade, it's not impossible to exchange. As long as the two parties agree."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Thanks, Brother."

The shopkeeper smiled, "There's no need to be polite. Call me Brother Two like the others. I originally have a Big Brother, but he died on the Mountain of Demon Beasts. Because of this, everyone calls me Brother Two."

Zhao Hai cupped his fist towards Brother Two and said, "Thank you very much, Brother Two."

The shopkeeper waved his hand and said, "Don't be too polite. Right, even if you claim a house, but you don't appear for three months, the door will open on its own. If you want to go into seclusion, place a jade token outside your door. A town representative will see it and instruct other people to not disturb you."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Thanks Brother Two, I really troubled you."

The shopkeeper waved his hand as he smiled, "Although I don't have a lot of strength, I still know quite a lot about the town. I also know a bit about the mountain. If you need information, just come to me. I promise that the information I give you is a hundred percent true."

Upon hearing Shopkeeper Two say this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but pause for a moment. Then he smiled bitterly and said, "Since Brother Two said this, then I won't be polite. I really don't know much about the Mountain of Demon Beasts. I was just looking for someone to ask. If brother is not busy, please have a seat. Let me offer you a few cups."

When he heard Zhao Hai, the shopkeeper smiled and said, "Tell me what you want to know. From what I can see, you aren't from here. And yet you still came despite not knowing anything. Are you here for a trial?"

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and said, "I'm not on a trial. But I have no choice. I came here because someone asked me to come. I wouldn't have come here on my own."

The shopkeeper was obviously a man who liked to gossip. His spirits were immediately lifted when he heard Zhao Hai. He looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Oh? What's going on?"

Zhao Hai replied, "I'm a rogue cultivator working for a gang in Roaring Flame City. A junior of our Gang Leader's family decided on his own to come to the Mountain of Demon Beasts for a trial. When our gang found out about it, the junior had already disappeared for a few months. Knowing that junior's actions and capabilities, the clan found that he came to the mountain. That's why I'm here. I'm looking for them."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Shopkeeper Two couldn't help but ask, "He came to the Mountain of Demon Beasts for a trial? When did this happen? Perhaps I can give you a clue."

Zhao Hai replied, "At least six months ago. Nobody has seen him for the past six months. Originally, we thought that they were in seclusion. We didn't expect that he would actually come here."

Shopkeeper Two knit his brows, "Six months ago? A lot of cultivators came here during that period. Two of them are still living in the town. The others have died on the mountain. How old is that junior from your Gang Leader's clan?"

Zhao Hai replied, "He should be around 20 years old. He likes to wear red clothing and is somewhat handsome. The weapon he uses is a sword around four chi (1.2 meters) long."

Hearing this, Shopkeeper Two frowned, "Four chi (1.2 meters)? A sword and likes to wear red clothes? I haven't heard of anyone like that."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm only here to scout the area and take a look at the mountain. It would be good if I can find any clues. But if I can't, then forget it. I'll just head back and report."

When Shopkeeper Two heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but be stunned, "You're here as a scout? Are there more people coming from behind? If that's the case, then you should've offended someone. The Mountain of Demon Beasts isn't any better than other places. Even the periphery carries great danger. If you aren't careful, your life will perish here."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and said, "I don't have a choice. If I don't come, what would happen to my wife and my kid? If I die here, at least the gang can take care of them. If I didn't come, they would come after me. I know how the gang works."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Shopkeeper Two couldn't help but look at him, "You have a wife and kid? I must say, as a cultivator, you seem to have married early. You must be careful when you go to the mountain. The mountain is full of demon beasts at this time. Even if something doesn't look like a threat, it might kill you in the end."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Don't worry, I'll be careful."

Shopkeeper Two nodded, "If you must go to the mountain, you can form a team with the others. Our small town has good people. As long as you aren't enemies, anyone can form a team. This way, it would be safer."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly, "It's fine. I have a different goal than the others. I'm looking for someone while they want to kill demon beasts. If we form a team, we will definitely clash. Everyone will be unhappy when the time comes. I think I will act alone. In any case, I'm only walking on the periphery. If I can't find any clues, the gang won't blame me."

Shopkeeper Two couldn't help but laugh as he heard Zhao Hai, "It's better if you think about it like that. Alright, that is also good. I have lived in the town for quite some time. If there's anything else you need to ask about, don't hesitate to come to me."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Then I will have to trouble Brother Two in the future. Brother doesn't know this, but the Gang Leader has invested a lot of money in order to look for the clan junior. I definitely won't treat you unjustly. Brother, don't be embarrassed to ask for money if I ask you for help. In any case, this money isn't mine. Don't be polite when the time comes."

When he heard this, Shopkeeper Two laughed harder. He patted Zhao Hai's shoulder and said, "Then I'll be impolite. How about we start with this food?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "Of course. Brother Two, is this enough?" After he said that, he took out a spirit stone and handed it over. Although the spirit stone wasn't a jade essence, it was a huge chunk. Huge spirit stones like the one Zhao Hai handed over were more valuable than its equivalent in smaller stones.

Shopkeeper Two received Zhao Hai's spirit stone and laughed, "Good. But I won't make you suffer a loss. Wait for me here, I'll give you an additional two dishes as well as a pot of wine."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly when he heard Shopkeeper Two. Then he threw another spirit stone and said, "Brother Two, I'll leave this spirit stone to you. This is my first day in the town, I want to treat everyone to a drink. Is that enough?"

Shopkeeper Two laughed, "It's enough. Nobody has been so generous for a long time. These guys are lucky today." After saying that, he turned around and left.

Although Shopkeeper Two had already left, the other people in the restaurant heard Zhao Hai's words. All of them couldn't help but be stunned for a moment before applauding. Rogue cultivators were very direct. They didn't have any conflict of interest with Zhao Hai, so he definitely wasn't an enemy in their eyes. Since Zhao Hai has shown kindness, it would be rude for them to decline. At the very least, Zhao Hai has left a good impression on them.

They all heard the conversation between Zhao Hai and Brother Two. Although Zhao Hai's words were quite dubious, his approach was understandable. If it were them, they would have done the same. Zhao Hai's words didn't disgust them, instead it made them feel closer to him.

After having a meal at the restaurant, Zhao Hai already came to know about the other cultivators inside. Although there was no need for Zhao Hai to make friends with these people given his status, Zhao Hai still did it. These rogue cultivators might not be strong, it was still better to make a friend than an enemy.

Last time, Zhao Hai befriended Wang Hu without expecting something in return. But in the end, Wang Hu did Zhao Hai a great favor. Not only did Wang Hu cause Zhao Hai to discover the changes in the underground labyrinth, the matter also allowed the Tyrant Blade Sect to eliminate so many ghost cultivators. This increased Zhao Hai's Undead Army and in turn increased his strength. By this point, Zhao Hai has the strength to protect himself to a certain degree.

After eating, Zhao Hai immediately went to look for a house to settle in. And from then on, Zhao Hai became a citizen of the nameless town. He also met people and made more friends.

What Zhao Hai said before about finding the junior of a Gang Leader was naturally all fake. Zhao Hai knew very well that if Shopkeeper Chen could get the map and some information, other people would also have the same thing. There would be quite a lot of people who would come to find the seal.

Moreover, Zhao Hai believed that other people would also come into action. They might even come to the same conclusion as Zhao Hai and come to the nameless town to ask for information.

Although Zhao Hai's words wouldn't completely dispel any suspicions, it would at least cause some people to have doubts. What Zhao Hai said was too detailed that other people might think that it was true.

Even if they thought that his words were fake, it wouldn't matter. Zhao Hai wasn't afraid of them. Moreover, Zhao Hai made a good impression on the people of the nameless town. They would no doubt be partial towards him. If people came to ask for Zhao Hai's information, the people in the town would definitely inform him.

The first would always be favored. This sentence worked no matter where one was. At least it was very useful for the people in the nameless town. Zhao Hai played his move, now it was the turn of the other people.

While staying in the town for two days, Zhao Hai walked around and inquired about a red-clothed junior carrying a 1.2 meter long sword. Naturally, he wouldn't obtain any information. Such a person only existed in Zhao Hai's story.

By this point, almost everyone in the town knows about Zhao Hai. Every time he ate at the restaurant, he would ask people to drink. Although he didn't spend a lot, it made the rogue cultivators feel good.

Five days later, Zhao Hai finally left the nameless town and entered the Mountain of Demon Beasts. Naturally, he didn't do nothing in the past five days. He spread a lot of silver dust around the mountain.

Zhao Hai wouldn't have dared to use the silver dust in other places. After all, cultivators could easily discover the dust coming from liquid silver.

However, liquid silver could be used freely in the Mountain of Demon Beasts. Although demon beasts were very powerful, their wisdom was limited. Even if they discovered liquid silver, they wouldn't make something out of it. Because of this, Zhao Hai didn't hesitate to use liquid silver.

Now, the periphery of the Mountain of Demon Beasts has been mapped by the Space. It was because of this that Zhao Hai decided to set off. He would go around the periphery of the mountain while liquid silver penetrated deeper into the mountain.

The nameless town was around a hundred meters away from the mountain. Such a distance was nothing to a cultivator. It was a distance that a cultivator could traverse in a single step. It was also because of this distance that the nameless town was regularly attacked by the demon beasts.

Zhao Hai didn't ride a horse when he went to the Mountain of Demon Beasts. He left his horse in the nameless town and gave Brother Two a few spirit stones to take care of them.

When Brother Two saw that Zhao Hai was about to leave the town, he gave him a few words. He even said that Zhao Hai was finally leaving the town. The two had been in contact for many days, so jokes like these were nothing to them.

As Zhao Hai walked towards the mountain, he met a lot of cultivators along the way. These cultivators were residents of the nameless town. They were going to the mountain to hunt and kill demon beasts.

Zhao Hai knew a few of these cultivators. Seeing Zhao Hai heading towards the mountain, these cultivators cracked some jokes. Zhao Hai also chatted with them. Since all of them were heading towards the mountain, they could go together.

After an hour, they finally arrived at the periphery of the mountain. Looking at the Mountain of Demon Beasts, Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Everyone, I'm taking my leave here. If you meet other people, please help me ask them if they have seen a red-clothed youngster with a four chi (1.2 meters) sword."

Everyone complied with a smile. It was just a matter of a few words. Zhao Hai treated them to drinks in the past few days. This small task was the least they could do to reciprocate.

Zhao Hai cupped his fist to everyone before turning around and leaving. This was still the periphery of the mountain. After looking at the map in the Space, he picked a direction and moved forward.

Before long, Zhao Hai reached the official boundary of the Mountain of Demon Beasts. The map in the Space has regions marked on it. These were regions that Zhao Hai should avoid because of powerful demon beasts. Zhao Hai has no plans of getting in contact with them either. Zhao Hai knew very well that he shouldn't provoke any demon beasts in the mountain. Otherwise, he would attract more demon beasts to him.

Even cultivators who often come to the Mountain of Demon Beasts to hunt wouldn't stay for too long. They would usually find teammates to hunt beasts quickly and then retreat. If they can't kill the beast after a long time, they would rather retreat than push on.

Zhao Hai moved forward carefully. He didn't walk in a straight line but instead used convoluted routes. He went in circles throughout the mountain.

All of a sudden, Zhao Hai stopped. This was because the Space's map showed a demon beast running towards him. He has no place to hide. If he wanted to hide, he could only do it inside the Space. And if he went in another direction, he would also encounter demon beasts.

Zhao Hai knew that he had no place to hide. He moved his body and slowly sank underground. Not long after Zhao Hai sank to the ground, a rustling sound was heard before a demon beast in the form of a rabbit appeared. The rabbit demon beasts looked no different from an ordinary beast. It was advancing

cautiously, it stopped with every step and looked around vigilantly. It must be said, for Zhao Hai's first encounter with a demon beast, it looked nothing like the wild demon beasts that he heard about.

Just as the rabbit demon beast walked to the place Zhao Hai sank into, it stopped and sniffed around before retreating.

At this moment, the rabbit demon beast suddenly felt a blade point coming out of the ground. The blade was very fast, it appeared from the ground in a blink of an eye.

Zhao Hai's blade was steady, but he still couldn't take the life of a rabbit demon beast. This meant that the rabbit demon beast was indeed the real deal.

The rabbit's body flashed away from Zhao Hai's blade and then suddenly went to the side. Although Zhao Hai's blade left a gash on its body, it didn't cause any fatal damage.

Zhao Hai's blade seems to be unaffected by the land as it slashed horizontally, slashing directly at the neck of the rabbit demon beast. The head of the rabbit demon beast was cut off in one fell swoop. The rabbit demon beast's body twitched twice before it stopped moving.

Zhao Hai received the corpse of the rabbit demon beast before emerging from the ground. However, his expression wasn't attractive. This was because he was certain that his ambush would definitely kill the rabbit demon beasts. However, the rabbit demon beast actually dodged his first attack. Zhao Hai didn't expect this to happen.

But Zhao Hai couldn't just sigh for a long time. He immediately left the area while using wind element magic to eliminate any smells around him.

Now, Zhao Hai understood what the demon beast instinct really was. The rabbit demon beast certainly had this instinct. If it weren't for its instincts, it wouldn't have been able to avoid Zhao Hai's blade.

Sure enough, not long after Zhao Hai left, the demon beasts appeared at the location of the battle. Although demon beasts didn't possess spiritual force, their abnormal instincts made up for it. Their instincts pushed their body's functions to a very high level. Naturally, this included the demon beasts'

sense of smell. Their noses were too powerful. Although Zhao Hai has no smell, the rabbit demon beast was still able to sniff him out. This allowed the rabbit to dodge Zhao Hai's ambush.

Zhao Hai also saw the demon beasts through the Space's map. He became more careful, trying not to attract the attention of more demon beasts. At the same time, he pushed liquid silver to venture deeper into the mountain. Only after the mountain has been mapped could Zhao Hai find the seal.

The morning passed without Zhao Hai knowing. However, Zhao Hai has yet to gain any progress in his hunt. But this didn't worry Zhao Hai. He knows that he has capabilities that other people didn't have.

Zhao Hai didn't stop to rest at noon. He continued to walk around the mountain without provoking other demon beasts.

Around 1:00pm, Zhao Hai suddenly stopped. He discovered a situation in front of him. From the Space's map, he saw several cultivators moving forward. Zhao Hai immediately stopped; he was wondering if he should meet these cultivators.

Zooming in closer, Zhao Hai found one person he knew from the nameless town. He didn't know the others and hadn't seen them before. This fact caused Zhao Hai to be surprised. In the end, he decided to meet with them.

After moving forward for about ten minutes, Zhao Hai heard a rustling sound. He knows that the opposite party has come. However, he pretended to be unaware. He pulled his blade out and showed a look of alertness.

The other party also discovered Zhao Hai and the rustling sound vanished. Zhao Hai walked forward slowly as the other party was also approaching him. After turning around a couple of huge trees, both sides saw each other. Then a smile appeared on his face. Zhao Hai put his weapon away and then cupped his fist towards the cultivator he knew, "Brother Sun, it's you. I thought I encountered a demon beast again."

Cultivator Sun heard Zhao Hai and couldn't help but laugh, "So it's you. Kid, how did you get here? Did you get some harvests?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Even after working hard, I only managed to kill a rabbit. Other than that, I have nothing."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Cultivator Sun laughed, "That's already good. At least you have a rabbit to eat in the evening. Rabbit skin is also worth a couple of stones. The meat can be cooked into a stew by Brother Two. How about it? Do you want to go to Brother Two's place and eat your rabbit?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Sure, we can have some drinks at Brother Two's place. But Brother Sun, I'll have to ask you a favor. If you meet other cultivators, help me inquire. Right, if everyone comes over tonight, this rabbit wouldn't be enough."

Cultivator Sun smiled and said, "Don't worry about it. You treated us to drinks for multiple nights. I can take out some of the meat I hunted. I'm sure you haven't eaten such meat before."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Then it's settled. I'll drink together with everyone tonight. I'll leave first. I want to walk around a few more times before returning." Cultivator Sun nodded and then cupped his fist towards Zhao Hai.

After Zhao Hai left, Cultivator Sun's companion looked at him and asked, "Old Sun, who is that? I hadn't seen him before. Is he a new resident in the town? You seem to know him very well."

Cultivator Sun smiled and said, "His name is Zhao Ming. He came from Roaring Flames City. He's here to find someone. A junior of his Gang Leader went missing in the mountain. Since he's on an official business, the gang gave him money to spend. He's been treating us to drinks every day. That's why I know him."