

Worth 511

Chapter 511 Big Earnings!

When Xie Haiyang heard those words, he fell silent for a while. After making some calculations, he looked back at Wang Baole and suddenly laughed.

“Might as well, since we’re old friends. It’s a deal?” As Xie Haiyang spoke, he extended his right hand towards Wang Baole.

“Deal!” Wang Baole laughed heartily as he too extended his right hand and shook Xie Haiyang’s hand. The two of them laughed cheerfully and chatted briefly with each other. Wang Baole didn’t ask anything about Xie Haiyang’s background, and neither did Xie Haiyang talk about it himself. The two of them seemed to have established a tacit understanding with each other.

Xie Haiyang swiped the battle credits that he invested onto Wang Baole’s sect jade slip. After that, he stood up, cupped his fists at Wang Baole, and took his leave.

Looking at Xie Haiyang’s back, especially under the glow of the light, which accentuated his shiny hair, an air of mysteriousness surrounding this person’s background could be felt.

However, I can feel that Xie Haiyang has no evil intentions. More accurately, he is neutral towards everyone. Like he tells everyone, he is a... businessman. Wang Baole narrowed his eyes, thinking inside his mind that this might actually be better. That was especially so in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, where he had no other means and relations. As long as he could pay Xie Haiyang enough, he could obtain what he wanted. That made Wang Baole feel that the convenience was worth it.

Therefore, as he watched Xie Haiyang leave, Wang Baole returned to his cave abode and calculated the amount of battle credits he had. His eyes lit up, and he immediately began a large scale round of purchases and refinement in the days to come.

Through the discount given by Xie Haiyang’s means, Wang Baole had managed to accumulate thirty-five Spirit Boats in the short span of a few days!

The fleet of thirty-five Spirit Boats transformed Green Fire Island into a pier. There was an endless stream of Foundation Establishment realm cultivators who went to rent Spirit Boats every day. Wang Baole’s business boomed in this short time, and as the news spread throughout the entire sect, the Foundation Establishment realm cultivators came in larger numbers to rent them.

After all, the cost of renting the Spirit Boats from Wang Baole wasn’t exorbitant. Furthermore, all the gains they obtained were often tens of times the value that they paid. This pushed the thirty-five Spirit Boats into hot demand.

That was especially so when Core Formation realm cultivators tried them out and realized that the Spirit Boats were even more useful for Core Formation realm cultivators. It allowed them to enter the depths of the Sea of Fire, which was previously inaccessible to them. That threw the Spirit Boats into hot demand yet again.

With this business of Wang Baole's booming, he managed to gain over four hundred battle credit every day. Even after giving a portion of it to Yun Piaozi, he was still left with over three hundred battle credits. That figure was extremely astonishing in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

To obtain three hundred battle credits, most Vast Expanse Dao Palace disciples would have to spend over half a month, and that was if they were lucky. If they were unlucky, they would spend over a month but still not obtain so much, but for Wang Baole, all these were earnings from just a day!

Therefore, even Wang Baole was surprised by his earnings. He felt that it was more like a robbery than a business...

However, I'm still poor... Despite being excited, Wang Baole looked at his own battle credits and felt emotional. On the surface, he seemed to be earning a lot, but the fundamentals of this business required continued investment. Therefore, right now, he had only managed to accumulate slightly over two thousand battle credits.

Unless he stopped putting in capital, his earnings would simply remain as a rosy illusion. Wang Baole struggled internally about this matter. When he did some calculations, he realized that if he stopped putting in capital, he could accumulate approximately ten thousand battle credits after a month.

It wouldn't deviate much from that amount. Unless a problem occurs in the business, the business would be a steady source of income. After a brief moment of silence, Wang Baole decided to increase his investment!

Xie Haiyang mentioned that this business would last at most two or three more months. However, that is his own judgment. I shouldn't believe too much of what he says. I'm satisfied as long as it can last for one more month. Every day after that one month is a blessing!

I also need to recover the costs put into each Spirit Boat. If I can produce more Spirit Boats during this period of time, I may not be able to accumulate high earnings. However, I wouldn't make a significant loss in the future if I were to sell them at a discount!

This is also the only way that I can have the biggest earnings in a limited amount of time! With that thought, Wang Baole no longer hesitated as he injected more capital into the business. He used the battle credits that he had earned to buy more materials in order to refine more Spirit Boats.

According to theory, Yun Piaozi was the first investor in Wang Baole's business, owning half of the business. Xie Haiyang was the second investor, but he wasn't allocated the earnings from the business' operations. Therefore, to a certain extent, Yun Piaozi's shares in the business weren't diluted.

However, right now, with Wang Baole deciding to invest his earnings, the entire situation had changed. Theoretically, if Yun Piaozi wanted to maintain his earnings of fifty percent, a proportional amount of capital had to be put in as well.

Despite that, after thinking about it, Wang Baole merely informed Yun Piaozi of the situation and didn't request Yun Piaozi to put in more capital. He took on everything himself, and Yun Piaozi would obtain the same amount of returns. Even though the scale of this business was increased due to Wang Baole's independent investment, Yun Piaozi would still receive the most gains, as it was previously.

After some brief calculations involving the capital that was invested, Yun Piaozi was shocked. Yun Piaozi personally made a trip to Green Fire Island to pay Wang Baole a visit after understanding the entire situation.

The moment they met, he bowed deeply towards Wang Baole with cupped fists. At the same time, he took out the Dharmic Armaments that Wang Baole had pawned and returned them to Wang Baole without hesitation.

“Brother Baole, you are a good friend. You’re so generous, and I cannot be petty either!” Yun Piaozi laughed. He felt even more connected to Wang Baole.

Wang Baole also revealed a passionate smile. He was somewhat surprised that Fatty Yun would take the initiative to return the Dharmic Armaments to him. He felt that this friendship was perhaps valuable. Between their hearty conversations, Yun Piaozi took out several bottles of fine wine. The duo enjoyed a few drinks before Yun Piaozi took his leave. In mid-air, Yun Piaozi lowered his head to look at Green Fire Island and thought in his mind.

This Brother Baole of mine is not a simple person... The gains are significant, yet he could use them as capital without hesitation and was willing to be on the losing end. People like him are not simple...!

Similarly, Wang Baole was also thinking about Yun Piaozi’s visit. Yun Piaozi’s method of handling things comforted him, and he couldn’t help but think about a saying in the high officials’ autobiographies.

“Having similar goals marks the beginning of friendships for adults, while gains are the catalysts in adult friendships!”

With that, after sending Yun Piaozi off, Wang Baole invested all his gains into the business. He continually bought materials and refined Spirit Boats with the earnings he obtained every day. Five days later, he managed to increase the number of Spirit Boats to fifty-six!

The earnings from a single day, after distributing it accordingly, grew to six hundred battle credits.

After that, he further made four Spirit Boats, growing his fleet to sixty before stopping. He stopped production, instead, accumulating battle credits at an astonishing rate of six hundred a day.

Time passed as Wang Baole continued accumulating battle credits. After half a month, he finally managed to accumulate over eight thousand battle credits. The boom of his business had also lasted for a month, based on his calculations.

There is no rush to send cultivation techniques. It’s meaningless to send them back individually. I will wait until I accumulate more battle credits, then send ten of them back at once and shock Little Duan Mu. Next, with every additional day that my business lasts, it would be considered a blessing! A glow flashed across Wang Baole’s eyes. He communicated with Xie Haiyang often, paying attention to the news in the sect. That was also when Federation Seedling Li Yi, after a month of silence, sent out a high profile message in the group chat.

“Fellow Daoists, I’m not sure how many battle credits all of you have accumulated. However, I have managed to accumulate two thousand battle credits. Right now, I will send a cultivation technique back, contributing in my own way to the immortal cultivation of the Federation!”

Li Yi's words caused a commotion amongst the Federation Seedlings in the group. Instantly, numerous voice transmissions and messages appeared like a flood.

"Sending cultivation techniques back?"

"So fast! Li Yi, what method did you use to accumulate two thousand battle credits?"

"Unbelievable! I thought that Wang Baole would be the first person to send one back, but it turned out to be Li Yi instead!"

As everyone reveled in shock, pride and arrogance arose in Li Yi, who was on the main island of Vast Expanse Dao Palace. After spending a thousand battle credits, the teleportation array formation was opened, and her Vast Expanse Skill was sent back to the Federation!

Chapter 512: I'm Simply Capable

The moment the teleportation began, not only were the Federation Seedlings shocked, even Feng Qiuran of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace was paying attention to it. After all, she was very concerned, since it was the first time that a Federation Seedling had sent back a cultivation technique.

However, the one that was most concerned was... Duan Muque!

Right now, Mercury remained heavily guarded and in a state of vigilance ever since the Federation Seedlings were teleported months ago. Even Li Xingwen personally stood guard there.

Right now, as Li Xingwen opened up the array formation in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, a bright glow was immediately seen on Mercury's teleportation array formation. There was little direct communication between the Federation and the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. So, the moment Li Xingwen realized what was happening, he grew extremely solemn, and the cultivators surrounding him also focused all their attention on it.

Regardless of whether it was the Solar System array formation or the Anti-Spirit Bomb, everything was put on standby, ready to fire. Duan Muque also came to know what was happening at the earliest possible moment. Even though he was on Earth, he could still use some Dharmic Artifacts to form an illusory image of himself, which he projected onto Mercury.

As the entire Federation was soaking in a tense atmosphere, the teleportation array formation was unleashed completely. The glow covered a distance of thousands of feet, and a loud boom emerged from within. However, this time, the scale was clearly much smaller than when the hundred Federation Seedlings were being teleported.

As such, Li Xingwen and Duan Muque narrowed their eyes. They didn't immediately give the green light for things to proceed, and instead chose to observe the situation first.

Even though the teleportation array formation could send things bidirectionally, it required the approval from both sides. For example, opening the teleportation array formation required the acknowledgment and approval from Mercury's side before the teleportation could proceed. There could perhaps be ways where teleportation could take place without approval, but it would require a high price be paid.

“It doesn’t seem like someone is being teleported back. It seems like a jade slip is being sent back!” Before long, a glow flashed across Li Xingwen’s eyes. He seemed to be able to look past the glow from the teleportation and vaguely see the item being sent back, which still remained an illusion.

After confirming what was happening, Duan Muque held a short discussion with Li Xingwen before the two of them decided to give the green light. With approval being given, the glow became even more brilliant, and the illusory jade slip within it could be visibly observed. In the blink of an eye and amidst the loud boom, as the glow from the teleportation array formation dissipated, a jade slip that floated in the middle of the teleportation array formation caught everyone’s attention.

Li Xingwen raised his right hand and grasped. Immediately, the jade slip arrived at high speed, being caught by him the moment it neared. After scanning it with his Spiritual Sense, Li Xingwen laughed heartily.

“It’s a cultivation technique! It was sent by Li Yi, the disciple from the four great Dao Colleges!”

In his agitation, Li Xingwen was also somewhat confused. According to his predictions, Wang Baole should be the first to send a cultivation technique back.

Without waiting for Li Xingwen to ponder it, Duan Muque, who was beside him, agitatedly took the jade slip. Even though he was only present as a projected image, his cultivation level still allowed him to look through the jade slip. After seeing the words ‘Vast Expanse Skill’ written on the jade slip, Duan Muque laughed heartily towards the sky. He was in high spirits.

“Good job, Li Yi!” In his excitement, his physical being on Earth also agitatedly stepped out of seclusion. He immediately sent an order to announce the matter to the entire Federation. At the same time, after taking a deep breath, he sent another command.

“The Federation Seedlings Contributions Ranking that we have prepared previously can be launched now. We need to let everyone in the Federation know about the contributions made by the Federation Seedlings for the Federation!”

As Duan Muque sent out the command, the entire system in the Federation began to operate. A ranking list from the Federation directed to the entire Solar System appeared on all media and advertising platforms simultaneously, with such a huge coverage that up to ninety percent of the people in the Federation were exposed to it!

It was a long ranking list with a hundred names on it, arranged according to last names. After every name was a digit, 0.

However, after the ranking list appeared and was noticed by countless people, the hundred names on the list blurred. Instantly, a gold-colored name appeared at the top!

That name was Li Yi’s, and the number that followed after was changed from 0 to 1!

The entire Federation was filled with agitation. Duan Muque was also immensely satisfied and delighted about making the ranking list. To him, the ranking list represented fairness, as well as the contributions made by every Federation Seedling. At the same time, it also paved the way to success for the hundred Federation Seedlings.

With the entire Federation surprised, Wang Baole, who was on the ancient greenish-bronze sword, also widened his eyes. Looking at Li Yi's message in the group chat, he didn't know what actions the Federation took, but he could imagine that the Federation would be announcing Li Yi's name with pride right now.

That made Wang Baole unhappy. If it were someone else that had sent the cultivation technique back, he wouldn't have felt this way. However, Wang Baole felt that Li Yi was a brainless person who had nothing but a big chest. He also couldn't figure out how Li Yi had managed to obtain two thousand battle credits.

Is she trying to steal my limelight on purpose? Wang Baole snorted. Even though he was unhappy, he didn't place much emphasis on the teleportation that took place this time. He had his own plans, and he was more focused on the end result.

I, Wang Baole, am a person with principles. There's no need for me to care about her. Wang Baole took a deep breath and was about to put the regional Spirit Internet jade slip away when at this moment, Li Yi's insulting and arrogant voice emerged from the group chat.

"Fellow Daoists, the Vast Expanse Dao Palace is our new beginning. I believe that everyone here would surpass themselves and reach new heights! This is unlike someone else who thinks highly of himself. Even though his cultivation level is high, this is not the Federation, but the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The rules are different, and he is nothing without the Federation's help!"

The moment Li Yi's words were heard, everyone in the group fell silent. They clearly knew that after a month of silence, Li Yi had begun to attack Wang Baole directly.

Wang Baole had wanted to keep his jade slip away, but after hearing how arrogant Li Yi was, he raised his eyebrows, and his anger raged. He stared sternly and immediately leaped into the air, charging towards the Vast Expanse Dao Palace from Green Fire Island.

The first place he went to was the Vast Expanse Techniques Chamber to exchange three cultivation techniques worth a thousand battle credits each. After that, he charged towards the teleportation array formation in Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The entire process didn't last long, and soon, the teleportation array formation of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace was opened up once again!

As the second time the teleportation array formation opened up wasn't long after the first time, it immediately caught the attention of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The Dao Palace cultivator in charge of teleportation gasped in shock, especially after noticing Wang Baole taking out three jade slips and paying three thousand battle credits to open up the teleportation array formation.

Three thousand battle credits was a large amount in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Even Feng Qiuran was surprised after hearing about it, much less the Federation...

The glow from Mercury's teleportation array formation had just dissipated before it started glowing again. This time, the glow was several times more brilliant than previously. Li Xingwen had just heaved a sigh of relief when he grew vigilant again. That was the case for Duan Muque as well, his illusory figure gathering once again a short while after it had dissipated.

With the duo fully focused on what was happening, a loud boom reverberated. The glow from the teleportation was so brilliant that it made Duan Muque gasp.

“Could it be that a person is being teleported back this time?” As the two of them reveled in shock, and as all the forces were on the highest alert, Li Xingwen’s eyes suddenly widened.

“It’s not a person... It’s a jade slip... Three of them!”

“Three jade slips?” Duan Muque was shocked and was instantly filled with indescribable joy. Therefore, after giving approval, the glow from the teleportation gradually dissipated. Three jade slips appeared clearly within the teleportation array formation. Duan Muque couldn’t wait and grabbed hold of all of them. After looking through them, he grew even more agitated than when he noticed the cultivation technique that Li Yi had sent back previously. Li Xingwen, who was beside him, also hurriedly took a look, and a wide smile appeared on his face.

“Three cultivation techniques, all sent by Wang Baole. This chap is capable indeed!” In his exhilaration, Duan Muque’s physical being on Earth immediately announced the news. Soon, the people in the Federation all noticed in astonishment that changes were appearing on the Federation Seedlings Contributions Ranking List again!

Li Yi, was originally ranked at the top. However, right now, Wang Baole’s name glowed in a gold-colored hue and appeared at the top position, and the number after his name leaped from 0 to 3!

This shocked the entire Federation. Countless people were agitated, and at the same time, Wang Baole also ended the teleportation process. He proudly turned and charged back to Green Fire Island. Along the way, he couldn’t wait to open up the regional Spirit Internet jade slip group chat. He began to send out a calm-sounding message.

“What a coincidence, I have also just sent three cultivation techniques back. Ah, being on a high level just makes one formidable.”

As Wang Baole’s words were heard in the group chat, it was like a huge rock had fallen into a calm pond, creating ripples. Gasps of shock and incredulous expressions immediately emerged from the chat.

Chapter 513: Forcefully Brought Over!

Without caring much about the commotion in the group chat, Wang Baole arrogantly put away the jade slip. After noticing that there was no one around him, he suddenly touched his chest, and his face crumbled.

Why am I feeling a heartache... Six thousand battle credits! Wang Baole let out a long sigh. Even though it was slightly easier for him to earn those six thousand battle credits, he was still pained.

For the Federation and for the civilization, I will contribute without hesitation! Bearing with his heartache, Wang Baole consoled himself. However, he soon realized that the consolation wasn’t very effective. He looked around, and realizing that there was no one around, he gritted his teeth.

In order to fulfill my dream, in order to become Federation President! With that, he felt the ache in his heart dissipate slightly. He was now back on Green Fire Island, and after a brief moment, as he looked at his remaining two thousand battle credits, he felt emotional again.

Thankfully, I managed to suppress my urge and only sent back three cultivation techniques... I need to begin accumulating battle credits once again. Hopefully, the sect won't take away this business tomorrow... Wang Baole was somewhat nervous and anxious about being poor in battle credits.

Right now, the Federation Seedlings had no idea what Wang Baole was feeling emotionally. They were all gasping in shock in the group chat. Li Yi remained silent. Even though she knew about Wang Baole's booming Spirit Boat business, she didn't believe that he could send out three cultivation techniques at once.

Considering the costs of teleportation as well, it's six thousand battle credits in total! I don't believe that fatty is so generous! Li Yi gritted her teeth. Through the network of connections that she had just established, she began her own investigations. She soon found out that Wang Baole indeed sent three jade slips through Vast Expanse Dao Palace's teleportation array formation, and that threw her off balance.

I don't believe that you're still superior to me even over here, you fatty! Li Yi's breathing quickened. She gritted her teeth and started making preparations to earn more battle credits. She wanted to make use of her journey in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace to surpass Wang Baole.

Days passed just like that. After ten days went by with Wang Baole still occasionally feeling the pain from his loss, he managed to accumulate over eight thousand battle credits again. That was when he finally felt more relieved.

It was also at this time that Wang Baole sensed that something sinister was about to happen. He realized that over the past few days, people had arrived outside Green Fire Island. They weren't there to rent his Spirit Boats and were instead recording and observing the activities there. At the same time, Xie Haiyang also sent Wang Baole a voice transmission.

"Baole, the higher management of the sect has already made a decision to buy over the business in the next few days. You must be prepared..."

Wang Baole's heart skipped a beat. Even though he knew that the day would arrive sooner or later, he couldn't bear for it to happen. However, he also knew that there was nothing he could change about it. The fact that a business like this, which could earn twenty thousand battle credits a month, could survive until now meant that someone in the sect had turned a blind eye. It also highlighted the fact that it couldn't last long.

Yun Piaozi also sent a voice transmission to Wang Baole. It seemed that he had less power than Xie Haiyang, sending the voice transmission two days after him. Yun Piaozi only came to know about the matter an hour before the sect had sent out their decision, and he immediately told Wang Baole about it.

Not long after receiving Yun Piaozi's voice transmission, Wang Baole, who was already mentally prepared for it, received the notification from the sect...

It was not a negotiation, but a notification! There appeared to be no chance given to Wang Baole to haggle. He had to obey the orders, regardless of whether he was willing to or not.

There was only a single sentence written in the notification.

“The Spirit Boat business is to be suspended with immediate effect. The formula for the Spirit Boat is to be handed over, with compensation of twelve thousand battle credits in return!”

Looking at the notification, Wang Baole furrowed his brows as a profound look appeared across his eyes. The compensation given by the Ancestor’s Gate was worthy of scrutiny. That was because, according to the agreement between Wang Baole and Xie Haiyang, if the compensation was less than ten thousand battle credits, they were to be wholly given to Xie Haiyang.

At the same time, the amount to be given to Yun Piaozi was approximated to be two thousand battle credits after some calculations. Basically, the compensation amount would be completely distributed even before they arrived. Wang Baole felt that there was definitely some insider operations happening.

However, he understood that he wouldn’t lose out even if there were insider operations. Furthermore, being too greedy would perhaps lead to unfavorable outcomes. He knew that fact clearly and immediately returned to a state of relief.

As such, he didn’t drag his feet and immediately ended the business, handing over the formula at the same time. On the second day, when the twelve thousand battle credits arrived, Wang Baole didn’t wait and immediately sent ten thousand battle credits to Xie Haiyang and two thousand to Yun Piaozi.

Wang Baole didn’t kick up a fuss with the hundred-odd battle credits that fell short. Yun Piaozi felt bad about it and sent a voice transmission to Wang Baole.

“Baole, this matter... Sigh, after all, you aren’t a cultivator of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Otherwise, the compensation for buying over the business wouldn’t be so low. You have clearly given Xie Haiyang and me the compensation amount and left nothing for yourself.” Yun Piaozi knew about the situation and didn’t try to hide from it, instead, addressing the insider operations that everyone could infer themselves.

“No matter. Everyone is my good friend. I’m happy that both of you have managed to earn something.” Wang Baole laughed, and there was indeed truth in his words. After all, based on his judgment, while battle credits were important, human relations were crucial as well.

Yun Piaozi wasn’t stupid either, and he could sense whether Wang Baole was sincere in his words. He heaved a sigh of relief but also felt sorry. After thinking about it for a brief moment, he suddenly spoke.

“Brother Baole, if you want to sell away those Spirit Boats, I can engage someone to do it for you. If you’re not in a hurry, I suggest you allow me to handle the matter for you. We can sell them off one by one so that we can raise the price. If you’re urgent and decide to sell them in a whole batch, the selling price is likely to be lowered...”

Wang Baole was waiting to hear that. It appeared that he currently only had eight thousand battle credits, but in reality, his Spirit Boats were worth the most.

The Spirit Boats cost approximately twenty thousand battle credits to build, and even though it was unlikely that they would be sold at cost price, he could still earn tens of thousands of battle credits with a sixty to seventy percent discount.

However, Wang Baole didn't have the means to sell them by himself. Only Xie Haiyang and Yun Piaozi could help him in the sale. Therefore, with anticipation, Wang Baole held a discussion with Yun Piaozi. At the end of their discussion, Wang Baole sounded carefree as he asked Yun Piaozi a question.

"Right, Yun Piaozi, what is Xie Haiyang's status in the sect?"

"Ah, he belongs to Elder Feng's clan. His cultivation level is not impressive, but he has a wide network of connections. He is somewhat famous amongst the Vast Expanse Dao Palace disciples and specializes in sales and purchases. I don't know the details, but I guess he has a deep relationship with a high ranking individual in the sect. Some people say that it might be Senior Chi Lin." If all this happened in another situation, Yun Piaozi would hesitate and hold back on details even if he revealed the information.

After all, it involved the internal affairs of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. However, after interacting with Wang Baole several times, not only did he earn a significant amount, he also owed Wang Baole a favor, and that was why he revealed what he knew.

After that, Yun Piaozi told Wang Baole some other details about the human relations in the sect before ending the conversation. Wang Baole meditated with his legs crossed, and his eyes closed. He fell silent and sighed as he looked at his battle credits.

Previously, with hundreds of battle credits entering his account every day, he led a very comfortable life. However, from now on, he had to return to a frugal lifestyle, and he couldn't help but start thinking about other means to obtain battle credits.

That was especially so as the feeling grew stronger as several days passed. Wang Baole was too distracted to cultivate, and as he looked at the mission stone stele of his cave abode, a look of determination flashed across his eyes.

Forget it, heading to the body of the sword and finding identity tokens is the most legitimate way to obtain battle credits, and is one that no one can take away! With that thought, Wang Baole undertook the mission. After tidying up, he left Green Fire Island. He traveled across the lava fire sea according to the directions of the mission, charging into the body of the sword from the sword's handle!

As the journey was long, Wang Baole made preparations for prolonged travel. As he charged forward, he adjusted his direction. However, his battle credit jade slip suddenly vibrated. In his bewilderment, Wang Baole took a look at it, and was surprised as five hundred battle credits were credited to him for some unknown reason!

What's going on? Wang Baole took a look curiously and realized that it was Xie Haiyang who had sent him the battle credits. That made him even more curious, and he decided to ask him about it through a voice transmission.

"Hey Brother, did you receive it? I just took over a business, and you can have half of it. As for the reason behind this... You'll find out soon, I guess."

Chapter 514: Why Should I Kill You?

After ending the voice transmission, Wang Baole grew suspicious. Xie Haiyang sent him battle credits for no reason, and was so cryptic in his words, saying that he would find out soon...

Seems like it's not a small problem. Wang Baole was deep in thought as he instinctively checked his surroundings. He realized that nothing out of the ordinary was happening, regardless of whether it was the Sea of Fire beneath him or the glow of the fire in the sky. However, he still grew vigilant and continued advancing without hesitation after checking his bearings with the mission jade slip.

The peak level of the early-stage Core Formation realm was expressed in terms of Wang Baole's speed. He was like lightning, and the Lightning Immortal Transformation also had a huge effect, making Wang Baole seem as though he was stepping on lightning. He was so fast that he covered a great distance in the blink of an eye.

According to the directions given by the mission jade slip, Wang Baole understood that it would take him about three years to travel from Green Fire Island to the body of the sword that was buried in the sun. After all, the ancient greenish-bronze sword was so large that even the region classified as its handle was significantly bigger than Earth.

Therefore, he couldn't depend on flight alone. In between, he had to use teleportation to shorten the time needed. The teleportation spots were built on specific islands. As such, even though Wang Baole was currently heading in the direction of the body of the sword, he still chose a coordinate that represented an island known as the Dusty Vision Island, amongst ten over other teleportation spots.

"The teleportation process requires a hundred battle credits each time... According to the mission description, five teleportations are required... This means five hundred battle credits are needed. On my return trip, another five hundred battle credits are needed... What a scam," Wang Baole mumbled. He checked the mission and confirmed the coordinates, then he charged like lightning into the distance at high speed.

Time passed in this manner. Soon, half a month went by. It would take approximately three days before reaching the first teleportation spot, Dusty Vision Island. Wang Baole was so bored with traveling in the air that he took out a packet of snacks and held a piece of it in his mouth. He sighed, as even though the ancient greenish-bronze sword was a haven for cultivation with its concentrated Spirit Qi, there were no snacks for sale.

Wang Baole was disappointed, and he couldn't bear to eat all the food that was in short supply. Every time cravings struck, he would put a piece of snack in his mouth, enjoying the taste of it while reminiscing of home.

So, I'm not a glutton, I'm just homesick. After realizing his true feelings, Wang Baole shook and touched his belly. He took a deep breath and felt that he was a pitiful person. He thought about a sentence that he had seen before, and after altering it, he mumbled it.

"I'm not eating snacks, but loneliness..." Wang Baole sighed softly, taking out another piece of his snack and putting it in his mouth. As he tasted it slowly, a small island appeared before him gradually.

There were no signs of cultivators being present on the island, and it seemed that it was an abandoned island. The concentration of Spirit Qi there was similar to that of other places. Wang Baole had seen many islands like these over the past month. He understood that most of the islands chosen by the Vast Expanse Dao Palace were beneficial for cultivation. The islands that weren't beneficial were abandoned and not cared about.

Even so, Wang Baole was still on high alert. He didn't plan to travel right above such islands, instead choosing to take a detour. However, just as he neared the island and was about to go right passed it, a strong aura from an array formation suddenly emerged from the abandoned island.

The aura from the array formation was released suddenly, and a glow emerged the moment it was released. The two entwined immediately, forming a large hand of light and grabbing towards Wang Baole.

The moment it grabbed, a figure flew up from the abandoned island, and a burst of frightening laughter was heard.

"Wang Baole, are you surprised? Old Liang has been waiting for you for a long time!" The person who was speaking was Liang Long, the Island Lord of Green Fire Island like Wang Baole!

As one of Mie Liezi's disciples, Liang Long had things to be proud of himself. However, including the incident in the Heavenly Questions Hall, he was insulted by Wang Baole thrice. It was something that, based on his personality, he couldn't take lying down. However, he also knew that the way Wang Baole moved was unpredictable, and that was why he managed to bear with it until now, only acting after putting in place the array formation.

Right now, he was filled with ferocity and anticipation. He believed that no matter how bizarrely Wang Baole acted, he wouldn't be able to escape from the restraint of the array formation that he had paid greatly for!

"Kneel!" Liang Long shouted loudly and activated his hand seals. Instantly, the speed of the array formation hand was boosted, glowing even more brilliantly as it appeared to become more powerful.

It even resulted in the formation of a hurricane that let out an impressive suppressive force and landed right before Wang Baole in the blink of an eye. It was about to grab Wang Baole when a chilly glow flashed across Wang Baole's eyes. If he weren't prepared previously, he would really be caught unaware by this sudden event. However, he had been vigilant all along the way, and right now, as the large hand grabbed at him, Wang Baole snorted. He raised his right hand, and three different colored light rays appeared from his storage bag!

Red, green, and purple!

The three light rays had just emerged, but a force that could shake the entire area was immediately unleashed. There was also a strong suppressive force emerging directly from the light rays. Vaguely, there was also a killing force, as if a divine being had arrived, and as if lightning was formed, charging directly towards the fast approaching array formation hand.

It was so fast that it was difficult to keep track of with one's naked eye. Only a loud boom emerged the moment both parties made contact, and the sound spread in all directions.

It was so loud that it formed a wild hurricane, causing the entire area to shake. Even the surrounding lava fire sea began churning with big waves. The array formation hand was unable to withstand it, breaking apart into pieces right away.

The three light rays didn't stop moving after passing through the array formation hand. They continued charging towards the abandoned land and were like three light rays that could destroy space. They were directed towards Liang Long, who was gripped with shock and disbelief and had lost his voice, unable to even scream. The light rays neared him instantly, and they seemed to be able to pass through all barriers.

What Dharmic treasure is this!

With the impending crisis, Liang Long was extremely shocked. His scalp felt numb, and a torrent of emotions appeared in his mind. He didn't have much time to think or even time to dodge. With bloodshot eyes, he screamed and pulled the jade slip hanging around his neck, twisting it. Immediately, a large turtle shell-like light screen appeared before him.

"This again? Do you really think I can't defeat that? Back then, there were just too many people, and that was why I chose to trap you in." Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He was speaking the truth. In reality, based on his capabilities, he might not be able to destroy the turtle shell, but he could attack with all his might such that Liang Long would lose connection with the turtle shell. However, it was useless to do that on Green Fire Island. If he really killed Liang Long there, Mie Liezi would be furious.

However, it was different here. Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He pointed with his hand seals, and the three light rays in mid-air revealed their true selves. They were three different colored flying swords!

It was the tri-colored flying sword that Wang Baole had obtained from the extraterrestrial Nascent Soul realm leader!

Right now, with his hand seals, the prowess of the tri-colored flying sword was unleashed, and it was even more frightening than previously. They charged directly towards Liang Long's turtle shell, and they were so fast that they instantly made contact. Cracks appeared on the extremely tough turtle shell before Liang Long's screams could last even a few seconds. However, it was an impressive item, and it soon showed signs of recovery.

Wang Baole frowned, nearing it instantly. He raised his right hand, and the green lotus inside his body shook. The Lightning Core, Heart Core, and Dark Core in him were instantly activated, gathering in his right hand. An extremely unreasonable consciousness was revealed from Wang Baole's body. The moment he neared, he activated the supernova, and attacked with a punch!

That punch shook the heavens and earth. The moment it was unleashed, it formed a torn black hole that seemed to swallow everything as it landed on Liang Long's turtle shell. Complemented by the tri-colored flying sword, the two forces were activated, and an anti-vibration force was formed on the turtle shell. If Liang Long had a sufficiently high cultivation level, he could have lasted. However, he seemed to be unable to control the turtle shell and was unable to withstand the anti-vibration force. Once Spirit Qi wasn't provided, the turtle shell toppled backwards, landing directly on Liang Long!

As everything happened, the force of a hurricane was unleashed in all directions. Liang Long vomited blood, his body like a kite cut from its string as he retreated, extremely beaten. A look of fear appeared on his face, as he had never imagined Wang Baole's combat powers would be so shocking.

"Wang Baole, you dare kill me? There are Life Attraction Forces on me. Killing me might attract other existences, and my Master would be able to sense it immediately, and he could find out the culprit behind this when he reviews what happened!" Liang Long spoke nervously as he retreated.

"Kill you? Why should I kill you?" Wang Baole took out a rope, an evil smile flashing across his face. His actions and that smile of his fell onto Liang Long's eyes, and Liang Long was immediately gripped with fear, as a bad feeling arose in his heart.

"What... are you going to do?"

Chapter 515: Let's Have a Pleasant Cooperation!

"What am I going to do? You'll find out soon." Wang Baole let out a cough, and he looked increasingly evil while approaching Liang Long step by step.

"You... Don't you come over!" Liang Long's body trembled, and a chill went down his spine. Without hesitation, he wanted to retreat, as he felt that Wang Baole was a psycho. At the same time, he also began to regret provoking him. Right now, Wang Baole was taking out a rope with a creepy smile and was clearly behaving like a psychopath.

However, Liang Long was still too late in retreating. The instant he was about to escape, a chilly glow flashed across Wang Baole's eyes, and he flailed the rope in his right hand hard.

"Tie him up!"

The moment Wang Baole spoke, the rope flew into the air with a red glow. It twisted in the air like a snake and was extremely frightening.

However, if one took a closer look, the rope didn't immediately charge towards Liang Long the moment it was released. It seemed to hesitate, appearing to instinctively want to fly into the skies and hide somewhere.

Liang Long didn't see the peculiarities with the rope, but Wang Baole noticed it clearly. He immediately pulled an angry face and was about to reprimand the rope. That was when Liang Long, frightened by the rope that was moving like a snake, screamed and retreated at an even faster speed, escaping from the island.

However... It wouldn't have mattered if he didn't try to run, but the moment he tried, the somewhat hesitant rope shook. If it were personified, it could be said that the rope's eyes were instantly lit up and awakened. It agitatedly adjusted its direction, charging forward with a speed that shocked even Wang Baole as it arrived right before Liang Long.

"Get away from me!" Liang Long screamed loudly. His heart was trembling as he tried to struggle, but everything was futile. The rope was extremely flexible, and in a flash, it had coiled around him several times, tightening and tying him right up...

The moment the rope tied Liang Long up, the force of a seal was unleashed from the rope, cutting off all the Spirit Qi and sealing Liang Long's cultivation in. In the blink of an eye, Liang Long was turned into a commoner, his body landing on the ground with a loud plop.

That made Liang Long quicken his breathing. He was extremely frightened and was about to scream for help. However, the moment he opened his mouth, one end of the rope wriggled into his mouth...

"Mmmm...!" Liang Long's eyes widened, and perspiration formed on his forehead. He was physically powerless, and right now, with a rope in his mouth, he couldn't make a sound. This feeling of helplessness was rarely experienced by him. That was especially so when he looked at Wang Baole with fear, as Wang Baole approached him with an evil smile. Liang Long trembled, having lost all hope as he wriggled his body backwards, instinctively trying to distance himself from Wang Baole.

However, that was his wishful thinking. Soon, Wang Baole gripped him by his hair and threw him in front of him. Wang Baole bent down, a smile on his face as he looked at the extremely frightened, trembling Liang Long.

"Liang Liang, tell daddy how you knew that I would come here so that you could ambush me?" Wang Baole patted his head as he spoke warmly.

The moment Wang Baole spoke, Liang Long widened his eyes, and he was thrown into a blur. He seemed to not know about Wang Baole's habit of adopting sons all around. However, he reacted quickly. The sense of being insulted instantly replaced the fear in Liang Long's eyes, and he stared angrily at Wang Baole.

"You don't want to say anything? How mischievous." Wang Baole shook his head. He sealed his hand and pointed towards the rope. Immediately, a glow emerged from the rope, wriggling continuously about Liang Long's body on a large scale. Liang Long widened his eyes, revealing a look of disbelief. He stiffened his body and struggled greatly.

That wasn't all. The other end of the rope emerged amidst everything, wriggling into Liang Long's clothes and in the direction of his pants. Everything that was happening caused Liang Long to go crazy, and he screamed in anxiety and fear.

"Mmmmm!"

"You still don't want to speak, huh?" Wang Baole sighed and was about to seal his hands. Liang Long was on the brink of tears and madness. It wasn't that he didn't want to speak. Instead, he couldn't speak with the rope in his mouth.

"You want to speak now? I will give you the chance to say a sentence. You must think through it clearly, and tell me everything with ten words!" Wang Baole slapped Liang Long's face and removed the rope from his mouth. The moment the rope was taken out, Liang Long spoke without hesitation.

"Information from Xie Haiyang, it cost a thousand battle credits!"

Ten words, no more, no less. From this, it could be seen that Liang Long was genuinely afraid of Wang Baole.

Listening to Liang Long's words, Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He thought about it and waved his right hand. Immediately, the rope wriggled into Liang Long's mouth again. Even though he struggled hard and had kept his mouth shut, it was useless...

"As for you, relax. I won't kill you. It's such a nice, heaven-like place here. I'll let you cultivate here." Wang Baole smiled briefly. When he stood up, he kicked hard between Liang Long's legs without warning!

With that kick, Liang Long trembled, his entire body curling up like a prawn. His eyes grew bloodshot, and he screamed painfully as if he was about to die from the pain.

"Remember this. Don't provoke me," Wang Baole said while smiling. However, that smile, in Liang Long's eyes, was more frightening than that of a demon's. He really understood this time that Wang Baole was a lunatic!

Wang Baole didn't concern himself with Liang Long further. He didn't even bother to ravage through his storage bag or steal his battle credits. He knew clearly that unless he killed someone, everything was meaningless as long as he was on the ancient greenish-bronze sword. Killing someone was easy, but the matters that followed would be most troublesome.

It's not the time yet... With that thought, a chilly glow flashed across his eyes. He stepped on the ground and leaped into the air, flying out. The rope remained on Liang Long, as that wasn't the end of the punishment.

Furthermore, he was connected to the rope. With a single thought, he could retract the rope. He didn't have to be afraid of losing it. He also realized that the rope was suitable for free-range rearing.

Liang Long, on the other hand, after noticing that Wang Baole had left, finally caved physically and mentally and fainted from the pain. Even though he was unconscious, his body still trembled.

To Wang Baole, Liang Long's appearance was a mere unexpected episode, and he didn't care about it. However, as he flew towards the Dusty Vision Island, he took a look at his battle credits. He opened up the voice transmission jade slip and sent a voice transmission to Xie Haiyang.

"Brother Haiyang, your business is huge."

Xie Haiyang seemed a little embarrassed and wanted to explain the situation.

"Brother Baole, I, Xie Haiyang, am just a businessman. This matter..."

"Say no more. Brother Haiyang, please remember... Things like this, which aren't dangerous and can give me huge earnings, must be referred to me more! I'm very poor now!" Wang Baole turned, his voice filled with agitation and excitement.

That shocked Xie Haiyang briefly. He laughed, and his laughter grew louder. In the end, with seriousness in his voice, he spoke.

"Baole, happy working with you!"

"Likewise!" Wang Baole smiled and ended the voice transmission. His smile soon faded as he raised his head to look in the direction of Dusty Vision Island. He turned and charged towards that direction.

Several days later, Wang Baole arrived on Dusty Vision Island. He was a Core Formation realm cultivator and had sufficient battle credits, so he was soon teleported away. Half a month passed, and he went through a total of five teleportations. Finally, Wang Baole crossed the Sea of Fire and finally arrived at the body of the sword!

Right now, the Sea of Fire appeared calm. However, the temperature was very high, far exceeding that at the handle. The surrounding nothingness warped under the high temperature, and a defensive barrier made of flames appeared before him!

Beyond the protective layer, there was silence. Inside it, the heavens and earth were crashing, the lava flowing and the Sea of Fire churning while the mountains broke apart. The buildings were devastated, and it was chaos all around!

Passing the defensive barrier meant entering the body of the sword. To a certain extent, it meant entering the sun!

Outside the defensive barrier, Wang Baole remained silent for a few minutes. When he raised his head, a look of determination was seen. He stepped into the defensive barrier!

Chapter 516: A Cry For Help!

If the sword handle could be described as gentle, the sword body that was buried in the sun could only be described as intense and violent!

In this world sheltered under the defensive barrier, the Sea of Fire was no longer crimson but black in color. This black Sea of Fire was far hotter than temperatures found on the sword handle. Wang Baole extended his senses slightly and was immediately alarmed. Based on his assessment... unless he relied on the Spirit Boat, he wouldn't be able to survive in this Sea of Fire for more than half an hour.

That's just too terrifying! Wang Baole gasped. He knew how strong his physical body was. As he stood reeling back from fear and shock, he noticed that the Sea of Fire didn't only exist below him on land. There was another Sea of Fire in the skies as well!

It wasn't nearly as impressive as the Sea of Fire beneath. However, the vast streams of molten lava flowing in the skies like wide rivers still made Wang Baole's pupils contract. He gazed into the distance. Within this defensive barrier, everywhere his eyes could see, in the skies and on the land, fiery flames danced and spread. It felt as if he had descended into hell.

There were also many ruins and a great deal of broken stone. When he had first walked through the protective barrier, Wang Baole had seen what seemed like a small mountain of damaged pavilions in the distance. It had drifted past, in the lava. With a loud crash, it had collided with an unfamiliar, shattered statue fragment. The collision had sent the surrounding Sea of Fire erupting and splashing outwards. Waves of energy had appeared to send the skies and the land quaking. Even though Wang Baole had been standing quite a distance away, he had felt the heat of the fiery waves surging towards him. His hair even smelled charred.

Wang Baole, in his alarm, had hastily stepped back. He hadn't advanced immediately but stood at the borders while adjusting to the temperature. He had monitored his surroundings. Gradually, he noticed

not only remnants of pavilions but vast quantities of shattered mountain stones and rocks. He even saw a few bodies!

Most of the dead bodies were missing body parts. Amongst them were cultivators as well as something he had seen before in the Spirit Breath Village... members of the Never-Ending Clan.

He didn't approach. However, he could tell that these bodies had nothing valuable on them. There were clear signs of them being searched. It was clear that many people from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace had come searching in the last years. Those who had managed to come here would be those with high levels of cultivation. They would have come in groups.

Wang Baole observed the area for two hours or so. When he was sure that his body had fully acclimated to the temperatures in the sword body, he focused his attention on his surroundings, remaining highly alert as he slowly flew further. He avoided the rivers of molten lava and made his way around those rivers. He kept a watchful eye as his surroundings changed, and as he searched for identity tokens or any other valuable items.

Time passed steadily. Eight hours soon went by as Wang Baole traveled slowly. His focus was on observing his surroundings and searching for valuable items. He hadn't yet encountered any dangers that were beyond his capabilities. During these few hours' of searching, he noticed that what the molten lava sea beneath him contained the most were islands after islands of pavilion ruins, damaged statues, and shattered mountain rocks.

It was as if everything that had existed here had been blown apart in a catastrophe. Even though the Sea of Fire covered many signs that pointed to a past battle, there was still an immense presence that remained that struck fear into Wang Baole's heart.

There were areas which seemed absent of danger as well as rivers of fire. Wang Baole saw with his own eyes the sudden appearance of a black line in those areas. It sliced space into halves when it appeared, exposing a large tear from which a tornado churning heated air appeared and surged outward.

The tornado was extremely powerful. Should one be distracted momentarily and get in its way, one would definitely suffer grievous injuries. Wang Baole gasped as he increasingly felt how terrifying a place this was.

As he advanced carefully, Wang Baole saw mountain peaks in the sky. They floated in mid-air, their forms contorted. A few were even upside down.

Some of the mountain peaks were smooth and bare, others were covered in craters as if they had been hit by spells, while some of them had buildings on them. The buildings seemed to have been preserved rather well. However, Wang Baole dared not approach those mountain peaks. He could sense from afar, on those considerably pristine and well-preserved mountain peaks, a hex that made his muscles twitch and his heart race.

Wang Baole tried nudging an ordinary mountain rock over to test the power of the hex. As soon as the rock came into contact with the hex, it turned into dust instantly.

Wang Baole's scalp began to prickle. He finally understood why acquiring an identity token could earn one so many battle credits. It was clear how difficult it was to find and obtain an identity token here. A huge part of it came down to one's luck.

What he had seen weren't the truly terrifying aspects of the sword body. After some thought, Wang Baole remained in the area for another couple of hours. He saw something that shook him to his very core.

He saw it with his own eyes. Before him had originally been a sea of molten lava, but after some powers drew him near, suddenly, an area that spanned a hundred yards blurred before his eyes. The next moment, it transformed and revealed a small island of shattered mountain rocks.

Such transformations seemed to follow no rules, and their timing couldn't be predicted. After repeated observations, Wang Baole finally came to two conclusions. He concluded that the environment here changed constantly. Transformations that appeared to resemble instant teleportation would take place occasionally.

He also concluded that besides the unpredictable transformations, the Sea of Fire on land would occasionally collapse and sink downwards. The sea might also erupt without rhyme or reason, like a volcano. Following such eruptions, buildings and ruins that had been underwater might resurface.

Every time something like that happened, multiple spatial tears would occur in the nearby region. Sometimes, scorching tornadoes would even appear from those occurrences. The result was danger looming behind every corner in the entire region!

Wang Baole raised his guard in response and continued to summon Little Missy. After hearing nothing from her after a long while, Wang Baole started thinking about leaving. He wondered if he should gather a few more people and whether it might be wiser to conduct a group search instead. He planned to retrace his steps and leave. Just as he turned around and was about to leave, suddenly... the Sea of Fire on one side of him erupted without warning. It sent great streams of molten lava exploding in the air. Wang Baole dodged it instantly. He was about to go around the explosion when a strong sense of danger sent his eyes flashing. He lifted his right leg immediately and spun around like a top, sweeping his leg around and behind him!

There was a loud thunderous boom. Wang Baole saw a humanoid creature covered in flames flying back ten yards after suffering his kick.

What is that thing? Wang Baole's pupils contracted. He had used his full strength with that kick. Despite that, it had only sent the humanoid figure stumbling back.

As Wang Baole's eyes glanced past, the flaming humanoid creature opened its mouth, revealing the sharp teeth within. Its eyes were colored with violence and madness, and it charged at Wang Baole suddenly. As it approached, waves of scorching energy fanned out, then surged towards Wang Baole like a hurricane.

Wang Baole frowned. He had no idea what the creature was, but he sensed that he shouldn't linger there any longer. His right hand formed a series of hand seals, and the tri-colored flying sword flew out instantly. It pierced the approaching, fiery humanoid creature, and sliced right through it!

The creature exploded with a loud boom. There was no blood or mutilated flesh, it only transformed into pieces of red-colored rocks that scattered and fell into the Sea of Fire.

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He didn't pause in his tracks. With a single step, he continued to retrace his path and raced back. Hours later, he encountered two attacks from similar-looking creatures. Then, he finally saw the protective barrier in the distance, as well as the calm, gentle peace on the other side.

Just as he was about to pick up speed and dash out, a flicker of emotion flashed across his face suddenly. He pulled out a jade slip from his storage bracelet. It was vibrating violently. This was jade slip that allowed Federation Seedlings to communicate via the regional Spirit Internet.

One of the Federation Seedlings who represented the Senate was calling for help in the group chat!

"Is there anyone at the sword body? I'm trapped. Please, save me!"

Every one of the Federation Seedlings who had come to the Vast Expanse Dao Palace knew that they had to stand in unity. They could be said to be quite united. That was why when Wang Baole saw that message, he immediately stopped in his tracks.

The regional Spirit Internet within the jade slip had certain constraints on how far a transmission could travel. In theory, if everyone were within the same region, they would be able to view transmissions from one another. However, once one stepped out of that region, only those in the same region could receive his or her messages.

Currently, the chat group was completely silent, save for the lone cry for help coming from the Federation Seedling who was in danger. It continued to repeat itself, desperately and with despair.

Chapter 517: A Strange Place!

A cry for help? Wang Baole stopped in his tracks. He lowered his head and studied the regional Spirit Internet jade slip carefully. He stared at the SOS signal that kept transmitting without stopping.

He could hear the despair in the transmission. He could sense an undying desire to live in the midst of death, the mad desire to survive. The Federation Seedling began to weep and beg as Wang Baole checked the transmission. He began uttering promises. Regardless, no one responded in the chat group.

The regional Spirit Internet had distance-based constraints. Since this Federation Seedling was trapped in the depths of the sword body, Wang Baole was probably the only other Federation Seedling in the vicinity.

"It's Fang Mu..." Wang Baole muttered softly. The image of a young man appeared in his mind. He recalled that he wasn't that familiar with this person. They were mere acquaintances who nodded their heads at each other when they passed each other by. In fact, during the specialized training for Federation Seedlings, Fang Mu had ganged up with quite a few other disciples to ambush him.

Subsequently, with him heading to Mars, their paths no longer crossed. Their limited interaction had only started again when they had arrived on the ancient greenish-bronze sword. However, Wang Baole seemed to recall that Fang Mu was friendlier towards Li Yi.

However, everyone was still a cultivator of the Federation. They were obliged to help one another in foreign lands. If he weren't at the sword body now but at the sword handle, Wang Baole wouldn't have hesitated to extend a helping hand. However... he was at the sword body now. This cry for help seemed slightly suspicious.

Fang Mu's cultivation is only at the Foundation Establishment realm. How is he able to enter the sword body? Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He had been here for quite some time and had a deep understanding of how dangerous this place was. After some thought, Wang Baole didn't mount a rescue immediately. Instead, he replied in the group chat.

"Fang Mu? Why are you here?"

Fang Mu seemed to have reached the peak of despair. He was clearly stunned to hear someone speaking in the chat group. Then, excited and overjoyed, he quickly sent a voice transmission in the chat group.

"Baole? Save me. Baole, save me. Five fellow Daoists and I from the Waterfront Island were forced by the Island Lord to come here and search through one of the ruins. We encountered a hex. The Island Lord was despicable. While the rest were killed, he found an inner sect disciple's identity token and ran off!"

Wang Baole stared at the transmission in the chat group. He began to frown. There was nothing wrong with what Fang Mu had said. Everything seemed to make sense, but he couldn't help the doubt in his heart.

There's something quite strange going on... Wang Baole narrowed his eyes as he thought. He revealed none of his suspicions in the chat group though and got Fang Mu to send over his coordinates.

He soon received Fang Mu's location. He checked and realized that Fang Mu was fewer than ten miles away from him. He was extremely near. Wang Baole's suspicions deepened. It might not have been so suspicious if they were separated by a considerable distance, but for Fang Mu to be located so near him, and near the borders...

Could it be so coincidental... Everything seems to be leading me towards him. Wang Baole's eyes flashed. He took a step forward. Instead of hurrying over to where Fang Mu was, he continued flying towards the defensive barrier, intent on leaving this place.

As for mounting a rescue—the appearance of Fang Mu in the sword body was already questionable and invited suspicions. Regardless of how well he had explained his situation, Wang Baole knew very well the importance of caution in a foreign environment. He was no saint. He wasn't going to risk his life out of overwhelming empathy to save someone.

It might be cruel and cold-blooded, but Wang Baole decided to ignore the cry for help. The cries for help in the chat group grew more frantic. It didn't take long before Wang Baole began to frown.

He realized... he was lost!

He had clearly seen the defensive barrier ahead of him earlier. When he looked ahead now, the defensive barrier turned into a blur, then disappeared. Wang Baole immediately raised his guard. He went around the area. After advancing for a short while, he stopped once again. He stared at the mist

that had appeared out of thin air, soundlessly, before him. He frowned. Then, he pulled out the regional Spirit Internet jade slip and stared at the coordinates that Fang Mu had sent over.

“This is interesting.” He muttered, his pupils contracting as soon as he saw the coordinates

He had unknowingly approached Fang Mu’s location despite his intentions to move away from it. At present, he was less than a mile away from where Fang Mu was.

Wang Baole’s face darkened. He turned and stared at Fang Mu’s location. Then, he snorted and raced towards it. It didn’t take long before he crossed the last mile and appeared at where Fang Mu was supposed to be.

He found himself on elevated ground. Even the Sea of Fire didn’t manage to flood this area. Signs of the land being shifted remained in the area. It was clear that this place might not have been elevated earlier. It had undergone a bizarre transformation in the sword body and reformed into what it was now.

Such areas could be seen everywhere on the sword body. Wang Baole had seen his fair share and wasn’t overly anxious. What alarmed him was a golden beetle a thousand feet long that was buried atop the elevated ground!

A small part of the beetle was buried in the ground. What was exposed to the air showed clear signs of decomposition over a long period of time. The outer shell of the beetle was lined with cracks, and there was a large crater the length of four to five yards on it. It exposed the beetle’s insides. What was inside... was not flesh and blood belonging to a living creature but something that resembled a cabin!

Wang Baole had seen a Sea Glutton before. He had one himself in the Dark Artifact. He knew that there were all kinds of strange and wondrous flying Dharmic Artifacts built by numerous civilizations in this universe. Not all resembled the Federation’s cruisers. Some had Sea Gluttons, while some had other strange creatures, such as this beetle. This might be his first time seeing one, but he could immediately tell that it was a kind of living space cruiser!

Even though the beetle had died and its insides had been damaged, it continued to exude a frightening aura. Wang Baole could sense that this aura rivaled that of a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. His eyes narrowed. He saw, lying beside the beetle... a mummy!

The dead mummy wore the robes of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. One could vaguely make out that this was Fang Mu, one of the Federation Seedlings. The smell of death that came from his body indicated clearly that he had died almost a month ago.

His face still showed the agony he had suffered prior to his death. Everything confirmed Wang Baole’s guess. What made him feel bizarre was despite how he was clearly staring at Fang Mu’s corpse, and that he had already arrived at Fang Mu’s location, the chat group in the regional Spirit Internet continued to transmit Fang Mu’s calls for help.

Wang Baole gasped. From the extreme agony on Fang Mu’s face, someone might have searched his soul or used torture to interrogate him before his death.

Is this trap targeting me or everyone? Wang Baole didn’t approach. He stared at the sight before him and retreated, about to leave.

Just as he took a step back, an eerie wind carrying a sudden chill swept past his cheek in what should have been a scorching hot region. His surroundings descended into a deathly silence.

The skies were dark and gloomy, the lands were a blur, and sounds of crying and laughing drifted from all directions. They were indistinct, arriving with the eerie winds.

“Mother, mother, I’m starving...”

“Mother, your finger doesn’t taste good at all. I’m so hungry. I want to eat something...”

“Don’t hit me. Don’t kill me. Don’t skin me. Mother, I’m in so much pain...”

The eerie, child-like voice sounded chilly. It was the sort of chill that made one’s scalp prickle. The voice drifted in the air and alarmed Wang Baole. He sensed the presence of a few children around him. They were holding hands and running circles around him.

One of them ran and ran, then stopped and stood at his side. The child smiled at him. Wang Baole turned his head instinctively to take a look. Ten feet away from him was an empty space. When his eyes swept past the space, a long-haired woman dressed in white robes appeared suddenly. Her hair was extremely long and covered her face. Next to the white-robed woman stood seven young boys. Each one of them had an eerie smile on their faces as they stared unblinkingly at Wang Baole.

Wang Baole’s pupils contracted suddenly. It was then that the white-robed woman lifted her head, revealing a face without eyes and a nose. She had only a giant, black gaping mouth on her gruesome face. She led the seven young boys and charged straight at Wang Baole!

Chapter 518: Start Singing!

If it were someone else, who was timid and afraid of spirits, he would be quaking in his boots right this moment. He might scream and retreat hastily in fear. However... both the white-robed woman and the seven children beside her could never have guessed that the person they were facing at this moment was completely unafraid of the supernatural. Wang Baole even began to look slightly impatient.

Just as an eerie atmosphere descended upon them and the white-robed female spirit lunged at Wang Baole, the latter glared and, without the slightest hesitation, lifted his right leg and sent it kicking with a thunderous boom.

The kick landed on the female spirit. It seemed to go right through its spiritual form and land directly on her true form. The female spirit shrieked as she was flung a hundred feet away.

“You dare put up this act when that’s all you’ve got?” Wang Baole snorted. He raised his right hand and unleashed Soul Guidance. Multiple images appeared in his hand, layering over one another to form an enormous, frightening black ghoul’s hand. The chill surrounding them intensified with the appearance of the hand. If the eerie winds that had appeared alongside the female spirit could be described as a vicious demon, then the winds that erupted at this moment from Wang Baole’s person would surpass the demon lord!

His Soul Guiding Hand yanked, and the facial features on the female spirit reappeared on her face. They formed an incredulous, shocked expression. The female spirit screamed and tried to escape, but it was too late. In a blink of an eye, she was caught by Wang Baole's Soul Guiding Hand.

The female spirit with her illusory form couldn't even put up a fight. Wang Baole grabbed her by the neck and dragged her before him.

"There's nothing wrong with playing dress-up as the devil, but to do it in front of me?" Wang Baole glared. He grabbed the female spirit and raised her up in the air, then slammed her back down onto the ground. That didn't seem to appease him. He raised his foot and kicked the female spirit repeatedly. The female spirit's screams grew increasingly pitiful with each kick.

Her cultivation could rival a perfected Core Formation realm cultivator. Before Wang Baole though, she was as fragile and vulnerable as a piece of paper. She couldn't unleash her power at all. It was as if she had met her match!

The aura that she exuded, which should have instilled fear in all living creatures, was useless against Wang Baole. There was no doubt... that as a Dark Child, Wang Baole had encountered millions of souls in his Dark Dream, plenty of them far more terrifying than this female spirit. Some might have massacred an entire world, but they had all been obedient and submissive before Wang Baole, afraid to cause trouble.

After all... the Dark Sect was a powerful entity that ferried souls. As a Dark Child, if Wang Baole had been frightened by this insignificant spirit, he believed the ancestors of the Dark Sect who had fallen would be so furious they would come back to life.

The female spirit's cries grew more and more pitiful as Wang Baole continued punching and kicking her. She began to beg for her life to no avail. Her transformation from her previous terrifying self was simply too sudden and shocking, and her seven children were all stunned. Two were so terrified that they started crying.

These were real tears, not the eerie weeping that had been conjured earlier. It sounded horrible though. Wang Baole glared.

"Silence! I'll eat you if you start crying again. Start singing!"

The two weeping children trembled at his shouting and stopped crying immediately. They continued to shake. They wanted to cry but dared not do so. They wanted to run but dared not do so. They could only watch as their mother suffered abuse under Wang Baole's fists and kicks, beaten to the point where her spirit might just disintegrate and turn to dust.

Trembling, they began to sing.

"Mother, Mother, I'm starving..."

"Mother, your finger doesn't taste good at all. I'm so hungry. I want to eat something..."

"Don't hit me. Don't kill me. Don't skin me. Mother, I'm in so much pain..." The children's voices shook as their singing echoed in the air. This was the first time they realized how frightening they sounded. They frightened even themselves as they sang.

Wang Baole began to tire of the singing. With a wave of his hand, the seven children retreated hastily and escaped. Their young minds had equated Wang Baole to a demon. He was beyond terrifying.

After the children fled, Wang Baole continued to kick the female spirit until she passed out. Her body seemed ready to turn to dust. He grabbed her and dragged her before him, his eyes popping out as he glared and snorted.

“This is my first time seeing puny spirits like you dare appear before me. Fine. Let me think about all the ways I can eat you,” Wang Baole said coolly. He had seen a few Dark Sect disciples secretly snacking on spirits in his Dark Dream. The Dark Sect sect was enormous, so no one would realize it if one occasionally ate a few souls. There was no use even if one found out. The Dark Sect had, after all, the ultimate jurisdiction over souls.

He hadn't eaten one before, but he knew how to do it. With his current severe shortage of snacks, Wang Baole had been waking up in the middle of the night starving. He swallowed his saliva and licked his lips as he stared at the female spirit.

However, he restrained himself from eating the spirit. He thought it more prudent to inspect his surroundings first. He imprisoned the spirit, then walked towards Fang Mu's corpse. He had an ugly expression on his face after the inspection was done.

Based on the Dark Sect's knowledge of spirits, Wang Baole inspected the corpse and concluded that Fang Mu hadn't been killed by a spirit. He had died from a soul search. There were no other injuries on him. He had been overpowered instantly by someone, and then his soul had been forcibly searched. His brain hadn't been able to withstand the search and had collapsed into itself. His spirit had disintegrated and turned to dust.

This was an extremely cruel way to kill someone. Wang Baole fell silent. After a round of inspection, he kept Fang Mu's corpse. They were all Federation Seedlings. Now that he had fallen, Wang Baole couldn't leave his corpse in a foreign land.

Frustration bubbled in Wang Baole amidst the silence. Even though everyone had been mentally prepared for the worst when they had arrived on the ancient greenish-bronze sword, he still couldn't help but sigh when he witnessed death with his own eyes.

He soon got his emotions in order. He lifted his head and stared at the golden beetle. With a single step, he arrived at the crater. He found two corpses inside.

One of them belonged to a middle-aged man. He had the robes of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace on. They were torn and damaged. He had died quite some time ago and had a strong smell of death on him. Even though he had died, the spirit energy that continued to exude from his body made Wang Baole's pupils contract.

The other person that had perished alongside him was not a cultivator from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. It was someone with three heads and six arms... a member of the Never-Ending Clan!

They had clearly had an intense battle and eventually perished together. This beetle had clearly been the cruiser of one of them. After their deaths, the beetle had perished as well, and it had ended up being buried on this elevated plain.

The lands had since changed. The Sea of Fire rose. Perhaps, in the near future, everything here would disappear alongside another transformation of the land.

The valuable items in their storage bags were no longer there, and there was no identity token to be found. Wang Baole didn't believe that they had been destroyed. He believed someone had taken them.

There was a slight possibility that the one who had taken them was also Fang Mu's murderer.

They killed Fang Mu and set up an ambush here... Wang Baole didn't find anything of value after his search. He left the beetle and released the female spirit. He grabbed her neck and shook her violently. The female spirit came to immediately. After seeing Wang Baole's face, she screamed immediately and started shivering like a leaf in the wind.

"I'll eat you if you make any more noise!" Wang Baole said coolly.

The female spirit shut her mouth immediately. She continued to tremble. However, she dared not say a single word.

"Speak. What's going on here?" Wang Baole stared at the white-robed female spirit and asked slowly, his voice calm. However, as the words landed, the female spirit began to tremble again. She dared not hide anything from Wang Baole. She extended her indistinct consciousness outwards.

"The Never-Ending Clan... manipulated... drew you here... to kill you..."

"Hmm?" Wang Baole's pupils contracted when he heard that. With a series of hand seals, he sent a Dark Fire straight into the spirit's forehead. It flew back shortly. This was a minor spell that Wang Baole had learned during his time at the Dark Sect. It could verify whether a spirit was telling the truth. He started interrogating the spirit in detail. After a long moment, his face darkened. He finally understood what was going on. A member of the Never-Ending Clan, who was still alive, had manipulated this spirit and led her to this place. His intention had been to kill Wang Baole.

It was clear that the Never-Ending Clan member didn't realize that he was a Dark Child. The one thing that he didn't fear was a soul.

Countless thoughts sped through Wang Baole's head. He had only one clue from a female spirit who didn't possess the clearest of minds. Regardless, he could still sense the depths hidden beneath the Vast Expanse Dao Palace and the ancient greenish-bronze sword.

There are still Never-Ending Clan members alive? Wang Baole gasped. He decided that it would be best for him to leave this place as soon as possible. He was about to deal with the female spirit when...

In the distant empty plains, the seven little spirits that had escaped appeared again, meekly and trembling in fear.

Chapter 519: White Robe Repays a Favor

They were clearly terrified of Wang Baole. That was why they had only appeared now. Four of them were crying fearfully. Then, upon remembering that the awful, nasty man before them disliked the sound of weeping, they immediately slapped their mouths shut with their hands.

Only one of them, despite being equally frightened, gathered his courage and drifted forward. He stood before Wang Baole, then fell to his knees and kowtowed to Wang Baole. Then, he pulled out a pill bottle that exuded an air of decomposition, but was still relatively well-preserved, and placed it before Wang Baole. He kowtowed again. An indistinct voice drifted out from within his spirit form.

“Please... return our mother... to us...”

Wang Baole was shocked. He stared at the young spirit, then looked at the children behind it, trembling and afraid to cry out. He grabbed the pill bottle and glanced at it. He opened it, took a look inside, and was momentarily stunned.

A Universe Pill? Wang Baole hadn't seen many valuable treasures since he had arrived at the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. However, he had done some research, especially on pills and materials, which was his focus of study.

This Universe Pill, for example. He had never seen one, but he knew that this pill had a special property. It gave off a kind of black light. However, in the night, it sparkled like a bright bead.

The Universe Pill was one of the supplementary pills that aided a cultivator in advancing from the perfected Core Formation realm into the Nascent Soul realm. It would cost fifty thousand battle credits to get one from the sect.

Wang Baole had his guesses, but he couldn't be fully confident that this was indeed a Universe Pill. Regardless, it looked quite extraordinary. He was overjoyed. After some thought, he grabbed the white-robed female spirit and threw her aside.

He didn't know how the Never-Ending Clan managed to control the spirits. With a series of hand seals, he summoned eight Dark Fires that circled the spirits and burned the remnants of whatever spell was controlling them, before recalling the Dark Fires.

During the entire process, the spirits were so terrified they dared not move an inch. Wang Baole's Dark Fire could be said to be one of the most terrifying things in the world to them. It was only slightly less terrifying than Wang Baole himself.

“Fine, fine. Just go. Don't go around scaring people anymore, alright?” Wang Baole waved his hand and ignored the spirits. He started studying the Universe Pill in detail.

The female spirit dared not linger after being released. She hastily gathered her children and fled...

After a while, Wang Baole kept the Universe Pill. He decided to inspect it further when he returned. He would verify the actual name of the pill and if it were truly a Universe Pill. If it were authentic, he would have gotten himself a good deal out of this. If it were fake... a cold light flashed in Wang Baole's eyes. He would return and find these spirits, then ask them why they had deceived him.

He turned and stared at the enormous golden beetle. After some thought, he decided to take it, as well as the corpses inside, with him as well.

It doesn't matter if I can sell them for some credits. Let's just take them first and decide what to do with them later. There might be a chance that I can sell them off later... I have no choice. I'm poor. Wang Baole lamented. He could only say that he was only mildly satisfied with his gains for this trip.

It would be great if the pill were authentic. If it weren't, he would've made this trip at a loss. The round-trip journey cost a thousand battle credits. It also cost him so much time.

Fine. We'll just treat this as a trip to familiarize myself with the environment. Wang Baole shook his head. He turned and planned to leave. He flew into the air, determined the direction home, and headed for the protective barrier. Suddenly, the white-robed female spirit that had left earlier appeared in mid-air before him again.

Wang Baole glared at the female spirit who dared to appear before him. He was about to shout at her when the spirit shuddered and greeted Wang Baole hastily. She seemed afraid that Wang Baole might misunderstand her intentions. She tried desperately to extend her consciousness towards him.

"You want to thank me for releasing you from the spell?" Wang Baole finally understood what she was trying to say after a long time. He was deeply suspicious and formed a series of hand seals. The Dark Core inside his body activated, and a Dark Fire flew towards the female spirit and entered her forehead. It returned to Wang Baole immediately and landed on his palm. He studied it carefully and concluded that the female spirit genuinely wished to repay his favor.

After some thought, Wang Baole concluded that his gains from this trip weren't very satisfactory. He waved his hand and gestured for the female spirit to lead the way. Upon seeing Wang Baole's agreement, the female spirit appeared very happy. She flew ahead and led Wang Baole into the distance.

The journey wasn't long. They traveled for a hundred miles or so. Wang Baole kept his guard up throughout the entire journey and followed the female spirit to a region that seemed to have been formed barely a few days ago.

A mountain peak, slightly tilted to its side, sat in the Sea of Fire. It seemed stuck and immobile, and lava streamed past its sides. It seemed incomplete, as if it were only one half of a complete mountain.

Its size was still impressive despite being one half of a full mountain. It was the size of a pavilion on a major mountain peak in the Ethereal Dao College. There were still quite a significant number of pavilions and other buildings on the mountain. Most were damaged and in ruins, but a portion seemed well preserved. They didn't seem to have suffered much damage.

This wasn't the most shocking part. What truly made Wang Baole's breathing quicken were the ten corpses lying on the mountain. There were both female and male corpses. Besides the fatal injury that killed them, they were otherwise well preserved. Wang Baole could even see the storage bags on them!

Wang Baole's eyes widened at the sight. He didn't immediately inspect the mountain. He quickly assessed the surrounding as he pulled out his Dharmic Armament cautiously. After a long while, and after completing a careful inspection of the surrounding area and concluding that there was no danger, he released a sigh of relief. He then approached the mountain carefully, his eyes burning with hunger.

After leading Wang Baole to this place, the female spirit bowed deeply and drifted away. She truly was repaying Wang Baole for not killing her and for releasing her from the hex. She had discovered this place a few days ago, but she had no interest in what was in this place. However, even with her indistinct, unclear mind, she knew that outsiders who entered this place often fought over the things that could be found here.

That was why she had located Wang Baole and brought him here. It was her way of repaying him.

This was a pleasant discovery for Wang Baole. After ensuring that there was nothing dangerous in the vicinity, he approached the mountain peak excitedly. After a closer look, his heart began to race. Heat and desire burned in his eyes.

There's no doubt. No one has entered this place before!

Just from one glance, I can see more than thirty corpses... every one of them has a storage bag. They must contain an identity token and other valuable items!

I'm going to be rich if I can get in! Wang Baole took a deep breath. Despite the deep desire he had, he didn't act recklessly. He had seen similar places during his time on the sword body. They might not draw as much attention, but they likely were places that housed great treasures as well.

However, a hex protected such areas. They protected against the Sea of Fire as well as Wang Baole's entry. He had only been able to watch and sigh, then leave in resignation.

However, the slanted mountain peak before him didn't seem to be protected by any spells. It looked like he might be able to enter with a single leap. Wang Baole wasn't a reckless person though. He studied the area carefully, then pulled out a puppet. He controlled the puppet and sent it flying forward.

The puppet resembled a Diamond Ape. It swiftly dashed forward and took a leap. As soon as it approached the mountain peak and was about to land, a black light appeared suddenly, brushing past the Diamond Ape. The Diamond Ape puppet froze, then it was sliced into multiple pieces. It exploded.

I knew it, there's a hex... Wang Baole wasn't surprised. He stood there and thought for a long while. Then, with a wave of his hand, he summoned a dozen puppets again. They dashed out and surrounded the mountain peak. Then, they charged at it at the same time.

As soon as they charged at it, the black light reappeared. It swept across the entire area swiftly. Explosions thundered as the puppets were destroyed instantly.

Wang Baole didn't ache for his loss though. Instead, his eyes shone with excitement as he waved his hand again and summoned more than fifty puppets!

There's a loophole... in this hex!

Chapter 520: Breaking the Hex!

Time passed swiftly. Wang Baole had been here for three days and had expended more than five thousand puppets during these three days. They had been accumulated from his time as the City Lord of the special regional city. Every time his proficiency in refining artifacts advanced, he would enhance the puppets, out of habit.

That was why even the weakest of his puppets was at the True Breath realm, and he had more than a hundred puppets that could rival a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator. What was most astonishing was the special batch of puppets he had refined at first. Only two remained. However, both were at the perfected Foundation Establishment realm and reached the pseudo Core Formation realm.

As Wang Baole's level of cultivation increased, the puppets were no longer as useful. That was why he had managed to accumulate so many of them. They finally became useful for testing the hex.

The test that was... comprehensive and exhaustive, which allowed Wang Baole to finally identify the loophole in the hex after three days!

There are three minor loopholes... Wang Baole sat cross-legged at a corner as he eyed the mountain peak before him. He didn't know how long he had before another shift and transformation would occur. However, he knew he didn't have much time. Wang Baole knew he had to move quickly.

However, he couldn't be too rash. Based on his assessment, with his level of cultivation and his physical body, he wouldn't be able to withstand an attack from the black light. If he mounted a frontal assault, any misstep would result in the instant destruction of his body and spirit.

I just want to earn a few battle credits. What a chore... Wang Baole sighed as he stared at the corpses and the pavilions on the mountain. A flash of determination appeared in his eyes. He had no choice, his desire for the storage bags on the corpses was simply too great.

He took a deep breath, his eyes shining brightly as he stared at the mountain before him. He calculated the timings. Every half an hour, he would throw out a puppet and gradually increase their number. Every time the puppets tried to get past the hex, they would be sliced into pieces by the black light.

Eight hours passed. As Wang Baole threw another puppet towards the mountain peak, the black light appeared once again. However, this time, it paused for a portion of a second!

That's the loophole! It was as if he had predicted this moment would happen and prepared for it. Wang Baole's eyes flashed brightly when the pause occurred. He burst forward like a sudden bolt of lightning. With a series of hand seals, his cultivation started churning rapidly. With another wave of his hand, countless Dharmic treasures appeared around him and spread out. Amongst them were multiple Dharmic Armaments. A colorful ribbon fluttered and circled him, forming a strong protective barrier.

It was as if he had planned for everything. Everything happened in a blink of an eye. Wang Baole surged forward swiftly like a shooting star, dashing forward and heading straight for the mountain.

In a blink of an eye, he came into contact with the invisible hex. The black light that should have appeared instantly had experienced a slight lag when attacking Wang Baole's puppet a moment ago. It paused for a slight moment once again!

This sliver of delay allowed Wang Baole to pass through the protective barrier and appear on the mountain. He hadn't destroyed the hex, though. Even though he had successfully landed on the mountain, the sense of danger continued to remain intense and overpowering. It surged like tsunami waves over him.

He couldn't be distracted by it now. The moment he got past the hex and appeared on the mountain, he raised his right hand and, through the air, made a grab for the storage bags on the corpses a short distance away from him.

Four storage bags came whizzing by. He caught them. Then, seemingly fighting against his strong desire and greed, he stepped back hurriedly and swiftly. As quickly as he had entered, he left with a speed that

surpassed that of lightning. He moved like flowing water. He had clearly gone through the motions multiple times in his head the past three days.

As he was retreating and about to leave the area, suddenly, the black light reappeared. The window for when the loophole appeared seemed to have passed. It swept past Wang Baole.

The speed of this strand of black light surpassed Wang Baole's. It was incredible how fast it was. Wang Baole clearly was prepared for it, though. As soon as the black light appeared, the Dharmic treasures around him surged before him and stood between him and the black light.

The Dharmic treasures collided with the black light. It was as if they had turned to paper as both their cores and components were shredded into halves soundlessly. They were weak and powerless before the black light, shriveling and sliced into halves.

Fortunately, the colorful ribbon contained significant power. It spun around him and transformed into a hurricane. Wang Baole's Dharmic Armaments unleashed their power as well, forming a protective barrier against the black light. Thunderous booms resounded in the air. Finally, just as the ribbon and Dharmic Armaments could no longer withstand the attack of the black light, Wang Baole successfully dashed out of the restricted, hexed zone.

Despite his escape, the backlash from the hex was simply too powerful and violent. Blood spilled from Wang Baole's mouth. His vision turned hazy, and he stumbled after flying out from the hexed area. Then, he spat another mouthful of blood out. His grievous injuries seemed to result in a loss of control over the ribbon and his other Dharmic treasures. They fell to the ground as he staggered.

After stumbling a few steps, blood began to seep out from Wang Baole's chest. He fell sideways, to the ground. His injuries appeared very serious. He passed out.

The storage bags that he had acquired slipped from his hand after he lost consciousness and fell to the ground beside him. The black light glittered and slowly disappeared. All around him, silence descended.

It was silent for an hour. Within that hour, there was no movement or sound. There was only Wang Baole, who lay motionless and heavily injured. He was vulnerable to attacks and powerless to retaliate. Anyone with ill intent could kill him now.

The Dharmic Armaments and storage bags lying around him were enough to incite murderous intent from the greedy who wished to steal them... Perhaps luck was on Wang Baole's side, or perhaps luck was on the side of the others... No one appeared during this hour. Not even the white-robed female spirit appeared.

The hour passed, and Wang Baole's eyes suddenly opened. There was none of the haziness and confusion in his eyes that was usually present when someone just awoke. Instead, his eyes shone with a deep, unfathomable light.

Seems like there really isn't anyone around here... the female spirit really was trying to repay a favor. I put up such a convincing act that if there were really someone with ill intentions around, they would have struck. Wang Baole narrowed his eyes and climbed to his feet immediately. It seemed that his injuries had all been fake.

That had indeed been the case. Wang Baole's caution hadn't lessened because of the appearance of the mountain peak. He had been worried about traps in the area. That was why he had pretended to be injured, in order to lure anyone lying in wait out. The Dharmic Armaments lying around him might seem scattered haphazardly. However, they were Dharmic treasures he had refined with his own hands. He could unleash their power anytime anyone appeared.

I'll not waste any more time since there's no one around! At that thought, Wang Baole waved his hand and retrieved the fallen items around him. A fierce light shone in his eyes as he stared at the mountain rock. His Lightning Core erupted after a long moment. Bolts of lightning appeared in the air, and icy flames emerged from his body. There were sounds of crackling coming from his physical body as he activated its full power.

He wasn't done yet. The colorful ribbon, as well as the tri-colored sword, flew around him speedily. The power that exuded from him surpassed anything that he had shown earlier. Having prepared himself, he waited for another half an hour. Then, he flung out another ten puppets. He took a step forward and charged into the hexed area with his puppets.

He was faster this time, his speed twice that of what he had displayed previously. He exploited the second loophole and passed the protective defenses of the hex. The devouring seed inside his body activated then. With a loud, thunderous boom, the storage bags of those dozens of corpses before him flew towards him, as if suddenly snatched by numerous invisible hands!

Everything went according to his plan. If he were to leave now, he would be doing so with minimal injury. However, just as he was about to retreat, Wang Baole's eyes suddenly widened. He stared at the highest point of the mountain peak. It hadn't been clearly visible when he had been outside and separated by the hex. However, now that he was inside, he could see it clearly... a cave abode!

Inside the cave abode, a corpse dressed lavishly sat cross-legged... on his thigh, was a purple identity token!

A core disciple's identity token!