

A Demoness 121

Chapter 121: The Demoness Takes Him Back Home

The Cliff of Broken Heart's Spirit Herb Garden.

Miao Tinglian stood at the entrance of the garden, feeling happy.

"Junior Brother Jiang is not here, so this place has finally become mine. He is a good person, but his knowledge of spirit herbs is limited... I need to make improvements in the garden before he returns."

!!

"There are many precious spirit herbs here, many of which require suitable soil. If you mess up and cause problems, you could be expelled from the sect. Don't cause trouble for me, please," said Mu Qi sternly.

"You can scold me all you want. I'm not afraid. I know a lot when it comes to spirit herbs, but my knowledge still can't be compared to the people in the

Hundred Bones Forest. I didn't expect there to be such formidable individuals," Miao Tinglian said nervously.

"Is this kind of technique really possible?" Mu Qi was stunned to hear Miao Tinglian's explanation.

At first, he didn't think so, but Jiang Hao suddenly left the mountain. Maybe he had left because of this reason.

Suppressing someone's cultivation with spirit herbs... That was unheard of.

“I’m not sure either, but is it really okay for Junior Brother Jiang to leave the sect?” Miao Tinglian asked.

Mu Qi shook his head. “That’s his choice. Master didn’t say anything.”

Miao Tinglian understood that the path of cultivation was difficult. Sometimes, life and death were decided by someone else. Ultimately, it all depended on how strong one could become.

“You stay here and take care of things. I’m going to the mine. It may start operating again in a few months,” said Mu Qi.

He had always been in charge of the mines. He had been avoiding it due to his injuries, but now he was alright.

“Why do you need to go to the mine? Can’t you apply to work in the Spirit Herb Garden?” Miao Tinglian asked.

“It’s not necessary to oversee the Spirit Herb Garden all the time. As long as there is an inner disciple here, it’s enough. The sect has many areas that need management. If I applied to work here, Junior Brother Jiang would have to go to the mines, I don’t think my master will allow that.”

Miao Tinglian nodded.

In the forest outside the Heavenly Note Sect, the space was distorted.

Then, a figure fell out of the distortion. With a thud, he fell to the ground. Jiang Hao sat up on the ground, holding his head. He was dizzy.

‘Using the talisman makes me feel so dizzy...’

He never expected that using this talisman would make him so dizzy that he wouldn’t be able to even stand. If someone in the Golden Core Realm was affected this way, the talisman might cause even more damage to those in lower cultivation realms.

'Perhaps there is a minimum threshold to use this talisman...'

After recovering a little, he stood up slowly and tried to figure out where he had landed.

"I wonder how far this place is from the Heavenly Note Sect..."

"Five hundred miles away," said a sudden voice.

Jiang Hao's heart missed a beat. He tried to calm himself. He knew that voice. It was Hong Yuye.

He turned his head and saw a woman dressed in a red and white sitting on a tree branch.

When Jiang Hao saw her, she got off the tree.

She had tied her hair up in a simple bun. There was a belt at her waist. She wore a long dress that reached her ankles. Simple and unadorned. Just perfect for traveling.

"Senior, where do you intend to go?" Jiang Hao asked, now fully recovered.

"Hidden Cloud Prefecture," Hong Yuye said.

Hidden Cloud Prefecture was closest to the Heavenly Note Sect. The Heavenly Note Sect was located in the southern part, surrounded by sixteen spacious prefectures in total.

Each prefecture was vast, and there were numerous towns and villages within them.

When the Heavenly Note Sect wanted to capture someone, they usually headed to the Hidden Cloud Prefecture or its vicinity. With his cultivation at the Golden Core Realm, he could reach a town in Hidden Cloud Prefecture in about a day if he flew on his sword.

“Senior, do you plan to fly there?” Jiang Hao asked.

Hong Yuye glanced at Jiang Hao. A red light appeared, enveloping both of them.

In the blink of an eye, the surroundings changed.

When he regained his senses, he found himself on a road, not far from the town. Many people walked in and out of the town. The words “Fallen City” were written on the city gates.

“This...”

This was a city under the jurisdiction of Hidden Cloud Prefecture, and it was one of the most prosperous cities in the area. With his cultivation at the Golden Core Realm, it would have taken him more than a day to reach here.

But under Hong Yuye’s power, they arrived in the blink of an eye.

He suddenly realized that no matter how many talismans he made, he could never escape her clutches if she decided to hunt him.

Fallen City was familiar to him.

“Let’s go,” Hong Yuye took the lead and walked forward.

Jiang Hao followed. “Senior, shouldn’t you disguise yourself?” he asked hesitantly.

“Disguise? Do I look ugly to you?” Hong Yuye stared at Jiang Hao. Her aura surged.

“Senior, I apologize! I didn’t mean to offend you. Your exquisite beauty is captivating as always. Many people might be... attracted to you. It might bring trouble,” said Jiang Hao.

Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao for a long time. Then she continued walking. “Are you worried that others would cause trouble for me, or it will cause trouble for you?”

“Naturally, I’m worried about you, Senior,” Jiang Hao followed behind, feeling helpless.

“Lies,” said Hong Yuye coldly.

Jiang Hao remained silent and followed her. He surveyed his surroundings, afraid that these people would provoke Hong Yuye somehow.

The higher the cultivation level, the more ordinary people are looked down upon.

In the eyes of powerful people, the lives of others are as insignificant as mayflies.

Hong Yuye had formidable strength and wouldn’t hesitate to kill anyone. However, what surprised him was that they had already arrived at the city gate, yet no one paid them any attention.

He was relieved. It must be Hong Yuye’s doing. She must have cast some spell to make them seem ordinary.

“I’ll stay in Fallen City for three days. Find a place to stay,” said Hong Yuye when they were in the city square.

“There should be a decent inn ahead,” said Jiang Hao as he pointed to the road ahead.

Hong Yuye walked ahead. “Have you been here before?”

“Maybe,” Jiang Hao whispered as he looked at the road ahead.

He had indeed been here before, but it felt both familiar and unfamiliar. It was similar yet different from his impression of the streets. It was probably due to the changes over the past years. This place was... his hometown.

He had lived in this city until he was five years old. At first, he couldn't remember properly, but he recalled everything as he walked deeper into the city.

Previously, he had thought of coming here to check on his family. His cultivation hadn't been strong enough then.

Who would have thought he would be there so soon? Maybe he could go home and see what had happened to them.

He didn't remember much about that home, only that he used to help fetch water, chop firewood, and cook in the courtyard.

Occasionally, he would endure his stepmother's scolding. He didn't have many pleasant memories of this place.

He clearly remembered the year of famine, when his stepmother had given him two steamed buns and drove him out of the house. After that, she sold him to the Heavenly Note Sect.

Jiang Hao was filled with mixed emotions..

Chapter 122: Returning Home

"Here?"

While Jiang Hao was still feeling nostalgic, the voice of Hong Yuye suddenly pulled him back to reality.

They were standing in front of an inn. The board had “Cloud Inn” written on it.

!!

Jiang Hao nodded.

He remembered that he used to dream of coming here to eat, but he had no money at that time. It was very surreal to feel that he finally had the money to do so.

Jiang Hao and Hong Yuye stood in front of the counter.

“Two rooms?” asked the middle-aged innkeeper.

Jiang Hao was somewhat surprised. He hadn’t thought that anyone else could see Hong Yuye. Apparently, she wasn’t entirely invisible.

“Or one room for the two of you?” asked the innkeeper cautiously.

Jiang Hao glanced at Hong Yuye in fear. However, she appeared as calm as ever.

She felt his gaze on her and turned to look at him. It looked like she was mocking him. Jiang Hao requested two rooms instead of one.

The Cloud Inn had six floors. The first floor was the dining hall.

The second and third floors had ordinary rooms. They were called “Under Cloud”. The fourth and fifth floors had medium-sized rooms called “Mid-Cloud” and the sixth floor was called “Above Cloud”.

Jiang Hao asked for two rooms on the sixth floor. If he was alone, he wouldn’t mind staying in a simple room. But it was different with Hong Yuye by his side. A small mistake would cost him his life.

They got their keys and headed up.

Creak!

When they opened the door to the room, a pleasant fragrance wafted out.

It was an exquisite room with beds, tables, chairs, and a dressing table. There was a folding screen on one side with a painting on it.

Behind the folding screen was a wooden tub for bathing.

A table and some chairs were placed by the window to provide a scenic view of the city below.

Jiang Hao walked to the window and looked down. He could see the main road. Hong Yuye walked over and sat down on a chair, then pointed to the teapot.

Jiang Hao understood. He took out the Snow Queen Spring brand of tea leaves he had bought before. He then brewed a pot of tea and poured her a cup. Hong Yuye looked at the teacup and then glanced at Jiang Hao.

'Is she dissatisfied with the tea?' wondered Jiang Hao.

"Senior, what is it that you want to do in Fallen City?" asked Jiang Hao, trying to change the topic.

"I came here for this," she said and placed a stone tablet on the table. "This can transmit secret messages. The message says that there will be a secret meeting in this city within three days."

"Who sent the message?" Jiang Hao asked.

“I don’t know... we need to find that out,” said Hong Yuye as she pushed the tablet toward him. “You, specifically. I’ll teach you how to decipher the message later.”

Jiang Hao had no choice but to accept the stone tablet. He didn’t know why she cared about the stone tablet and the message within it. The sun was shining brightly outside. It was scorchingly hot.

“Go buy an umbrella for me,” Hong Yuye said.

Jiang Hao nodded and headed out.

Standing at the entrance of the inn, he felt a bit sentimental. He had intended to make a trip to his house. Now seemed like a perfect time.

His house wasn’t far from here. It had been seventeen years since he had visited his home. He didn’t know how his family was.

Jiang Hao couldn’t understand what he was feeling. He wanted to go and take a look. However, he didn’t understand why he was so eager. Was it because he wanted to make sure they were doing well, or did he want to see them suffering like they used to?

Perhaps he would understand once he saw them. ‘Will they recognize me? Will they be shocked to see me?’

There were many questions he wanted answers to. Yet, at the same time, he just didn’t want to find out.

After a moment, he walked toward his house.

He passed by a place selling oil-paper umbrellas, and he bought one with red patterns.

Hong Yuye was always dressed in red, so he assumed she probably liked the color.

After putting the umbrella away, he continued on his way.

A short while later, he left the main road and headed toward the row of houses. The area wasn't as bustling and lively as it used to be.

Jiang Hao stopped at a corner of an alley. A few paces ahead, he saw a house. It was the place where he had spent his childhood.

He hesitated. He stood there and stared at the house for a while.

Jiang Hao hoped he could catch a glimpse of the people who lived there. He wanted to know how they were. He waited a long time, but no one appeared outside the house.

'They probably won't recognize me... I was five when I was sold. I'm twenty-two now.'

Jiang Hao walked to the house and reached out a hand to knock on the door. He couldn't bring himself to knock on the door.

Jiang Hao's heart raced. He couldn't face his family.

He took a deep breath to calm himself and knocked.

Jiang Hao stood still and waited. After a short while, footsteps could be heard from inside.

"Who is it?" asked an old woman.

The door opened slowly, and the old woman peeked out from the crack.

"Who are you?" Jiang Hao was taken aback.

"You're funny," she said. "You knock on my door and ask me who I am?" The old woman chuckled.

Jiang Hao was confused. "I'm sorry. Isn't this the Jiang family's residence?" "Jiang family?" The old woman thought for a moment. "I think it used to be." "Used to be?" Jiang Hao was surprised. "I...

"Come in, child. My old man knows more about it than me." The old woman opened the door wide and let him in.

"Thank you." Jiang Hao bowed gratefully.

He saw the familiar courtyard. It had hardly changed at all.

"He's in the backyard." The old woman closed the door and led Jiang Hao toward the backyard.

Jiang Hao looked around. He passed by a stone table. He remembered sitting there and sneaking food away.

As he approached the living quarters, he recalled his stepmother's voice yelling at him. "All you know is to eat!" she'd say. "Hurry and get some work done too!"

In the backyard, Jiang Hao saw that firewood was piled up in a corner. He was familiar with that place too. He used to chop firewood the whole day and fall asleep tired there.

Jiang Hao felt bittersweet with all the memories. He had wanted to see his family, but everything had changed.

"This person was asking for the Jiang family. You talk to him." The old woman brought Jiang Hao to meet an old man and then left.

Jiang Hao saw an elderly man who was chopping firewood.

The man looked at Jiang Hao in astonishment. "Looking for the Jiang family, you say?"

"Yes." Jiang Hao nodded. "I hope you can provide me with some information about them."

"It's been many years." The man smiled. "Let me see..."

Jiang Hao took the man's ax from his hand. "Take your time to think about it. I'll help chop the firewood."

"Very kind of you. Judging from your attire, you don't seem like an ordinary person from around here," said the old man. "Have you ever chopped firewood before?"

Even if Jiang Hao liked keeping a low profile, the old man was right. His attire wasn't ordinary..

Chapter 123: Clarity Of Mind

Jiang Hao smiled. "I used to chop firewood here... when I was around four years old. Right here."

Jiang Hao hefted the ax to gauge its weight, and then swung it on the block of wood, chopping it in two.

"Four years old?!" exclaimed the man. "At that age, it's difficult to even hold a knife, let alone an ax to chop firewood!"

"It was... difficult, but I got used to it eventually," said Jiang Hao.

Ten years had passed since then. He realized he held no contempt or resentment toward his family. He didn't even remember his stepmother yelling at him that clearly. He had almost forgotten how she looked.

"Looks like you were born poor." The old man was in disbelief.

Jiang Hao felt as if he had returned to his childhood. "Unfortunately, I don't remember much."

"Why are you here to inquire about the Jiang family?" The old man looked at

Jiang Hao. "What's your relationship with them?"

Jiang Hao paused and looked at the old man. "They are my family."

The old man was a little shocked. "That's impossible. When I bought this house from them, the man selling me the house didn't mention any children."

"I know," said Jiang Hao. "When I was five years old, I was sold. I just happened to visit this city for the first time after that. I was hoping to find out about them."

The old man looked at Jiang Hao in surprise. Jiang Hao continued chopping the firewood.

"How long has it been?"

"Seventeen years."

"I bought this house sixteen years ago." The old man thought for a moment.

"They were moving to some other place, so they sold me the house."

'They sold the house a year after I left?' Jiang Hao felt a little bitter about it. 'Were they worried I might seek them out for revenge or something?'

"Did they say where they were moving to?" Jiang Hao asked.

"No." The old man shook his head. "But... I think they might have moved to a nearby town. You should look around."

Jiang Hao didn't respond. It was impossible for him to wander off. He had solely come to this town because of Hong Yuye. He was lucky that he had made it here alive. He had made too many enemies.

It was close to impossible for Jiang Hao to find a safe place now. If his enemies knew about his family, they might use it against him.

This time, he was not worried because Hong Yuye was with him. She was indeed powerful.

"I remember that there was a famine seventeen years ago... the entire city was struggling," said the old man.

Jiang Hao nodded. "Yes. I remember a bit about those days."

"Do you hate them?" asked the old man.

"I don't really hate them, but I do feel a little resentful," said Jiang Hao.

The old man smiled. "If it was anyone else, they would hate their family for selling them at such a young age."

Jiang Hao didn't say anything and quietly chopped the firewood. He finished chopping the remaining firewood and dusted his clothes. "Thank you for the information you gave me. I should leave now."

"Let me see you to the door," said the old man and walked him to the main door.

Jiang Hao kept reminiscing about the past. He had very vague memories of his childhood. The place felt familiar, but he couldn't remember anything vividly. Jiang Hao felt an inexplicable sense of loss. He bowed to the elderly couple and left.

He heard the door close behind him. Only then did he turn back to look at the closed door.

This was the place where he had grown up. He felt as though he had returned to the time when he used to be a child in that house.

That year... the year of the famine... the door had remained firmly closed like it did now.

Jiang Hao had felt that this house would remain here, and he could somehow come back to it. But now, he felt as though he had really lost a home. There was no place to go back to.

He would never come back here.

Jiang Hao bowed again in goodbye. He then turned around and left.

Was he able to completely let his past go? Maybe not. However, he knew that looking back didn't do anyone any good. He had to keep moving forward.

Jiang Hao finally felt a bittersweet sense of peace. He accepted his fate.

He had come a long way compared to the miserable child he used to be. He had increased so much in his cultivation and wasn't far away from achieving the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Jiang Hao hadn't gained such maturity even when toiling for half a year to train his mind. This short moment of revisiting his past had given him the clarity he had been working toward.

Jiang Hao walked along the main road. He saw many people getting along with their days. The hawkers advertised their products.

His Clear and Pure Heart had been dormant. However, he felt a sense of clarity in that ability that he had never felt before.

‘What a wonderful feeling...’

Jiang Hao decided to go back to Hong Yuye. He stopped when he passed by a tea shop.

The tea set in the inn seemed to be very ordinary, and many people might have used it before.

He hesitated for a moment before walking into the tea shop.

“What kind of tea set do you want?” asked the shopkeeper.

Jiang Hao looked around and finally saw a tea set that was red.

The color was faint and not too striking. The workmanship was exquisite.

“How much for this one?” he asked.

“Fifteen taels.”

Jiang Hao bought it. As he headed back to the inn, he came across a pastry shop. The aroma wafted out of the shop.

As a child, he had dreamt about buying something from that pastry shop. He had been too poor to do so.

After some hesitation, he bought some pastries. His childhood dreams were getting fulfilled today.

Jiang Hao was walking along the road when he suddenly turned to look at an old alleyway at the side. Something flew over, and he caught it.

It was a stone. He looked at it closely.

Jiang Hao then used the Daily Appraisal ability on it.

[Code Message: A stone used by the Great Thousand God Sect to transmit messages. Crush it and put it in water to see the contents.]

‘Great Thousand God sect?’

Jiang Hao was puzzled. Why would the Great Thousand God Sect contact him?

Jiang Hao returned to the inn. Perhaps Hong Yuye would have an answer to this.

“Please bring a basin of water to Room 1 on the Above Cloud,” said Jiang Hao to a server.

After that, he headed to Hong Yuye’s room. The door opened automatically.

Jiang Hao saw Hong Yuye sitting in front of the window. He turned to look at him with an amused smile.
“I thought you ran away..”

Chapter 124: Going Out Late At Night With The Demoness

“I was delayed...”

Jiang Hao walked to her. He was in the least danger with her. He wouldn’t risk his life by running away!

Jiang Hao realized that Hong Yuye hadn’t touched her tea.

Hong Yuye stared at Jiang Hao for a second longer but didn't say anything.

Jiang Hao heaved a sigh of relief. He handed her the umbrella. He then went to wash the new tea set and placed it on the table.

He then brewed some tea he had bought recently. Hong Yuye watched Jiang Hao's work. She didn't say anything.

Jiang Hao placed a fresh cup of tea in front of her. She lifted it to her lips and took a sip.

"You're quite good at this." Hong Yuye glanced at Jiang Hao.

"Of course, I will do my best to serve you," said Jiang Hao reluctantly.

"You're also quite good at lying."

Jiang Hao didn't say anything.

There was a knock on the door. Jiang Hao walked to the door, took the basin of water from the server's hands, and then closed the door behind him.

He placed the basin on the table. "I found something."

He took out the stone, crushed it, and placed the pieces in the basin of water.

The water began to ripple and bubble. There was something written on the surface.

"See you at the Mountain God Temple outside the city at midnight."

"Take out the stone tablet I gave you," said Hong Yuye.

Jiang Hao was a little surprised. He could roughly guess why he had received the message from the Great Thousand God Sect.

The half of the stone tablet had been on him at that time.

When he took out the stone tablet, Hong Yuye told him to press his palms to it.

“Use all your strength and try to sense it.”

Jiang Hao was puzzled, but he did as he was told. A moment later, it fragmented into nine stone pieces.

There were also nine red lights around it. One red light was on a stone piece.

“Push the stone to the place where the red light is connected,” instructed Hong

Yuye.

Jiang Hao pushed the stone toward the red light. When the nine stone pieces were aligned to the nine red pinpricks of light, a rune was revealed.

It was as though a door had opened. A powerful force swept out of it.

Soon, he understood that there should be another of the stone pieces somewhere nearby. He also realized how the people from the Great Thousand God Sect had found him.

He felt a little relieved. At least, it hadn't happened when he was at his old house. He didn't want to put the elderly couple in danger.

“Senior, what is this?” asked Jiang Hao.

“The stone and the message belong to those in the Great Thousand God Sect. As for what they’re for, nobody knows at this point,” said Hong Yuye.

“There are other stone tablets? Where is it? Is it in this city?”

Hong Yuye nodded. “They must be in surrounding towns. We’ll have to search them one by one.”

Jiang Hao was a little shocked. It was such a surprising coincidence.

He wanted to find out more about his family. This way, he could do that too!

Jiang Hao suspected that Hong Yuye must be spying on him. This sheer coincidence seemed very timely. He didn’t dare ask her that, though.

Jiang Hao packed his things and planned to go back to his room to rest. Since he had gained clarity of mind, he needed to refine his cultivation and his abilities.

He took the teapot with him. After some hesitation, he left half the pastry for Hong Yuye.

After Jiang Hao left, Hong Yuye stared at the pastry for a long time. She broke off a piece and put it in her mouth. She frowned slightly.

Hong Yuye sipped her tea and then coughed a little.

Jiang Hao returned to his room. He then made some tea for himself and ate the pastry.

He was a little disappointed. When he was young, the pastry looked divine from outside the window. What he wouldn’t have done for a piece of it!

However, it tasted just ordinary. He ate it all anyway and drank the tea.

The tea had cost him fifty spirit stones. The taste was worse than the Snow Queen Spring tea.

He was surprised Hong Yuye hadn't slammed him against the door for making her tea like this.

Jiang Hao then began to refine his cultivation. The clarity of his mind made it easier for him to calm down and focus on his cultivation.

"It's almost time," he muttered. Jiang Hao didn't know what he would find at the Mountain God Temple, and he wondered whether his cultivation would be enough to protect himself if he faced danger. He was only in the late stage of the Golden Core Realm, after all.

"Let's go," said a voice from outside his window.

He turned to look. Hong Yuye was hovering in the air outside his window. Jiang Hao got on his flying sword and followed her.

In a short while, the two arrived outside the city. The Mountain God Temple was just up ahead.

The Mountain God Temple looked slightly dilapidated, but there was a fire burning inside.

It seemed that someone was inside.

Jiang Hao sensed that there were three people, one in the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm and two in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

This surprised him. He didn't feel that they were someone from the Great Thousand God Sect.

"Senior?" He looked at Hong Yuye.

“You don’t have to look at me. I only followed you to watch,” said Hong Yuye.

“I’m not going to lift a finger. You got the message, so go in.”

“But senior...” Jiang Hao was worried.

However, before he could say anything further, he felt a powerful aura envelop him.

“Do you have a problem?” asked Hong Yuye. “No. Not at all!”

The powerful aura dissipated. Jiang Hao sighed.

‘Do I have to fight alone if it comes to it?’

He still felt like the people inside were not from the Great Thousand God Sect. Maybe the message had been a fake...

He did not sense anything for now, so he waited outside.

Past midnight, Jiang Hao sensed the stone tablets nearby. The enemy must be nearby!

‘There should be a reason they are luring people here.’

Jiang Hao hesitated and then walked toward the Mountain God Temple.

His arrival was quickly detected by the person in the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm.

However, the other person did not make a move. When Jiang Hao reached right in front of the temple, somebody spoke in a deep voice.

“The two of you are here to stay?”

Jiang Hao walked in with Hong Yuye by his side. As soon as they entered, Jiang Hao felt that the person had activated a restrictive formation around them. It trapped them inside.

‘These three came prepared,’ thought Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao looked at the center of the temple. A man and a woman were peacefully setting up a place to make a small fire.

They were momentarily surprised when they saw Jiang Hao enter.

At the very front was a middle-aged man. He was meditating with his eyes closed. Jiang Hao knew that he had been the one to speak.

Jiang Hao sensed danger. His study of the nameless manual had taught him to sense people’s aura.

Jiang Hao activated the Daily Appraisal without hesitation..

Chapter 125: Being Too Cautious

[PO Lang: Disciple of the Great Thousand God Sect, one of the owners of the Secret Message Slate. His main mission is to collect intelligence and pass on information. When he discovered your arrival, he knew that the slate had changed owners. In order to know the truth, he used a magic treasure to isolate the slate’s aura and set up an inescapable net here, waiting for you to take the bait.]

Jiang Hao finally understood. The person who had lured him was always hiding here. He had neglected everything else because of the stone tablet.

"Fellow disciple, are you not going to sit?" PO Lang opened his eyes.

"No, thanks." Jiang Hao took out his Half-Moon Blade. "I'm only here for some work. I don't need to stay here."

PO Lang smiled and looked at Jiang Hao. "The night is long. Why don't we sit down and talk?"

Jiang Hao didn't want to waste any time. He wouldn't have minded sitting down with the person at any other time. This time, Hong Yuye was with him.

The longer he delayed, the more dangerous it would be for him.

"I'll make it short." Jiang Hao looked at PO Lang coldly. "Do you have the Secret

Message Tablet? Do you know who is behind the stone tablets?"

The entire Mountain God Temple fell silent. The only sound was the crackling of the fire.

"Fellow Disciple, what are you talking about?" PO Lang asked.

Jiang Hao remained calm.

PO Lang fell silent. "How could you tell?"

"Stop pretending and get to the point," said Jiang Hao.

"Although the stone tablets are used to transmit messages, they don't belong to those who use them. You two are really bold going around trying to offend people," said PO Lang.

“Do you know where the other stone tablets are? Or do you know who we will offend?” Jiang Hao asked again.

“I know a little about it, but why should I tell you?” PO Lang slowly stood up. “You are only in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, while that woman is in the late stage. Why should I tell you what you want to know?”

Clang!

Jiang Hao unsheathed his Half-Moon Blade. The Demonic Sound Thousand Miles circulated. He arrived in front of PO Lang in the blink of an eye.

The sudden attack surprised PO Lang. What terrified him was that he actually felt a chill when Jiang Hao slashed at him with his saber.

He activated his protective Dharma treasure. However, the treasure shattered as the saber swung at him.

Boom!

The knife landed on PO Lang’s neck, and the Mountain God stone statue behind him shattered.

“Are you willing to tell me now?” asked Jiang Hao.

“You...” PO Lang was in disbelief. “You aren’t in the Foundation Establishment

Clang!

The blade flashed and PO Lang’s neck was cut open. Blood spurted out.

“Tell me! Where are the other stone tablets? Who is behind this?” Jiang Hao asked.

"I don't know much about the people behind this," said PO Lang with difficulty.

"Go on," said Jiang Hao.

"I hid my stone tablet somewhere else. You didn't notice it because it was too far away," said PO Lang.

Jiang Hao knew he was lying. "Where are the others?"

"The other stone tablets are distributed throughout the Hidden Cloud Prefecture. I only know that there are traces of them in two places. One is in the neighboring Heavenly Earth City, and the other is in a small sect..."

At this moment, the two other people in their Foundation Establishment Realm launched a sneak attack on Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao sighed. "Why even bother?"

He slashed at PO Lang. He used the first form of Heavenly Blade, Moon -Slaying.

PO Lang's head was severed from his shoulders. It killed him instantly.

PO Lang spent his last moments in disbelief. He hadn't even finished telling Jiang Hao about the other stone tablet, and yet he had killed him!

After PO Lang's death, the two others fell silent.

Jiang Hao was a little surprised. He wondered if the clones had independent thoughts. He turned to them and raised his saber. He killed the woman with one slash. The man tried to escape.

He used the Moon-Slaying technique once again.

After that, he stabbed PO Lang twice to make sure he was really dead.

Jiang Hao stayed there for a moment. He wanted to make sure their spirits weren't extending to a new clone and feeding it.

Jiang Hao heaved a sigh of relief when he found out that it wasn't so. Hong Yuye just watched everything in silence.

When Jiang Hao started to search for storage treasures, she said, "Aren't you being too cautious?"

"The cultivation world is a very dangerous place. It's only right to be careful." Jiang Hao picked up the storage treasure.

He found a mark on it. He wiped it away and opened the treasure.

Jiang Hao found 3623 spirit stones inside. He had four hundred spirit stones on him. He now had around 4,100 spirit stones!

Jiang Hao couldn't help but sigh. The most profitable thing in the cultivation world was still robbing other people.

After collecting the spirit stones, he skimmed through the rest of the things. He found some pills, but none of them were of any use to him.

The spirit pills below the level of the peak of the Golden Core Realm were of no use to him. He could only sell those.

Jiang Hao suddenly recalled that he had a lot of pills on him. He wanted to find an opportunity to sell those.

If he could save up to ten thousand spirit stones on the trip, he could probably head back and continue awakening the spirit beast's bloodline.

He also found a box and a sword.

Hong Yuye waved her hand and two Foundation Establishment storage magic treasures appeared in her hands.

After checking it, she casually threw it away.

"Have you found it?" she asked Jiang Hao.

"Yes." Jiang Hao nodded. He showed her the small box and the sword. "This box can block being detected. The stone tablet is probably in it."

Jiang Hao examined the sword. When he unsheathed it, it gave off strange energy fluctuations. The sword glowed with a faint blue light. It was like the calm surface of a still lake. The craftsmanship was exquisite.

Jiang Hao used his spiritual energy and found that it could completely withstand the power peak of the Golden Core Realm. It was a good sword.

'How many spirit stones would it cost for a sword like this? Ten thousand...

Twenty thousand?'

He was a little worried. Spiritual swords were expensive, but they were not easy to sell.

He put away the sword. There was a boom and the box flipped open. Hong Yuye had opened it.

There was a stone tablet inside!

The stone tablet flew to Hong Yuye's hands.

Just when they were about to leave, they heard footsteps outside.

"Thief, come out! You stole my spirit sword! Don't even think about escaping from this place alive!"

Jiang Hao was stunned.

Jiang Hao and Hong Yuye walked out of the temple. There was a man and two women outside.

The man was dressed in white and had a powerful aura. He looked cold and aloof.

One of the women was dressed in blue and the other in white.

Jiang Hao tried to find out their cultivation realms. The man and the woman in white were at the peak of the Golden Core Realm.

The blue-robed woman was slightly weaker than an early-stage Golden Core Realm cultivator.

These three people were powerful.. How were there so many Golden Core Realm cultivators in this place?

Chapter 126: Getting Rich Overnight

Jiang Hao was surprised.

The blue-robed woman looked at Jiang Hao and Hong Yuye. "Who are you?" she asked.

"Who are you?" Jiang Hao asked her back.

The appearance of these people made him feel helpless. He didn't want to fight them all. They weren't weak, after all.

He was worried that Hong Yuye might do something, but when he glanced at her, she seemed as indifferent as ever.

"Where is the thief? He stole my sword. Are you with him?" asked the blue-robed woman.

She thought she was facing two people in their Foundation Establishment Realm, so she was confident.

"Junior Sister Lan, don't be like that." The man at the back reprimanded her.

He turned to Jiang Hao and bowed. "Hello. Junior Sister Lan said someone stole her sword. He was supposed to be hiding here in the temple. Have you seen him?"

"It must be inside. I can sense my sword here," said Lan impatiently.

Jiang Hao sighed inwardly and took out the sword. "Is this the sword you're looking for?"

Lan was going to say something, but the man, Fang Jin, stopped her.

"This is indeed the sword. We didn't expect it would fall into your hands. How about this? I have a Heavenly Rejuvenation Pill with me. Can I exchange that for the sword? I'm sure it'll be of some use to you."

The man handed Jiang Hao the pill. He recognized it immediately. Pills like these cost seven thousand spirit stones.

Jiang Hao nodded and handed them the sword. Lan heaved a sigh of relief.

She didn't understand why Fang Jin had stopped her from speaking. She felt it was such a waste to give away such an important and valuable pill.

"Is there anything else?" Jiang Hao asked.

The three people still blocked the path. "There is indeed a small matter," said Fang Jin. "We need to talk about something with PO Lang. I wonder if you could tell us where he went."

"He was in the temple," said Jiang Hao and walked forward. Hong Yuye didn't say anything but followed behind him.

"He is just in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. How can he be so calm in front of us?" said Lan indignantly.

"Don't try to cause any trouble. I don't think they are as simple as they look," said the white-robed woman.

"Let's go in and take a look," said Fang Jin.

"There is a formation. When we rushed here, the formation seemed to lose its... effectiveness. But we need to be careful," said the white-robed woman.

Fang Jin nodded. He was the first to enter the temple. Even if he was in the Golden Core Realm, he did not dare to be careless.

He was stunned.

"Senior Brother Fang, is something wrong?" asked Lan from behind him.

“Nothing’s wrong,” said Fang Jin.

“Why were you in there for a while then?” asked Lan. She followed them inside.

They saw PO Lang’s corpse on the ground. Lan stared at it in disbelief.

“Other than the damage to the stone statue at the back, there is no other sign of a fighting that went on here,” said the white-robed woman. ‘He was killed in one move.’”

This person was at the peak of the Golden Core Realm... He was powerful,” said Fang Jin.

The white-robed woman was deep in thought. “Even I might not be able to do this. The person who attacked PO Lang used a saber.”

“Who did it?” Lan asked and glanced at them. “The two people from before...”

“Who else?”

Jiang Hao heaved a sigh of relief when he finally entered the city.

“Why didn’t you kill them too?” asked Hong Yuye.

“They are from the Bright Moon Sect. I saw their jade plates,” said Jiang Hao. “Killing them would have a huge impact... They don’t know us, so I saw no need to silence them.”

“Aren’t you supposed to be in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm?” Hong Yuye asked.

Jiang Hao was speechless. He had completely forgotten that he was supposed to pretend to be in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm!

Hong Yuye gave him an amused smile and disappeared from the spot.

A voice rang in his ear. "Head to Heavenly Earth City the day after tomorrow."

Jiang Hao looked at the sky and realized that it was almost dawn. He wondered if there was a mine nearby. He wanted to mine and collect bubbles.

Unfortunately, he didn't dare leave the city. He couldn't travel far from Hong Yuye. He would be completely exposed. He had a feeling that it was her who kept their location a secret.

The person who loved Yun Ruo seemed to hate him to no end. He was bloodthirsty enough to have Jiang Hao killed. The Sunset Immortal Sect might know by now that Jiang Hao had left the sect. They would be hot on his trail.

"I wonder if there's a market here." Jiang Hao wanted to sell the things he had on him.

He also wanted to buy talisman-making materials and tea leaves.

After returning to his room, Jiang Hao began to study the third form from the Seven Forms of the Heavenly Blade.

Although it was difficult, he could not afford to put it off any longer.

His cultivation was stable now, especially after returning from a visit to his old house.

The next day, Jiang Hao stood by the window and looked at the city below. He was leaving the next day, so he probably wouldn't have a chance to come back for a visit.

In the past, he had a family and a home here. Now, there was nothing left for him in this city.

Jiang Hao decided to take a stroll around the city.

He had been extremely cautious for over ten years. Today, he could relax, especially since he had the protection of Hong Yuye.

As he left his room and walked through the corridor, a door to the left opened. Fang Jin came out of the room.

Jiang Hao was a little surprised. He nodded at him in greeting and headed downstairs.

“Please wait a moment,” said Fang Jin from behind.

“Yes?” Jiang Hao asked.

“I would like to invite you for a drink. I heard that there is a new Drunken

Immortal Restaurant nearby.”

Jiang Hao hesitated and then nodded. He needed to find out more about the Bright Moon Sect anyway. His mission was to snatch a disciple from under their noses and recruit them to the Heavenly Note Sect.

‘Let’s see how strong they are...’

If he failed, he would have to pay three thousand spirit stones.

He had that much money on him now. It didn’t matter if he failed, but he at least had to try..

Chapter 127: Thank The River God For Saving Your Life

At the Drunken Immortal Restaurant, Jiang Hao looked at the dishes and wine on the table.

Jiang Hao felt a little emotional. He had always wanted to eat at places like these but had never had the chance.

"I am Fang Jin of the Bright Moon Sect. May I know who you are?" Fang Jin asked politely.

Without his junior sister following him, he felt much more relaxed.

"Jiang Haotian." Jiang Hao gave a fake name as close to his real name as possible.

"Fellow disciple Jiang," said Fang Jin. "Junior Sister Lan is still young and reckless, and she may have offended you last night. I hope you won't mind." "No problem," said Jiang Hao.

He didn't care much about such matters as long as they didn't conflict with his interests. It was best to stay away from them, especially when dealing with people from the Bright Moon Sect. If conflicts arose, it could cause a lot of trouble for him. The Blackheaven Sect and the Sunset Immortal Sect were already enough for him to handle. Adding the Bright Moon Sect to that list would be terrifying.

"In that case, I thank you on behalf of Junior Sister Lan. By the way, this spiritual sword is not bad, it might suit you," Fang Jin said with a smile as he took out an ancient sword.

The sword was still sheathed, and Jiang Hao couldn't confirm the exact details. However, there was a fluctuation of spiritual energy around it, subtle yet immense. This sword was not as good as the one from last night, but it was much stronger than ordinary treasures. It could fetch a good price. Giving such a valuable sword for a slight incident from last night seemed excessive. "Do you need my help with something?" Jiang Hao didn't touch the sword.

"Ah... you see through everything," said Fang Jin.

"The Bright Moon Sect is extremely far from the Hidden Cloud Prefecture. We rarely set foot here. This time, we came mainly for a junior sister. We found that one of our junior sisters was missing, so we had to rush here. Tracking her trail led us to PO Lang. Junior Sister Lan can be... young and rude at times, but

she is very talented at tracking people. She found him, but he stole her sword and ran away. That was how we ended up at the temple yesterday.

Unfortunately... we couldn't get any information out of PO Lang."

Jiang Hao lowered his head. 'Is this the same person I am tasked with recruiting?' His chances seemed slim.

He shook his head. "I'm sorry. I don't think I can be of any help. I know nothing regarding that."

"That's fine." Fang Jin handed the sword to Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao refused to accept it. He wasn't of any help, so he couldn't accept the sword. Carrying a special sword like that would undoubtedly attract attention.

Fang Jin did not insist. He didn't ask more questions, either.

They just drank and made small talk.

Jiang Hao hadn't tried alcohol for a long time. He mostly ordered tea. The tea was good. He decided to buy some.

After a while, Jiang Hao and Fang Jin went their own way.

Fang Jin sighed as he watched Jiang Hao disappear from his sight. He felt that Jiang Hao was overly cautious and wasn't easy to get along with.

He had really wanted to give that sword to Jiang Hao as a gift so that they could at least be friends.

"Senior Brother Fang, you're here! We've been looking for you everywhere," said Lan.

“Have you finished eating?” asked Bai Qiong, the white-robed woman.

“Yes. I had a drink with the disciple we met last night. He’s a little difficult to get along with.” Fang Jin hadn’t gotten any useful information from him either. “It seems that he is heading to Heavenly Earth City to look for Zuo Lan, hoping to find some new clues.’

“Heavenly Earth City’s Zuo Lan?” Bai Qiong frowned.

“Heavenly Earth City’s Zuo Lan?” Bai Qiong frowned.

“He’s not weak,” said Fang Jin. “Anyway, I sent someone to investigate. The disappearance of our disciple might probably be related to people from the Great Thousand God Sect. That sect will do anything for money. So, whoever did it would have been paid well. Which also means there might be others behind them. It’s getting complicated. I can’t figure out what they want.” Fang Jin sighed.

“When are we going to Heavenly Earth City?” Bai Qiong asked.

“Now.” Fang Jin did not want to delay.

“Senior Brother Fang, the two people from yesterday... are they really very strong?” asked Lan.

“I don’t know. I observed him carefully today. He seems to be in the middle stage of Foundation Establishment Realm but... one can never know. There are many extraordinary individuals in this world. Although we are from the Bright Moon Sect, it’s important for us to lie low when we are outside our sect. It’s best if we avoid trouble and befriend people instead of making enemies. Of course, the most important thing is to strengthen our own abilities,” Fang Jin explained with a smile.

“This place is close to the Heavenly Note Sect. Could he be a disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect?” asked Lan.

Fang Jin laughed. "Does it matter? I find him amiable and worth getting to know a little. There's no need to pry into where he comes from. Sometimes, we have to learn to play dumb. It might work to our advantage, especially when we venture outside."

"I don't really understand." Fairy Lan shook her head. "Why should I befriend others? Can't others take the effort to befriend me instead?"

Bai Qiong chuckled. "Junior Sister Lan, do you feel like anyone who approaches you might have an ulterior motive?"

"Yeah. Isn't that true?" asked Lan.

The conversation ended, and the group decided to leave.

At this moment, Jiang Hao was walking along the street. He was taking familiar paths, or rather, the more he walked, the clearer his memories became. Which, in turn, made the place seem familiar.

There were some places that he didn't remember. Some roads had been modified, and some new houses had appeared on streets that used to be empty.

After some time, he reached the riverside. There were some trees by the river. Under the shade, children played around. Jiang Hao smiled. As a child, he used to play there too, but he hadn't fit in with the other kids so much.

'Why did I come here?'

Jiang Hao recalled his childhood. He used to run away and hide by the trees in the riverside to escape from the endless chore of chopping firewood. However, his stepmother always caught him, and he had to go back home.

Standing there, Jiang Hao realized that most of his memories were of his stepmother. His biological father was scarce in his memories. Perhaps he had never scolded or cared for him. Jiang Hao stopped

wandering around and found a place to sit. He watched the clear river and listened to the children playing nearby. For a moment, it felt like he had returned to his childhood.

It was not a good thing for cultivators to be too attached to the past. However, it wasn't like he could forget these things. The memories came unbidden to his mind even when he didn't try to recall them. He felt a bit... nostalgic.

Splash!

Jiang Hao turned and saw a child who had fallen into the river while playing.

"Mother, come quickly! Goudan fell into the water!"

Jiang Hao walked to the river and helped the child out. The adults were rushing over.

When Goudan's father reached him, he saw the child sitting near the river. He was drenched but no one was around.

"How did you come out?" Goudan's father asked.

"I... I don't know." Goudan said blankly. He couldn't remember how he had come out of the river.

Goudan's father smacked his son's head.. "Aren't you going to thank the river god for saving your life?"

Chapter 128: The Demoness Robbed My Spirit Stones

Looking at the people kneeling by the river, Jiang Hao smiled. Those people were worshiping the river god in gratitude for saving the child. He didn't mind.

It wasn't as though he was afraid to take the credit. He just didn't want to leave a trace. It would be troublesome to do so.

The adults scolded the children for being careless. Jiang Hao turned around and left. It was impossible for parents to keep an eye on their children all the time, especially when they were poor and had to work.

As the sky grew dark, Jiang Hao inexplicably found himself back at his old home. He stood at the doorstep for a while and hesitated. Finally, he lightly knocked on the door.

The old woman, who opened the door, recognized Jiang Hao. But when she wanted to invite him inside, he shook his head. "No, I came to ask for a favor from the two of you."

"Wait a moment." The old woman turned around and shouted, "Honey, come quick!"

Her voice wasn't loud and seemed a bit strained. When someone responded from inside, the old woman turned back to Jiang Hao with a smile. "My memory isn't very good."

Jiang Hao smiled and nodded, indicating his understanding. Soon, the old man came out and looked at Jiang Hao in surprise. "Young man, is there something you need?"

Jiang Hao hesitated for a moment. "If anyone from the Jiang family comes here in the future, could I trouble you two to convey my message to them?"

"What is it?" asked the old man curiously.

Jiang Hao was silent for a while. "Please tell them that their son is still alive. Although it's been tough, I've been doing well. Also, please tell them I don't hate them or blame them in any way."

The old couple were very surprised to hear this.

“If anybody comes here, I’ll definitely tell them,” said the old man. “Even if we die or leave from here, we’ll entrust the task to someone else. Rest assured.”

Jiang Hao bowed and thanked them. Then, he turned around and left. He had done everything he could. He had tried his best. Now, his mind was truly free from distractions. He wouldn’t have any regrets when he left tomorrow.

However, there was one lie in his words. He did resent them. But this resentment was strange. Was he resentful because they sold him, or because they left so quickly without waiting for him to come back? He couldn’t distinguish between the two.

The next day, Jiang Hao left the inn with Hong Yuye. That morning, the second stone tablet had been thrown at him, probably to attract others. He was the bait set by Hong Yuye, waiting for other fishes to fall into the trap. Unlike normal fishing, Hong Yuye, as the angler, had no intention of exerting any effort. The bait was expected to solve the problem on its own.

Jiang Hao had no objections. In fact, he was willing to do it. PO Lang had earned him several thousand spiritual stones overnight, and even if other people weren’t as wealthy, he could still earn a considerable income.

‘It is no wonder people like heading out of the sect...’ However, Jiang Hao understood that the risk was also greater outside the sect.

Shaking his head, Jiang Hao paid and left the inn.

“Thank you for staying with us. Please visit again,” said the innkeeper.

For a moment, he felt quite affluent in the town, completely free from the financial constraints of the sect’s affairs. Yet, he still felt that he didn’t have enough spiritual stones to spend. Fortunately, he had made a good haul from the robbery, significantly increasing his wealth. Thinking about it made him quite happy.

“A few thousand spirit stones make you that happy?” Hong Yuye asked, holding the oil-paper umbrella.

Jiang Hao touched his face self-consciously. 'Am I that obvious? Did I smile or something?'

He wasn't worried about what others thought of him. He could remain calm around them. However, in the presence of Hong Yuye, the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison lost its effect. He became restless around her. It wasn't surprising that she could see through his emotions.

"No." Jiang Hao shook his head.

It was noon, and Hong Yuye was walking slowly under the sun with her umbrella over her head.

"If you continue to receive more spirit stones, will you become more arrogant?" she asked casually.

Jiang Hao didn't know how he would change if he had more spiritual stones. But he would definitely restrain himself from doing something stupid. Several thousand or tens of thousands of spiritual stones wouldn't cause a significant change in his attitude.

"No, because I still need to buy good tea for you, Senior," said Jiang Hao humbly. "These spiritual stones aren't enough."

"How much is a Heavenly Rejuvenation Pill worth?" Hong Yuye asked.

"Three thousand to ten thousand," Jiang Hao replied without hesitation.

Hong Yuye stopped walking and looked at Jiang Hao. "That is some extreme market prices. Would the pill sell for seven thousand spirit stones?"

"Probably."

"How much is the Azure Red tea?" Hong Yuye asked.

"Ten thousand spirit stones for 1 kg," said Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao had a bad feeling about this. “So, you obtained around three thousand spirit stones from PO Lang. If you sell the pill for seven thousand, you’d have a total of ten thousand spirit stones. Remember to buy me some good tea, so I won’t hold it against you for twice serving me inferior tea leaves.’

After saying that, Hong Yuye walked forward. She didn’t even give Jiang Hao the chance to refuse. Jiang Hao stood still, feeling like he had fallen from a great height to the bottom of a valley in an instant.

Jiang Hao sighed and followed Hong Yuye. No matter how many spirit stones he earned, it seemed he couldn’t be happy in this life.

He only hoped Hong Yuye wouldn’t put him on some new tasks with the spirit stones he earned later.

“Oh, by the way,” said Hong Yuye from up ahead. “Remember to keep the previous teapot and use it to make tea in the future.”

“Alright.” Jiang Hao nodded. He had put away the tea set this morning and kept it for brewing tea on their journey.

Being by the side of a powerful individual meant not having to worry about safety, but he still had to do everything else himself.

“And remember to put those two stones tablets together,” said Hong Yuye.

Jiang Hao nodded. He was curious about what was behind these stone tablets. He could appraise them when they took a break later. There was no hurry.

For some reason, he didn’t dare to casually use the Daily Appraisal in front of

Hong Yuye.

With her intelligence and strength, she might figure out the function of his divine ability.

“Do you have any more clues, Senior?” Jiang Hao asked.

When they walked out of the Fallen City, Jiang Hao momentarily looked back. However, he didn’t feel as nostalgic as before.

“Nothing for now, but finding another one should reveal some information,” Hong Yuye said calmly.

She glanced at Jiang Hao. “Do you feel reluctant to leave this city?”

“I... not really,” said Jiang Hao. “There’s nothing in this city that I’m attached to anymore.”

After all, his stepmother and his father weren’t here anymore. Jiang Hao had held onto some hope that he might have a younger sibling someday.

But now...

There wasn’t anyone in the city that he cared about.

There really wasn’t a single person.

Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao for a few seconds longer. She was a bit surprised that he wasn’t lying this time.

Then, the two of them quickly walked away from the main road..

Chapter 129: Killing The Enemy With One Slash

This time, Jiang Hao didn’t feel any spatial changes.

Instead, he saw the surrounding scene rapidly receding.

They were advancing at a speed that ordinary cultivators could not comprehend.

At this speed, they might reach Heavenly Earth City in two hours.

“Senior, don’t you want to enjoy the surrounding scenery?” Jiang Hao curiously asked while looking around.

“It’s not certain that we’ll find clues when we reach the destination. There might be clues on the Secret Message Tablet along the way.” Hong Yuye looked ahead and continued to move forward a little more slowly.

“Have you inquired about Heavenly Earth City?”

Jiang Hao was stunned.

Hong Yuye stopped in her tracks, and a vast aura burst forth.

“Yes.” Jiang Hao immediately nodded.

“Tell me.” Hong Yuye continued moving forward.

At this moment, they passed by a wine pavilion. Hong Yuye put away the oil-paper umbrella and sat in the wine pavilion.

She seemed to want a drink.

Seeing this, Jiang Hao took out a teacup for her. "I heard from the Bright Moon Sect that PO Lang and the others might have captured some important people. Possibly a talented child who hasn't begun cultivating. Their talent might be extraordinary."

"Do they mention any specific location?" Hong Yuye asked, holding the teacup.

"No, but those who cooperated with PO Lang were most likely their own people. Perhaps, the Heavenly Earth City's Zuo Lan was among them. I just didn't know if their goal had anything to do with the Secret Message Tablet."

There was someone behind the tablets, and the person who carried the tablets did what the mastermind intended. The Great Thousand God Sect was working for them too.

The Heavenly Note Sect also had people from the Great Thousand God Sect. Their goal might be to snatch away the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

But how had that attracted Hong Yuye's attention?

There might be something more to it.

"What would you like to order?" asked the owner as he walked over to them.

Jiang Hao glanced at him with his brows slightly furrowed. The man appeared middle-aged and slightly overweight. He looked like an amiable teacher. He was quite ordinary.

However, Jiang Hao could sense that the man wasn't ordinary. His strength was restrained, and his spiritual energy was abundant.

He was in the Golden Core Realm. Jiang Hao thought he must be either in the middle or the late stage.

"A bottle of good wine and a pot of hot water," Jiang Hao replied.

“Alright, please wait a moment.” The man smiled.

Jiang Hao looked around. The owner wasn’t the only one in the wine pavilion. There was also a lady. She looked like an ordinary woman, but her aura was powerful. She was at the Golden Core Realm too.

At the other two tables, there was a family of three. There was a young couple with a young boy at the table. They ate steamed buns. They were non-cultivators.

There was also a table with four men. One among them was in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm and three were in the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Their auras were unstable, and they were probably injured. They looked highly strung and on guard against something.

‘What are these people doing?’ Jiang Hao was puzzled.

He had no intention of getting involved. Hong Yuye had brought him here, so he had come along. Did she want him to do something?

Jiang Hao sighed wearily.

When the water was ready, Jiang Hao took out Snow Queen Spring tea and brewed it for Hong Yuye.

A moment later, spiritual energy wafted out, attracting the attention of the men nearby. Even the owner and the lady glanced at them.

Perhaps such tea was something luxurious for them. If he had made the Red Azure tea, would they have attacked him instead?

Jiang Hao didn’t think too much about it. He still needed to buy the Red Azure tea.

After being unable to refuse Hong Yuye, he had also come to accept the situation. Perhaps there would be some additional income later on. Hopefully, it would fill the pit of the three thousand spirit stones that the Law Enforcement Hall would make in his pocket.

Hong Yuye drank tea, while Jiang Hao drank wine.

Although the people beside them occasionally glanced at them, they did not do anything else.

Jiang Hao saw that the family of three was about to leave.

"Father, can you buy me a toy this time?" asked the little boy expectantly.

The man smiled and nodded. "Yes."

"Then it's a promise you have to keep!" said the little boy.

The woman looked helplessly.

The three of them were just about to walk out when three people covered in scarlet flames appeared in front of them.

The man in the lead looked pale and ferocious.

"Please wait." He Chang stopped the family of three. "I'm going to use the B100(

Soul Banner later. I hope you can stay and be a sacrifice for me."

"Sir..." The man pulled the child back. "We have some silver here."

He handed over his money, hoping that his family would be allowed to leave safely.

He Chang slapped the silver coins out of the man's hand. "Stay quiet and wait for a while."

A blood-red saber appeared in his hand. The blade reeked of blood.

He swung the large sword, intending to sever the legs of the three people in front of him. A surge of blood-red aura instantly surged. Seeing this terrifying sight, the husband and wife instinctively held onto their child in fear.

It seemed like they wanted to block the incoming strike.

Clang!

Just as the large sword was about to strike the three individuals, Jiang Hao threw his cup at the attacker. The man with the raised sword was in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm, and the man and woman behind him were both in the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Their auras carried a bloody scent, indicating that they were disciples of the Blood Fiend Sect from a distant region. The Blood Fiend Sect was not a large sect and was ranked very low when compared to other sects.

Golden Core Realm was the highest achievement in such sects. Nobody achieved a level beyond that.

"Why bother troubling ordinary people?" Jiang Hao asked softly.

He didn't want to get involved, but he couldn't help himself. Although he wasn't as strong, he knew his limit. If it was someone he couldn't deal with, he would've stayed quiet. However, when he had the ability to help someone, he couldn't just sit and watch.

"Mid -Foundation Establishment Realm..." He Chang looked at Jiang Hao in contempt. He then glanced at Hong Yuye. "Late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm... I was just looking for some non-cultivators, but you two will do."

At this moment, Hong Yuye, who was drinking tea, showed no change in her demeanor.

Jiang Hao sighed inwardly.

Clang!

He unsheathed his Half-Moon Blade. He used the second form, Mountain Suppression.

The saber rose, and the power of a hundred mountains pressed down.

A mere early-stage Golden Core Realm cultivator was simply unable to withstand the terrifying aura.

Whoosh!

The saber swung.

Clang!

The Half-Moon Blade returned to its sheath.

As for He Chang, he turned into a blood clot and fell to the ground.

This shocked everyone.

The two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators behind He Chang were so frightened that they retreated.

They were about to flee. However, Jiang Hao made a move with the Half-Moon Blade, and moonlight emerged.

It was the Moon-Slaying technique!

With a slash, the two people's heads were severed.

Jiang Hao turned to the family of three. "Pick up your silver coins and leave." "T-Thank you..." The three people bowed to Jiang Hao gratefully.

Then the man picked up the silver coins from the floor and the family left in a hurry.

Jiang Hao continued drinking his wine.

"Why did you attack?" asked Hong Yuye as she sipped her tea..

Chapter 130: I Didn't Want To Draw My Saber, But The Demoness Forced Me

Jiang Hao looked at Hong Yuye. "Because they dared to disrespect you, Senior."

"Are you worried that I would blame you, or do you think more people would die if I took action?" Hong Yuye casually asked while sipping her tea.

Her voice was calm and indifferent as if she didn't care about the lives of those around her.

"I was worried about dirtying Senior's hands. It's sufficient for someone like me to kill such people," Jiang Hao respectfully replied.

"So full of lies." Hong Yuye continued to drink her tea.

It seemed that she was accustomed to Jiang Hao lying. Seeing this, Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

There was a bit of truth in Jiang Hao's lie. He really didn't want the disciples from the Blood Fiend Sect to make Hong Yuye angry. If they had succeeded in that, she might have killed everyone indiscriminately.

By acting preemptively, Jiang Hao could control the situation. As long as Hong

Yuye was present, he wouldn't hesitate to draw his sword when necessary. He

just couldn't figure out why the Blood Fiend Sect had come here.

'Logically, one of the four people is at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm and three are at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. The Blood Fiend Sect had dared to target the family in this place because they knew that those men were injured. These four people should know that they will be targeted. If they still continue to stay here, it must mean they have some ulterior motive.'

Jiang Hao looked at the shop owner and his wife.

"This place isn't far from Heavenly Earth City. If something happens, it's probably related to Zuo Lan or even the Great Thousand Divine Sect. After all, disciples from the Bright Moon Sect have been drawn here."

Having made a rough guess, he decided to ask the people nearby. His own strength had already been exposed, so there was no need to hide anything.

However, before he could speak, the four individuals stood up and asked for the bill. They were leaving.

"Wait a moment," Jiang Hao called out to them.

The four men trembled in fear. Jiang Hao's strength was evident to all.

One slash had killed a cultivator at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm. If that slash were directed at them, they would have no chance of escaping death.

After all, they were more injured than He Chang.

The middle-aged man who seemed to be the leader looked at Jiang Hao and smiled. "Senior, is there something you need?"

His name was Zhao Sha.

"I want to ask you a few questions" Jiang Hao put down his wine cup and turned to Zhao Sha. "Why did those three people approach you just now?"

The four people turned pale at that question. Even the shop owner and his wife paused for a moment but quickly resumed their work.

"We heard that the Blood Fiend Sect conspired with Heavenly Earth City to capture disciples with a talent for cultivation," said Zhao Sha. "We discovered one of their important bases, but we didn't expect to be caught by them. They chased us all the way here. We intended to stay here and lure them into pursuing us along the way. However, we were discovered."

"Whose people are you?" Jiang Hao asked.

"We are from Fallen City... from the Zhao family," Zhao Sha replied respectfully.

"Where is that base located?" Jiang Hao asked.

"It's just outside Heavenly Earth City, by the heavenly Lake," Zhao Sha answered.

"You all can leave," Jiang Hao said calmly.

Upon hearing this, the four individuals departed in relief. They were scared that Jiang Hao might change his mind and attack them.

“What do you think of their words?” Hong Yuye asked casually while sipping her tea.

“They probably weren’t truthful about all of it, but I feel like they didn’t lie about the location,” said Jiang Hao.

The four individuals had found something at the base. Jiang Hao used his Daily Appraisal to find out that it was a book. If it wasn’t the stone tablet, he wasn’t interested.

Hong Yuye remained silent and continued drinking her tea. After a while, she got up and turned to leave.

Jiang Hao cleaned the teacup and picked up two storage treasures dropped by the Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators. The Golden Core treasure was gone, probably shattered by the sword strike.

“Oh, by the way...” Jiang Hao turned to the shop owner. “Do you know someone named Zuo Lan?”

“I heard he is in Heavenly Earth City. He sells information. You can inquire at the market to know more about him,” the shop owner said politely.

Jiang Hao nodded and thanked him. Then, he turned and left with Hong Yuye.

The shop owner heaved a sigh of relief when he saw them leave. He suspected that he had been exposed, but those two people had been drinking tea the whole time and never paid any attention to him.

Zhao Sha and the others left, but everyone could see that something was wrong.

He had expected Jiang Hao to ask about Zuo Lan. However, he hadn’t asked until after the debacle. At that point, the shop owner didn’t dare to keep silent when asked.

“I’m done packing,” said the shop owner’s wife.

“Let’s go far away from here. I don’t know who led us here. This place is getting more and more complicated, and the Heavenly Note Sect might intervene. We definitely don’t want to be dragged into this.”

The shop owner sighed wearily and fled with his wife.

In the evening, Hong Yuye and Jiang Hao arrived in front of Heavenly Earth City.

There were fewer people coming in and out here compared to Fallen City, and the street facilities were also somewhat lacking.

Fortunately, they found a similar inn. It was also called the Cloud Inn, with six floors.

“Two rooms on the cloud.” Jiang Hao took out some silver coins and placed them on the counter.

“Sorry,” the innkeeper said awkwardly. “We don’t have any rooms available.”

Jiang Hao was speechless. He sensed that there weren’t many guests staying at all.

“Did an important client book the whole place?” Jiang Hao asked softly.

The shopkeeper looked troubled. “Sir, this is just an ordinary inn. I hope you can understand.”

Jiang Hao glanced at Hong Yuye. She looked back. She looked calm as always and watched what he would do in such a situation.

Jiang Hao sighed and took out his Half-Moon Blade.

He wanted to avoid trouble, but Hong Yuye always complicated things for him.

Clang!

He unsheathed the Half-Moon Blade.

Moonlight appeared, and he slashed at the sixth level.

Moonlight radiated as he slashed toward the sixth floor.

Boom!

A sword light appeared, countering Jiang Hao's attack.

A middle-aged man flew out of the room, frowning as he looked at Jiang Hao.

But before the man could speak, Jiang Hao took a step forward, arrived in front of him, and swung his saber again.

Clang!

After exchanging two moves, Jiang Hao lifted the Half-Moon Blade and brought it down heavily.

Boom!

With a single slash, he broke the man's longsword and cut through his chest. The middle-aged man fell heavily to the ground.

This person wasn't strong, and Jiang Hao had intentionally restrained himself to avoid leveling the entire inn with a single strike.

At this moment, the other people in the inn appeared. When they saw Jiang Hao hurting someone, they attacked together.

They were merely at the middle to late Foundation Establishment stage.

Jiang Hao didn't even draw his sword and managed to severely wound them, throwing them to the ground.

Now, he approached the first middle-aged man who had appeared. "I want to stay at the inn..."

"Who are you?" asked the man.

Clang!

Jiang Hao drew his saber and slashed, severing the man's neck. Blood spurted everywhere.

Jiang Hao spoke calmly.

"I want to stay at the inn. I heard you've booked the entire place. Can you give us two rooms here?"

The group of people trembled in fear, and no one dared to refuse. In the end, Jiang Hao left two silver coins on the counter and led Hong Yuye upstairs..