

## **A Demoness 181**

### **Chapter 181: Jiang Hao Tian Is Discovered**

At the Hundred Flower Lake, it was drizzling lightly.

Rain fell onto the pavilion. A teacup was placed in a corner to collect the rain.

Inside the pavilion, Hong Yuye sat at the stone table and gazed absentmindedly at the rain outside.

“Sect Master.”

A figure in white descended and bowed to her.

“The Heavenly Saint Sect is restless.”

Hong Yuye fixed her gaze on Baizhi.

“It’s because of my incompetence.” Baizhi knelt down in fear. There had been too many problems in the Heavenly Note Sect lately, and she felt like it was all her fault.

“What’s the matter?” Hong Yuye asked calmly.

“The Devil’s Den is shaking, and the demons are swarming out. Right now, they have fallen into our trap. Once their race treasure appears, they’ll make a move. Everything is under control for now. When they attack, should we wipe them all out, or should we teach them a lesson and let them go?”

“That’s your decision,” said Hong Yuye. “What else?”

“The people from the Heavenly Saint Sect have been very active lately. It seems they are targeting Jiang Hao. They believe that he knows about the secret treasure in the mines. They might still have spies here. We are currently investigating it. We have been observing Azure Mountain as well. They seem to have given up on the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.”

Baizhi didn't ask her anything about dealing with the Heavenly Saint Sect. That was her responsibility. As long as the sect wasn't affected, it would all be fine.

Unfortunately, they weren't lying low. Baizhi suspected that they knew about the problems in the Devil's Den and were trying to sabotage everything. “What do you think of the Heavenly Saint Sect?” Hong Yuye asked.

“They are very paranoid and fanatical,” said Baizhi.

“What if they had planned this to deceive you? Maybe they want you distracted with this so that they can make a bigger move.”

Baizhi broke out in a cold sweat. What could they possibly be up to?

“Let's talk about something else.” Hong Yuye didn't want to discuss it further.

“The Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower is growing well. Jiang Hao was absent for three months last year... It's difficult to determine his whereabouts. Although it's hard to confirm whether he is a traitor, it's clear that he is hiding some secrets. When he returned from his journey, he brought a disciple named Chu Chuan with him. I tried to observe this child to find out about where Jiang Hao was in the three months,” said Baizhi.

“I discovered that he was a fallen young master associated with the Bright

Moon Sect's new disciple. It was impossible to pinpoint their exact location. After that, I had people investigate the Bright Moon Sect. I found their trails in several towns. I couldn't find much, but I found out something about a person named Jiang Hao Tian.”

“Jiang Hao Tian?” Hong Yuye asked. “Is he related to Jiang Hao?”

“It’s possible,” Baizhi said. “That person and the people from the Bright Moon Sect stayed in the same inn. The Bright Moon Sect took away their new disciple, but Chu Chuan didn’t follow them. Jiang Hao Tian must have taken away someone of similar age.”

“Go on,” Hong Yuye said.

“At first, I thought Jiang Hao Tian might be Jiang Hao. However, it doesn’t seem likely,” said Baizhi. “They are different in appearance and temperament. Jiang Hao seems very arrogant and reckless, almost maniacal. I suspect he must be someone related to Jiang Hao. But I found out that Jiang Hao’s family moved away many years ago. I found nothing about them in the surrounding towns. He might not have any living relatives. This person appeared very mysterious. I don’t know what the person plans.”

Baizhi had suspected that the two were the same person. However, they were vastly different. Besides, Jiang Hao was young. He was in his early twenties. No matter how strong he was, he couldn’t reach such a level.

“Anything else?” Hong Yuye asked indifferently.

“There’s also another little girl that Jiang Hao recruited a while back,” said Baizhi. “The girl receives a lot of care from Jiang Hao. That little girl is not ordinary. Even though she is just at the Lifeblood Refinement Realm, no one can match her. After only a few months of cultivation, she is already at the second stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm. She is extraordinary. That’s not all... she also has an unusually large appetite. I suspect she either possesses a special physique or has a special background.”

“Have you investigated it?” Hong Yuye asked.

“I have. Ku Wu Chang must have investigated it as well. This little girl was picked up by an elderly couple from the river. They adopted her. That’s all I know for now. If nothing unexpected happens, Ku Wu Chang will accept her as a true disciple once she establishes her foundation.”

“If her background is not that extraordinary, then there’s no need to pay it any attention,” Hong Yuye said.

Baizhi nodded. "Based on this investigation, we can speculate that the person related to Jiang Hao might be near the sect, or even within the sect. Considering that his whereabouts were difficult to trace when he ventured outside the sect, that person might be helping him. However, all this is just speculation."

"Continue the investigation," Hong Yuye instructed.

Baizhi nodded.

"What about the other traitors besides Jiang Hao?" Hong Yuye looked at Baizhi.

Baizhi panicked. "There has been some progress. There might be some traitors among the elders."

"Find them," Hong Yuye said coldly. "And see who Azure Mountain has been associating with. "

"Understood."

Hong Yuye tossed out a transparent box with a ring inside. "Here. The efforts must be repaid."

Baizhi took the box. She couldn't understand the Sect Master's intentions, especially when it came to Jiang Hao. She instructed her to investigate him while handing him rewards.

'Does the Sect Master think that there is something wrong with him but wants to keep him as a pawn?'

There wasn't any evidence against Jiang Hao, so she didn't dwell much on it. Moreover, he was a pawn to attract other traitors.

They needed to solve other problems in the sect first and make the sect stronger in the next few years. More and more people knew about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. That could be Jiang Hao's test of loyalty.

Jiang Hao opened his eyes. The gathering didn't last long, but it was full of surprises. He learned quite a bit from joining in.

However, maintaining his position was a troublesome matter. He couldn't leave, and if the others requested his cooperation, he couldn't refuse too many times. They would find him suspicious or think of him as having no value.

Another thing that bothered him was the method of growing the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. It made him think of Xuanyuan Tai.

Xuanyuan Tai knew that he was growing the flower and had seen value in Jiang

Hao.

It hadn't seemed important before, but now, Jiang Hao realized something. Not many people knew how to plant the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, but he had managed to grow it. Even Elder Baizhi occasionally sent him rewards which made him realize that he was doing a good job of raising the flower.

'I am valuable to the Heavenly Note Sect, after all.'

Jiang Hao felt relieved when he realized that, but he wasn't certain of it yet. He didn't dare ask Elder Baizhi about it, as he feared her wrath.

'Maybe I can try asking Hong Yuye when I see her next time...'

Suddenly, Jiang Hao realized that Hong Yuye might not know about it either. Jiang Hao froze where he stood.

'Why did Elder Baizhi approach me? Is it a coincidence she asked me to plant the flower at the same time the traitors were appearing?'

At that time, he had conflicts with the traitors, and the sect had started cracking down on them. He had received the seed from Elder Baizhi and had managed to make the flower grow. He had long suspected that she gave him the seed so that she could fish out the traitors.

Jiang Hao decided to get stronger, no matter what the reason was. She opened the nameless manual and studied it.

Early the next morning, he walked out of the cabin and found Ye Ji.

“Junior Brother Jiang, have you made up your mind?” Ye Ji asked.

“Yes. I’ll follow you, Senior Sister Ye Ji.”.

“Good.” Ye Ji walked toward Jiang Hao with a smile. “I’m looking forward to seeing you in action, Junior Brother Jiang. I believe it will be impressive..”

Chapter 182: Sees Me As A Prey?

“Do you need anything, Junior Brother Jiang?” Ye Ji asked. “This time, it’ll be dangerous inside. If you need anything, you only need to ask me.”

Jiang Hao looked at her. He tried to sense any kind of charms she might be casting on him.

He couldn’t find anything. “If I need anything, I’ll tell you, Senior Sister Ye Ji.”

“Good.” Ye Ji nodded and smiled. “Please rest well. We’ll enter from the back when the attack happens. We’ll have to rely on your vigilance.”

Jiang Hao felt strange. It was the first time anyone had ever placed such an importance on him.

'Is this a charm?' Jiang Hao was confused. He didn't know if it was a charm she was casting on him, or if it was his own emotions.

He brushed the thought away. It was clearly a manipulative tactic.

"Alright." He bowed.

After asking for some details, Jiang Hao turned and left. Roughly thirteen people were getting ready to go out.

Apart from him, ten were at the Foundation Establishment Realm, and two were at the Golden Core Realm.

'It seems that my cultivation is the weakest.' As far as anyone knew, he was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Leaving Ye Ji's cabin, Jiang Hao couldn't help but sigh. His situation was worrying. However, he just wanted to go in so that he could escape discovery. When the attack happened, he would let everyone escape and fall behind.

They would use the weakest person as a distraction while escaping. Jiang Hao was okay with that.

Although he needed to be cautious about charms and bewitchments, it wasn't as concerning. Right now, what he needed was to conserve his strength.

First, he needed to control his power. Secondly, he needed to unleash stronger attacks.

Two days later, something roared in the distance. The demon army was approaching.

At this time, Jiang Hao noticed that everyone was setting up things all around them. Some created formations and others focused on traps.

They prepared for the demon horde's attack.

Many people were aware that there would be no reinforcements and retreat wasn't an option. They needed to stall the demons and wait for the sect's rescue operation.

They all waited for the arrival of the demons and hoped that the demons would be delayed. It increased their chance of receiving reinforcements.

That night, Zheng Shijiu and Xin Yuyue came to find Jiang Hao.

"Junior Brother Jiang, I heard that you intend to enter the core of the Devil's

Den?" asked Zheng Shijiu. "You may not be familiar with Senior Sister Ye Ji and Senior Brother Lan Feng, but... few people come away unscathed after associating with them."

Yue You also nodded. "It's better to follow Senior Brother Jin Long."

"Those who are going in are all extraordinary. It won't be easy for someone in the late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm, Junior Brother Jiang, " said

Xin Yuyue.

Jiang Hao was surprised when he saw these three people. They seemed concerned about him. He took their warnings into consideration gratefully.

"Thank you. I would like to give it a try anyway."

Zheng Shijiu and the others didn't object to this. In fact, they were sure Jiang Hao would be okay.

"With many demons attacking together, how long can the seniors hold on here?" asked Jiang Hao.



“It’s hard to say, but with sufficient preparations, ordinary demons shouldn’t be able to break through the defenses here. If there aren’t any Golden Core Realm demons attacking at the same time, we can hold out for a long time. A month. Maybe,” said Yue You.

Jiang Hao nodded. Half a month had already passed. Another month would give them enough time for the sect’s reinforcements to arrive.

Staying put here was a wise choice. However, he might not find many bubbles if he did.

Jiang Hao didn’t want to offend Ye Ji by refusing her. He had already told her that he would come along.

Jiang Hao prepared to set off the next day.

On the fifth day, Ye Ji found Jiang Hao early in the morning.

“Junior brother, we can head in now.”

“Okay.”

Jiang Hao saw that the other twelve people had already gathered. He was the last one.

After a brief observation, he noticed that ten out of the twelve were at the Foundation Establishment Realm. Seven men and three women.

The way they looked at him with contempt. Jiang Hao didn’t care.

He was more intrigued by the 100 the Golden Core Realm cultivator gave him.

They exchanged a simple greeting and then ignored each other.

He had a slender figure and looked aloof, but his eyes shone with an eagerness as though he had found his prey.

‘That’s strange... I don’t even know him. Why do I feel like he is targeting me?’ “Let’s go.” Lan Feng smiled as he passed by Jiang Hao. “Junior Brother Jiang, you are the weakest in cultivation among us. You need to be very careful when we head in.”

“Thank you for the warning, Senior brother.” Jiang Hao followed them.

Zheng Shijiu and the others couldn’t help but feel sympathy toward Jiang Hao.

“It seems like Junior Brother Jiang is in for more trouble.” Yue You sighed.

“That might not be true,” said Zheng Shijiu. “I feel like Junior Brother Jiang will somehow defeat the demons and turn the tides in our favor.”

“Even if he can’t do that, he might not really be in danger as much as we think, said Xin Yuyue.

Yue You looked at the two of them in confusion. She asked them why they felt that way.

“Just speculations,” said Zheng Shijiu.

The others at the defense line watched as the group entered the core of the Devil’s Den.

They knew that the demons were coming. The thirteen people moved silently and efficiently.

Jiang Hao followed at the back. He let the twelve people proceed forward. ‘We took the secluded route. Can we really avoid the demons here?’ Jiang Hao looked around.

He didn't find any traces of the demons. It was already dark.

Occasionally, they would hear the sound of boulders rolling down. That must be the demons.

Ye Ji and Lan Feng stopped. "There should be quite a few demons ahead. Let's hide and wait until dawn before we take action," they whispered.

Jiang Hao stopped at the edge and understood why they had stopped. The demons were stealthy, and the group's perception was limited in the dark. If the demons ambushed them, it would be over..

Chapter 183: The Demoness Sees Me With A Charms Book

"I heard that you are very vigilant, Junior Brother Jiang. Could you scout the area?" asked Len Fang.

"Sure." Jiang Hao nodded.

"Thank you, Junior Brother Jiang. If you find anything, retreat immediately," said Ye Ji.

Jiang Hao nodded. He then moved forward. He found a tree branch to keep watch from. From there, he could see the temporary camp they had set up.

Some people were scattered around the area. They were probably keeping watch too.

It was soon midnight. Jiang Hao surveyed the surroundings but didn't find anything. He glanced at the people who had come with him. They were discussing something.

Jiang Hao hid behind a tree. He climbed up to a branch and opened the book on charms and bewitchments.

He couldn't study the nameless manual or the Seven Forms of Heavenly Technique here. So, he read the books on charms to pass the time. As he read more and more, he found the content fascinating.

Enchantments were much more powerful than he had expected. If it weren't for the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison, he might have been affected by many things already.

The aura, movement, words, a glance, a smile—all contained hidden killing intent. It was to captivate the mind and the heart to break defensive barriers.

"Terrifying," he muttered softly.

"It is quite unexpected to see you learning such techniques," said a voice near his ear.

Jiang Hao was startled. He almost fell off the branch. Hong Yuye had appeared right beside him on the branch.

"Senior, how long have you been here?" Jiang Hao quickly put away the book.

"From when you reached the sixth page," she said.

Jiang Hao was a bit embarrassed. He had just opened the book. It wasn't like he was trying to learn to use them.

The woman beside him was incredibly powerful. She had released little to no aura. He hadn't been able to sense her at all.

"Why are you learning that?" she asked.

"Please don't misunderstand, Senior," said Jiang Hao. "I think that some people are using such techniques to manipulate me. So, I wanted to learn more about them to detect it."

Hong Yuye frowned. She was really not used to Jiang Hao being truthful. He always lied to her. It felt strange when he was being honest.

She jumped down from the branch and landed softly on the ground. Jiang Hao followed.

"How is my flower? Have you been paying attention to it?" she asked.

"I worry about it day and night, but I'm powerless when it comes to certain things," said Jiang Hao.

Hong Yuye nodded. She looked in the distance where the starlight fell. "Why are you here?"

"I'm on a sect mission. I had no choice."

"Do you know what's inside the core?" Hong Yuye took a step forward. Her gaze was fixed on the light that illuminated the core.

"Demons?"

"Do you remember what I told you in the mine?" asked Hong Yuye.

Jiang Hao nodded. "I remember. It used to be a battlefield before. People believe there is a precious treasure hidden inside. Is that related to this place?"

It made sense to Jiang Hao. The changes in the mine had caused such changes in the Devil's Den, after all.

"This is said to be the place where the stars and planets fall and converge. It is also believed to be the place of inheritance."

"Inheritance?" Jiang Hao looked at the light in the distance. "Then... why doesn't the Heavenly Note Sect try to enter and conquer it?" Hong Yuye glanced at Jiang Hao. "Why don't you ask them?"

Jiang Hao didn't dare to do so. "What about you, Senior?"

If there was an inheritance there, why didn't Hong Yuye take it for herself?

Hong Yuye didn't speak. She looked at Jiang Hao. This time, he didn't see any disdain or mockery in her eyes. There was only calmness.

'Does that mean she's not interested in it?'

Jiang Hao sighed inwardly. He was curious how long it would take him to reach her level. Even if he mined for a hundred years and collected bubbles, he couldn't compete with her.

"Are you interested in inheritance?" Hong Yuye asked.

"No." Jiang Hao shook his head. "It's too dangerous for me. I would rather continue tending to your flower. Having an inheritance would make me an easy target."

Hong Yuye smiled.

Jiang Hao felt that Hong Yuye didn't care if others found out about this information.

I have something I need to ask you, Senior," said Jiang Hao and hesitated. "The flower in my courtyard... your flower... is it very difficult to plant it?" The question caught her attention. She looked at him.

Jiang Hao felt flustered in front of her gaze. He lowered his head.

The stars shone brighter. Jiang Hao looked up and realized that the pillar of light at the core was brighter than before.

"It seems that there is no peace here either," said Hong Yuye.

Her gaze shifted back to Jiang Hao. "Any progress with the stone tablet?"

"I attended a gathering, hosted by a man named Dan Yuan," Jiang Hao said. He told her briefly about the things that had happened. He also told her that Dan Yuan sought information about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

Hong Yuye smiled. She seemed to have no intention of getting involved.

Jiang Hao felt that Hong Yuye couldn't care less about the group in the stone tablet, but he did. For now, he wouldn't give them any information.

"How long do you plan to stay here?" Hong Yuye asked.

"I'm not sure."

Bang!

Jiang Hao collided with a tree.

"As soon as possible! I'll return as soon as possible!" he said hurriedly. "It should be clear by now that your priority is the flower," said Hong Yuye.

She turned into a red shadow and disappeared on the spot.

Jiang Hao heaved a sigh of relief. He had said he would return as soon as possible, but he didn't know how long that would be.

Early the next morning, there was a rumble. Jiang Hao stood on a branch and stared at the distance.

Demons appeared and disappeared. There were thousands of them.

They were led by two huge demons at the front. They were in the Golden Core Realm.

Many demons dragged giant rocks behind them. The ground rumbled because of that.

‘It seems like they’re planning a massive attack. We have a defensive line with only a little over five hundred people. There are around a thousand demons. This is not a good situation,’ thought Jiang Hao.

‘But there are many formations and traps in place at the defense line. They should work and delay the demons.’

‘The most important thing is whether Senior Brother Jin Long can fight the two Golden Core demons by himself.’

Jiang Hao suddenly discovered a hidden group of demons approaching their location. ‘Demons are coming this way.’

Although there was no immediate danger, they still needed to be careful. ‘I’ll alert the group first. If I find an opening, I’ll leave the team..’

Chapter 184: It’s Up To You To Believe Me Or Not

Jiang Hao returned to the place where Ye Ji and the others were huddled together. He noticed that they had finished their conversation before he arrived. He didn’t ask about it.

“Junior Brother Jiang, did you find something?” asked Lan Feng. “I’m guessing you did. Otherwise, you wouldn’t have rushed here from your outpost.”

Jiang Hao knew that Lan Feng was planning something against him, but he didn’t care. “The demons have launched an attack.”



“Everyone knows that,” said Sheng Ru. “Why is your reaction so slow, Junior Brother Jiang?”

“Oh, I forgot,” said Sheng Ru. “It’s understandable that your reaction is slow since you’re only in the late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm.” Many people laughed. A few were silent.

Jiang Hao could sense that his presence as a cultivator in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm made some people feel uneasy.

Why would they be bothered by someone in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm?

Jiang Hao didn’t mind their taunts. He didn’t need to stoop to their level. With their attitude, it was hard to survive in this world.

“Do you have anything else you want to report on, Junior Brother Jiang?” asked Ye Ji calmly.

“I think some of the demons are coming this way,” said Jiang Hao. “I don’t think it is a good idea to stay here.”

This statement caught everyone off guard. Lan Feng was skeptical, but he didn’t hesitate to use his magic to call the others who were scouting the surroundings.

Four people returned to their group.

“Did you find anything?” Lan Feng asked.

“The demons are heading towards the defensive line in large numbers. There should be at least two Golden Core Realm demons at the front,” said a man.

“Anything else?” Ye Ji asked.

All four of them shook their heads.

“Are there any demons approaching this place?” Lan Feng asked.

The four people shook their heads.

They all looked at Jiang Hao.

“Well... I must have been mistaken,” said Jiang Hao.

He had notified them. As for whether they believed him or not wasn't his problem. He just needed to find a suitable opportunity to leave the group and be on his way.

“Mistaken?”

The two seniors in the Golden Core Realm didn't speak, but the others looked at him with disdain.

Ye Ji frowned.

“Do you know that our lives are at stake here?” said Sheng Ru angrily. “How can you be so careless?”

She grabbed Jiang Hao by his shirt collar and slammed him against a tree.

“You dare to cause trouble even though you are just at the late stage of the

Foundation Establishment Realm? Don't you feel ashamed of yourself?”

“I wasn't joking about it,” said Jiang Hao. “It seems you have grievances toward me, Senior Sister.”

“What do you mean?” said Sheng Ru. “If you weren't joking, then why is your information incorrect?”

“You can wait here and find out for yourself,” said Jiang Hao. He shook her hand off his collar and leaped away from the tree.

Ye Ji and Lan Feng shouted from a few paces away. “Retreat!”

They had just been about to make a move when they saw something from the corner of their eyes,

Sheng Ru was startled. A hand pierced through her body. She fell down with a thud.

Another hand slammed against her head and sent her flying.

Sheng Ru landed near Jiang Hao.

“I know that our lives are at stake. That’s why I came to inform the group, but you didn’t believe me. Your death verifies the truth anyway.”

Sheng Ru tried to look up at Jiang Hao, but she couldn’t move her body or her head.

Jiang Hao looked at his senior lying at his feet. He felt sorry for her. He realized that he didn’t want to be a person who would be lying at someone else’s feet because of his stupidity. He needed to try his best to maintain a rational and open mind, and he needed to become stronger.

Meanwhile, the others were also under attack. Thanks to the two Golden Core Realm seniors, they didn’t struggle too much.

The group was bewildered. They felt regret and anger. How did the demons appear so suddenly?

They looked at Jiang Hao in resentment. Why hadn’t he explained in detail?

Ye Ji felt annoyed. She didn't expect Jiang Hao to brush it off as a mistake after everyone mocked him. She had to admit that he was sharp and highly perceptive.

Just as she was about to speak to him, Jiang Hao shouted, "Seniors, I think it's best if we leave."

The group was taken aback. What did he mean?

Although many of them were skeptical, they didn't dare show it. Sheng Ru had done it, and now she was dead.

"The number of demons is increasing. If we don't leave, more demons will find us. It won't be easy to escape later," said Jiang Hao. "Senior Sister Ye Ji, take others and go. I'll try to hold them off. Once I draw them away, I'll catch up."

They all looked at each other and were tempted to run away.

Boom!

Jiang Hao leaped to the front of the group and slashed down at a demon with his saber. He stood in front and blocked the demons.

"Go quickly," he urged.

"Okay!" Ye Ji didn't hesitate. "Junior Brother Jiang, catch up with us as soon as you can. I have something important to tell you."

Jiang Hao nodded. Lan Feng's eyes flickered, but he gritted his teeth and led the group away.

Jiang Hao prevented the demons from following them. Although he had no obligation to protect these people, they were needed to resolve the big crisis. He also needed to finish the mission as soon as possible and return home.

Jiang Hao used Daily Appraisal on Lan Feng as the group left. He bothered Jiang Hao.

Soon, his feedback arrived. Lan Feng's cultivation was ordinary. There was nothing strange, except that he coveted Jiang Hao's storage treasure. 'So, he wants my storage treasure because he thinks I might have some treasures because of my journey and extraordinary advancement...

Jiang Hao didn't pay much attention to it. It made sense why Lan Feng would want his storage treasure. He also wanted Lan Feng's storage treasure. He just didn't know if he could get it.

He looked at the surrounding demons. He took a step forward and swung his saber in a semicircle. The slash was like a whip of light.

In the blink of an eye, he appeared next to Sheng Ru and slowly sheathed his sword.

Clang!

As the sword returned to its sheath, a burst of sword energy swept through the surroundings. Numerous demons fell to the ground.

Jiang Hao bent down to pick up her storage treasure.

Before leaving, he scattered the Ten Thousand Swords Talismans all over the place to prevent the demons from chasing after him.

He checked to see where Ye Ji and the others had reached. He then checked where the stronger demons were heading..

Chapter 185: Did I Choose the Wrong Place?

In the Devil's Den, two men slowly emerged from beneath the swamp.

They smiled at each other. “We’re in. Although entering through the second entrance was troublesome, it became much easier with someone providing cover.”

One of them had snow-white hair and the other had a small goatee. They were quite pleased with themselves.

“It seems that the manpower of the Heavenly Note Sect is indeed insufficient. Our people found a loophole as soon as they attacked. I wonder if anyone else has entered this place besides us?” the white-haired man said.

“They probably headed toward the core. These people want to make contributions, find the demon’s treasure, and awaken the Holy Master. We need to do the opposite of that,” said the man with the goatee.

“I heard that Jiang Hao is also in the Devil’s Den. He must be in the Foundation Establishment Realm. Let’s sneak past and find him. Wouldn’t that be a great accomplishment?” The white-haired old man laughed.

The man with the goatee agreed. The two of them disappeared again.

Meanwhile, Jiang Hao sat on a tree branch and watched the army of demons that kept approaching.

‘The second wave? Already?’

Although there was no demon in the Golden Core Realm this time, there were about four thousand Foundation Establishment Realm demons.

‘Where are all these demons coming from? Are they emptying their nests?’

As he watched, the demons disappeared from sight. He stared at the core of the Devil’s Den. He wondered how large it was.

Unfortunately, he had no intention of going inside. The core was still beyond what he could handle at his current cultivation realm.

Jiang Hao quickly headed deeper. He didn't go in the same direction as Ye Ji and the others. Instead, he headed toward the area where the demons were swarming out from.

Ordinary demons were of no use to him. He wanted to find demons in the

Golden Core Realm or even the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Jiang Hao swiftly moved forward like a gentle breeze. He brought out the storage treasure of the dead Sheng Ru and examined it. She wasn't wealthy, but she still had eight hundred spirit stones in her storage treasure.

With that, Jiang Hao now had one thousand spirit stones.

The other items were not worth much. He quickly continued with his journey.

Two days later, he encountered some hidden demons. They were in a group of ten. Their leader was in the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm. They seemed to be patrolling the area.

After observing the surroundings, Jiang Hao dealt with the ten demons in a single strike. He waited for a while, but no bubbles appeared near their corpses. 'Not even a single white bubble? Oh, come on!'

Jiang Hao sighed and looked for other demons to kill. If he could help eliminate some of them who were headed to the defense line, it would help the disciples from his sect. He was far away from everyone. No one would notice that he had made contributions.

Five days later, he got some bubbles from two dead demons in the Primordial Spirit Realm. [Cultivation +1]

[Lifeblood +1]

He ventured deeper and found that the demons here were stronger.

However, the demons in their Primordial Spirit Realm were no different from those in the Foundation Establishment Realm. They all lacked intelligence.

Most of them acted on instinct. This made him worried.

‘Who is controlling these demons?’

The core beam was the same as before. It meant that it was too far away. Getting too close would be dangerous, so he moved in another direction.

Three people approached the demon’s corpse.

At the front was a beautiful woman who looked at the demon’s corpse with a frown. “There shouldn’t be anyone else taking this path.”

“Perhaps some senior took the wrong path,” said Mu Qi.

“There are no obvious traces around, so it shouldn’t be people from the other teams,” said another man.

“Let’s catch up and see if we can find them.” Ning Xuan quickened her pace.

Mu Qi and the woman followed. They were also searching for the person behind all this.

They split into three teams and headed in three different directions. If they encountered demons on the way, they would just kill them.



At first, there were no problems. However, when they followed the path, they found that someone had already taken care of the demons.

They chased for two more days. The group felt uneasy. Every time they found a corpse, they discovered that they had been killed with ruthless force.

They were curious about who the person with such strength was.

“Something doesn’t seem right.” Ning Xuan looked at the corpse under her feet. “We were only half a day behind this person. But now they seem a whole day ahead of us. Is it just one person’s doing, or are there others?”

Mu Qi was stunned. The image of Jiang Hao flashed through his mind.

He didn’t think Jiang Hao was extraordinarily strong, but the people who had offended him had ended up dead somehow. He wondered if something else was protecting him.

‘Perhaps the person protecting him is up to something...’

He didn’t share his thoughts out loud. He had only shared them with Miao Tinglian before.

“Let’s continue,” Ning Xuan said.

Jiang Hao stood in front of a camp surrounded by trees. There were Golden Core demons and Primordial Spirit demons in a group.

As he approached, he felt a faint fluctuation of power. It quickly disappeared. ‘That must be the source that Senior Sister Ye Ji mentioned before.’

He decided to go in and take a look.

Jiang Hao approached from the side. Although the demons were strong, they had their weaknesses. They weren't very perceptive.

Jiang Hao saw a house. That was the source of the power fluctuation he sensed. There were many demons guarding the house.

He saw a demon sitting in front of a wooden table. There was an irregular stone on the table.

Inside, the stars were twinkling. The source of power was from this stone!

The demon raised his head and looked at him..

Chapter 186: Are You Just a Puppet?

Demons wreaked havoc on the defensive line. Giant rocks fell from the sky. The roars and rumble sounded nonstop.

Zheng Shijiu led a group of people to stall the demons.

One by one, the demons fell. However, it was of no use. It didn't even make a difference. There were just too many demons arriving.

They were exhausted from fighting constantly. Their spiritual energy was drained.

The demons were numerous.

Boom!

Zheng Shijiu severely injured a Golden Core demon. He was pushed back in the process. He leaned against a broken tree. He was completely exhausted.

It had been over ten days, and he had relied solely on his determination to continue to fight.

Yue You and Xin Yuyue also retreated. They were injured and bruised all over. Their faces were pale.

“Our defensive line has been breached. We won’t be able to hold on much longer. Senior Brother Jin Long is in grave danger,” said Yue You as she coughed up blood.

In the distance, Jin Long fought against three Golden Core demons with all his might. Despite his strong defense, he couldn’t withstand three demons at a time.

At first, there were only two Golden Core demons, and he could still fight them. He even killed one. However, more kept coming.

He didn’t even have time to rest. His strength and energy were dwindling. Jin Long wanted to retreat, but he had nowhere to turn.

The strength of the demons far exceeded his ability to resist. If this continued, he would die.

He felt despair. He hoped Ye Ji and Len Fang would succeed in getting rid of the demons at the core.

Boom!

Jin Long was forced back. He was on the verge of collapsing with exhaustion.

He looked back toward the direction of the sect, hoping that the sect would provide support soon. However, he didn’t see anyone approach.

The demon attacks became increasingly fierce, and Jin Long tried to retreat slowly.

Zheng Shijiu's folding fan had already shattered into pieces. He watched bitterly as the demons attacked.

"Junior Sister Yue, what do you think about Junior Brother Jiang?"

Yue You held her huge sword and thought for a while. "He has a good reputation. He tries to do what is right. He even treats the non-cultivators well.

He never harms them."

"That's true." Zheng Shijiu smiled. "Let's keep holding on. Perhaps we still have hope."

"What do you mean?" Yue You was puzzled.

"Perhaps the nest of the demons might be destroyed," Xin Yuyue said.

"Why?" Yue You still didn't understand.

"Because of what you just said." Zheng Shijiu stepped forward to face the demons ahead.

This made Yue You even more confused. However, she didn't have time to dwell on it. She focused on fighting.

The defensive line had already been breached. If they couldn't close the gap, everyone would face death.

However, even though they fought back valiantly, the difference in numbers was too great.

After half a day of fighting, Zheng Shijiu couldn't take it anymore.

With a loud bang, the bones in his hands cracked. He retreated.

Xin Yuyue suffered a severe leg injury, and Yue You's huge sword broke. It injured the palms of her hands.

The three of them were no longer able to fight the demons. They were filled with despair.

It wasn't just them. Everyone on the front line felt the same way. The defensive line wouldn't last long.

Jin Long also knew that everything was futile. Without reinforcement, they would all end up dead here.

At that moment, he wondered if it would have made a difference if Ye Ji and Len Fang were present. They were both in the Golden Core Realm, after all.

Unfortunately, he had no time to speculate. He wanted to survive.

The demons attacked. He was pushed back.

The three Golden Core demons joined forces, but Jin Long had no power to defend.

However, the attacks kept coming. Jin Long wanted to escape.

With another loud boom, Jin Long was pushed back once again.

He felt that something was strange. In the distance, Zheng Shijiu and the others, who were heavily injured, fought back.

"Get up," he said to Xin Yuyue and the others beside him. "The demons are different..."

“Different?” Xin Yuyue struggled to get up.

Yue You attacked and found that the demons were slower than before.

“Yes! They’re different!” she exclaimed.

Everyone realized the same. The demons were no longer as aggressive and ferocious as before. They were not acting on instinct alone.

They had lost their previous formation and tactics. They weren’t united like before.

“It’s true!” Zheng Shijiu rejoiced. He was sure his speculation from before had been right.

“Although they’re strong, we can fight them now!” Xin Yuyue laughed.

Yue You was astonished. If the two seniors were to be believed, then Jiang Hao must have saved them. ‘How is that possible?’

“Don’t slack off now! Fight with all your might. Let’s drive them back!” shouted Jin Long.

Inside the wooden house in the devil’s lair, Jiang Hao struck the stone and split it in two.

The demon in front of him just stared at him. It didn’t even make a move.

When the stone broke, the demons guarding the place scattered.

‘So, it was because of this stone...’

Jiang Hao was surprised. Ye Ji and the others had been right. This place was really the source of all the abnormalities in the demons.

Jiang Hao looked at the demon in front of him. It was a Foundation Establishment Realm demon. "You're too weak. I won't kill you if you just leave."

However, the demon just stared at him.

Jiang Hao sighed, and he swung his saber at it.

The demon fell to the ground. It was dead.

Jiang Hao didn't sheathe his saber. He turned around and stared at the empty corner.

"Don't look at me like that," said Jiang Hao. "I didn't want to kill it, but you didn't let it leave."

"How did you figure it out?" a voice asked.

A small figure appeared in front of Jiang Hao. His eyes were red. He even resembled a demon. He had fangs and scales. His hair was messy and puffed up.

"Are you also a demon?" Jiang Hao asked.

As for how he figured it out, it had been easy. With the knowledge from the nameless manual, his abilities, and his strong perception, it wasn't difficult to figure everything out.

The small demon stared at Jiang Hao angrily. "We don't want to be closed off here. We want to go out too. Is that so wrong? Why do you all insist on exterminating us? Don't we have the right to pursue freedom?"

"You're not wrong," said Jiang Hao softly. "But you are attacking my sect. The sect has dispatched me to get rid of you because you are causing problems. I'm just following orders. Do you think I'm wrong for doing that?"

“Don’t you know what it means to be righteous?” asked the small demon.. “Are you just a puppet who follows orders?”

Chapter 187: You ‘re in the Primordial Spirit Realm?

Jiang Hao fell silent. “What does it mean to be righteous?”

“Being righteous is to create an equal world for all,” said the small demon.

Moonlight shimmered as Jiang Hao severed its neck with his saber.

Jiang Hao appeared in front of the demon, but there was only a phantom there. There was no sign of blood.

‘So fast...’ Jiang Hao was shocked.

The small demon was in the Primordial Spirit Realm and possessed a strange, elusive power. It could conceal itself impeccably.

Jiang Hao had tried to trick it by making small talk. However, it seemed that the demon had the same plan.

The moment Jiang Hao made a move, it escaped. Both of them had acted at the same time. It was always a mistake to underestimate one’s enemy.

Jiang Hao followed the demon. With his ability, he could keep up with the demon.

As for the Golden Core demons and the other Primordial Spirit demons, Jiang Hao had no time to focus on them. This small demon was his priority.



Although blue bubbles were rare, they were not nonexistent. He could always find another way to get them.

In the forest, Jiang Hao moved like a ray of light. He was difficult to see. In front of him, the small demon moved swiftly.

The two of them moved at a breakneck speed.

‘The demon seems to have some special power that helps him move very fast,’ thought Jiang Hao. ‘It makes things tricky.’

Jiang Hao used his Daily Appraisal on the demon.

[Demon Returning River: A wise demon among the demons. In the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. Possesses special powers of the demons. The Demon’s Heavenly Method is used to conceal its presence. It senses that you are dangerous and is luring you to the Devil’s Den Ruins to trap and kill you.] ‘Devil’s Den Ruins?’ Jiang Hao was surprised.

He had never heard of such a place before. If the demon thought that the ruins could kill him, it must indeed be dangerous.

Jiang Hao activated his Reappearance of the Hidden Spirit ability for safety. He wanted to catch up with the small demon and kill him fast.

However, the moment he activated his divine ability, the small demon was flustered and activated its Demon’s Heavenly Method.

The speed at which it proceeded was unbelievable! If Jiang Hao hadn’t learned the Light and Dust method, he wouldn’t have been able to catch up at all.

Fortunately, he still had an advantage. It wouldn’t take long for him to catch up with the demon.

After a while, the small demon stopped fleeing. Jiang Hao had caught up to it, and there was no point in running.

“You... you can’t kill me yet!” it shouted. “I have abilities that other demons don’t have. I can do many things for you. I will tell you everything you want to know. I can also lead you to the core of the Devil’s Den. Please spare me.” Whoosh!

Moonlight streaked past. Jiang Hao wanted to kill it. He didn’t want to leave loose ends.

He was curious about the Devil’s Den Ruins and the core, but he thought it was better to ask Hong Yuye about it than to believe a demon’s words.

The first strike missed the mark. It was the same with Jiang Hao’s subsequent attacks.

When the demon was about to strike back, he felt an immense pressure descending on it.

Jiang Hao had used Divine Might to suppress the demon. The small demon panicked.

It was at this moment that Jiang Hao slashed at its throat. The small demon clutched at its throat and fell to the ground.

It stared at Jiang Hao. “Why? Did I... do something wrong?”

“No... it’s just that you got entangled with an enemy stronger than you,” said Jiang Hao.

The small demon fell to the ground. Its blood stained the earth. “Please... c-can you spare m-me?”

“If you don’t attack me back, I can let you live.”

As for letting it go, it was up to the Heavenly Note Sect. Jiang Hao had no say in the matter.

The small demon's voice was weaker than before. "Why must we stay trapped here?"

Jiang Hao didn't respond but stood quietly beside it.

"Who doesn't want to explore a broader world? We are not lesser than anyone." Its voice faded away.

Soon, there was only silence.

Jiang Hao struck it twice more with his saber to make sure it was dead.

With that, the source of the chaos had come to an end. The words of the small demon made no difference to him. In this world, everyone looked out for themselves. The strong dominated the weak, and if you couldn't figure out a way to survive, you ended up dead.

Boom!

Suddenly, a loud rumbling sound came from the direction of the core of the Devil's Den. Jiang Hao immediately turned to look.

Radiant light was emanating from the direction of the core, followed by continuous explosions. An immense power occupied half of the sky, and wreaked havoc.

It made Jiang Hao realize the limit of his own strength. There were still many powerful beings among the demons that he couldn't fight.

Jiang Hao moved away from the direction of the core. He thought about the ruins. After hesitating for a bit, he decided to go and take a look.

Now that the small demon was gone, he felt more at ease. Perhaps it wouldn't be as dangerous as before. The matter with the Devil's Den would only be resolved after the core was calm again.

He still had plenty of time.

In the evening, Jiang Hao came across a strange structure. It looked like a grand hall, with an entrance leading underground. It seemed that the ruin was actually underground.

Just as he was about to enter and investigate, something rushed past him and fell a few paces away from Jiang Hao.

Upon closer inspection, he realized that it was a man in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm. He was injured. Blood trickled down from the corners of his mouth.

Jiang Hao recognized the person. It was Lan Feng.

Lan Feng also noticed Jiang Hao. He had been a bit cautious in the beginning but smiled when he saw that it was Jiang Hao.

"Junior Brother Jiang, you're still alive!" said Lan Feng.

"Yes." Jiang Hao nodded.

He glanced behind Lan Feng to see if anyone else was coming out of the ruins.

"Are you looking for Junior Sister Ye Ji? She's already dead. Only two of us survived," said Lan Feng after taking a moment to catch his breath. "I remember that you are in the late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm, right? Did you get injured?"

"Just some minor injuries... nothing serious," Jiang Hao said.

"I see." Lan Feng stared at Jiang Hao's storage treasure. "Junior Brother Jiang, you have had quite a few extraordinary encounters. You must have obtained some remarkable treasures."

"What do you mean, Senior Brother Lan?" Jiang Hao asked calmly.

"The innocent should not be burdened with guilt, Junior Brother Jiang. I'm sure you understand that," Lan Feng said coldly. He extended his hands as though asking for something. "Sometimes, giving up treasures can save your life." Jiang Hao smiled. "Senior Brother Lan, you can come and take it yourself."

"You have a death wish!" Lan Feng's Golden Core Realm aura erupted. He launched an attack on Jiang Hao with lightning speed.

Jiang Hao remained unfazed. Just as he was about to be hit, he frowned slightly and released his spiritual energy. The pressure swept out like a storm and enveloped the surroundings.

Lan Feng didn't seem as confident anymore. He felt something strike him. The aura that hit him surpassed even the Golden Core Realm. He froze.

Lan Feng's heart pounded in fear. He could hardly believe it. He stared at Jiang Hao in shock.

"How is this possible? You're in the Primordial Spirit Realm?"

"Senior Brother Lan, do you have any last words?" Jiang Hao asked calmly.

"No... please. Not like this..."

But the blade had already struck him. Lan Feng's vision blurred, and his consciousness faded slowly.

Jiang Hao looked at Lan Feng's lifeless body on the ground, then glanced around and realized that there was no storage treasure to be found.

He looked at the entrance of the ruin. There might still be people inside..

## Chapter 188: Always One Step Ahead

Jiang Hao was in no hurry to enter the ruin.

The ruin was not safe, and he was not at his peak. He needed to recover his strength before entering the ruin.

He also wanted to wait outside to see if anyone else would be coming out. Lan Feng, in the Golden Core Realm, had managed to escape. Maybe someone else in the Golden Core Realm could escape too.

If that happened, it would be safe for him, as a Primordial Spirit Realm cultivator, to enter the ruin.

Jiang Hao didn't want to act recklessly. He took a few steps and began to restore his spiritual power. He would only enter the ruin once he was at his full strength.

If it was too dangerous inside, he decided to retreat immediately. There was no need to take unnecessary risks.

Inside the ruin, the sky was vast, and an endless abyss surrounded it. There were floating stone platforms and paths in the abyss. At the center were two men. They smiled and looked ahead.

"The people from the Heavenly Note Sect are quite smart. One managed to escape, while the other is still hiding," said the old, white-haired man.

They had come to find Jiang Hao but had unexpectedly ended up here. They wanted to explore the place because they sensed treasure within this place.

When they entered, they found some people already inside. They followed the group. However, they moved too slowly. The two men caught up to the group and tried to make them work for them.

The group was too rebellious and refused outright. One of them used a formation to escape, and another disappeared into the mist. The remaining were all killed by the two men.

“This place is closed off. We should be careful. After getting the treasure, we still need to find someone,” said the man with the goatee.

The two men continued ahead. They had already passed several levels and should be close to the location where the treasures were hidden.

“The abyss is a bit strange. I wonder what will happen if someone falls into it,” said the old, white-haired man. “We should be careful. Someone from the heavenly Note Sect escaped... I wonder if he will send some powerful people our way.”

“This area falls within the Foundation Establishment region. Who can be powerful enough to come here? Even if someone is in the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, two of us can handle them. If the ones approaching aren’t cultivators, we can just kill them,” said the man with a goatee as he laughed.

They walked faster.

At this moment, on one of the floating paths, Ye Ji walked deeper as she clutched at her injured arm.

‘D\*mn it! I can sense the two Primordial Spirit Realm cultivators!’ She couldn’t fight two Primordial Spirit Realm cultivators together. If she hadn’t escaped, she would have died by now.

‘Everyone is dead. If anyone was alive, I could have used them as a distraction. This place requires someone sharp and perceptive. Jiang Hao would have been the best person to be used. With him around, I could definitely try and fight. Otherwise, I could just use him to distract the Primordial Spirit Realm cultivators and escape.’

Lan Feng had escaped. Ye Ji envied him. Sometimes, knowing about different formations was useful. She sighed and continued to walk deeper into the ruin. She hoped she could survive.

At nighttime, Ning Xuan and the others rushed into the area surrounded by trees. They sensed the presence of many demons.

"There are many Gold Core and Primordial Spirit demons here, which means this is the place we're looking for," Mu Qi said.

Ning Xuan nodded, but she was puzzled. "There's no problem with the demons here. It means that the person who was ahead of us didn't pass from here." "Perhaps they went the wrong way?" asked the man who was with them.

"Hard to say. For now, let's lure the demons out one by one and kill them," Ning Xuan said.

With a plan in mind, they began to lure the demons out.

After a long battle, the three of them finally got rid of all the demons. Although it took a bit of time, everything went smoothly.

They saw a wooden house. If they were right, the house contained the reason the demons were acting strangely.

The three of them entered the wooden house cautiously. They frowned when they looked inside.

There was a dead demon on the ground and a broken stone on the table. The power in the stone was faint but discernible.

They knew that this was the work of the person who was ahead of them. He had bypassed the defenses and reached the house easily.

"Who exactly is this person?" Ning Xuan picked up the broken stone from the table. The person left no trace, and his strength seemed to far surpass theirs.



Mu Qi and the other man shook their heads. They were clueless.

“Let’s go back. This stone was our goal. Since the person who came here didn’t take it with him, it’s ours now,” said Ning Xuan.

Mu Qi and the other man had no problem with her suggestion. If they took credit for this, they could claim a lot of benefits.

However, the mysterious person made them very curious. What exactly was that person after?

Outside the ruins, Jiang Hao opened his eyes. He had completely recovered his strength and energy.

No one had come out of the ruin during this time. He approached the entrance and made sure the Thousand Miles Teleportation Talisman was functioning properly.

If he encountered danger, he could use the talisman to escape.

The entrance was a staircase descending into complete darkness. He walked a total of 636 steps before reaching the bottom.

At the bottom, there was a faint illumination from the starlight. The place was empty, with a boundless abyss surrounding it.

Ahead, there were floating paths and some floating stone platforms. Each stone platform had formation traces.

Even on the paths, there were formations present. It was unclear what would happen if he touched it. There were also some traps. Some had been triggered, while others were still hidden in the dark.

‘It seems someone has been here...’

Jiang Hao walked along the safe path. He noticed that it didn't stop going down.

After walking a while, he saw a corpse. It was a dead man.

Jiang Hao recognized him as one of the early Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators who had been in his group when they started toward the core. A trap had killed him.

Jiang Hao shook his head and continued forward.

This time, he didn't go down but passed through a huge passage. There were more floating paths and formations.

Occasionally, he came across some corpses.

After safely passing several checkpoints, Jiang Hao arrived at a foggy area. It was so dark that he could hardly even see his hands in front of his face.

He slowed down and spent some time trying to sense the dangers around him.

Finally, he passed through the mist and arrived at a massive floating platform. 'I still haven't seen anyone around here... Just how deep does this ruin go?'

So far, he hadn't encountered any treasures. The further down he walked, the more he felt an invisible force suppressing him..

Chapter 189: Don't You Think I Might Have Hidden Trump Cards?

Jiang Hao looked up at the sky inside the ruin. He couldn't see walls or anything else besides starlight.

Even when he extended his divine senses, everything felt empty.

'Is this still underground?' wondered Jiang Hao.

He could sense the suppressing feeling but couldn't figure it out. It affected his mind a little. There was no one and nothing around. Except for the sounds of his footsteps, he could hear nothing.

Jiang Hao walked along a straight path. Surprisingly, there were no other floating objects this time, only a road leading forward, but he couldn't see the end of it.

He felt strange walking on the path. He felt as though it might collapse any minute.

Jiang Hao cautiously placed his hand at the edge of the abyss. There was a suction force. It seemed that if he strayed away from the path, he would be sucked into the abyss.

What lay beneath the abyss was a mystery. Jiang Hao didn't want to unravel that mystery. He walked along the path and heard a faint laughter in the distance.

"Hahaha... are you running away? You really think you can run away?"

An old man flew over him and landed behind him. He was in the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Jiang Hao heaved a sigh of relief. His opponent was only in the early stage. However, the old, white-haired man was surprised when he saw Jiang Hao.

"Took some time, but we found you..

A woman stumbled and ran. Ye Ji was stunned when she saw Jiang Hao. She had almost despaired when the old, white-haired man appeared in front of her. She thought this was the end for her.

“Junior Brother Jiang, has the sect’s reinforcements arrived?”

Jiang Hao recognized her. She was Ye Ji. He noticed that she was injured, and her cultivation was unstable. She was in a dire situation.

She was being targeted by two men in the Primordial Spirit Realm, but she was still alive. That meant that she had some kind of treasure that was helping her, or the two men had no intention of killing her.

Jiang Hao understood what had happened here. He wondered how capable the two were in combat. He had never faced someone in the Primordial Spirit Realm before.

Jiang Hao nodded. “The sect’s reinforcements might have arrived. The source that was controlling the demons has been destroyed. The sect’s experts are dealing with the situation right now.”

“Young man, who are you even trying to fool?” asked the old man with a goatee as he walked over to them. “Do you really think the demons are that weak?”

Even if they are, our Heavenly Saint Sect is not to be trifled with.”

Jiang Hao was surprised to hear that they were from the Heavenly Saint Sect. He had walked right in their hands like a lamb to the slaughter.

“Oh... you’re Jiang Hao from the Cliff of Broken Hearts,” said the old, white-haired man as he stared at Jiang Hao. “What did Yan Hua tell you before she disappeared? What is the secret hidden in the mine?”

Ye Ji was stunned. She hadn’t expected people from the Heavenly Saint Sect to know about Jiang Hao. They seemed to think he was someone important.

Ye Ji was a little relieved. She might be able to escape, after all.

“Why do you assume that Yan Hua told me anything about the secret?” asked Jiang Hao.

you were Lile IdSL person sne lileu ueuore sne cusctppeueu. 11 sne L Len you, who would she tell it to?" asked the old, white-haired man.

"Is it possible that she did that on purpose?" said Jiang Hao. "She must have done it to make you target me while giving away the secret to someone else," said Jiang Hao.

"Yes... that might be possible. But if it isn't you, then who should we search for?" asked the old, white-haired man.

Jiang Hao was speechless. 'Apart from me, who would have interacted with Yan Hua? Who else could they go after?'

"But I really don't know about any secrets related to the mines," said Jiang Hao truthfully.

"Whether you know the secret or not is not important for now," said the old man with the goatee. "Let's go in first."

Jiang Hao hesitated.

"You must be curious about the treasure hidden inside, right?"

Jiang Hao walked forward. Ye Ji followed him. She let Jiang Hao take the lead to pretend like he was in charge. She waited for an opportunity to escape.

Jiang Hao had no idea about Ye Ji's intentions. He was genuinely curious about the treasure hidden inside. He also wanted to find out more about what the Heavenly Saint Sect was planning.

"I heard that your sect wants to attack our sect," said Jiang Hao. "Why?"

"Huh?" The old man with a goatee looked surprised. "I didn't say anything about that. Why do you think we would attack you?"

He was pretending to make small talk while keeping a close eye on Jiang Hao. He didn't want to let Jiang Hao escape.

Although Jiang Hao seemed to be only in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, there must be a reason why Yan Hua had chosen him. They didn't want to underestimate the enemy.

"Because of me?" Jiang Hao guessed.

"Partly." the old man with a goatee smiled. "Although many people want to capture you, and we do too, it wouldn't be wise for the heavenly Saint Sect to attack the Heavenly Note Sect. We can't sacrifice ourselves just like that. We need to protect our Holy Master."

"Holy Master?"

Jiang Hao had no idea who the Holy Master was, but he knew a little about the Holy Maiden of the Heavenly Saint Sect.

"Is the Saintess of your sect prepared for the Holy Master?"

The old, white-haired man chuckled. "You have so many questions."

Jiang Hao continued walking forward. His hand was on his saber. He remained on high alert against the two people.

"I'm as good as dead against the two of you. You don't need to be so cautious with me," said Jiang Hao.

The old, white-haired man sneered. "That's true, but it's best if you don't know more about our Holy Maiden, the Saintess, and the Holy Master."

"Actually, it's not that difficult," said the man with a goatee with a smile. "Just keep denying that Yan Hua told you anything, and we will take you with us to our sect. Then... you will be able to see

everything yourself. But you will have to endure torture worse than death. We have already planned everything for the interrogation. Just hold on a bit longer.”

“Haven’t you noticed that I’m very calm? Don’t you think I might have my own hidden trump cards?” asked Jiang Hao.

“Hahaha...” The two men burst into laughter at his words.

“I’m looking forward to your “hidden trump cards” to be honest. You’ll soon realize that everything is as fragile as paper in the face of absolute strength,” said the old, white-haired man.

‘How arrogant!’ thought Jiang Hao.

He learned something from the interaction. Power could blind some people. When that happened, arrogance would be the cause of untimely death. Jiang Hao decided not to let his own arrogance blind him.

After a while, Jiang Hao arrived at a fork in the path.

“Left,” said the old, white-haired man.

Jiang Hao walked to the left. He didn’t know how they were so sure the left path was the correct one, but he didn’t sense any danger.

He continued forward.

After walking for a while, they came upon a huge door.

Jiang Hao frowned. There was a strange power trying to burst out of there. It was suppressed by an invisible force for now. “Enter the door,” the old, white-haired said.

They were excited.

The door opened. Jiang Hao couldn't sense anything anymore, but he kept his hands on his saber and walked in.

He carefully observed the door. There was a protruding stone that might have been a switch.

Ye Ji intentionally lagged behind, but she saw the switch too. Her eyes flickered as if she had figured out a way to escape.

Jiang Hao noticed it. 'Is she trying to use me and trap us inside so she can escape?'

As soon as he entered the stone door, Jiang Hao felt a red light shining on him. He instinctively activated the Hong Meng Heart Sutra to protect himself from whatever was inside.

When the red light dissipated, a vast underground palace came into view. Stone blocks floated in the middle like stairs.

It was like a pyramid with a red pearl at the top. The pearl emitted a faint red light. Strange power surged in all directions.

The power ebbed and flowed with the red light. Jiang Hao felt that it was dangerous. It would be bad to get close to it.

Without hesitation, he activated the Daily Appraisal..

Chapter 190: Senior Sister Hong

Jiang Hao received feedback immediately. He felt a little afraid.



[Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl: A treasure of providence. In ancient times, someone gathered all the misfortune artifacts of the world and refined them for 981 years to condense all the misfortune into a single pearl in the year of disaster. Being near it for an extended period would bring misfortune upon oneself. Physical contact would cause misfortune to seep into its bones. Carelessness would result in annihilation of the body and the soul. If one deliberately used it, they would be contaminated by the karma of the Pearl of Misfortune and suffer its backlash. To control its influence, one must possess great fortune and suppress it with the Galaxy Array or seal it with the Hong Meng Purple Spiritual Energy.]

Jiang Hao hesitated. It was no wonder he had felt the need to instinctively activate the Hong Meng Heart Sutra.

It was to resist the power of misfortune. Once the misfortune engulfed him, it would greatly affect his cultivation.

This ruin might have gathered the Galaxy Array and the power of mountains and rivers to suppress the Pearl of Misfortune.

He dared not touch it. Taking it outside would be disastrous. However, the last sentence caught his eye.

Perhaps he could take it away with him since he had the Hong Meng Heart Sutra, but if it backfired, he didn't know what kind of destructive power it would unleash.

For a moment, he was curious whether Hong Yuye could resist the influence of the Misfortune Pearl. He could take it and give it to her. It was just a thought.

At the very least, he had to wait until tomorrow. Then he could seal the Misfortune Pearl and then assess its safety.

If it was dangerous, there was no need to take unnecessary risks.

At this time, everyone had already entered through the door. Ye Ji stood beside Jiang Hao and positioned herself in a corner.

The old, white-haired man and the man with a goatee entered. They looked at Ye Ji.

“Young woman, I advise you not to make any sudden moves. I’ll keep an eye on you. Don’t even think about escaping.”

Ye Ji didn’t say a word and just stood with her head down.

The two men looked at the pearl. They were astonished. They didn’t know what exactly it was but could feel its power. There were many formations around it.

“The formations are weakening. It will take some time to break through,” the old man with a goatee said.

Jiang Hao wasn’t in a hurry. He would wait for them to break through the formations before he set his plan into motion.

“You two come here and try to break this formation,” said the old man with a goatee after investigating the formations around the pearl.

Jiang Hao didn’t say anything, and Ye Ji still had a role to play. Someone had to try to take down the red pearl.

It was safer to let someone else take the pearl down.

Jiang Hao and Ye Ji remained quiet and walked to the formation on the left.

“Junior Brother Jiang, did you get injured on your way here?” Ye Ji asked as she broke the formation.

She looked calm.

“Just a minor injury,” Jiang Hao said.

“When you came here, were you able to avoid the demons on the path?” she asked.

It was common knowledge that Jiang Hao was very perceptive in detecting the presence of demons.

“Yes.” Jiang Hao nodded.

He had avoided most demons. He had only killed the Golden Core demons and Primordial Spirit demons. After he had killed the small demon, Jiang Hao had left the rest alone.

“Junior Brother Jiang, what kind of spiritual techniques do you cultivate? It’s so powerful,” said Ye Ji and then sighed. “We might not make it out alive.”

‘So... you are after my spiritual technique?’ Jiang Hao could guess her intentions.

“It was taught to me by a senior sister, but it can only be taught orally,” he whispered.

“Which senior sister?” Ye Ji asked. She looked doubtful.

“Senior Sister Hong,” Jiang Hao said.

After that, Ye Ji was silent. She broke the formation and glanced at the old man on the other side.

When the formation on the old man’s side began to shake, she said to Jiang Hao, “Junior Brother Jiang, come and take a look at this formation.” Jiang Hao walked over to her. “What’s wrong?”

He touched the formation. It was a simple defensive formation.

“Just move forward a little, and you’ll see,” Ye Ji urged.

At this moment, they were on the stone platform, with the abyss just at the edge.

Jiang Hao took a step forward. Ye Ji stood behind Jiang Hao and slid a ring down her hand.

In an instant, everything was enveloped by the mist.

Ye Ji struck out with her palm toward Jiang Hao. If he went flying down, his scream would attract the two men.

Then, she could run toward the entrance and escape. She would then press the switch and trap them here. That was her plan.

It was better than waiting for death.

She had considered everything, but she hadn't expected the person in front of her to cause trouble.

Her palm strike had missed, and Jiang Hao was nowhere to be seen. "How is this possible?!"

She was shocked. Ye Ji had used her Golden Core Realm aura to suppress Jiang Hao just to prevent this sort of accident.

"I'll push you lightly. It's only far after what you planned for me," said a voice behind her.

Ye Ji felt a tremendous force pushing back against her.

In an instant, she went flying. She was suspended over the abyss and felt a strong suction force pulling her in.

She turned and looked at Jiang Hao on the stone platform.

Ye Ji couldn't believe it. 'How?!'

She couldn't understand how Jiang Hao had been able to dodge her attack. She didn't understand what kind of force he had used to push her down.

'Did my charm spells even work on him?'

She struggled as she fell but the force pulling her was too strong.

"Junior Brother Jiang, you are killing another disciple. Aren't you afraid of being investigated by the Law Enforcement Hall?!" shouted Ye Ji in fear..