

A Demoness 681

Chapter 681 - 681: It's You! You Hid Yourself Very Well

"Why do you insist on targeting Senior Brother Qian Chen?" asked the man with the large shield.

"Why?" Jiang Hao chuckled. "Because it amuses me."

"You..." The group of people were speechless.

"Don't you think you're taking this too far? Why are you targeting us? We didn't do anything to offend you," someone said.

Jiang Hao couldn't help but laugh. He pointed to the disciples who had fainted.

"What about them? Did they offend you? Why were you planning to kill them?"

"It's their good fortune to pave the way for Senior Qian Chen's path. Not everyone has that privilege," someone said.

"I see... Such an honor, indeed," said Jiang Hao.

Just when they thought Jiang Hao understood, they suddenly saw a beam of moonlight.

Whoosh!

The person who had just spoken had their head separated from their body.

At that moment, Jiang Hao slowly lowered his sword. "Well, I've been studying the Heavenly Blade lately. It's your supreme honor to be my test subject."

Jiang Hao looked at the others. "You all agree with me, right?" The crowd looked at each other. They were afraid to speak.

"Do you not agree with me?" Jiang Hao waved his sword again.

Whoosh!

Another person's head was severed from their body.

The blood was incinerated. Qian Chen didn't have a chance to absorb it.

"I agree! I agree!" someone said.

Jiang Hao smiled. "That's more like it."

"Friend, why argue with us here? The Heavenly Note Sect is under attack. Many are being called to defend it. There are plenty of opportunities outside for someone of your cultivation realm." The man in the Foundation Establishment Realm tried to persuade him. "Why not go out of the sect and take a look?"

Jiang Hao's heart skipped a beat. 'Someone is attacking the Heavenly Note Sect?

I can't stay here for long. If a fight breaks out, it will create problems at the Spirit Herb Garden.'

Jiang Hao was about to make his move. However, someone acted before him.

At that moment, Qian Chen stood up in the midst of the blood. He was surrounded by countless rivers of blood. In an instant, these rivers of blood surged and pierced through the black-robed figures.

The black-robed people turned to look at Qian Chen in surprise.

One of them shouted, "Senior, you must succeed!"

The man in the Foundation Establishment Realm whispered, "I truly wanted to join you, Senior, in founding a sect."

Qian Chen looked at them with emotion. He felt sad to do this.

He wanted to let go of the blood rivers in his hands.

"Let's do it," said the Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator. "We've come so far... we can't give up now. We can't fail."

Qian Chen looked at the others. In the end, his face darkened. "I'm sorry."

Then, he started to extract the blood from the disciples. This left a bloodstone monument in front of him. It bore many names.

Jie Sheng from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion and Dong Liu from the Ice Moon Valley were two names visible.

Dozens of names were engraved on the monument.

"Although I can't take you with me to create a sect, I will succeed and leave your names to be remembered for eternity."

These people watched as their blood was absorbed by Qian Chen. They dedicated themselves to this great cause without any resentment.

Jiang Hao observed from a distance as he saw Qian Chen absorb the blood and merge it with other blood. The names continued to appear.

When all the black-robed people fell, the process of blood fusion neared its end.

However, it was still missing something.

At that moment, Qian Chen looked at Jiang Hao. "Do we have a grudge against

"Perhaps," Jiang Hao said casually.

Qian Chen lowered his head. "Actually, I'm lacking one more blood vow." "Do you want me to help you?" Jiang Hao asked. Qian Chen shook his head. "No, because you're not my blood vow."

"Then, is it going to fail?" Jiang Hao asked.

"No, it can't fail!" Qian Chen shook his head. "May I know who you really are? For you to enter the Heavenly Note Sect so openly... you must not be your true self."

Jiang Hao looked at the person in front of him and smiled. He activated the Heavenly Cauldron and also the Mountain Sea Seal.

Jiang Hao put down the fan, and his appearance changed.

"Senior Brother Qian Chen, it's been too long," Jiang Hao said softly.

He looked calm and indifferent.

Qian Chen was momentarily stunned, but then he felt relieved. "It's you! You hid yourself so well."

“Do you think I am part of the Blood Wish Path?” Jiang Hao asked. He hadn’t received an answer before, but now, he could ask.

“You knew why I was looking for you back then?” Qian Chen was surprised. Jiang Hao nodded. “Yes. That is why I came to find you.”

“I see,” Qian Chen said. “A change of mind can make a world of difference.” Then, he shook his head. “Junior brother, you are not part of the Blood Wish

Path. ”

“Why?” Jiang Hao asked curiously.

“Profound practitioners of the Blood Wish Path are impossible to discern, but you are indeed not one who practices Blood Wish Path. It’s just my intuition.”

“Is there anything else you want to say, Senior?” The Heavenly Sword appeared in Jiang Hao’s hand.

From the moment he restored his appearance, he had decided that he would kill this person.

“Just one last reminder... Within the sect, there are people paying attention to the Blood Wish Path, and you may have caught their eye, ” Qian Chen said as a warning.

“I know. They’re the Saint Bandits,” said Jiang Hao.

Qian Chen was surprised, but he didn’t say anything.

He looked at the blood around him. “I’m only one person away from success. I cannot fail, so...”

Blood started to ooze from Qian Chen's body. "Since they trusted me this much, how can I let them down? I promised to leave their names to be remembered for eternity, and I am the best practitioner of the Blood Wish Path here."

Jiang Hao was ready to take action. He noticed that Qian Chen's vitality was dissipating. However, the blood had completely merged together, and the earth was flowing with it.

In this state, it seemed as though Qian Chen had gained some sort of enlightenment. He began inscribing characters on a bloodstone monument created from the merged blood.

The faster he wrote, the more blood he consumed, and the thicker the aura of death became.

Jiang Hao watched without intervening.

After a long time, Qian Chen made the final stroke, and he laughed. "It's done! It's really possible! I've been preparing for hundreds of years for this. I prepared for this moment when I first joined the Heavenly Note Sect. Finally, I've accomplished it."

"Congratulations, Senior," Jiang Hao said as he looked at Qian Chen. His vitality was about to fade away.

Qian Chen looked at the stone monument and wrote down his name.

"Qian Chen of the Candlelight Pill Pavilion."

He then looked at Jiang Hao.

"This is the best ending for me. Even if I were to live, I wouldn't escape very far. The Heavenly Note Sect may lack in other aspects, but it doesn't fall short in bearing grudges. They would still find ways to kill me even if I flee to another sect since I've killed so many of the sect's disciples.."

Chapter 682 - 682: Forced To Leave The Sect

Jiang Hao was well aware of the grudge against the Heavenly Note Sect.

He had waited in front of other sects for many years to find traitors.

Someone like Qian Chen, even if he hid in the Immortal Sect, the sect would probably find a way to send someone in to kill him. They would find him even if it meant using the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror.

There was no escape for him.

With such a divine artifact, there was nowhere to hide.

So, what was the point?

“Junior Brother, you wouldn’t understand. Creating a new alchemical path is an extraordinary achievement.” Qian Chen smiled.

“You’ve come to the wrong sect, then,” Jiang Hao said.

Qian Chen could escape to another sect, and he didn’t intend to die there.

At least he wouldn’t be relentlessly pursued.

“No other sect can compare to the Heavenly Note Sect. Besides, they don’t have the Blood Pool. At the final moment, the fusion of the Blood Pool is necessary to determine my path. If I have time and enough blood, I will merge the power within the Blood Pool. Then, my strength will skyrocket. Maybe I can try to resist, escape from here, go to a distant place, live a few years of the life I’ve always wanted, and try my own alchemical path. At the very least, I want my path to be known throughout the world. But I know you won’t let me do that, Junior Brother,” said Qian Chen.

He didn’t have enough blood. It just happened that Jiang Hao had killed two people and burned their fresh blood.

But that was how he had managed to survive until the end. Otherwise, the person in front of him would have already taken action.

Jiang Hao fell silent for a moment. 'Was there an attack on the Heavenly Note Sect because of you?'

"Yes," Qian Chen said. "I provided information about the vulnerabilities within the Heavenly Note Sect to the Heavenly Saint Sect and the Blood Shadow Sect, as well as the Sunset Immortal Sect. They might take action, or at least, they can contain the sect. This will give me more time."

Jiang Hao lowered his head. The Heavenly Saint Sect and the Sunset Immortal Sect both had a beef with him.

If the sect were to lose, it would be disastrous for him, especially during these past few days when those who had gone to the Blackheaven Sect hadn't returned yet. The sect was very vulnerable right now.

"Senior Brother, you are truly far-sighted," Jiang Hao said. "What are your plans for this alchemical path?"

"I want to leave it to a few selected individuals from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion," Qian Chen said.

"Do you have spirit stones with you?" Jiang Hao asked.

"I have some alchemical pills and herbs in my residence, which require certain

techniques to enter," said Qian Chen.

"Good." Jiang Hao nodded. He asked for the list of names.

Qian Chen gave it to him and disappeared completely. He felt some relief as well as regret.

For the sake of safety, Jiang Hao unleashed his power and erased his tracks.

Even the stone tablet was incinerated, but he remembered its contents. He also re-engraved the stone tablet and added the names and a brief explanation about their origins.

‘This way, there will be no mistakes.’

After ensuring there were no hidden threats, Jiang Hao approached Qi Yang and the others. He looked at their storage treasures and then disappeared from the spot.

These people were only at the Foundation Establishment Realm and very few spirit stones.

It was better to check Qian Chen’s residence to get more spirit stones. If he got them, he would help with the tasks. If not, so be it.

When Jiang Hao reappeared, he was in a wooden house.

It was now the second day. The spirit beast was not in the courtyard, and Jiang Hao noticed that the peach tree had blossomed.

After watering the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, he made his way to the Spirit Herb Garden.

When he arrived, he saw disciples from the Law Enforcement Hall.

“All cultivators above the Golden Core Realm are to proceed outside the sect to provide support.”

Jiang Hao had just arrived. The disciples saw him and sent some communication talismans flying toward him.

“Junior Brother, you now have temporary permission to go outside. The sect is in dire need of your assistance during this crisis.”

Jiang Hao received the talisman. It was hard for him to believe that the sect had reached such a state.

However, the fact that it hadn't been breached yet indicated that the attack wasn't as fierce as he had imagined.

"Understood."

He couldn't refuse, but he managed to stall for some time. He told them he needed to prepare some things.

When he returned to his residence, he left behind a second teleportation formation. Since the previous one had been used, he wouldn't be able to return if he encountered any danger today.

After taking care of these matters, he went outside the sect and began gathering with other disciples of the sect.

In cases like these, those with a high cultivation realm automatically assume leadership roles.

Jiang Hao, at the middle stage of the Golden Core Middle Realm, was among quite a few juniors. As he watched people gathering, Jiang Hao couldn't help but sigh at how well Qian Chen had chosen his timing.

There were hardly any people paying attention to other matters at the moment.

However, he had orchestrated this. It was indeed remarkable. It was a crazy idea but was done very meticulously.

It was a pity that his opponent had underestimated one aspect. Otherwise, the plan might have actually succeeded.

"Which branch are you from?" asked a Primordial Spirit Realm cultivator.

"I'm Jiang Hao from the Cliff of Broken Hearts," said Jiang Hao.

"Middle stage of the Golden Core Realm? You'll team up with Junior Brother Yu and others to investigate the surrounding areas," said the Primordial Spirit Realm senior.

Jiang Hao made his way to Junior Brother Yu's team.

The team was led by a cultivator at the late stage of the Golden Core Realm. It was a group of five people, with three men and two women.

"Juniors, follow me," Yu Dehong said politely.

Jiang Hao and the others nodded in agreement.

Their senior appeared to be around twenty-eight years old, and he had a solid cultivation in the late stage of the Golden Core Realm. He had experienced life-and-death situations and was a reliable leader.

"Remember, if you encounter any issues, escape and wait to regroup," said Yu Dehong kindly.

"We are currently on patrol. If we see anyone being hostile, it means the attackers plan an ambush. There is no need to stay and die there. Just regroup and report your findings. If you discover anything, leave immediately and avoid stirring up trouble."

"Senior Brother, are you being too lenient?" a young man asked. "If it's possible, we could totally stay and take them down to gather more information."

"Indeed, as cultivators, we should fight," said a short-haired woman.

Jiang Hao looked at them.

They were all in the Golden Core Realm, and their auras were quite powerful. It meant that they had good talent.

They also possessed remarkable magical treasures, and their status and positions were quite high in the sect.

Yu Dehong felt somewhat embarrassed. “Juniors, you have some good insights, but we are ultimately on patrol. Our main duty is to do our job properly, rather than get caught in the fray.”

The other two didn’t say much, but their disdain was evident.

Jiang Hao looked at the other cultivator, who was a woman.

She was in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm. She looked nervous and kept glancing at the other seniors beside her.

Jiang Hao sighed quietly. He realized that this team was quite disorganized. It was no wonder they were only given patrol duties.

However, even on patrol, he was worried about leaving the sect. After all, quite a few people were keeping an eye on him, and they could show up at any moment.

But the distant explosion of power distracted him.

In front of the sect, powerful cultivators constantly engaged in battle. The storm caused by the erupting power never seemed to cease.

This was the main battlefield between the two sides.

‘Let’s hope nothing dangerous happens...’ Jiang Hao thought to himself..

Chapter 683 - 683: Forced to Take Action

On the first day of their patrol, there were no problems.

The absence of disciples from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion in their group put Jiang Hao at ease. Otherwise, he would need to remain vigilant at all times, which was quite troublesome.

However, it wouldn't take long for others to find out that he was outside the sect.

Someone was bound to come looking for him. The influence left behind by Senior Brother Qian Chen was even greater than he had expected.

He had thought that killing Senior Brother Qian Chen would resolve the issues, but it turned out that killing him would have been in vain.

"I can take the first watch," Jiang Hao said.

The others had no objections.

So, Jiang Hao moved to a more remote location, while the rest of the team meditated in hiding. They didn't light a fire to avoid being detected.

Suddenly, a light appeared. It emanated from the short-haired woman.

Jiang Hao frowned because this place was outside the sect. The light could compromise their location.

Once someone notices it, they might approach their group.

Jiang Hao walked to her, and Yu Dehong followed suit.

“Junior Sister, may I ask why there is such a conspicuous light here?” Yu Dehong asked.

The woman was from the Ice Moon Valley, and she was fairly young.

“It’s my magical treasure. It helps me enter a state of meditation and enhances my cultivation,” Ximen Ling said.

“Is that the Cleansing Dust Bell? I’ve heard that it can indeed enhance your cultivation, but you should be able to conceal the light. Have you tried that? After all, the light is too conspicuous. If someone notices it, they might approach us and put us at risk. It would also disturb your meditation,” said Yu Dehong kindly.

Jiang Hao could tell that the main purpose of this treasure was the emitted light, which also had functions like warding off insects and dust, as well as creating a pleasant fragrance. Its effect on meditation was minimal.

Ximen Ling glanced at Yu Dehong. With a reluctant nod, she put the magical treasure away. Jiang Hao stepped back and returned to his original position to keep watch.

During the midnight shift, Yu Dehong took over the watch.

“Senior Brother.”

“Thank you, Junior Brother, you’ve worked hard.”

Yu Dehong felt helpless. “I hope you don’t overthink this, Junior Brother. We are all fellow sect members, and it’s normal to have differences due to our different backgrounds.”

“I understand, and I admire you for being so patient, Senior Brother,” Jiang Hao said politely.

He could tell that this senior had some unique abilities.

“We may have to be on this mission for several more days, so be careful, Junior Brother,” Yu Dehong said to him.

Jiang Hao nodded.

After that, he returned to the group.

As soon as he arrived, he saw Ximen Ling take out a sachet. While the fragrance was faint, it was still distinctive. Jiang Hao glanced at Yu Dehong. He had noticed it too.

This time, Yu Dehong didn’t say anything but set up a barrier to prevent the scent from spreading, which resolved the issue.

Jiang Hao had to admit that if someone else led this team, it might have already led to conflicts.

It wasn’t easy to manage people in such circumstances. If Yu Dehong had been prideful with a powerful technique, it would have been an entirely different story.

The night went by peacefully.

During this time, Jiang Hao had gathered some information about his companions.

Yu Dehong was from the Flowing Waterfall.

Ximen Ling was from the Ice Moon Valley.

Lu Wen was from the Thunder Fire Peak.

Ning Shuang was from the Misty Cloud Peak.

“Let’s go. This time, we will be investigating the western area. It’s difficult to communicate with other sect members in this area, so we must be very careful,” Yu Dehong said.

Jiang Hao saw that Ximen Ling and Lu Wen seemed somewhat disdainful of this senior’s approach.

‘If anything happens, it’ll be because of these two...’

Jiang Hao didn’t underestimate Ning Shuang either. She appeared obedient and meek, but no one knew what she might be thinking.

Last night, he had appraised Yu Dehong and found no issues with him. He was a decent senior.

He hadn’t appraised the other three. He wanted to save his ability in case they ran into some other danger. The Daily Appraisal ability always came in handy, so he couldn’t waste it.

After waiting for some time, Jiang Hao frowned. He waited a bit longer. “Senior Brother Yu.”

Yu Dehong’s heart sank as he looked at Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao pointed to the left. After a careful scan, Yu Dehong did indeed sense something.

He then looked at Jiang Hao in surprise. Jiang Hao had sensed it even earlier than he had.

Soon after, a figure entered their line of sight.

“Peak of Foundation Establishment Realm?!” Lu Wen exclaimed.

It appeared that the person was middle-aged, with torn clothes and some injuries. It seemed like they had fled to this location.

“We can capture this person and see if they have any information,” Ximen Ling said.

“Wait... This person is a bit unusual. You should know that this route is close to the sect, so why would anyone take this path? Why would they do it in such a noticeable way? There’s a possibility that he’s leading us into a trap. We should observe first. Be cautious and suppress your auras,” Yu Dehong said.

Jiang Hao nodded in agreement. He could see that the person seemed to be at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm but was really at the late stage of the Golden Core Realm.

“What do you all think?” Lu Wen looked at Jiang Hao and Ning Shuang.

“I think Senior Brother Yu’s assessment is correct. This person must be concealing their true cultivation realm,” Jiang Hao said.

Ning Shuang looked around. “I agree. Let’s listen to Senior Brother Yu.”

Since Jiang Hao and Ning Shuang both agreed with Senior Brother Yu’s suggestion, the other two had no choice.

In the afternoon, Jiang Hao and the others kept their eyes on the stranger.

The person leaned against a rock. When he saw no one around, he removed his defensive robe and began inspecting his injuries. He even set his magical treasures aside.

Lu Wen and Ximen Ling didn’t hesitate. Even if the person had concealed their cultivation realm, they believed that at such a close range, they could successfully ambush him.

Yu Dehong tried to intervene, but it was too late.

Jiang Hao had a bad feeling about this.

Lu Wen and Ximen Ling's swords quickly closed in on the Foundation Establishment cultivator's back. Just as they thought they were about to succeed, the person turned around and smiled.

"I finally see you."

At the same time, his aura rapidly ascended to the late stage of the Golden Core Realm.

"Late stage?!" The two attackers tried to retreat, but it was too late.

Even Yu Dehong was astonished.

"Jumor Brotner Jlang and Jumor Sister Ning, you b0tn run and nide. I'll try my best to stop him. If I can't handle it, I'll try to catch up with you later," said Yu Dehong and rushed forward to provide support.

With one cultivator at the late stage of the Golden Core Realm and two at the middle stage, they should have been able to handle one opponent at the late stage, but...

Jiang Hao looked into the distance. Just as he had expected, it was an ambush.

Other people were coming to assist the enemy.

Should they flee or not?

The two at the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm weren't worth saving, but he felt that Senior Brother Yu was decent.

With a sigh, Jiang Hao gave up on escaping.

He took a step forward. He used the Thousand Demonic Tones Technique.

At that moment, the Golden Core cultivator's palm struck Lu Wen and Ximen Ling.

Boom!

A powerful force struck them and injured them severely.

Fortunately, at the critical moment, Yu Dehong appeared to engage in the fight.

When he saw an opening, he launched a lethal attack. As long as he came into contact with the opponent's defense, he could quickly close in for direct combat.

However, the opponent seemed to have seen through his plan and dispersed his defense. He narrowly avoided the attack.

Ye Dehong thought that this opponent was highly skilled and had great courage. It was impressive that this person had dared to disperse their defenses.

But just as the opponent felt that he could win, he heard a voice devoid of emotion.

"Demonic Sound Slash."

Boom!

The demon sound surged, and then, a longsword appeared near the Golden Core cultivator's neck. It moved with the speed of thunder and severed his neck.

Swish!

It was quick, precise, and ruthless.

Yu Dehong and the others watched as the enemy's head separated from his body, and Jiang Hao's figure came into view.

He held the longsword and appeared aloof.

The scene sent shivers down their spines.

Jiang Hao ignored the Golden Core opponent and turned to look at them. "Go quickly! Maybe you can still make it!"

It was too late now. Their reinforcements were arriving.

After taking their storage treasure, Jiang Hao immediately left.

Yu Dehong also rushed ahead with his team.

Jiang Hao had sensed the danger faster than any of them. So, if he said there was more danger, no one disputed it.

However, the sword strike just now was so stunning that it remained etched in their minds for a long time.

The person before them seemed even more remarkable than they had

anticipated..

Chapter 684 - 684: Meeting The Master Of The Heavenly Joy Pavilion

"This way," Jiang Hao said as he led the way.

Yu Dehong and the others followed him.

Jiang Hao was the most perceptive, so they had to let him lead.

However, the constant change of direction made it difficult for those behind him, especially the injured Ximen Ling and Lu Wen.

Ning Shuang, at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm, also struggled to keep up.

Fortunately, Yu Dehong helped her, or she would have fallen behind.

Jiang Hao was unusually fast for someone in the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm.

Many people could use the Thousand Demonic Tone to a certain extent, but no one else could use it like this.

They never thought that the technique could be this powerful.

Jiang Hao didn't slow down. He continued to move quickly and changed directions constantly.

"Why are we taking such a roundabout way?" Ximen Ling asked.

"If we don't, they'll catch up," Jiang Hao said.

"But we haven't found anything. Are you just trying to drag this out because of your newfound fame?" Ximen Ling asked coldly.

She wasn't the only one thinking this way.

"I also checked. There's no need to take such a roundabout way. We can return to the sect. Are you doing this to show off? I remember you used to boast about your accomplishments. Is this your way of achieving them?" said Lu Wen.

Jiang Hao glanced at them but did not say anything.

"Got nothing to say?" Ximen Ling said. "If that's the case, you might as well go on your own. We can find our own way back."

"Then, we'll split up," Yu Dehong said.

Jiang Hao didn't stop for even a moment and continued moving forward.

There were indeed stronger pursuers behind them, and he needed to lead his group to safety. It was a bit complicated but not impossible since the pursuers had not detected their presence yet.

Ximen Ling and Lu Wen, who were left behind, were somewhat worried, but they relaxed when they didn't run into trouble.

"It looks like there aren't any problems," Ximen Ling said. "We can go back." "We'll leave immediately when they arrive," Lu Wen said.

As they were about to leave on their flying swords, some figures suddenly appeared in the vicinity.

"I thought it was a trap, but it seems like it's not," an elderly man said. "Just in time. We can't use these two to find others."

The power of the peak of the Golden Core Realm and the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm oppressed the two.

In the face of these formidable individuals, Lu Wen and Ximen Ling trembled in fear. They couldn't even move.

“Please! We’re just...”

Someone slapped Ximen Ling and sent her flying.

“Did I ask you to speak yet?”

The two were silenced. They were overwhelmed by fear.

Meanwhile, Jiang Hao suddenly stopped.

He sighed. “Senior Brother Yu, you’ll have to fend for yourself.”

Yu Dehong was stunned. Then, he understood what Jiang Hao meant.

“Of course, Junior Brother, you’ve done your best. If you can escape, please do,”

he said with a smile.

Jiang Hao lowered his head. He hadn’t expected that leaving the two behind would compromise their location.

Now, the range of his abilities was not sufficient to take everyone with him.

It wasn’t long before many people appeared in the vicinity. There were two people at the late stage and peak of the Golden Core Realm, and two others at the early and middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Facing these powerful individuals, Yu Dehong had no intention of fighting. He was utterly powerless.

Jiang Hao lowered his head and breathed a sigh of relief.

It appeared they were weaker than he had anticipated, which made the situation much more manageable.

However, it seemed that these people did not recognize him, so his journey outside was not as dangerous as he had initially thought. At least, they were not constantly watching him closely.

“These two have told us everything. You have to help us enter the Heavenly Note Sect,” said the elderly man as he pushed Lu Wen and Ximen Ling forward.

They were covered in injuries, and they looked helpless.

“The sect is not easy to enter. Senior, I hope you understand,” Yu Dehong said respectfully.

“It’s fine. You can enter with your identity tokens. They explained it very clearly to us.” The man pointed to Lu Wen and Ximen Ling.

Yu Dehong sighed. Jiang Hao continued to sense his surroundings and found everything to be fine. He intended to do something about this situation.

However, when he was about to act, his eyes narrowed.

He immediately retracted all his powers and became alert.

An aura much stronger and terrifying than his own was approaching.

In just a few breaths, he felt a gaze on him. The gaze fell on him like the scorching rays of the sun. When he looked up, he was stunned.

Behind the Primordial Spirit Realm cultivators was a man who had appeared without anyone noticing.

He was middle-aged and wore a white and blue robe. He had deep eyes. He seemed somewhat melancholic.

He was the Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion.

This was a person Jiang Hao had wanted to avoid at all costs.

“What are you looking at?” the elderly man asked Jiang Hao

The others looked back as well and were horrified.

The people who turned back instantly exploded into pieces. There was no exception.

When only half the number of people remained, they trembled in fear, and no one dared to look back.

“When did this place become a gathering place for the Blood Shadow Sect?” said a deep voice. Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Everyone who had surrounded Jiang Hao’s group exploded into pieces, including Lu Wen and Ximen Ling. Each explosion sent a shockwave through Jiang Hao’s heart, but he remained calm.

Once the people around him were all dead, Jiang Hao said respectfully,

“Greetings, Senior.”

Yu Dehong and Ning Shuang also regained their senses and bowed. They had seen this person before.

The Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion approached Jiang Hao slowly.

Jiang Hao had already considered his options. Once this person made a move, he would attempt to escape.

With the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl in his possession, he should be able to prevent Nine Nether from attacking him.

As for what kind of changes the Nine Nether would bring, that was no longer something he needed to consider.

However, in the span of a breath, Jiang Hao saw the person appear in front of him.

“Are you afraid of me?” asked the deep, terrifying voice.

“Senior, you must be joking,” Jiang Hao said.

“Why do you think I showed up here?” asked the Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion.

Jiang Hao kept a cautious eye on the person in front of him. “Senior, I assume you are here to support the sect.”

“Do you think I’ll kill you?” asked the Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion.

Jiang Hao’s heart skipped a beat, but he dared not show too much emotion. He shook his head. “Of course not, Senior.”

“No need to bow to me,” said the Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion as he looked at Jiang Hao.

At that moment, an invisible force began to lift Jiang Hao's hand. Jiang Hao did not accept this gesture of respect.

"As a senior of the sect, it's only appropriate for me to pay my respects," Jiang Hao said.

"You should be more confident in yourself," said the Pavilion Master calmly. "You are highly regarded by many, and your death would greatly affect me." With that, the Pavilion Master walked toward the battlefield of the sect..

Chapter 685 - 685: The Enemies Have Arrived

Jiang Hao let out a sigh of relief only after the Master of Heavenly Joy Pavilion had completely disappeared from their sight. Meeting him here was something he had never expected.

If he had made a move, his chances of survival would have been slim. Any method could have backfired, no matter how well-prepared it was.

The strength of that person was beyond his understanding.

When he looked over to the side, he noticed that Senior Brother Yu Dehong and Junior Sister Ning Shuang had both fainted at some point. It must have been because of the Pavilion Master.

He surveyed the area and found two storage treasures, which counted as a gain. After stowing the items, he woke his two fellow disciples up.

They were somewhat disoriented. They thought they were in danger but soon realized that a branch master had appeared to save them.

They looked around but didn't see anyone else. They didn't know how they had fainted.

When they saw the Pavilion Master walking over to Jiang Hao, they understood that some things were better left unknown.

“Senior Brother, what should we do now?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Let’s go back,” Yu Dehong said. “We need to report the situation.”

He hesitated and asked, ‘What do you think we should say about you?’ He was asking Jiang Hao if he wanted his actions to be known.

“Just report the truth, Senior Brother,” Jiang Hao said.

He had done everything within the scope of his abilities. Even if it was a little exaggerated, it wouldn’t matter.

This way, he could let others in the same realm know that he was not to be trifled with.

For those who were stronger, he would avoid provoking them, and if there were any problems, his true abilities would be sufficient to deal with them.

He would feel safer that way.

With his cultivation at the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm, it was unlikely that he would provoke someone he couldn’t handle.

The Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion was an exception.

“Very well. Let’s go back.” Yu Dehong breathed a sigh of relief. This way, they wouldn’t have to worry about anything.

Ning Shuang didn’t voice any objections and followed the two of them.

In no time, they returned to the command center of the sect. Yu Dehong went in to make his report, while Jiang Hao and Ning Shuang waited outside.

“Senior Brother, you’re amazing. You might have achieved some merits this time,” Ning Shuang said.

Jiang Hao nodded and told her he just got lucky.

“How much longer will this battle last?” Ning Shuang asked in concern.

Given that even the Golden Core Realm cultivators were asked to assist, the entire matter didn’t bode well.

Jiang Hao just shook his head. He didn’t know, but with the Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion here, they might have a change.

Indeed, the outermost battle in the afternoon began to tilt in their favor. The Heavenly Note Sect started to suppress the enemy.

What was happening inside was unknown to Jiang Hao, as the power fluctuations there were too strong for him to approach.

Their mission began to change. They appeared to be preparing to launch a counterattack. They also added two more people to the team. The two newcomers were both at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm.

They were a little injured. It seemed that they had also been attacked. “I’m Qian Yu from the Hundred Bones Forest. Greetings, Seniors.”

“And I’m Qian Shi from the Hundred Bones Forest. It’s an honor to make your acquaintance, Seniors.”

Jang Hao and Ning Shuang also introduced themselves.

After that, they shared some information about their origins. These two were the only survivors from their previous team, which meant they were strong enough to have survived on the battlefield.

The two sisters looked somewhat alike. They might have been siblings.

The next day, the five of them set off once again.

Jiang Hao had appraised Ning Shuang the night before and found out that she was pretending to be clueless while secretly holding on to a magic treasure.

She intended to let others fight while ensuring her own safety. She would only use her magic treasure in a desperate situation.

At other times, she would ask others for help and protection.

Jiang Hao wasn't surprised by this. If she were truly that naive, it would be troublesome.

It meant that she was smart and wouldn't just drag them down. As for the other two, he would have to wait and see.

Senior Brother Yu Dehong instructed them to follow his orders. However, if a fight broke out, he emphasized that they should listen to Jiang Hao.

This took the two sisters by surprise, but they nodded in agreement. They were better than the previous two teammates.

"I heard that Senior Brother and Senior Sister were surrounded by some Primordial Spirit and Golden Core cultivators?" Qian Yu asked curiously.

"Yes." Ning Shuang nodded.

“How did you manage to escape?” Qian Yu asked again.

“We didn’t manage to escape. We were saved by a branch master,” Ning Shuang said. “But the seniors were amazing. We managed to run for a long time before we were caught.”

“Haha... it was just good luck. Otherwise, we would have died already.” Yu Dehong laughed and then changed the topic. “So... what happened to you two? Your team had ten people and you are the only survivors. It must have been difficult for you.”

The two women’s faces darkened. “It was because we had a traitor in our team. Most of the disciples were... unable to return.”

“If it weren’t for that traitor, we wouldn’t have ended up like this...”

Their voices were filled with anger and hatred.

Yu Dehong decided not to press them further about it. Jiang Hao observed the two women carefully. The others were talking and joking along the way.

In the evening, they finally approached the battlefield, which meant they were likely to encounter more enemies.

“It’s difficult to go back from here. We need to be cautious,” Yu Dehong said.

“That’s true. It’s very difficult to return from here. It is inevitable to avoid an attack in this area,” said Qian Yu.

Jiang Hao lowered his head and sighed. He then glanced at Ning Shuang. He was trying to guess what she was thinking.

“There’s someone ahead,” said Qian Shi, who was usually very quiet.

“What?!” Yu Dehong was startled.

Just as he was about to walk ahead and check, Jiang Hao grabbed his shoulder.

When he turned around and saw Jiang Hao, his heart sank. It meant that Qian Shi was lying...

Jiang Hao’s action surprised Qian Yu and Qian Shi.

“Senior Brother Jiang, what’s the matter?” asked Qian Yu.

“May I ask you a question, Junior Sister?” Jiang Hao looked at the two women.

“Of course, Senior Brother, please ask,” Qian Yu said politely.

“Let’s say there was a day when your cultivation was hindered and advancing became difficult, and you needed a significant number of pills and spirit stones to advance further. If someone found you and said that if you agreed to give them your location, they would provide three times the amount of spirit stones and pills, along with profound techniques and magical treasures, would you agree?” Jiang Hao asked solemnly.

Qian Yu was taken aback. “The past is better left unspoken.”

“I’m afraid I must insist that you do look back on it,” said Jiang Hao.

“Then, I have a question for you too, Senior Brother,” Qian Yu said.

“Ask away,” said Jiang Hao.

“If, let’s say, the same thing happened to you, and you were offered the same deal, would you agree to it?”

Jiang Hao lowered his head. He knew that enemies had arrived..

Chapter 686 - 686: Mining Is Very Important

Yu Dehong sighed inwardly when he heard Qian Yu’s words.

So, these people were the traitors...

Most of the team from before had perished, leaving only these two alive. And now, it was their turn.

The path of immortality was fraught with challenges, resources were scarce, and competition was inevitable.

It was up to the individual to decide how to become stronger. It seemed that his methods were inferior to theirs.

“Are they already here then?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Senior Brother Jiang, you’ve already figured it out. There’s no need to ask further. The rumors were true. I must say your skills are exceptional,” said Qian

Ning Shuang took a step back.

Jiang Hao noticed it but didn’t pay much attention. He thought she would wait for the right moment to flee.

Perhaps it was because she hadn’t fled in the earlier encounter, and the situation had worsened. She was more careful this time.

Sure enough, a magical treasure emanated, and Ning Shuang's presence faded.

By the time someone noticed, it was too late.

Qian Yu noticed it as Ning Shuang disappeared.

She was shocked.

How could the seemingly frail woman vanish without a trace? I

If only she had been more observant, Ning Shuang wouldn't have slipped away unnoticed.

As it turned out, she had been pretending to be naive and frail. She just used others and didn't care if others were in danger.

"We're done for!" Qian Yu said in despair.

Her betrayal would be exposed to the sect now because one of the people had escaped. She intended to leave the sect and never return.

Jiang Hao watched and then focused on his aura. He closed his eyes and pretended to faint.

Yu Dehong was astonished and had intended to help him, but he fell to the ground as well.

Thud!

Yu Dehong fell, but Jiang Hao, on the other hand, stopped halfway and then stood up again.

Qian Yu and Qian Shi were shocked.

What on earth was happening? Why was he acting so strangely?

Jiang Hao remained calm and looked at the approaching figures. There were three people. Among them, two were in the early stage and one was in the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

“Three people at the Primordial Spirit Realm to capture a Golden Core Realm cultivator like me? Seriously?” said Jiang Hao.

“Somebody paid a high price for your life. We didn’t really want to come. After all, this place is in the middle of a battle and extremely dangerous for us. But someone offered too much for your death,” the middle-aged man in charge said.

“Spirit stones?” Jiang Hao asked.

It was likely related to the Sunset Immortal Sect. He hadn’t expected that their long-standing enmity would be rekindled.

“Can you tell me who paid you? I deserve to know if I’m going to die anyway,” said Jiang Hao.

“The son of Elder Gui of the Sunset Immortal Sect, Gui Yun,” the middle-aged man said.

Jiang Hao had thought they would refuse to reveal the name, but he didn’t expect the information to be so easily given.

Jiang Hao appraised the man to see if he was speaking the truth. Indeed, he was.

“In that case, let’s not waste any more time. After all, this place isn’t very safe,” Jiang Hao said. Politely.

“You’re really looking out for...,” the middle-aged man said with a smirk, but he found that his vision was already blurring. Then, he fell to the ground.

He was dead before he could even complete his words.

The sudden turn of events left everyone stunned, especially Qian Yu and Qian Shi. It was almost unbelievable.

However, the two early-stage Primordial Spirit Realm cultivators reacted quickly. One attempted to attack while the other tried to escape.

Unfortunately, the sword light swept by, and moonlight shone brightly. Their figures disappeared like wisps of smoke.

Jiang Hao collected the three storage treasures and turned to look at the two juniors.

“Senior Brother, this is all a misunderstanding...” Qian Yu said in fear.

She couldn’t have dreamed that this Golden Core Realm senior could take down primordial Spirit Realm cultivators in a single blow. How had they encountered such a horrifying person?

Jiang Hao nodded in understanding.

Then, he swung his sword, and their world was enveloped by the blade’s light.

After dealing with the bodies, Jiang Hao looked at Senior Brother Yu Dehong, who was still unconscious.

“We can’t continue traveling together. It will definitely become more dangerous. If I travel with others, I will surely be discovered,” Jiang Hao muttered.

With his current strength, he could escape. However, it would be a problem if other sect members were present.

He didn't want to take any action at this moment.

Since he had come out this time, he decided to continue staying here.

However, he didn't know what kind of danger he might encounter.

People from the Sunset Immortal Sect had already arrived. The Heavenly Saint Sect, the Fallen Immortal Clan, Feng Hua, and Yin Wei might be around here too. It was undoubtedly very dangerous.

He had no choice but to remain outside the sect. If he couldn't fight, they could always use the Thousand Miles Teleportation Talisman to escape and return to the sect.

Hopefully, by that time, Golden Core Realm cultivators would no longer be needed.

After leaving some subtle magic to awaken Senior Brother Yu Dehong, Jiang Hao vanished from the spot.

He would head to either the Blackheaven Sect or the Sunset Immortal Sect to investigate the matter.

He decided to find a mine and dig for ores. It was important for him right now.

The enemies were not as important as digging for ores in the mine.

After all, it was far from easy to make the enemy lose his trail completely.

He would have to wait until he reached the Immortal Ascension Platform to infiltrate the Sunset Immortal Sect. For now, his focus was on finding the nearest cave with mines.

Once he had determined the location of the nearest mine, Jiang Hao set off quickly.

He didn't want to go to a regular mine, but rather a more profitable one.

His first target was the mining site of the Blackheaven Sect, which was fortunately not very far away from his sect. Otherwise, he would have to choose another location.

The appearance of a Grand Earth Emperor might trigger the emergence of the Xuanyuan Sword.

That would undoubtedly cause a huge commotion. He couldn't be close when that happened. It would be like jumping headfirst into the fire pit.

It took Jiang Hao seven days to reach the vicinity of the Blackheaven Sect's mining site. It was a vast mining site that surrounded an entire mountain.

Jiang Hao concealed his presence from others' perceptions. In this way, he could dig in peace for some time. He would only leave if he was chased away.

There were strong individuals guarding the mining site, so Jiang Hao didn't dare to barge in.

However, he used his divine ability to appraise one of the individuals. He then discreetly entered the mine by assuming the identity of one of the inner sect disciples.

In the mine, Jiang Hao led a group of miners toward a mine shaft.

His official role was to supervise others, but his real goal was to mine. He had some people with him to assist in overseeing the miners.

The miners were mostly individuals who had committed crimes or were from the demonic sect.

Using ordinary people for mining would be too slow, so these individuals were more suitable.

“Senior, have you thought about the matter I mentioned to you last time?” One of the miners approached Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao was puzzled.

‘What matter is it now?’

Chapter 687 - 687: He Must Have Been Possessed

The leader Jiang Hao replaced in this place was an ordinary disciple of the Blackheaven Sect’s inner sect.

After reaching the Foundation Establishment Realm, his cultivation hadn’t made much progress, so he came to the mining site in search of a job. He hoped to find opportunities here.

He arrived and never left, and before he knew it, it had been several decades.

During this time, he progressed from the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm to the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

He was only one step away from reaching the Golden Core Realm.

It wasn’t because he had any extraordinary encounters. It was mainly because he was ruthless in dealing with matters and gained many benefits from the mining site.

Jiang Hao took notice of this and decided to replace him.

If someone was just an honest cultivator, he didn’t want to have conflicts with them.

He didn’t want to disrupt their peaceful lives.

Ruthless people usually brought a lot of trouble. Jiang Hao had considered that already.

But little did he know that there was more to the situation.

He glanced at the miners around him and found that the person standing next to him was ignored by the others.

He realized that this person had always been like this, and he might have allowed him to do that.

Upon closer observation, he found that the miner in front of him looked like he was in his thirties or forties and was at the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

He felt like he had seen this person somewhere before.

“How long have you been in the mine?” Jiang Hao suddenly asked.

The miner qppmpd Rllrnriqpd HP didn't nndprqtnnd whv thiq qpninr

suddenly asking that question. “About fourteen years,” he said truthfully.

Jiang Hao nodded.

The other person, however, seemed to be somewhat worried. “Senior, are you going to make a decision soon?”

“Let's wait and see for now. There is no rush,” Jiang Hao casually said.

Indeed, there was no rush. He didn't know how long he would have to stay here, so he might as well start mining first.

The other things didn't concern him.

For now, he just decided to stall for time.

Seeing this, the miner didn't say anything more.

"It seems like he still has some time to spare," Jiang Hao muttered to himself in silence.

If the person appeared anxious, it meant that whatever decision he was asking about was indeed urgent.

That would make things difficult for everyone.

As they entered the mine, the people around them began mining.

The treatment of the miners here was similar to that in the Heavenly Note Sect.

The only difference was that there was no Lawless Tower here to suppress people and lower their cultivation.

So, there were many restrictions on miners at the Foundation Establishment Realm. Once they started working, it was easy to trigger them.

If they could advance to the Golden Core Realm, they could leave the mining site. However, Jiang Hao wasn't concerned about that.

Mining began, and Jiang Hao watched from the side. He was in no hurry to participate.

After waiting for a while and making sure that there were no issues around, he approached the ore and gently touched it.

He felt that the ores here were harder than in the usual places.

“Senior, at this rate, we might not be able to meet our quota for this month,” said a Foundation Establishment Realm disciple who looked to be in his thirties.

Jiang Hao turned to look at him. It seemed like he had reached a dead end and was trying to find some opportunities here.

They locked eyes for a moment, and the junior quickly lowered his head and apologized. He then said he was sure that the senior might have his own arrangements.

Jiang Hao felt that the person in front of him was particularly afraid of the person he had disguised himself as.

“What arrangements do you think I have?” he asked.

“Like letting these people work faster and catching up in half a month...” the Foundation Establishment Realm disciple said.

Jiang Hao observed the others carefully, and he realized that the miners’ conditions were not good.

Their physical health was below average, which was why their output was low.

The miners trembled in fear.

“Do you think that’s fair?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Senior Brother, your decision will always be right,” said the Foundation Establishment Realm disciple.

Jiang Hao sighed inwardly. He realized that this senior must have been a ruthless person before.

“Let’s just work as usual for now, and you keep an eye on them.” Jiang Hao shook his head and took out his mining tools.

Then, he started digging.

Clang!

Clang!

One rock after another fell to the ground.

As the ores fell, white bubbles appeared.

[Strength +1]

[Stamina +1]

It had been a long time since he had last dug up ores.

As he absorbed the bubbles, Jiang Hao felt some of his frustration and anxiety being washed away.

Finally, he was on the right path in life.

He didn’t like scheming and fighting. He didn’t like killing others.

If circumstances hadn’t forced him, there would be no blades in his hands.

If he could keep mining like this, he wouldn't have any complaints.

After that, he stopped thinking and began mining.

The collision of the pickaxe with the rocks sounded very clear. His speed and strength were remarkable.

The people around him looked on with fearful expressions.

However, they quickly started mining and attempted to keep up with his pace.

They knew that if they didn't keep up, there would be trouble.

However, Jiang Hao was physically fit. How could the tired miners keep up with him?

In just an hour, many of them had returned to their previous speed or were even slower than before.

Everyone braced themselves for the torment they would suffer.

They waited for the supervisor to stop digging.

Noon arrived, and they thought it was time.

However, the supervisor continued digging.

They thought he would have stopped by now, but he didn't.

In the evening, it was time to eat, and the supervisor finally stopped.

But he only said one thing and resumed mining.

“Everyone, have your meal and rest, then continue.”

The supervisor didn’t eat.

He continued mining.

After dinner, as they listened to the supervisor’s sounds of digging, they felt increasingly uneasy.

It had been a whole day. What torment would they have to endure later?

At night, the mining site was about to close.

Reluctantly, Jiang Hao put away his tools.

Today’s harvest was good. He had obtained two blue bubbles.

The Blackheaven Sect indeed had remarkable resources.

“Work is done for today. We’ll continue tomorrow,” Jiang Hao said as he looked at everyone.

The miners all lowered their heads and dared not look him in the eye.

They had waited to be punished, but five days had passed like that.

They realized that the supervisor had done nothing other than mining, and he even reminded them to take breaks while he continued to work.

Was this really the same supervisor?

He must have been possessed by something..

Chapter 688 - 688: The Light of the Righteous Path

For five consecutive days, mining proceeded as usual.

Jiang Hao was surprised.

He had a five-day Concealment Talisman, but he had only used it for three days.

He had been betting that they wouldn't come looking for him for three days.

It seemed to be the case that both the Heavenly Saint Sect and the others didn't put in much effort to find him.

It made sense when he thought about it. A Golden Core Realm cultivator wasn't worth their full attention.

After the sixth day, Jiang Hao used the Concealment Talisman again. This time, he used it for five days.

This meant he could mine in peace for another five days, which was good.

He had made good progress. He had obtained thirteen blue bubbles.

If he continued like this, he would be able to advance in a little over a month. He didn't want to leave.

He wanted to continue mining until the sect stopped the fighting and he could return.

He hoped the fighting would last longer.

Once the fighting ceased, the sect would look for him. The Law Enforcement Hall was efficient, and as a person on their suspect list, he would be found and taken back sooner or later.

He continued mining until early August.

Jiang Hao noticed that the people around him were looking at him differently. They looked at him in shock and disbelief.

He didn't pay much attention to it.

What others thought of him was none of his concern, as long as they didn't suspect his identity.

But others didn't think the same way. A female miner couldn't help but steal glances at Jiang Hao.

Her hands were bloody from the cuts, but she was used to it. What really surprised her was the supervisor's behavior.

They hadn't been punished, and they had passed ten days without any incident.

At that moment, she saw the supervisor suddenly make a move. He swung his hand and threw a longsword, which flew directly toward her.

A powerful aura erupted.

Once it made contact, it would undoubtedly kill her.

How could someone like him change? The punishment was just much later than before.

Clang!

As the woman closed her eyes and waited for death, a metallic sound echoed behind her.

She instinctively turned to see a strange stone monster pinned to the wall.

The monster was just two steps away from her. If not for the sword, she would be dead...

"Stay alert," Jiang Hao said.

In an instant, the entire mine was in an uproar, especially the woman.

She looked at Jiang Hao's back. She was now a hundred percent sure that this person wasn't the same supervisor as before.

"Pass me my sword," Jiang Hao said.

The woman didn't dare to hesitate and immediately wiped the blood and dirt from her hands. She pulled out the sword and handed it to Jiang Hao. He took the sword and glanced at her hands. "You can rest today."

"What?" The woman was shocked.

"Your physical health is too weak, and your speed is slow. Rest up, and then

continue mining," Jiang Hao said calmly.

The woman looked at the man before her. She had never felt like this before. It was as if she was being treated like a... person.

Driven by an inexplicable impulse, she said, “You must be the light of the righteous path.”

When she realized what she had said, she lowered her head and retreated.

Jiang Hao didn’t mind.

‘The light of the righteous path?’

He was just an inner sect disciple of a demonic sect.

He couldn’t be the light of any righteous path.

Tomorrow would be the last day. The Concealment Talisman would disappear, and he would have to rely on his fate for the next five days.

If nobody came to find him in those five days, he could continue using the Concealment Talisman.

He still had five days left.

However, on this day, the miner from before found him.

His name was Feng Wei. Jiang Hao had already learned about his background and realized why he seemed familiar. He had checked it before just to see what was going on.

[Feng Wei: Miner at the Blackheaven Sect mining site. An inner disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect. He left the sect a few years ago to explore due to your favor regarding a pill. After three years of struggle, he was captured by the Blackheaven Sect and has been in the mines ever since. He’s looking for you because of his expertise in Beast Taming Technique, and he has discovered a hidden cave. He thinks there might be opportunities inside.]

While he didn't know exactly what kind of relationship this person shared with the real supervisor, this new development indicated something.

There had been a new discovery, and as a miner, Feng Wei couldn't act on his own. He needed someone to accompany him.

Apart from that, Jiang Hao couldn't help but feel that the supervisor had reached the Foundation Establishment Realm in someone else's mining site.

If he were to return to the Heavenly Note Sect now, he should be in a much better position.

At least the mining site there was better than this one.

"The light inside has stabilized, and the best chance will be in three days," Feng Wei whispered.

"Tomorrow night," Jiang Hao said.

He would mine for one more day, and then it would be evening, which would be the right time to go and check.

If there were any problems, he could return immediately. After all, they would come looking for him at any time.

"Alright." Feng Wei nodded.

Jiang Hao looked at him and wanted to ask how he had achieved the Foundation Establishment Realm. In the end, he didn't ask.

Perhaps he would never realize that the senior who had given him a pill out of kindness had already reached the Golden Core Realm.

Just seventeen or eighteen years had passed since then.

That night, Jiang Hao took out all the storage treasures he had obtained.

During this period, he hadn't had the time to check them one by one.

He needed to take a look now.

There were a total of nine storage treasures.

The first three only contained some trivial items. They did have some spirit stones, but the total only added up to three thousand.

It was meager, and there weren't even a few ordinary magical items.

He had no idea where the Blood Shadow Sect's people had spent the spirit stones.

The next two were better. They contained a total of twenty-eight thousand spirit stones, along with some pills and magical items.

The total value was probably around fifty thousand.

This was what was unspent. If the people hadn't spent the money, it would have been even more.

"The person from the Sunset Immortal Sect has a great background," Jiang Hao said with envy.

The last one contained two hundred spirit stones, which was still a good harvest.

In total, the spirit stones were 41,265.

In addition to what he had on him, he now had around forty-six thousand spirit stones.

‘It’s somewhat unexpected. I’ve become wealthy again. The spirit beast will receive more gifts.’

After packing up his belongings, Jiang Hao closed his eyes to rest. He waited for a new day to arrive.

The following night, Jiang Hao watched the mine with some reluctance. He didn’t know if he could continue mining after tonight. He was still some distance away from reaching the next stage of his cultivation realm.

In the dead of night, he and Feng Wei walked through the mine.

Feng Wei explained many things to him. He had discovered the location, and only he could enter it. It wasn’t easy for others to enter, even if they found it.

So, there was no need to worry. For now, only the two of them were aware of it.

Jiang Hao glanced at Feng Wei. He knew that he suspected he might not be the real supervisor. He didn’t care about that. He was just passing through here temporarily.

He didn’t want to cause any major trouble, nor did he want to make friends with anyone.

Jiang Hao felt that there was a change in the surroundings as if something was altering his perception.

“It’s not a natural formation. It’s influenced from the inside,” Jiang Hao said.

Feng Wei looked at the man beside him in surprise. Then, he nodded. “Yes, I suspect there’s an extraordinary formation inside.”

“Have you studied it?” Jiang Hao was surprised.

“You might not believe it, senior, but I was stuck at the ninth stage of the

Lifeblood Refinement Realm for a long time before I reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. To not appear so useless, I studied formations. Later, I

encountered some documents related to formations and gained some knowledge. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have been able to find this place,” Feng Wei said with a bitter smile.

Jiang Hao nodded. “Those days must have been tough.”

Feng Wei was surprised. For a moment, he began to understand why the miners had privately referred to this person as “the light of the righteous path.”

This was the most righteous person they had ever seen..

Chapter 689 - 689: Encountering A Rare Ore Vein

Jiang Hao looked around and felt that this place was indeed unusual, but it didn’t seem to offer any mining benefits. He could only explore it.

After a while, they arrived at a narrow passage. It was just wide enough for one person to pass through.

Feng Wei turned to Jiang Hao. “I’ll go ahead.”

Jiang Hao nodded. He wasn’t worried about being trapped or kicked out. He was merely curious and didn’t care whether he obtained anything.

He didn’t need that many chances. The opportunities he already had were enough for a lifetime. There was no need to strive for more.

If he kept his mental state calm, he wouldn't be influenced by external factors and could continue forward.

Sometimes, external opportunities were attractive, but they might disrupt his original path to success.

These opportunities often came with risks, and if he were dragged into trouble and couldn't mine or cultivate spirit herbs, it could destroy his original opportunities.

The passage was not short, and Jiang Hao followed Feng Wei for quite some time. Finally, they reached a spacious cave.

There were many formations in this cave. It made it difficult for those who didn't understand formations.

Jiang Hao suddenly realized that this junior was quite knowledgeable in formations.

"We're here." Feng Wei stood at the edge of the cave.

In front of them was their intended destination. It was a massive formation that covered the entire cave.

"What kind of formation is this?"

Jiang Hao saw a formation that covered the entire cave with spiritual energy flowing within.

"I'll investigate." Feng Wei approached it cautiously.

Jiang Hao nodded and activated his Daily Appraisal ability.

[Forgotten Teleportation Formation: A teleportation formation containing an ancient technique of the Xuanyuan Clan that leads to rare mining veins beneath the Sun Moon Peak.]

‘Rare veins?’ Jiang Hao had an idea of what that meant.

It was a forgotten formation, which meant that no one knew what existed on the other side.

If he could pass through unnoticed, he could mine rare ores. It should be better than what he was doing here, and his advancement to the next stage would become more achievable.

He walked into the formation and felt a strange sensation. It was similar to the feeling of the Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman.

‘Can this formation conceal divine insights?’ Jiang Hao wondered.

Perhaps because if this formation was forgotten, it meant they didn’t want anyone to know about it. Now, he needed to figure out how to use it.

“Senior.” At that point, Feng Wei approached him. “This appears to be a teleportation formation, but we don’t know where it leads. Using it is risky.” “Do you dare to do it?” Jiang Hao asked.

“I was going to ask you that, Senior. I’m just a prisoner, and there’s no hope for me. Naturally, I want to try my luck. But you have a bright future. You must think this through, Senior,” Feng Wei said.

“No problem,” Jiang Hao said softly. “Let’s give it a try.”

The risk wasn’t that great according to his appraisal. He could give it a shot, but he had to be prepared to escape if things went south.

“In that case, I’ll try to activate it,” Feng Wei said.

Jiang Hao nodded and didn't say much. At the center of the formation, he felt a surge of power from below, and then his entire body was enveloped by a force.

With a flash of light, the scene before Jiang Hao changed.

It was still a massive cave, but there were about a dozen exits, and they all showed signs of abandonment.

Feng Wei looked around in excitement. He felt that he could finally escape the mines. "The restriction on your body is about to activate," Jiang Hao said suddenly.

Jiang Hao couldn't help but admire this junior. He was indeed quite skilled.

"What do you plan to do, Senior?" Feng Wei asked.

Jiang Hao didn't answer. He went into one of the caves and started mining. Soon, he found a pleasant surprise. A purple bubble dropped.

[Divine Ability Fragment +1]

This was the first pleasant surprise. There probably wouldn't be any more such bubbles in the future, but the fact that it was purple indicated the presence of rare ores in this place.

"I'll stay here and mine. Friend, you can explore around," Jiang Hao said.

This was a rare vein, and he couldn't leave.

With his Heavenly Secrets Hidden Talisman, he might be able to mine here longer.

If the Heavenly Note Sect kept battling for a few years, he could mine here.

But...

There was still Hong Yuye. He couldn't conceal himself from her.

Jiang Hao looked at Feng Wei. His cultivation was too weak.

It would take at least a late-stage Golden Core Realm cultivator to threaten him.

Jiang Hao shook his head. He could only take one step at a time. Feng Wei looked somewhat surprised but soon realized that this person had only come here for wealth.

"I'll explore around, and if I find anything, I'll come back and inform you, Senior," Feng Wei said.

Jiang Hao nodded and began mining.

Clang! Clang!

As the hoe collided with the rocks, blue bubbles kept appearing.

[Strength +1]

[Spirit Sword +1]

[Cultivation +1]

[Spirit +1]

The rate at which blue bubbles appeared was faster than before.

Jiang Hao was delighted to see this, but he didn't get too smug. He left marks around the area to prevent any unexpected disaster.

Five days quickly passed, but Jiang Hao never stopped mining. Each day brought him four to six blue bubbles, along with numerous white ones.

He could clearly sense the changes in his body. This place was truly a land of opportunity. In addition to mining, he also collected some ores.

As for Feng Wei, he returned three times within five days. It seemed like he was exploring but hadn't found a way out yet.

Jiang Hao checked his interface.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 34]

[Cultivation: Early Stage of the Return to Void Realm]

[Cultivation Method: Heavenly Sound Hundred Revolutions, Hong Meng Heart

Sutra]

[Divine Ability: Nine Revolutions Death Substitution (unique), Daily Appraisal,

Clear and Pure Heart, Reappearance of Hidden Spirit, Divine Might, Revival of Withered Tree, Heavenly Cauldron, Indestructible Vajra]

[Lifeblood: 96/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 95/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Divine Abilities: 1/3 (Cannot be obtained)] [Golden Legend: 1/2 (Cannot be obtained)]

‘Another day of mining, and I’ll be able to advance.’

He needed to advance immediately. Otherwise, mining would be a waste.

As he was about to advance, Jiang Hao focused on mining faster.

The more he mined, the faster he became. Finally, in the late hours of the night, a blue bubble dropped.

[Cultivation +1]

At this point, Jiang Hao stopped. “It’s full.”

He sighed with relief and looked back. He saw that he had mined a considerable portion of the cave.

He wondered how long this vein would last, and he was unsure how many spirit stones he could get from the ores he had collected.

After a while, Jiang Hao returned to the vicinity of the formation.

He set up a simple formation around himself with his own defensive measures. Only then did he put his mind at ease and begin his advancement to the next stage..

Chapter 690 - 690: It Seems Like We’re About to Find Something Special

Feng Wei looked around for a long time and walked through several tunnels.

He discovered a hopeless fact: there was no way out.

It was as if this place was sealed, with no way in or out.

The only exit was the teleportation formation.

But going back would mean death.

He had disappeared for so many days. Once caught, he would surely endure unimaginable torment.

With his current physical health, he couldn't bear it.

He still had hope. He had hope in the person he had come here with.

For the first time, he felt that working with someone could also be enjoyable.

The person wouldn't kill him or use him.

At first, he had prepared to be murdered, but this person did nothing except mine.

Even if the ores here were exceptional, he would find a way to take them out. Otherwise, it was useless.

Upon careful consideration, he understood that the person could get out of here unlike him.

When he returned to the formation, Feng Wei sensed a presence.

He saw that the person was sitting cross-legged and was enveloped by power.

There were signs of a breakthrough.

'Is this... an advancement?'

'Is he going to advance to the Golden Core Realm?'

But it didn't seem like it.

His cultivation realm was low, and he couldn't discern the realm of the person in front of him, but it seemed much stronger than the Golden Core Realm. After hesitating for some time, Feng Wei sat down and guarded one of the tunnel entrances to prove his goodwill.

The next day, at noon, Jiang Hao suppressed the energy in his body and opened his eyes.

He looked around and saw Feng Wei sitting in meditation in the distance.

There was no one else nearby.

He heaved a sigh of relief.

In the past, after an advancement, he could usually see Hong Yuye. This time, her not being there surprised him.

With Hong Yuye around, he couldn't mine.

The white bubbles could affect his body and make him easily noticeable. So, having someone like that around was sometimes troublesome.

"Congratulations, Senior," said Feng Wei.

Jiang Hao nodded. "Did you not find an exit, Friend?"

“No,” Feng Wei said with a bitter smile. “It seems this way is sealed, and it’s not easy to find a way out. There may be an exit, but with my current strength, I’m not capable of finding it.”

Jiang Hao understood. Sometimes, the door was right there, but if your level was not high enough, you couldn’t perceive it.

“Are you planning to go back then?” he asked.

Feng Wei shook his head. “I want to try again. How about you, Senior? Are you going back?”

“In a while,” Jiang Hao said.

He would have to return. If he was discovered, he would go back to his sect.

If not, he would consider himself trapped here.

With that in mind, he turned to the formation.

He could destroy it, and no one would be able to come in here. However, this was still the Xuanyuan Clan’s formation. If he destroyed it, it might create issues. It wasn’t worth it.

Shaking his head, Jiang Hao closed his eyes and began refining his cultivation.

He extracted all his cultivation and lifeblood.

As for other things, he was in no hurry for now.

In the evening, Jiang Hao had finished refining his cultivation. He was at the peak now.

‘Now, I wonder if there is a gap between my strength and the sect’s top disciple... I haven’t seen the top disciple yet, so I don’t know their cultivation realm.’

After some thought, Jiang Hao decided to continue mining. This time, Feng Wei followed him, which made him cautious.

“Let’s mine together,” Feng Wei said.

Jiang Hao looked at him.

After some hesitation, he asked, ‘What cultivation technique are you practicing?’

Feng Wei was momentarily stunned. “The Hundred Transformations of Spirit Control.”

“Can you show it to me?” Jiang Hao asked.

After a slight hesitation, Feng Wei handed over a book.

Jiang Hao sat down and activated his Clear and Pure Heart ability.

It took him about a night to study the technique with his current knowledge and the boost from his divine ability. He then said to Feng Wei, “Practice it. I will teach you.”

After half a day of explanation, Feng Wei finally had a sudden realization and fell into deep meditation.

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

He then started mining.

They were too far away, and he had used the Heavenly Secrets Hidden Talisman. When it expired, he would go near the formation to mine.

This time, he struck a rich vein. He kept mining until early September.

With Feng Wei's significant increase in cultivation, he had no more interest in mining.

Clang!

A crisp sound rang out, and Jiang Hao found that the wall in front of him was unusually hard.

He touched the stone and found that it was also an ore but much harder than the ones outside.

'Could this be an even rarer type of ore?

He decided to mine the surrounding area first. If it caused trouble, and he had to leave, it would be a loss not to have mined the ore nearby. He had only just started mining when he felt the stone tablet vibrating.

There was a gathering tonight.

'I need to think about what happened in the last gathering and prepare.'

When he was mining, he had put his things aside. But he needed to find his notebooks again. Hong Yuye wasn't here yet, but it was only a matter of time.

Becoming stronger was essential, but staying alive was more important.

There were some powerful individuals that he couldn't afford to provoke.

He put away his tools, took out a notebook, and began reviewing the information from the previous gathering.

He also needed to see what had happened recently and whether he could gather more information from the gathering.

Coincidentally, he could also check what had been happening in the South.

Gui must be keeping an eye on it.

“Was he caught?”

In the Blackheaven Sect, Bi Zhu appeared surprised.

“Yes, this time we went for him too. After getting the news, we rushed over, only to find some ruins. After asking around, we learned that Yin Zichen had been caught. We don’t have clear information about who did it. It might be some relatively powerful sect in the South. We plan to visit them one by one. Yin Zichen has taken some things from our sect, and we need him to return them. As for his personal wellbeing, we don’t care,” said a middle-aged man.

Bi Zhu nodded and then handed over a pill. “Take this, it can heal the injuries on your body. By the way, if you know where Yin Zichen is, can you inform me? The Heavenly Spirit Tribe also has grievances with him, and we want to find him.”

“Alright.” The middle-aged man took the pill.

After the man left, Bi Zhu sighed. “This is troublesome. I thought we were about to find him, but now it seems that someone else is involved. I don’t know where to look. If it’s some small sect, it’s fine, but I’m afraid of being caught by major sects.”

Yin Zichen was not weak. Ordinary sects wouldn’t be able to catch him.

“How did you figure that out, Princess?” Qiao Yi asked.

“He was injured. I happened to be there and offered to heal him. That’s how I know,” said Bi Zhu. “Not everything requires scheming and deceit... Sometimes, when we are honest and sincere, we can’t help each other out. If it wasn’t something important, nobody would look for it. We can’t ask about what he might have taken from the Mountain Sea Sword Sect.”

What Qiao Yi wanted to know was how the princess had figured it out.

Suddenly, Bi Zhu seemed to sense something and smiled. “It’s alright. There may still be more information. For now, let’s pay attention to the Grand Earth Emperor’s affairs. We’ve already come this far..”