

Bottleneck 631

Chapter 631: Liang Sheng explores Beast Swamp, Jin Quanxiu takes precautions, and the broken life token shocks Lingxuzi!

Instead, the fact that Liang Sheng had no news for more than half a year made him somewhat concerned, which meant that his disciple's plan to search for the Ancient Desolate Springs was not going smoothly.

However, he wasn't too anxious about it, since it would inevitably take time for his disciple to achieve success in such a unique place as Beast Swamp.

It's ridiculous that the East Victory Immortal Dynasty did not care about Beast Swamp before, throwing it directly into the Desolate Regions, with no one taking care of it. They only intervened when the beast tide in the Desolate Regions became uncontrollable.

Of course, the Immortal Dynasty's disregard for Beast Swamp had its reasons since the appearance of the Ancient Desolate Springs was too random.

Even Zi Zai independent cultivator himself would most likely be blocked by Heaven and Earth when trying to deduce the Heavenly Secrets of the Ancient Desolate Springs during normal times.

Let alone now in the Era of Great Contention, especially after the disturbance of the Heavenly Secrets by those two undying old men, it would be even more impossible to find the Ancient Desolate Springs casually.

Since this is the case, he doesn't need to be anxious. As long as his disciple is fine, his just-broken-through Soul Emergence Realm disciple's lifespan will not be an issue for now.

As long as the Fate Calamity doesn't arrive, he can let him grow freely. Moreover, during the Era of Great Contention, Fate Calamity might actually be a good thing for a Free Sect disciple.

Even if things didn't go well, it wouldn't be a big problem for him to help personally. After all, it's a Free Sect disciple going through a Fate Calamity, and he couldn't help?

Where did such rules come from!?

The Free Gate had never been uncomfortable since ancient times!

After thinking about all these, Zi Zai independent cultivator turned around and felt somewhat bored. He didn't feel it when his disciple was around before, but now that Liang Sheng had left for more than half a year, he indeed felt a bit dull.

In that case, there's no need to force himself to be uncomfortable; it's better to go out for a walk and relax.

"Old Huang, let's go out for a drink."

"Yes, Great Master."

Huang Yifan still showed great respect, but in his heart, he couldn't help but sigh that in this aspect, these two master and disciple indeed resembled each other.

Soon, a building appeared in front of them.

Yaoxiang Pavilion.

Zi Zai independent cultivator chuckled.

Today, let's have some fun.

...

Capital City Lingge.

More than half a year had passed since Chunyangzi took Feng Yuan and the others into Beast Swamp, and nothing significant had happened in the entire Immortal Dynasty. It was extremely peaceful.

Seeing that there were no abnormalities in Kaiyuan Child and the others' Life Tokens, Lingxuzi could naturally maintain a calm mood in his heart.

Instead, he occasionally received inquiries from within the Hidden Dimension. Facing these questions, Lingxuzi naturally couldn't hide anything.

However, as time passed, he had a vague feeling that the court higher-ups' evaluations of Feng Yuan and his disciple Kaiyuan Child had inadvertently dropped by one level.

Lingxuzi understood this, as they had failed to even protect the Immortal City Lord with their current cultivation levels, which indeed didn't live up to their names as the gifted children.

Upper Echelons were somewhat concerned about this, as when the final stage of the Era of Great Contention came, the All World Talents would inevitably compete on the same stage.

Whether the East Victory Immortal Dynasty could gain Fortune would depend on the outcome of this Heaven Talent Struggle. Before this, his disciple Kaiyuan Child was also on the list of these talents, attracting the attention of the Immortal Dynasty's upper echelons.

But now he doesn't have to be too anxious. After all, both Kaiyuan Child and Feng Yuan are cultivators who have survived Fate Calamity, so their starting point is naturally higher than others.

So as long as they are alive, they won't be excluded from the Court's Upper Echelons' consideration list, no matter what.

At this moment, Lingxuzi suddenly sensed something and looked up to see the Life Tokens of the cultivators supporting Beast Swamp shattered into several pieces.

Fortunately, Feng Yuan and the others were still safe, but he was still worried and looked in the direction of Longevity Immortal City.

With Chunyangzi there, could any accidents still happen?

At this moment, not only was he shocked, but even Liang Sheng in the Beast Swamp was also somewhat astonished.

An unexpected event had finally occurred!

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Outer Heaven Beast Swamp.

After more than half a year, there had been no gains, regardless of whether it was Chunyangzi or Feng Qingzi, they had now decided to start expanding their search area.

They dispatched people in pairs, then scattered them in different directions, but still roughly following the same general direction to continue their search.

This way, if any small team had news, they could gather at the first opportunity, in comparison to before, this could save some time and expand the search range as well.

After this decision was made, there had been no problems on either side, after all, the strength of the Demonic Beasts in the Beast Swamp was not strong.

Back then, even the Desolate Regions could deal with most beast tide crises, let alone considering their strength, they naturally didn't care.

In fact, it was the same, even if they encountered Demonic Beasts along the way, their immediate reaction would be to slay them on the spot.

Furthermore, they rarely saw any Demon Saints, at most they met a few Demon Kings. Originally, Demon Saints were no match for these experts, let alone mere Demon Kings?

So, on their long journey, neither the Seeking Truth Lineage nor the Immortal Dynasty cultivators cared about the threat of the Beast Swamp Demonic Beasts, they were more concerned about each other.

And then, for a month, it was calm. Although neither side had made any gains, their search range had indeed expanded several times, achieving much with little.

Therefore, in view of this effect, the decision to split and continue was extended. But who could have known that disaster would strike so suddenly?

On a certain day, several small groups from the Immortal Dynasty cultivators suddenly lost contact with Chunyangzi, their Life Tokens shattered, and that very day, Chunyangzi realized something was wrong.

He decided on the spot to send a message for an urgent gathering of all personnel who had been dispatched. However, even at the final gathering, several groups of cultivators failed to meet at the set time.

Chunyangzi was no longer obsessed with finding Ancient Desolate Springs. Instead, he confirmed the location information previously sent by the fallen cultivators.

They followed the address and when they arrived at the location, they found several bodies that had not been completely destroyed.

There were signs of bites on them, evidently the work of Demonic beasts, but how could these insignificant Demonic beasts be the opponents of these fallen cultivators?

But regardless of how unbelievable it was, it had already become a reality. If things were not clarified, people's hearts would be restless.

Besides, Chunyangzi didn't feel comfortable continuing to search separately. Therefore, next, they took the places of the incident as the center and spread out in search of the murderer.

Several days passed, and they were still empty-handed, and everyone had an uneasy premonition in their hearts.

Even the insignificant Beast Swamp Demonic Beasts could spring surprises, how could this not be disheartening? They did not know what had happened before, but this already indicated that there had been an accident on their expedition.

However, while Chunyangzi did not know the cause of the incident, Liang Sheng was crystal clear. At this point, Liang Sheng had stopped searching for Ancient Desolate Springs, and had gone deep underground.

Who could have imagined that there was actually an Underground Kingdom beneath the surface of the Beast Swamp? If it were not for the stonewall adorned with Night Pearls that could be seen from underground, no one would think that there was any difference from the surface.

Inside this entire underground world, there were roads spreading out in all directions, broad roads, not to mention buildings indistinguishable from Immortal City.

There were also numerous dug stone Cave Mansions, which were much more numerous compared to the similar buildings in Immortal City.

Liang Sheng had the Data Panel Concealment attribute, so naturally no one could detect him, as he strolled alone in the underground world, listening to the familiar shouts of the vendors, he couldn't help feeling a bit dazed.

If it weren't for the fact that most of the figures walking in the streets were in half-beastman form, Liang Sheng would almost have mistaken it for an Immortal Cultivation Market.

The layout and structure were too similar to the Human Clan's world.

Speaking of this, it was unfortunate for those few fallen Immortal Dynasty cultivators. Who would have known that they would encounter a trading group of demonic beasts in the Beast Swamp?

Of course, at first they did not realize that this was a Demonic Beast trading group, but just thought it was a normal Demonic Beast herd.

When they subconsciously attacked this Demonic Beast trading group, intending to send these beasts in to Paradise, they had never expected that they would be the ones to fall here.

These Demonic Beasts blocked their attacks, and when these beasts took out weapons to counterattack, these Immortal City cultivators finally realized something.

These Demonic Beasts were not right, they were different from the Demonic Beasts they had encountered before. Most of them were not in their original form, but had transformed into human forms.

Of course, some were in half-beastman forms because they hadn't completed the transformation.

But without doubt, these Demonic Beasts were definitely the elite of their kind, because they repelled the attack effortlessly, it was appropriate to call them elites.

What followed was a one-sided situation, in the end, the Demonic Beast trading group managed to form a circle of containment, and it was at this moment the cultivators suddenly realised they had nowhere to run.

In addition, the leading Demonic Beast had reached the realm of Demon Venerable, a powerful Demon comparable to human Divinity Transformation Experts.

As you know, Demons are almost invincible at the same realm.

What happened next to these cultivators was extremely tragic, after their cultivation levels were sealed, they were savagely torn apart by Demonic Beasts and fell.

After the Demonic Beast trading group killed the sudden Human Cultivators, they surprisingly did not stop there. Instead, they spread out from this point to search and subsequently found three more teams of Immortal Dynasty cultivators.

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In the end, they killed five of the cultivators and left one alive. After cleaning up the battlefield and erasing any traces, they finally returned to this underground world.

Liang Sheng sensed the situation as soon as it happened, and then watched the whole process unfold.

Nobody expected that in addition to Immortal Dynasty cultivators and the Seeking Truth Lineage, the demonic beasts of Beast Swamp would have secrets, which left Liang Sheng feeling somewhat numb.

Indeed, things could not have developed entirely according to their plan. Looking at the demonic beasts killing cultivators and enforcing rules, the secret of the Beast Swamp was much more significant than previously thought.

He believed that if Chunyangzi had known about this situation in the Beast Swamp, he would not have acted in this manner, suggesting that even the East Victory Immortal Dynasty might not know about the existence of these demonic beasts.

Moreover, considering the strength of the cultivators in the demonic beast trading group, how could they possibly be stopped by the Desolate Regions when the demonic beasts launched a beast tide invasion?

But these powerful demonic beasts always hid underground, rarely showing themselves, and deceived everyone.

Including Liang Sheng.

Fortunately, Liang Sheng stumbled upon this matter and followed the demonic beast trading group into the underground world, like opening a new world's main gate.

Upon entering this underground world, he found that the methods used by the demonic beasts to seal the entrance were not simple. Even the Refinement Void Dao Monarch might unconsciously ignore the underground situation if they were uninformed cultivators.

Of course, part of the reason was the environment of Beast Swamp, which lowered cultivators' perception. However, it could not be denied that the demon world had unique methods.

However, Liang Sheng still couldn't figure out some things. There weren't many cultivators who arrived in the Beast Swamp previously, so why did these powerful demonic beasts need to be so cautious and hide underground?

Moreover, they were extremely low-key. The most powerful Demonic Beasts on the surface were likely to be Demon Saints, but this was already extremely rare, and perhaps only one would appear every few thousand years.

Liang Sheng concealed himself while following the demonic beast trading group. As he traversed the streets, he discovered more than a dozen hidden Demon Venerable powerhouses.

These Demon Venerable experts were on par with City Masters of the Immortal City, making Liang Sheng secretly cautious.

The more unusual the situation, the more likely it signified a massive secret. After some thought, Liang Sheng silently integrated himself into the human-like crowd.

The streets were bustling. On the bluestone-paved streets, people came and went. If you didn't look at their appearances, there would be no difference between them and the human world.

There were wine shops and ordinary stalls doing business here, with the demonic beasts assuming a transformed state while walking among them.

There were those dressed in delicate silk, as well as those in plain coarse clothing. Different social strata were apparent, but at least they could all assume a half-beastman form.

If not for the many half-beastman forms present, Liang Sheng would have felt as though he had returned to the Immortal City.

After roughly investigating the layout of this underground world, he continued to carefully follow the trading group. After an unknown amount of time had passed, they arrived at a massive mansion.

Just like an ordinary wealthy family's mansion, there were guards stationed on either side of the main gate. The plaque above the gate bore the common script of the cultivation world, and there were no strange demonic characters as Liang Sheng had imagined.

Fu Family?

Upon entering the vast mansion, Liang Sheng was once again shocked by the scene before him. Night Pearls were inlaid on every building as if they were free.

Even underground, it was as bright as day. The size of the courtyard was vast, making it impossible to see the end, and it contained countless rooms within.

What amazed Liang Sheng the most was the fact that the mansion was filled with numerous arrays. Even the wealthiest families in Longevity Immortal City didn't have such luxurious estates.

Of course, there were naturally many demonic beasts roaming within the mansion too. The trading group ultimately unloaded their cargo at a courtyard, and under the watchful eyes of the guards, returned to the more chaotic west wing.

However, the leader of the demonic beast trading group had completely assumed a human shape. At this time, he exchanged a few words with the guards and pointed to the Immortal City cultivators who were sealed below his feet.

The guard glanced at them and then led the way. The leader of the trading group followed, accompanied by the sealed cultivators. Before long, they arrived at a room door.

The guards in front stopped them, and the leader of the trading group hurriedly reported in a low voice, "Could the two of you please inform our master that Qin Ai has important matters to report."

As soon as his words fell, the room door opened. Qin Ai and the two guards turned their heads slightly and walked in silently.

Sitting in the chief seat was a lazy, gentle, and jade-like young man, lounging on his chair as if he didn't care about Qin Ai.

It was Fu Yuanpei, the head of the Fu Family!

"Master, I have returned."

"Very well, you've worked hard on this trip. You can rest for half a year and then go to the backyard to receive three Dense Origins to cultivate. Fu Family cannot do without you."

"Thank you, Master. However, I have other urgent matters to report, related to the surface world, which is why I am so eager to see you."

Upon hearing the surface world, Fu Yuanpei opened his eyes slightly and straightened up, but did not speak, only listening quietly.

Qin Ai began to recount the encounter with the Immortal Dynasty cultivators, not hiding a single detail.

Hmm?

Fu Yuanpei's expression became more solemn, and he whispered,

"Where's the prisoner you mentioned?"

"Right outside the door, just waiting for Master's instructions on how to deal with him."

Upon hearing this, the young man pondered for a moment before lying back down.

“First, lock him up in the backyard dungeon for a few days. During this time, you should treat him well, and we’ll discuss it later.

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“Of course, just to be safe, you should not rest for now. Go to the Hu Family and request one of their direct disciples to come over. Remember to be courteous.”

“Yes, Master.”

“Off you go.”

After Qin Ai departed, Fu Yuanpei slumped down, not reacting further. But after a long while, a sigh echoed in the room.

“Could it be that the great calamity prophesied by our Ancestor is approaching? I initially thought that the time of the prophecy had passed, that the issue was resolved, but now there’s a new twist – troubled times are upon us, I fear.”

After this, the room fell silent.

However, a gentle breeze suddenly blew outside the room.

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Elsewhere, Liang Sheng chose not to stay at the Fu family. Wanting more answers, he followed Qin Ai in the opposite direction.

In no time, he arrived with Qin Ai at another sprawling mansion, with two characters written on the plaque.

Hu Mansion.

Qin Ai respectfully told the guards at the Hu family's gate, "Could you please inform them that Qin Ai of the Huang family is here to see the Hu family's manager?"

After giving his name card, Qin Ai stood beside the gate, his eyes closed in meditation while he waited for the Hu Family's manager.

Liang Sheng, however, stayed hidden, marveling at how these Demonic Beasts appeared almost human, apart from the demonic aura they emitted.

Who would have thought that I'd encounter such a bizarre experience in Beast Swamp? If I told others that such a world exists beneath Beast Swamp, I doubt anyone would believe me.

Despite the flurry of images flashing through Liang's mind under the Law of Cause and Effect, the final scene never appeared.

This was clear evidence that he was dealing with the biggest variable he'd experienced since starting his cultivation, so Liang Sheng naturally stayed hidden and watched carefully.

Although he hadn't yet seen a specific image through the Law of Cause and Effect, his heart didn't sense any danger.

Instead, his heart was pounding. Maybe this unexpected journey will solve some of my doubts and bring me closer to the secrets of the cultivation world.

Just then, the gates of the Hu Mansion opened.

A short white-bearded elderly man dressed like a wealthy commoner appeared. Judging from Qin Ai's reaction, Liang Sheng knew he must be the Hu family's manager.

A mere manager dressing like this implies that the Hu family is a significant force in the underground world, favoring human culture.

As Qin Ai clarified the situation and followed the Hu Family's manager into the mansion, Liang Sheng, incognito, shadowed them closely, remaining unnoticed.

This time Liang Sheng felt a bit more relaxed. The layout of the Hu mansion, though massive, was differently structured from the Fu's, appearing more refined and delicate.

At the least, the endless corridor in front of him and the winding stream suggested the taste of the mansion's owner.

Moreover, the planning of the mansion subtly invoked the power of Yin, Yang, and the Five Elements. As an Array master, how could Liang Sheng fail to notice this?

Liang Sheng became more cautious. Seeing that the demonic beasts here are far from simple, he was sure there were secrets in their choice of dwelling underground.

Be it the Seeking Truth Lineage or the East Victory Immortal Dynasty, their obliviousness made this situation more mysterious.

Meanwhile, Qin Ai and the Hu Family manager arrived at the reception hall and sat down for tea. However, Liang Sheng noted that the tea was blood-red.

Although the tea had been treated, it still held faint traces of a bloody smell. How could such a thing evade Liang Sheng's senses?

However, these details were beside the point. After playing the initial host, the Hu Family manager then departed.

“Guard Qin, please stay here and wait. I will go and fetch the Master.”

“Thank you for your trouble.”

The Hu Family manager nodded, exchanged pleasantries, then walked out of the room without hesitation, leaving Qin Ai alone.

Not long after, Liang Sheng, who was hiding nearby, suddenly perked up, his eyes narrowing.

The Master of the Hu family was coming!

Chapter 635: Demon Clan’s Last Words, Demon Emperor’s Strongest

Outer Heaven Beast Swamp, Underground World.

At this moment in the Hu Family Mansion, Qin Ai was sitting quietly in the reception hall, sipping tea. There was no sign of impatience on his face, as if it wasn’t he who was eager to see the Patriarch of the Hu Family.

He was so calm because he knew for sure that the Hu Family Patriarch would meet him, as he was, after all, representing the Fu Family.

In the entire Underground World, no great demon family could ignore the status of the Fu Family, so the Hu Family would definitely make face for the Fu Family.

The same was true when the Hu Family and other families sent people to the Fu Family; the whole Underground World was bound to have such a situation.

Moreover, he was also the leader of the Fu Family’s trading group, and since he was eligible to go to the Surface World, no matter which family he visited, they would treat him with caution.

If you know this world, most of the demonic beasts don't realize that there is a Surface World above, thinking that the Underground World is all there is.

Thus, ignorance is the source of happiness. If he were just an ordinary member of the Demon Clan, he might have followed the usual path until death took him away from this world.

As Qin Ai was waiting and lost in thoughts, there was a sound of footsteps outside, followed by the Hu Family Steward courteously opening the door, and a middle-aged man followed behind.

This man was simply dressed; compared to the Hu Family Steward in his bright clothes, the steward looked more like the master. Who would know that this simple middle-aged man was the Patriarch of the Hu Family, Hu Weiyong?

As soon as Qin Ai saw Hu Weiyong, he stood up and respectfully saluted, "Fu Family trading group manager Qin Ai, I have met the Hu Family Patriarch. I apologize for the sudden intrusion and hope you won't blame me."

Hu Weiyong waved his hand with a smile.

"No harm done. However, I believe that today should be the day you returned from the Surface World. Why are you in such a hurry to visit my Hu family? Did something unexpected happen on this trip?"

Hu Weiyong sat in the main seat as he spoke; the Hu Family steward walked out quietly, closing the door.

Qin Ai wasn't surprised that Hu Weiyong knew about the Fu Family's trip to the Surface World, as it wasn't a secret that the great demon families kept each other informed.

Qin Ai found it unnecessary to keep anything secret because Fu Yuanpei came to seek help from the Hu Family Patriarch with the intention of not hiding anything.

Although the Underground World is full of powerful demons, the competition between families is benign; moreover, when it came to matters beyond the heavens, they were united.

So when Qin Ai finished explaining the events of this time, Hu Weiyong couldn't help but frown.

How could there be so many Human Nascent Soul Cultivators entering the Beast Swamp? If there were only one or two, it would be understandable, but Qin Ai encountered five or six and even more afterward, which was quite strange.

Everyone knew that since the birth of the Beast Swamp, human cultivators had abandoned it, and their only requirement for the Beast Swamp was to disallow the Demon Clan from entering the Human World.

However, due to the special nature of the Beast Swamp, it had been connected to the Human World under the new Heavenly and Earth Rules since the ancient cultivation had been destroyed.

But in the ten thousand years since ancient times, humans and demons had nothing to do with each other; please know that they didn't live in the Underground World and were active in the Surface Beast Swamp.

However, after the incident within the Human Clan, the so-called Wilderness appeared in the Human World, a place that could be said to be rejected by the World, and that was difficult to deal with.

What's even more frustrating is that, whether it's because of the human arrival or not, a new Heaven and Earth punishment emerged in the Beast Swamp afterward, and the two tribes could only help each other during difficult times.

As for what happened specifically afterward, there were no records left up to now, but the end result was that the orthodox Demon Clan escaped into the current Underground World.

As for those exiled humans, they disappeared, but their influence on the demon race was extensive.

Until now, many human customs and cultures still influenced the entire Underground World, such as their architecture, which inherited human culture.

However, due to the ancestral teachings, all the great demon families knew the truth about the world, while the ordinary Demon Clan knew nothing, and the great demon families would arrange elite confidants to travel between the Surface World to maintain the continuous operation and resource supply of the entire Underground World.

By now, the entire underground Demon City had gone through an unknown number of generations of the demon race, and its structure had been completely established.

Inside the room, Hu Weiyong, after listening to Qin Ai's account, couldn't help but frown.

"It's strange. For so many years, there haven't been any large-scale groups of human cultivators entering the Beast Swamp. What's with this sudden influx of human elites?"

Chapter 636: Demon Clan's Last Words, Demon Emperor Strong

Hu Weiyong, as the Patriarch of the Hu Family, naturally knew more about the hidden secrets of the world, so he understood better than Qin Ai how strange this matter was.

He couldn't help but think that after the establishment of the underground world, the ancestors of the demon clan had left a prophecy.

Since then, the demon clan had been preparing for the prophesied catastrophe for millions of years. However, when the time of the prophecy came, the catastrophe did not occur, and they did not know how long it had been since then.

Everyone in the underground world thought that it was a mistake in the prophecy of the ancestors, so they gradually paid less attention to it and simply continued to adhere to the teachings of the ancestors.

However, in light of the current situation, it might be that the prophecy was only wrong about the time, otherwise there would be no explanation for the massive descent of the human elites into Beast Swamp.

Could it be that a catastrophe was truly going to come to Beast Swamp?

With this thought in mind, Hu Weiyong could no longer sit still and stood up directly, “Qin Ai, you have done a good job this time.

Since you left a living person behind, we will know the truth after some interrogation.”

As he said this, Hu Weiyong started to walk out, with Qin Ai hurriedly following behind. This was precisely the reason Fu Yuanpei had asked him to come.

Hu Weiyong also knew what Qin Ai had come for, although the other party had not said it, it was clear enough, so Hu Weiyong did not plan to waste any time.

As soon as the door of the room opened, the Hu Family Steward came forward immediately, but seeing Hu Weiyong’s intention to go out, he promptly prepared the Patriarch’s entourage.

However, his action was stopped by Hu Weiyong, “Don’t let anyone know that I am going out today. Everything at home should be usual. If anyone asks for me later, tell them that I am in closed-door cultivation.”

“Yes, Master, I have noted it down.”

Hu Weiyong saw that the steward understood his intention, and then quietly left the Hu Mansion with Qin Ai through the side door.

He did not want to make a fuss about this before the specifics of the Human Clan elites’ descent into Beast Swamp were clarified.

With more people involved, things would be harder to handle.

By the time Hu Weiyong and Qin Ai stealthily entered the Fu Family, Fu Yuanpei had already prepared a banquet, waiting for Hu Weiyong’s arrival.

“Brother Yuanpei.”

“Worthy brother Weiyong, I’m sorry to have bothered you today, but this matter is of great concern, and I cannot rest without you.”

The two greeted each other politely upon meeting, who would have thought that the younger-looking Fu Yuan would be called “brother” by Hu Weiyong. It could only be concluded that neither cultivators nor demonic beasts could be judged by their appearance.

As Fu Yuanpei finished speaking, Hu Weiyong waved his hand, “We are all demons on the same ship. This is not a matter for just one family.”

Understanding Hu Weiyong’s thought, Fu Yuanpei stopped being polite and invited Hu Weiyong to take a seat, ready to elaborate on his plan, but was interrupted by Hu Weiyong.

“Brother Yuanpei, since you have invited me, I don’t need you to say anything more about what needs to be done. I understand.

The most important thing now is to not waste time and get to the bottom of this matter.

Since we have this consensus, we better not waste any more time. Why not take me to see the Human Cultivator now, so I can get a clear understanding of the situation?”

“Since you are so righteous, worthy brother, I will not pretend further. Qin Ai, lead the way, and we will go to the dungeon to meet the Human Cultivator now.”

“Yes, Patriarch.”

After Qin Ai accepted the order, he took the lead in guiding the way. Soon, he brought Fu Yuanpei and Hu Weiyong to the Fu Family Backyard.

Then, they saw Qin Ai walk directly in front of a mountain stone and quickly make a hand seal. In a short time, a hidden entrance appeared on the stone.

“Master, Patriarch Hu, please follow me.”

After entering the passage, they found a hidden dimension, a winding path leading to a secluded area, in the darkness, with stone steps disappearing into the depths.

Yet Hu Weiyong was not surprised by this at all, he did not show any fear or suspicion that this might be some kind of conspiracy by the Fu Family.

He followed closely behind Fu Yuanpei and Qin Ai, walking step by step down. After crossing a bridge of iron chains, the scene before them suddenly opened up.

It was a carefully excavated space, with no prison guards visible, but the depth of the area was incredibly mysterious.

This was the Fu Family’s prison.

Though there seemed to be no guards here, it would be almost impossible for outsiders to break in, not to mention prisoners trying to escape.

Those who could leave the prison were likely headed for death, with no other option. Hu Weiyong still kept a watchful eye, simply following behind Qin Ai and the others.

There was a similar place in the Hu Family Backyard, though the structure was different, the level of security was almost the same.

On their way here, Hu Weiyong was sure that there were hidden masters of Demon Venerable or even higher levels lurking around, but no one knew where they were hiding.

Although Hu Weiyong did not find any trace of them, Liang Sheng saw them clearly. He was hiding his shape and stealthily following behind Fu Yuanpei and the others at this moment.

No one else could detect Liang Sheng's presence, but Liang Sheng could clearly see the hidden masters of the prison.

Unless there were Unification Realm or higher-level masters, nothing could escape Liang Sheng's eyes, and even the existence of Unification Realm, Liang Sheng would be aware of.

Seeking Fortune and Avoiding Evil was not only the Bloodline Ability of the Zhou Family; Liang Sheng was likely even better at it.

Chapter 637: Demon Clan's Last Words, Demon Emperor Strong

The strength of the Fu Family cannot be underestimated. Inside the prison, Liang Sheng had already sensed at least two Demon Venerables, equivalent to human Divinity Transformation Cultivators.

Even a Demon Emperor strong person was present, like Hu Weiyong and Fu Yuanpei, the patriarchs, equivalent to the Soul Emergence Realm!

Liang Sheng couldn't help but sigh; this was only part of the Fu Family's strength. If the entire underground world was considered, Liang Sheng couldn't even imagine it.

But with such strength, the demonic beasts were willing to hide underground, while the surface of the Beast Swamp was extremely ordinary and the East Victory Immortal Dynasty was completely unaware of it.

If Liang Sheng were to reveal these secrets, it would cause a great uproar in the East Victory Immortal Dynasty, and no one would believe any of it.

At this time, Hu Weiyong and Fu Yuanpei had already reached a stone cave where Immortal Dynasty cultivators were restrained by spiritual artifact refined steel chains.

Liang Sheng immediately stopped spreading his thoughts, staring intently at the situation. However, inside the prison, the human cultivator was still unconscious with his seals disabled.

When Hu Weiyong looked at Fu Yuanpei, Fu Yuanpei didn't hesitate. After Qin Ai received the order, he immediately played a hand seal, waking up the Immortal Dynasty cultivator.

At this time, they saw the person first unconsciously moan, then slowly open his eyes. However, it took a while for him to become fully conscious.

When he saw the situation in front of him, his face turned pale, and his hands couldn't help but struggle for a moment before a harsh sound of chains followed.

Soon after, he felt a thunderbolt-like sting spreading inside his body, causing him to convulse and fall to the ground. It took a while for him to come to his senses.

"Human, don't bother struggling anymore. This is the ever-changing Demonic Steel Pure Iron forged by my Demon Clan, combined with the secret method of the seal; it's impossible for you to break free.

So, I advise you not to bring trouble upon yourself. We're still giving you a chance now, hoping you can be aware of the situation.

Tell us, why have so many human cultivators suddenly entered the Beast Swamp in such large numbers? There has never been so many Nascent Soul cultivators in the Beast Swamp before. What is the reason for your visit?"

Qin Ai squatted in front of the prison, interrogating the human cultivator, but the other party looked at Qin Ai with disbelief all over his face.

He was fully awake, but his memory still lingered on the scene when they were attacked by Qin Ai and the demonic beast trading group. Who would have thought that such demonic beasts existed in the Beast Swamp?

"Speak!"

At this time, Qin Ai had no patience. He just saw his hand seal unfold, and the cultivator in the prison started convulsing again, continuously screaming.

After tormenting the person for a while, Qin Ai asked again, but the other party still remained silent, staring at the three of them in disbelief.

Finally, the human cultivator discovered the existence of Hu Weiyong and Fu Yuanpei. Could it be that the demonic beast even had Demon Emperor experts?

Because he couldn't see through the other party, Qin Ai could only perceive that they were in the Demon Venerable Realm, equivalent to human Divinity Transformation Realm.

Seeing that the other party remained silent, Qin Ai couldn't help but frown. However, just as he was about to punish the other party again, Hu Weiyong stopped him.

He didn't want to waste any more time. No matter why the other party didn't speak, it was already irrelevant. Now, the important thing was to find out why they came to the Beast Swamp.

"Human cultivator, raise your head and look at me!"

Hu Weiyong spoke softly, but his voice carried a hint of seduction. Upon hearing this, the human cultivator in the prison subconsciously raised his head.

Unknowingly, Qin Ai had stepped back behind Hu Weiyong and covered his ears with both hands, standing back to back with Hu Weiyong and Fu Yuanpei.

Fu Yuanpei had no unusual reaction and still stood side by side with Hu Weiyong, unaffected and not resenting Qin Ai's actions.

The human cultivator in the prison, who was initially wondering what was going on, raised his head to see Hu Weiyong's eyes and instantly froze.

His eyes were dull, but he was already bewitched by Hu Weiyong, becoming like a puppet.

Fu Yuanpei didn't seem to care. This was the reason why he had invited Hu Weiyong to come.

Because with him, unless they faced an opponent they couldn't deal with, otherwise...

There would be nothing they couldn't know, and their words would be endless!

Chapter 638: Demon Clan Leader Conference, Scheming Against Human Cultivators

Under the Beast Swamp, in the underground world.

Inside the Fu Family's backyard dungeon.

As Hu Weiyong was casting his Enchantment Art, the imprisoned Immortal Dynasty cultivator didn't even put up a fight and was instantly captivated.

Immediately, a charming voice echoed in his mind, drowning out everything else.

"Sleep now, and then tell me why you suddenly came to the Beast Swamp? And how many of you are there?"

As Hu Weiyong was entrancing the Human Cultivator, Fu Yuanpei was standing quietly to the side, equally focused, waiting for the reply.

In the dungeon, the Human Cultivator, his face blank, seemed to consider Hu Weiyong's questions before mechanically responding.

“We, disciples following an Ancestor, came from the Longevity Immortal City to the Beast Swamp to chase down the remnants of the Seeking the Truth Lineage. There are forty-two of us, all Nascent Soul Masters or above.”

“Ancestor? Seeking the Truth Lineage Remnants?”

Upon hearing these keywords, Hu Weiyong and Fu Yuanpei turned pale. An entity addressed as an ‘Ancestor’ by a Nascent Soul Cultivator was definitely not an ordinary cultivator.

However, what caught their attention more were the four words, ‘Seeking the Truth Lineage’. This exact terminology appeared in the ancestral teachings of the Demon Clan.

Or rather, the current situation in the Beast Swamp was due to the so-called Human Clan of the Seeking the Truth Lineage setting foot here.

As they thought of this, Fu Yuanpei and Hu Weiyong looked at each other. Hu Weiyong then resumed his questioning after calming his emotions.

“Who is the ‘Ancestor’ you speak of, and how did the remnants of the Seeking the Truth Lineage come about?”

“Our Ancestor is Chunyangzi, one of the Refinement Void Dao Monarchs of the East Victory Immortal Dynasty. Previously, they sent me and other disciples to support Elder Feng Yuan.

However, the reason we came to the Beast Swamp to find remnants of the Seeking the Truth Lineage is because everything is going wrong in the Immortal City for Elder Feng Yuan.

After all, for Elder Feng Yuan, the Immortal City’s Fortune has been affected by the Seeking the Truth Lineage. Therefore, the Ancestor made his move by entering the beast tide in search of opportunity and plotting against the remnants of the Seeking the Truth Lineage to gain more merit.”

Upon hearing this, Fu Yuanpei and Hu Weiyong finally understood the Human Cultivator’s backstory. Following these leads, Hu Weiyong asked about every detail about their circumstances.

However, as more details emerged, unrest grew in his heart, as he found their situation to be worse than they had imagined.

After all, who would have thought that a Human Dao Lord of the Refinement Void Level would personally come to the Beast Swamp? In front of such a being, even Hu Weiyong and Fu Yuanpei, both Demon Emperors, would be insignificant.

When no more information could be extracted, the Human Cultivator passed out and was once again confined in the dungeon.

Meanwhile, Fu Yuanpei and Hu Weiyong returned to their room, sitting there wordlessly with grim expressions for a while.

After a long time, it seemed like they had finally digested the information; Fu Yuanpei then spoke again, his face solemn.

“It seems we must gather for the Clan Leaders Conference. It’s been a long while since we’ve all come together.”

Hu Weiyong nodded in agreement, knowing that under such circumstances, they must unite for the common cause if they wished to prevent anything untoward from happening.

Humans were ultimately not their own kind. The Seeking the Truth Lineage, which was rumored to be connected to the underground world, hadn’t shown up even once, had they?

Considering this, he readily agreed, “I have no objections to it. Besides, after so many years, it has to be said that we have become accustomed to our peaceful lives.

We previously thought that the ‘great catastrophe’ mentioned in the ancestral lessons was nonsense, but now, it seems like we were naive. This so-called great catastrophe seems to have just begun.

A Dao Lord of the Refinement Void Level...”

Saying this, Hu Weiyong did not feel confident that he could withstand a Dao Lord with such great might, it was probably the greatest crisis he had faced in his life.

However, he was not entirely panicked. They had their own trump cards given the years they had passed, and the various major Demon Families in the underground world had their own hidden strengths.

What worried him was the possibility that the Refinement Void Dao Lord might not be the ultimate enemy. If that happened, their fate might be too dreadful to contemplate.

Both of them were anxious, but it was not the time for such sentiments. Fu Yuanpei thus put aside his worries.

After lifting his head to make eye contact with Hu Weiyong and giving a slight nod, they tacitly agreed to call a meeting of the leaders of the various demon families. They would convene the Clan Leaders Conference.

This was not a matter concerning one family, but the entire underground demon race. At this time, Fu Yuanpei even felt somewhat grateful in his heart.

If the Human Clan had not happened to enter the Beast Swamp and encounter Qin Ai, they would have been unprepared and suffered extensive casualties if the humans suddenly appeared in the underground world.

Without any hesitation, Fu Yuanpei and Hu Weiyong both formed a hand seal and chanted a unique spell. In an instant, a subtle Qi emanated from their hands and spread throughout the entire underground world.

Immediately after, a radiant light appeared in the sky above the underground world, prompting the various underground demonic beasts to instinctively look upwards.

What was happening?

It had been a long time since the last Clan Leaders Conference was held. Most of the regular demonic beasts of the underground world didn't know the significance of such a conference.

However, the true-blooded descendants of the major demon families were taken aback. They never expected the signal for the Clan Leaders Conference to suddenly appear.

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Immediately, the patriarchs of the major demon clans set aside all their work, gathered at Fu Yuanpei's mansion following the direction of the signal's endpoint.

Ordinary demons remained unaware, and even the Fu family guards did not know that many demon clan patriarchs had already entered the mansion without them noticing.

Liang Sheng, who was secretly controlling everything, couldn't help but marvel at the entry of one powerful demon after another into the Fu family's mansion.

The strength of these underground demons was truly astonishing, and what's more, he was sure that this was not the full extent of their power.

They must have some trump cards, and at this moment, Liang Sheng had temporarily lost interest in searching for the Ancient Desolate Springs.

He now had a premonition that this trip to the underground world would bring him new surprises, and perhaps the secret of the Ancient Desolate Springs would be revealed as well.

At this time, he glanced at the room where the demon clan patriarchs gathered, and couldn't help but look at a secluded courtyard in the Fu family's backyard.

After the clan leader conference signal was sent, a subtle fluctuation of Qi appeared there, and it was undoubtedly hiding a master, at least on the level of Void Refining Fifth Heaven.

Otherwise, it wouldn't have given Liang Sheng the feeling that it did. However, Liang Sheng quickly adjusted his emotions and focused his attention on the room where the clan leaders gathered.

He even had a dark thought that if he suddenly attacked the room before him, the hidden master would immediately counterattack.

He was the final guarantee for this conference, and it was because of his presence that these demon clan leaders could convene the meeting so confidently.

...

Inside the room.

As the twenty-one seats filled up, Fu Yuanpei and Hu Weiyong appeared at the main seats.

They gently tapped the table, and the room instantly fell silent, with everyone's gaze turning to the two of them.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the sudden opening of the clan leader conference today is due to a sudden event. My worthy brother Weiyong and I are unsure how to deal with it, and we feel it's necessary to consult with you all. Therefore, we've hastily invited you here, and we hope for your understanding."

After apologizing, Fu Yuanpei got straight to the point, explaining in detail the situation of the human cultivators entering the Beast Swamp.

Of course, he also didn't hide any information about the interrogation of the human cultivators conducted by Hu Weiyong, and he clearly stated the cause and effect of the whole affair.

When Fu Yuanpei finished speaking, the room instantly erupted with noise, and the initial reaction of all the demon clan leaders was identical to Fu Yuanpei and Hu Weiyong's previous reactions.

Of course, their attention was primarily focused on the words Seeking-Truth Lineage.

After all, the formation of Beast Swamp underground world was closely related to these words. However, these messy voices were quickly silenced by Hu Weiyong tapping on the table.

They all stopped discussing and once again looked to Hu Weiyong, wanting to hear what he had to say next.

“Everyone, actually, the Seeking-Truth Lineage of the human clan is not the key point of this incident, but their purpose in coming here.

According to the human cultivator, both the East Victory Immortal Dynasty cultivators and the Seeking-Truth Lineage cultivators had the presence of Refinement Void Dao Lords among them.

And now, the timing coincides with the so-called Immortal Dynasty Competition held in the outside world. Their entrance to the Beast Swamp is, in fact, part of the so-called battle for fortune.

So, their encounter with our Fu family’s foreign affairs manager, Qin Ai, was actually accidental, and not a specific event.

However, these human cultivators have been in the Beast Swamp for almost a year now, and we have been utterly clueless about their presence.

According to the human cultivator’s information, as long as the Ancient Desolate Springs remain undiscovered, they will not leave the Beast Swamp.

Today’s meeting is actually to discuss strategies. As for the location of the Ancient Desolate Springs, even we can only vaguely speculate and cannot pinpoint the exact location.

What’s more, we can’t possibly allow these human cultivators to tarnish the Ancient Desolate Springs, as they are a treasure of our Beast Swamp.

So, to be prepared for all eventualities, my worthy brother Weiyong and I think that it's better to take the initiative and attack rather than passively await our fate.

After all, as long as they are able to encounter our foreign affairs manager in the Beast Swamp, there's a chance that we will encounter them as long as we continue to have foreign affairs activities.

With that being said, the only topic I would like to discuss with you today is how to perfectly solve the problem of the arrival of the human cultivators.

Because our entire underground world cannot be isolated from the outside world. It's still fine in the short term, but in the long run, the order of our underground world will likely collapse by itself.

Let's not talk about other situations for now. Even if we don't care about the Ancient Desolate Springs, who knows when these human cultivators will find the Springs?

Are we supposed to stay underground and not move for each day that they don't find it? How is that possible?"

This has always been the pain point of the entire Beast Swamp underground world. Their world's smooth operation relies on support from the surface world, which is why each family has its own trading group.

After hearing Hu Weiyong's words, all the demon clan patriarchs couldn't help but fall silent, as what he said was true.

However, they were also worried that the proactive approach might not be effective. If they were to expose the Beast Swamp underground world to human cultivators after revealing themselves, they would no longer have the current peaceful life.

Hu Weiyong was obviously aware of their concerns and continued, "So, to solve this problem, we can't avoid the human clan. Instead, we have to face them directly, and moreover, we must kill them in one strike, not giving them any chance to leak the news."

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Hearing this, someone's eyes lit up.

"You mean this time we're going all-out, working together to capture the human cultivators in one fell swoop? But the other side has the Refinement Void Dao Monarch, I'm afraid it may be difficult to achieve this with just us alone."

Although they understood Hu Weiyong's intentions and the feasibility of the plan, someone still furrowed their brows and pointed out the flaws.

"Yes, that's indeed the crux of the problem. After discussing this countermeasure with Brother Yuanpei earlier, we also thought about this issue.

The solution is actually quite simple, because the human cultivators have their own problems, as the Seeking Truth Lineage and the Immortal Dynasty cultivators are actually not in league with each other, and they are in fact enemies of each other.

Since they are so hostile to each other, perhaps we can manipulate them to turn on each other first, and then we just profit from the fisherman's gain.

Of course, there is another issue in this plan: we only have a general idea of where the Immortal Dynasty cultivators are, but we don't know the whereabouts of the Seeking-Truth Lineage Cultivators.

The Immortal Dynasty cultivators also don't know where their foes are, or else they would have already started fighting each other."

Hearing this, all the demon clan heads couldn't help but feel that Hu Weiyong had come up with the perfect solution, and nodded in agreement.

Fu Yuanpei, seeing that everyone accepted Hu's plan, felt slightly relieved and began to add his own opinions.

“So for this plan to unfold smoothly, in addition to our joint efforts, we need to find the location of the Seeking Truth Lineage first.

Beast Swamp is already under our surveillance, so achieving this is just a matter of time. Then, we can slowly guide the two sides to meet.

When the time comes for them to fight, and they are about to decide the winner, we can use our absolute strength to capture them in one fell swoop.

After they are captured and sealed by us, we can bring them to the Underground World, then it’s up to us to decide how to deal with them.

Anyway, with worthy brother Weiyong here, we’re not afraid that we won’t be able to pry open their mouths, and I believe everyone has no doubts about that.”

Hearing this, all the demon clan heads couldn’t help but burst into laughter, and then they began to strategize and complete the plan’s details.

“It seems that we still have to ask two or three ancestors to help us this time, after all, the opponent is the Refinement Void Dao Monarch, no amount of caution is too much.”

“Indeed.”

After they confirmed that the plan had no loopholes, they each took their respective tasks and bid farewell.

When the room was left with only Hu Weiyong and Fu Yuanpei, they looked towards the surface, their previous confidence had vanished.

For some reason, they still felt uneasy, but since they had already made a decision, all they could do was follow through, though in their hearts they still sighed and hoped for the best.

...

Liang Sheng was secretly eavesdropping on their plans, and after they had made their final decision, he quietly left the Fu Family.

Anyway, these underground demons needed some time to target the Chunyangzi and others on the surface, so he might as well take the opportunity to learn more about the Underground World.

Liang Sheng couldn't help but find this incredible, as previously he thought he only needed to control the Seeking Truth Lineage and the Immortal Dynasty cultivators.

Who would have thought that there was now an unexpected turn of events with the underground demon race, and the development of his plan might have many variables.

But Liang Sheng's mind wasn't overly tense, what he actually cared about was the Seeking Truth Lineage, because the expressions of these demon clan heads were peculiar when they heard the words "Seeking Truth Lineage".

Could it be that they had some connections with the demon clan? However, the specifics of the situation still required further investigation over time.

But Liang Sheng had a hunch, an inextricable feeling, that the Underground World and them were definitely linked, though it was based on nothing but an ineffable sense.

Perhaps the results of this trip to Beast Swamp might exceed his expectations.

Seeking Truth Lineage, how many more secrets are there!?