

Doctor 1181

Chapter 1181: The State of Perfection

The abnormal surge of Essence Energy within Fang Bai's body was indicative of another breakthrough in his cultivation realm. After the period of seated cultivation just now, his Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique had advanced from the high rank of the Surging Essence Realm to its perfection.

The perfection of the Surging Essence Realm in the Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique was equivalent to the Vast Level Perfection among martial artists in the True Martial Realm. Plus, with Fang Bai's ability to challenge higher levels, he was now an invincible presence among martial artists at the Cosmic Level Realm.

In fact, Fang Bai's Essence Energy had already been accumulated to an extremely profound degree. Given an opportunity, he might have the chance to break through to the next level. At this moment, his successful advancement utilizing the massive Cultivation Resources within the Underground Palace was something that came naturally and was expected by Fang Bai.

While Fang Bai was seated in meditation, Wu De, like a diligent little bee, dove into the mountainous stack of Cultivation Resources in the Underground Palace, collecting treasures that caught his fancy, paying no attention to Fang Bai.

The moment Fang Bai made his breakthrough, the sudden explosive increase in Essence Energy was sensed by Wu De.

Wu De immediately stopped what he was doing, staring at Fang Bai with wide eyes, mumbling to himself, "No way, another advancement? Goodness gracious, he was already able to kill Feng Lingtian's sister... and that woman was a Cosmic Level Perfection expert. Does that mean he can now contend with Universe Level Experts?"

At this moment, Wu De's heart was filled with nothing but envy.

When he first met Fang Bai, their strengths were barely distinguishable, but now the gap between them was growing wider and wider. He had completely let go of the idea of catching up to Fang Bai in the Martial Dao.

"If you've taken enough, let's go! The grand battle between the two Sects outside should also be coming to an end!"

After closing his eyes and regulating his breath for a moment to stabilize his realm, Fang Bai stood up and spoke to Wu De.

"Ah? Oh... Just a bit more... Just a bit more..."

Upon hearing Fang Bai was ready to leave, Wu De didn't dare to stay longer, hurriedly collecting some Cultivation Resources, stuffing his Space Ring full, then with a look of regret he said: "What a pity, what we've taken is only about a tenth or two of these Cultivation Resources, the rest will just end up benefitting the disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold."

Fang Bai laughed and said: "Do you really intend to take all the Cultivation Resources in this Underground Palace?"

Wu De righteously declared: "Of course! If everyone doesn't look out for themselves, they face annihilation by heaven and earth! If I had enough Spatial Rings, I would have taken as much as I could!"

Fang Bai extended his finger and poked Wu De, saying, "Don't be too extreme in everything you do! We are, after all, Elders of Tribute for Green Bamboo Stronghold now; when we eat meat, we should at least let others have some soup, right?"

Wu De looked pained, pointing to the Cultivation Resources surrounding them and said: "But this soup... is just too much!"

"Then you can stay and keep drinking it!"

Fang Bai rolled his eyes, not wanting to deal with this nitpicking fellow any longer, and turned to walk towards the exit of the Underground Palace.

Wu De was just talking, just enjoying his moment of exaggeration and had no real intention of staying behind. Seeing Fang Bai leave, he quickly followed.

The two left the Underground Palace, walked out of the stormy area, and left Wind Valley, heading back to the headquarters of Swiftwind Valley.

The two had spent a total of around four to five hours in the Underground Palace. Now, as they returned to the immense valley, they discovered, just as Fang Bai had predicted, that the battle between the two mighty Sects, Green Bamboo Stronghold and Swiftwind Valley, had come to an end.

In this grand confrontation involving tens of thousands, the disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold were at a numerical disadvantage, but the Combined Assault Formation taught to them by Fang Bai played a huge role in the clash, successfully overturning the disciples of Swiftwind Valley.

For both Sects, this confrontation was a battle for survival; the loser would face the disaster of annihilation. Therefore, the disciples on both sides fought with all their might, paying a heavy toll for it.

Eventually, over half of the Swiftwind Valley disciples were killed, and the remaining were unable to hold on, fleeing in disarray. The freed-up thousands of Green Bamboo Stronghold disciples began to join forces with their high-level ranks to encircle and attack the higher-ups of Swiftwind Valley.

In terms of individual combat strength, the disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold were not very strong, but together in the Combined Assault Formation, they unleashed astonishing combat power, equivalent to adding a fresh force to Green Bamboo Stronghold.

After paying a tragic price, Green Bamboo Stronghold finally succeeded in nearly annihilating all the high-level ranks of Swiftwind Valley led by Feng Lingtian, with only one Elder managing to escape injured.

From then on, the hitherto untoppled Swiftwind Valley vanished into thin air, no longer in existence.

Although Green Bamboo Stronghold was victorious, over half of its upper echelons were seriously injured in the final showdown and could only consume Healing Pills to recuperate on the spot.

Gu Li had only suffered minor injuries and was not in much trouble.

While tallying up their numbers after the battle, Gu Li discovered that Fang Bai and Wu De, two Elders of Tribute from their own Sect, were missing. Fearing they had met with an accident, he anxiously sent a portion of the disciples to search for them, while the rest cleaned up the fallen corpses of both Sects on the battlefield.

Su Linglong, Zhuge Lian, Linghu Qian Jiao, Linghu Baimi - the four women searched all around Swiftwind Valley but did not find Fang Bai. However, confident in Fang Bai's strength and the special intuitive connection they shared with him, they knew nothing bad had befallen him, so they did not panic.

Just as the four women were gathered together, discussing where Fang Bai might have gone, Fang Bai and Gu De appeared in front of them, having rushed over from the back mountain.

Seeing that Fang Bai was safe and sound, all four women showed joy.

Gu Li and some lightly wounded high-level members of Green Bamboo Stronghold also gathered around.

"Stronghold Head Gu, Elder Wu and I just took a turn around the back mountain of Swiftwind Valley and discovered the place where Swiftwind Valley stores their cultivation resources,"

Fang Bai spoke to Gu Li after a brief exchange of pleasantries with Su Linglong and the other women.

After wiping out Swiftwind Valley, Gu Li led people to search the area for dozens of miles but failed to find the place where Swiftwind Valley stored their vast cultivation resources, feeling disappointed. Hearing Fang Bai's words, he was overjoyed.

Swiftwind Valley had dominated Tiansheng Continent for nearly ten thousand years, and it was well-known that astronomical amounts of cultivation resources had accumulated within their Sect. Any Sect on Tiansheng Continent that acquired these resources could rise to power by utilizing them.

Green Bamboo Stronghold had paid a heavy price in eradicating Swiftwind Valley, with their Essence Energy severely depleted. If they couldn't find the cultivation resources stored by Swiftwind Valley, it would be a tremendous regret.

Hence, Fang Bai's words were nothing short of gospel to the high-level members of Green Bamboo Stronghold.

To destroy Swiftwind Valley, Green Bamboo Stronghold had exhausted a considerable amount of manpower and resources. Acquiring Swiftwind Valley's cultivation resources would not only offset the consumed resources but also greatly benefit the future development of their Sect.

After killing Feng Lingtian and other higher-ups of Swiftwind Valley, Gu Li and his people took over a dozen Spatial Rings from their bodies, containing many valuable cultivation resources. However, Gu Li knew that Fang Bai had played the most significant role in annihilating Swiftwind Valley, so he did not dare to hoard the resources within the Spatial Rings for himself. Seeing Fang Bai now, he intended to give him a share.

Chapter 1182: Handling the Aftermath

"The cultivation resources stored in the underground of Swiftwind Valley behind the mountain have already been partly taken by Elder Wu and me. It's enough to last us a very long time. These... keep them for yourselves!"

Fang Bai waved his hand and declined the several Spatial Rings that Gu Li was ready to give him, then continued, "Swiftwind Valley's treasure trove is abundant, and what we took is just a tiny portion. The rest still contains a vast amount of cultivation resources. If you have time, you can go and take a look. However, the storm within the Wind Valley is fierce and powerful; probably only Stronghold Head Gu and a few Elders have the ability to enter."

Upon hearing this, Gu Li and others expressed their gratitude towards Fang Bai and Wu De, then hurried off to inspect the cultivation resources in Swiftwind Valley behind the mountain.

Since Fang Bai and Wu De were the first to discover the hidden cultivation resources of Swiftwind Valley, the portion that they took was undoubtedly the essence of all the cultivation resources. This was something that Gu Li and other high-ranking members of Green Bamboo Stronghold understood perfectly well, yet they harbored no complaints.

After all, Fang Bai and Wu De were merely Elders of Tribute in Green Bamboo Stronghold, and their relationship was one of collaboration, not subordination. By revealing the location of Swiftwind Valley's cultivation resources to Green Bamboo Stronghold, they had already performed a good and righteous act.

Moreover, the fact that Green Bamboo Stronghold was able to annihilate Swiftwind Valley this time was all thanks to Fang Bai's efforts. Henceforth, Green Bamboo Stronghold would replace Swiftwind Valley to become the number one powerful Sect in Tiansheng Continent. At that time, they would control more territories and acquire more cultivation resources, further strengthening the Sect's power.

This has been the goal that generations of disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold have dreamt of for thousands of years, and with Fang Bai's help, it was finally achieved today. Therefore, the tens of thousands of disciples in Green Bamboo Stronghold are grateful to Fang Bai, and even if Fang Bai had claimed all of Swiftwind Valley's cultivation resources for himself, they would have nothing to say.

After Gu Li and others left, Fang Bai took Su Linglong and the other three women to a secluded spot nearby, handing over the four Spatial Rings to them and said in a low voice, "There are quite a few good items among the cultivation resources stored by generations of Swiftwind Valley. Take these Spatial Rings; inside are high-quality Essence Stones and Elixirs that should be enough for your cultivation for a while."

The four women knew Fang Bai's character very well and knew that what he gave out, he would never take back. They immediately accepted the gifts without demur, with beaming smiles reaching out for them.

After infusing a strand of True Yuan into their respective Spatial Rings to inspect, they were shocked and overjoyed by the surging powerhouse of Essence Energy unleashed by the high-quality cultivation resources within.

High-quality Essence Stones and Elixirs are the most superior cultivation resources in the True Martial Realm. Their Essence Energy is pure and concentrated, making their supportive effects for Martial Artists far superior to those of mid-quality Essence Stones and Elixirs, and thus are treasures that many martial artists long for.

However, high-quality cultivation resources are scarce, and usually, only first-class Sects would have some reserves, reserved exclusively for the cultivation of their high-ranking Universe Level Experts.

For a second-class Sect like Swiftwind Valley to also have a considerable amount of high-quality cultivation resources is quite rare.

Su Linglong and the other women understood the preciousness of high-quality cultivation resources, and now that Fang Bai was giving each of them a portion, it was truly generous.

All four women possessed Innate Spiritual Roots and were of exceptional talent. With the aid of these high-quality cultivation resources, their future cultivation levels were bound to advance leaps and bounds, achieving great improvements.

After waiting for a moment, Fang Bai and the others saw Stronghold Head Gu and several Elders returning from behind the mountain of Swiftwind Valley. Every one of them had faces full of joy and excitement, clearly having seen the cultivation resources underground behind the mountain.

"We have seen the cultivation resources behind the mountain. Swiftwind Valley is indeed the largest Sect in Tiansheng Continent, with their cultivation resources far surpassing those of Green Bamboo Stronghold. With these resources, Green Bamboo Stronghold's overall strength will undergo a qualitative improvement in a short time. Many thanks to Elder Fang."

Gu Li walked up to Fang Bai, deeply clasped his hands, and bowed.

The other elders of Green Bamboo Stronghold also bowed to Fang Bai in gratitude.

They had just visited the cultivation resources behind Swiftwind Valley and found the quantity to be far beyond their expectations. Knowing if Fang Bai were a greedy person, he would never have left so many cultivation resources for Green Bamboo Stronghold, so their gratitude towards Fang Bai grew even stronger.

"Hey, hey, what about me?"

Wu De, seeing that Gu Li and the others were only thanking Fang Bai and not him, felt quite dissatisfied and said irritably: "Discovering the cultivation resources of Swiftwind Valley, this elder also has a merit! You should thank me, too!"

"Many thanks to Elder Wu!"

Previously, Gu Li and the others already held a degree of respect for Wu De. Later, when they learned that he and Fang Bai had been friends since their days in the secular world, their relationship deep and meaningful, they began to value him even more. Hearing his words now, and seeing Fang Bai smile without saying a word, they took his claim as truth and quickly expressed their gratitude to Wu De.

Little did they know, finding the cultivation resources in Swiftwind Valley was solely the achievement of Fang Bai, and had nothing to do with Wu De. Moreover, Wu De was only fortunate enough to gain some cultivation resources because of Fang Bai's favor.

Fang Bai knew that Wu De merely wanted to assert his presence and inwardly chuckled at it, yet he did not expose the truth.

In the recent battle of life and death between the two sects, of the over ten thousand disciples from Swiftwind Valley, only one elder managed to escape by luck, while the rest of the higher-ups all perished. Although there were also many disciples who fled, they could no longer cause any significant disturbance. The destruction of Swiftwind Valley had become a certainty.

Gu Li left a few elders and some elite disciples to continue handling the aftermath in Swiftwind Valley and returned to Green Bamboo Stronghold with Fang Bai and the others.

Fang Bai was eager to return to Green Bamboo Stronghold because he was awaiting the Green Bamboo Stronghold disciples that Gu Li had sent to various places in the True Martial Realm, to see if they would bring back any news about friends and family from the secular world. If there was news, Fang Bai would set out to find them at the earliest opportunity.

Furthermore, with its abundant Essence Energy and tranquil environment, Green Bamboo Stronghold was ideal for martial artists to cultivate. Fang Bai planned to use the high-quality cultivation resources obtained from Swiftwind Valley to enter seclusion and cultivate for a period of time, striving for an even greater breakthrough in the Martial Dao.

Near Swiftwind Valley, during the battle with Feng Peilan, although Fang Bai ultimately killed Feng Peilan, he also felt some pressure, which brought about a sense of urgency.

Feng Peilan was merely a direct disciple of Tianji Sect, a first-class sect in Shenwu Continent, not a top Universe Level expert. Fang Bai thought that if he would venture to Shenwu Continent for training in the future and encounter Universe Level experts, without sufficient strength to protect himself, he might suffer a great loss.

Moreover, from the last words of Zhuge Lian's father, Zhuge Dingtian, Fang Bai knew that Zhuge Dingtian had been targeted by the sect of his wife, Zhou Yuruo, resulting in his accidental entry into the secular world. Hence, in the future, Fang Bai, wishing to help Zhuge Lian find her mother, might have to deal with Innate Sects.

Although to most martial artists in the True Martial Realm, Innate Sects are the stuff of legends, Fang Bai knew that not only do Innate Sects exist, but there is more than one. They are sects that possess Innate Experts, even more, powerful than first-class sects.

Chapter 1183: Exiting Seclusion, Good News

Without formidable strength, let alone going to the Innate Sect to help Zhuge Lian find her mother, even encountering a Universe Level Expert from a First-Class Sect would be challenging to contend with.

Fang Bai was very clear about this.

That's why Fang Bai decided to stay in Green Bamboo Stronghold and diligently cultivate. If his Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique could break through from the current Surging Essence Realm to the Form Essence Realm and reach the level of a Cosmic Level Expert in this world, he would possess an adequate self-preservation ability.

The Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique comprises nine major realms, and the Form Essence Realm is the seventh of these.

Once one's cultivation reaches the Form Essence Realm, True Yuan can be condensed into form, transforming into various shapes of Spiritual Artifacts or figures like dragons and tigers, launching even fiercer and powerful attacks towards the opponent.

At that time, the Chaos Origin Energy floating in Fang Bai's Qi Sea would be as large as a basketball, containing an even more terrifying amount of True Yuan energy.

The matter of Green Bamboo Stronghold wiping out Swiftwind Valley spread rapidly across the entire Tiansheng Continent at an astonishing speed, shaking thousands of Sect forces. They could not understand how Green Bamboo Stronghold could obliterate the largest Sect of Tiansheng Continent overnight.

Especially Falcon Mountain, previously regarded as a peer and ally to Green Bamboo Stronghold, found it unbelievable. After sending disciples to investigate, they learned that Green Bamboo Stronghold had been assisted by a powerhouse, their overall Sect strength greatly increased, dispatching only thousands of disciples to eliminate Swiftwind Valley.

The head of Falcon Mountain, Ying Feiyang, regretted refusing to collaborate with Green Bamboo Stronghold to eradicate Swiftwind Valley, worrying that Green Bamboo Stronghold held a grudge. Frightened, he immediately went personally to Green Bamboo Stronghold to meet Gu Li, not only offering a generous amount of Cultivation Resources, but also declaring his future compliance to Green Bamboo Stronghold in all matters.

When one is under the roof, they have no choice but to bow their head.

If Green Bamboo Stronghold could easily eradicate Swiftwind Valley with just thousands of disciples, wiping out Falcon Mountain would be even foreseeable; Ying Feiyang, for the survival of his Sect, had to lower his stance and seek full compromise.

This move by Falcon Mountain also spurred many other Sects to send envoys to Green Bamboo Stronghold, courting favor with them.

Suddenly, Green Bamboo Stronghold saw guests from all sides, bustling with visitors, receiving a vast amount of Cultivation Resources daily.

The disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold each held their heads high and chests out.

The more so, the deeper Green Bamboo Stronghold disciples' gratitude towards Fang Bai grew, realizing that without him, there would be no such glory for Green Bamboo Stronghold today.

All disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold knew Fang Bai was exceptionally proficient in Martial Dao. Even Stronghold Head Gu had gained inspirations from him, significantly advancing in strength. Thinking that a bit of guidance from Fang Bai would be immensely beneficial, everyone sought a chance.

However, after returning from Swiftwind Valley, Fang Bai, along with the four ladies including Su Linglong, moved into the bamboo building of Gu Li, began a secluded cultivation, and even set up a Concealment Formation around the bamboo building, isolating it from the outside world.

In such a case, even Gu Li could not enter the bamboo building without Fang Bai's permission.

Fang Bai and Su Linglong, along with the other three ladies, secluded themselves for half a year, during which none of them appeared. Occasionally, intense fluctuations of energy would emanate from within the bamboo building, seemingly indicating more than one person advancing in realm.

One day, a disciple sent by Gu Li to gather information for Fang Bai hurried back, passing an important message to Gu Li.

Upon hearing the news, Gu Li was overjoyed, and without a second word, he went in front of the bamboo building where Fang Bai and others were secluded, transmitted his voice inside to inform Fang Bai about news of his friends and relatives from the Secular World.

His words had barely finished when the formation set up by Fang Bai suddenly disappeared, revealing the bamboo building again.

Suddenly—

With the sound of clothes tearing through the air, Gu Li barely blinked before Fang Bai was already standing in front of him.

Following them were Su Linglong and the three other ladies.

Gu Li was taken aback. He had also been diligently cultivating for the past half year, feeling that he had made significant progress. He had thought that even if he couldn't catch up to Fang Bai, he should be

close, but Fang Bai's appearance now, with such incredible speed, made it impossible for him to see clearly.

This indicated that Fang Bai's strength had far surpassed him, leaving him in the dust.

It was evident that although both were cultivating, Fang Bai's progress was much faster and the gap between their strengths was widening.

It seems that in the past half-year, the few strong Essence Energy fluctuations emanating from the bamboo building could possibly include Fang Bai.

In the battle at Swiftwind Valley, Fang Bai killed a Cosmic Level perfection expert Feng Peilan. If Fang Bai has ascended again, would his strength not be already comparable to Universe Level experts?

However, at this moment, Gu Li sensed that Fang Bai's cultivation realm was only at the early stage of Cosmic Level. From Fang Bai's previous performances, Gu Li deduced that either Fang Bai was concealing part of his power or he possessed an exceedingly strong capability to challenge beyond his level.

Considering Fang Bai possesses a multi-attribute Innate Spiritual Root, the latter possibility is greater.

"Congratulations to Elder Fang on your advancement and emergence!"

With a reverent heart, Gu Li clasped his fists and bowed to Fang Bai, then glanced again at Su Linglong, Zhuge Lian, Linghu Qian Jiao, and Linghu Baimei behind Fang Bai, and was taken aback once more.

Originally, the four ladies were at the early stage of the Vast Level realm. Although they had been in closed-door cultivation for the past half year, under Fang Bai's guidance and with ample cultivation resources, their strengths would have definitely improved. But Gu Li did not expect that all four ladies had advanced from the early stage to the high rank of Vast Level.

The speed of this advancement through two minor realms within half a year was something that even the Heavenly Daughters of top Sects would find hard to match, perhaps?

"Congratulations to the four ladies on your advancement and emergence!"

After his surprise, Gu Li immediately congratulated the four women.

He knew that the four women were close to Fang Bai and maintained a respectful attitude, giving them a proper compliment was always right.

The four ladies returned the gesture to Gu Li, their faces filled with joy and excitement.

In the past half year, they had utilized almost all the high-grade cultivation resources given by Fang Bai, and with his careful guidance, advanced through two minor realms, something they themselves hadn't imagined.

"Stronghold Head Gu, where is the disciple who brought back the news? Quickly, lead me to him. I want to ask him in person!"

After Gu Li had sent a message to Fang Bai that a disciple from Green Bamboo Stronghold had gathered some information about Fang Bai's friends from the Secular World, Fang Bai, unable to contain his excitement, immediately broke out of his cultivation state and asked anxiously.

Gu Li didn't waste words, and immediately summoned the disciple from Green Bamboo Stronghold who went out to gather the news to see Fang Bai.

"Quickly tell me the details of the information you have gathered. If it's true, there will naturally be benefits for you!"

Upon seeing the Green Bamboo Stronghold disciple, Fang Bai, suppressing his excitement, asked in a deep voice.

"Re... Report to Elder Fang... I... this... I..."

The disciple from Green Bamboo Stronghold, whose cultivation progress had been stalled for years and who had been unable to improve and had long been desiring guidance from Fang Bai, was now overwhelmed with excitement upon hearing Fang Bai's promise of benefits, so much so that his voice trembled as he spoke.

Chapter 1184: Offering You an Opportunity

"Take your time and speak clearly, no need to rush..."

Fang Bai noticed that the Green Bamboo Stronghold disciple was speaking hesitantly, aware that he was overly excited, and since he himself was somewhat anxious, he comforted him with a warm, gentle smile.

"Some days ago I prepared to cross the sea to... to go to Shenwu Continent to gather information, but at the seaside, I encountered a few martial artists who had just... just returned from training in Shenwu Continent. They mentioned that a new sect called Huaxia Sect has recently emerged there. And the disciples of Huaxia Sect, they all claim to come from the Secular World..."

"Huaxia Sect... Secular World... I see, it must be them..."

Fang Bai's homeland in the Secular World was known as Huaxia, and since those from Huaxia Sect claimed to come from the Secular World, they must surely be the relatives and friends who accompanied Fang Bai to the True Martial Realm.

"I wonder which relatives and friends have established Huaxia Sect, and how they are faring now? With sects abounding and experts as numerous as clouds in Shenwu Continent, by establishing their sect there, will they suffer exclusion and suppression, humiliation and bullying?"

Fang Bai's thoughts went out to his relatives and friends across the Myriad Miles Ocean; learning about their whereabouts brought joy to his heart, yet he couldn't help but worry about their situation.

After all, the first-rate sects of the True Martial Realm were nearly all concentrated on Shenwu Continent, home to the most powerful Universe Level martial artists in the eyes of the world's martial artists; Cosmic Level experts could be seen everywhere, and there were countless Vast Level experts.

However, those relatives and friends of Fang Bai from the Secular World were generally not strong; finding themselves in Shenwu Continent, they belonged to the absolute weak, and were bound to face various oppressions and bullying.

Fortunately, before leading them into the True Martial Realm, Fang Bai had specifically taught them a Combined Assault Formation so they could counter enemies several times stronger than themselves. Now that they had established the Huaxia Sect, Fang Bai guessed that it was their way of banding together for self-protection.

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Fang Bai asked the Green Bamboo Stronghold disciple, "Is there any other news?"

The Green Bamboo Stronghold disciple nodded and said, "It's said that when Huaxia Sect was first established, there were only over a hundred people, but later they absorbed more martial artists, reaching a scale of over a thousand people. The strongest among them are only Vast Level experts, equivalent to a third-rate sect in our Tiansheng Continent..."

He paused, glanced at Fang Bai, saw he was listening intently, spirited up, and continued, "However, those martial artists from the Secular World in Huaxia Sect seem to have practiced some kind of Combined Assault Formation. Once they form it, they are extremely formidable, and they even managed to repel a Cosmic Level expert..."

As Fang Bai listened to the Green Bamboo Stronghold disciple, a slight smile appeared on the corner of his mouth, thinking to himself that the Combined Assault Formation he had taught was naturally powerful and that the greater the strength of the martial artists in the formation, the stronger its power.

If Su Linglong, Zhuge Lian, Linghu Qian Jiao, and Linghu Baimei, the four women now, were to form the Combined Assault Formation, they could even kill a Cosmic Level Perfection expert.

These were all the news the Green Bamboo Stronghold disciple had brought, but learning about the whereabouts of hundreds of friends and relatives from the Secular World was enough to delight Fang Bai.

"Come over here, I will grant you an opportunity!"

Fang Bai waved to the Green Bamboo Stronghold disciple that brought back the news, saying with a smile.

"Ziyun, every word of Elder Fang can be infinitely beneficial. Listen carefully, cultivate diligently, and do not let down the expectations of Elder Fang," said Gu Li with a smile, twisting his beard as he watched the disciple approached Fang Bai.

This disciple from Green Bamboo Stronghold was named Xie Ziyun and was one of their Direct Disciples.

Appearing to be just over thirty years old on the surface, Xie Ziyun was actually well into his sixties. He advanced to Vast Level Perfection ten years ago and became a Direct Disciple of Green Bamboo Stronghold. Since then, however, limited by his innate talent, he made no further progress in ten years, and the dream of advancing to the Cosmic Level Realm seemed out of reach.

Because of his dim prospects in martial arts, Xie Ziyun no longer received the attention of the high-level members of his sect. Most of the disciples sent by Green Bamboo Stronghold to gather information for Fang Bai were either low in status or neglected by the sect, and Xie Ziyun was one of them.

Originally gloomy about this, Xie Ziyun hadn't expected that this chance to go out would turn into a great opportunity for himself. Hearing that Fang Bai was offering him an opportunity, his heart bloomed with joy, and he even felt slightly light-footed as he walked over, too excited to contain himself.

"Thank you, Elder Fang, for your guidance!"

Xie Ziyun had no idea what opportunity Fang Bai was about to give him, but he stood respectfully in front of him, filled with anticipation.

"You have been stuck at the Vast Level Perfection for about ten years, right?"

Fang Bai glanced at Xie Ziyun and asked with a smile.

"Yes... yes!"

Xie Ziyun, not expecting Fang Bai to pinpoint his problem with a single look, nodded hastily.

"What if I said that today I can make you a Cosmic Level Expert, how about that?"

Fang Bai asked again.

"Is that... really possible?"

Xie Ziyun stared wide-eyed at Fang Bai, his face full of disbelief.

Having spent ten years trying to advance to the Cosmic Level Realm without success, he thought that even if Elder Fang was incredibly powerful, to break through a decade's bottleneck in one night would be as difficult as ascending to the heavens.

"If I say it's possible, then it is possible!"

Fang Bai affirmed.

Upon receiving Fang Bai's definite response, Xie Ziyun was instantly moved to tears, nearly ready to kneel before him.

Xie Ziyun knew that, given Fang Bai's status and position, since he said so, it indicated he was absolutely confident and would never deceive him.

But how on earth could Elder Fang help him ascend to the Cosmic Level Realm overnight?

Did he possess some kind of Immortal Pill or Divine Medicine?

As expected, Fang Bai did present a few bottles of Elixir to Xie Ziyun, but they were not any Immortal Pills or Divine Medicines, just mid-grade Gathering Yuan Pills and Creation Pills.

Xie Ziyun respectfully accepted the Elixirs on the surface, but he couldn't help feeling a little disappointed.

He had taken both types of mid-grade Elixirs before, but they were far from enough for him to advance to the Cosmic Level Realm. Was Elder Fang really planning to have him use these to advance?

"Don't underestimate these mid-grade Elixirs. I personally refined them. Although they are mid-grade, they are actually the finest among mid-grade Elixirs, and their effects are several times better than ordinary ones. Now, turn around..."

Fang Bai spoke and gestured for Xie Ziyun to turn his back toward him. Then, he extended his right index finger and lightly tapped his back.

A stream of Chaos Origin Energy seeped out from Fang Bai's fingertip, infiltrating Xie Ziyun's meridians and began to circulate on its own.

Xie Ziyun clearly felt a strand of unfamiliar True Yuan entering his meridians. Although it was just a strand, it contained astonishing energy and was incredibly fierce.

That strand of True Yuan washed over his meridians at high speed, repeatedly breaking any restraints from his previous cultivation endeavors like bamboo, giving him the marvelous sensation of undergoing a metamorphosis.

Chapter 1185: Universe Level Realm, First-Rate Sect

Gu Li and the other high-ranking officials of Green Bamboo Stronghold felt the rapidly surging aura from Xie Ziyun and couldn't help but exchange surprised glances, secretly astonished.

This sign was exactly that of a Martial Artist at the crucial stage of breaking through and advancing.

When the aura on Xie Ziyun had climbed to a level comparable to that of a Cosmos Level Martial Artist, his body quivered lightly as if struck by lightning.

Moments later, that powerful aura quickly subsided, and in an instant, he returned to calmness.

At this time, Xie Ziyun, with his eyes tightly closed and expression solemn and dignified, was like an Old Monk in meditation, surrounded by faint wisps of Essence Energy.

This Essence Energy was pure and rich, containing powerful energy, something only a Cosmic Level Expert would possess.

In just a few hundred breaths' time, Xie Ziyun, whose Cultivation Level had not progressed a whit in ten years, had actually stepped into the Cosmic Level Realm, surprising people like Gu Li. Their looks towards Fang Bai unavoidably carried a newfound respect.

In the eyes of people like Gu Li, even if it were Immortal Pills and Divine Medicine, it would be impossible to create a Cosmic Level Expert in such a short period of time, but Fang Bai did it, which was simply miraculous.

Half a two hours later, Xie Ziyun let out a light breath and slowly opened his eyes, standing up at the same time.

His eyes shone with a sharp glint, his whole demeanor had changed drastically, and the aura he exuded was on par with the eight Stewards of Green Bamboo Stronghold.

At this moment, Xie Ziyun was truly a bona fide Cosmic Level Expert!

Amidst the shocked and envious gazes of the high-ranking officials of Green Bamboo Stronghold, Xie Ziyun silently felt the robust True Yuan flowing through his body. Knowing his decade-long wish had come true overnight by advancing to the Cosmic Level Realm, his eyes became moist and his emotions uncontrollably surged.

"Elder Fang's great kindness, your disciple shall never forget! Please accept my bow!"

Xie Ziyun walked in front of Fang Bai and knelt down, bowing deeply.

Although Xie Ziyun had advanced to being a Cosmic Level Expert, he was still a Direct Disciple of Green Bamboo Stronghold at the moment, and Fang Bai was an Elder of Tribute in Green Bamboo Stronghold, being part of the higher echelons, and he had helped Xie Ziyun to advance, so this grand gesture from Xie Ziyun didn't appear abrupt to others, but rather fitting.

Fang Bai calmly accepted Xie Ziyun's bow and then helped him up, smiling and saying, "Get up, get up. You have brought back good news for me, this is your deserved reward!"

After pausing, he spoke to Gu Li, "Head Gu, you can spread the word, any disciple of Green Bamboo Stronghold, no matter who, as long as they can bring me news about my family and friends from the Secular World, I will give them a chance as a reward, and I will keep my promise!"

After a moment of thought, he continued, "You can tell them if they want Cultivation Resources, as long as it's not too high-grade, I will provide; If they wish for a rise in Cultivation Level, I promise for any below the Cosmic Level Realm! In short, whatever their request, as long as it does not exceed my bottom line, I will satisfy it!"

Fang Bai's promise, after being heard by everyone present including Gu Li from Green Bamboo Stronghold's higher-ups, caused their hearts to race, yet they couldn't help but smile wryly.

They knew, if this news were to spread, coupled with the matter of Xie Ziyun's advancement as a powerful proof, probably all of the tens of thousands of disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold would go crazy. By then, everyone would lose interest in cultivating, each eager to go out and bring news to Fang Bai for benefits.

This would not be a good thing for Green Bamboo Stronghold.

But since Fang Bai had spoken, Gu Li naturally couldn't refuse.

"Ten days later, I will head to Shenwu Continent to look for those family and friends from Huaxia Sect. If any disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold come across good news, they can later find me at Shenwu Continent's Huaxia Sect, and I will fulfill my promise."

Since he had learned the whereabouts of over a hundred friends and family, Fang Bai naturally wanted to find them, and he felt the sooner, the better.

"Elder Fang is leaving so soon?"

Hearing that Fang Bai would take his leave ten days later, Stronghold Head Gu couldn't help but feel disappointed.

Fang Bai had slain a Cosmos Level Expert of perfection, helped the Green Bamboo Stronghold greatly improve its overall strength, mastered Formation techniques, and knew the ways of Alchemy and Artifact Refining. On the Tiansheng Continent, he was truly a unique existence.

Therefore, Stronghold Head Gu had greatly hoped that Fang Bai could stay at Green Bamboo Stronghold. With Fang Bai's presence, not only could they deter petty threats from all quarters, Green Bamboo Stronghold was sure to reach its zenith under his assistance.

Knowing that Stronghold Head Gu was reluctant to let him leave, Fang Bai said with a smile, "Don't worry, Stronghold Head Gu, before I leave, I will craft a batch of Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts for Green Bamboo Stronghold, and I'll also leave behind several Martial Arts Techniques. With the Elixir and Martial Arts Techniques I leave behind, it is not impossible for Green Bamboo Stronghold to produce Universe Level Experts and become a first-tier Sect in the future!"

Fang Bai's words greatly shocked Stronghold Head Gu and the high ranks of the Green Bamboo Stronghold, as the words "Green Bamboo Stronghold is not impossible to produce Universe Level Experts and become a first-tier Sect" echoed in their minds.

Whether as Universe Level Experts or a first-tier Sect, these prospects held a fatal attraction for Stronghold Head Gu and the high ranks of Green Bamboo Stronghold—it was a dream they yearned for.

"Elder Fang, these words... are they really true?"

With great difficulty, Stronghold Head Gu swallowed and asked tremblingly.

"If I said it, then it's true!"

Fang Bai replied with a smile, "Within these ten days, I will enter seclusion to engage in Alchemy and Artifact Refining. If Green Bamboo Stronghold has any high-quality Spiritual Medicine, you can give them to me to craft Elixirs; and if there are any treasured materials for Artifact Refining, they can be handed to me for crafting Spiritual Artifacts. As for the Martial Arts Techniques... Stronghold Head Gu, I'll need your help with this..."

Under Stronghold Head Gu's puzzled gaze, Fang Bai spoke seriously, "The Martial Arts Techniques I leave you with will be of a very high grade, not necessarily possessed even by a first-tier Sect. To keep them secret, I will orally transmit them to you, and you can record them, how's that?"

Martial Arts Techniques of a caliber not necessarily found in a first-tier Sect—what level could they be?

For a moment, Stronghold Head Gu's mind reeled, for Fang Bai's words had stretched beyond the scope of his imagination.

However, Stronghold Head Gu quickly dismissed everyone else, leaving only himself and Fang Bai in the bamboo building.

Two hours later, Stronghold Head Gu emerged from the building, holding a few thin booklets in his hand. The high ranks of Green Bamboo Stronghold, waiting not far from the bamboo building, knew that those must be the Martial Arts Techniques left by Fang Bai, and they were filled with curiosity.

But as they approached to inquire, they noticed that the expression on Stronghold Head Gu's face was strangely ambiguous, a mix of smiling and non-smiling, and he clutched those few booklets tightly as if afraid someone might snatch them away.

"Stronghold Chief, what level are the Martial Arts Techniques left by Elder Fang? With them... is there really hope to advance to the Universe Level Realm?"

Classics Hall Steward Yao Gufeng asked.

As the Elder of the Classics Hall, Yao Gufeng was naturally most concerned about this matter. If there were several Martial Arts Techniques of a higher grade than those found in a first-tier Sect stored within Green Bamboo Stronghold's Classics Hall, it would be a tremendous boon for generations of disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold, making the dream of becoming a first-tier Sect no longer so distant.

"Yes... yes..."

Stronghold Head Gu nodded forcefully, looking over the booklets in his hands again and again, his palms uncontrollably trembling, then he burst into a loud laugh, looking skywards.

From that day on, many disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold discovered that their Stronghold Head Gu always seemed to be in a state of extreme excitement, often murmuring to himself, and sometimes, seeming to have an epiphany, he would dance and laugh uncontrollably.

Chapter 1186: Purgatory Sea

Several days later, the higher-ups of the Green Bamboo Stronghold were pleasantly surprised to discover that Stronghold Head Gu, whose strength had remained dormant for years, had actually made noticeable advancements in just a few days.

If this continues, perhaps in three to five years, Stronghold Head Gu could potentially break through and advance to the Universe Level Realm.

Soon after, Stronghold Head Gu shared with the other high-ranking individuals of Green Bamboo Stronghold the several sets of Martial Arts Techniques left behind by Fang Bai, which, after reviewing, made them as excited as he was. Their eyes shone brightly with excitement.

The lower-ranking disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold, of course, did not know what exactly thrilled their superiors so much, but their superiors' happiness naturally made them happy too. Hence a festive atmosphere pervaded the entire Green Bamboo Stronghold.

Ten days later, Fang Bai emerged from the bamboo tower of his retreat, leaving behind a batch of high-quality elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts before bidding farewell to Stronghold Head Gu and other high-ranking individuals of Green Bamboo Stronghold. He prepared to journey across the Myriad Miles Ocean to the Shenwu Continent, in search of his friends and family from the Huaxia Sect.

Those accompanying Fang Bai included Su Linglong, Zhuge Lian, Linghu Qianjiao, Linghu Baimei, as well as the Fat Taoist, Wu De.

In fact, upon learning that the Shenwu Continent was a Cultivation Holy Land of the True Martial Realm, Wu De had always wanted to go there for challenges and adventures. However, he had heard about the ferocious Sea Beasts hidden beneath Myriad Miles Ocean that often attacked passing ships. Some weaker or unlucky Martial Artists might even fall in the vast ocean, which left him apprehensive.

Moreover, it was said that Cosmic Level Experts were as common as dogs on Shenwu Continent, and even Vast Level Experts were a dime a dozen. Wu De felt that his own strength was too weak to ensure his own safety on Shenwu Continent, so he temporarily dismissed the idea of going there for adventure, choosing instead to concentrate on cultivation in Green Bamboo Stronghold until he reached the Cosmic Level Realm before going there.

However, upon knowing that Fang Bai was heading to Shenwu Continent, Wu De became tempted. Knowing that Fang Bai could even kill Cosmos Level perfection experts, he would have more security traveling with him. Thus, he clamored to follow along with Fang Bai.

Not only did Fang Bai not refuse Wu De, but he was also actually welcoming of his decision to join.

Back in the Secular World, Wu De had also participated in the Combined Assault Formation exercises taught by Fang Bai. If they encountered danger on Shenwu Continent, with Wu De there, they could form a Six-Person Combined Assault Formation. Even when faced with genuine Universe Level Experts, they would have the capacity to fight and win.

The high-ranking individuals of Green Bamboo Stronghold, including Stronghold Head Gu, escorted Fang Bai and his companions ten miles out of the stronghold before parting with them with reluctance and sorrow.

Located hundreds of miles from Green Bamboo Stronghold was Youlong Port, the only seaport within thousands of miles.

Youlong Port belonged to Green Bamboo Stronghold, with the Elder of Reception Hall, Qiu Menglan, leading some elite disciples who were stationed there year-round.

Originally, Youlong Port had only one ship, but after Green Bamboo Stronghold defeated Swiftwind Valley, they took over Swiftwind Valley's two ships. Thus, Youlong Port had three ships taking turns sailing out to sea each year, going back and forth between Tiansheng Continent and Shenwu Continent.

The ocean spanning thousands of miles between Tiansheng Continent and Shenwu Continent was known by Martial Artists as the "Purgatory Sea." This moniker stems from the countless Martial Artists who have perished there over millennia.

The lives taken were not just due to Purgatory Sea's harsh conditions at sea, but also due to the attacks of vicious Spirit Beasts within the sea.

Most of the lurking Purgatory Sea Beasts were ferocious and aggressive, fond of attacking passing ships, preying on the Martial Artists and Cultivation Resources aboard.

Sea Beasts typically had massive bodies and tough flesh; some could even breathe out Essence Energy. Their attack power and destructiveness were extremely formidable. If a smaller ship had the misfortune of encountering a large Sea Beast while sailing through Purgatory Sea, there was a possibility that it could be overturned.

Even the most powerful Wind System Martial Artist in this world only possesses brief flying ability; hence, once a ship capsized, the martial artists on board would ultimately become a delicious treat for the sea beasts.

To cope with the fierce winds and towering waves of the Purgatory Sea, as well as the attacks from sea beasts, the few sects of Tiansheng Continent that owned sea ships had no choice but to construct each ship incredibly sturdy, ever larger in size, and they also spent a fortune to employ Array Masters to set up Defensive Arrays on the sea ships in order to enhance their survivability.

After reaching Youlong Port, Fang Bai and company, with Green Bamboo Stronghold Elder Qiu Menglan personally leading, boarded the largest and most luxurious of the three ships currently in possession of Qingzhu Stronghold and settled into the most extravagant fifth level of the ship.

Due to the dangerous journey and the huge expenses involved, martial artists who wanted to board a sea ship and set sail had to pay a considerable fare, which varied depending on the size of the room and the quality of the facilities, ranging from tens of thousands to as much as a hundred thousand.

Based on a sea ship's capacity to carry a thousand martial artists at once, a single trip to and from Shenwu Continent could yield a revenue of over a hundred million Essence Stones.

Such enormous benefits made some powerful sects salivate with envy, so they spared no expense in constructing sea ships and willingly took on significant risks to travel between the two continents.

Given Fang Bai's identity, naturally, he did not need to pay the fare.

There was still some time before the sea ship set sail; Fang Bai and others were sitting in a spacious room on the fifth level of the ship, looking out of the window at the scenery and chatting casually from time to time.

Fang Bai, having lived through two lifetimes, had almost seen all kinds of sights and sat there with a heart serene as still water, his complexion calm.

Su Linglong and the other four ladies, as well as Wu De, looking at the majestic and boundless blue sea and sky outside the window, were all tense and excited, filled with longing for the distant and mysterious Shenwu Continent.

In the next half an hour, a continuous stream of martial artists from all over Tiansheng Continent arrived at Youlong Port, paid a sum as ship fare to the Qingzhu Stronghold disciples, and boarded the sea ship, settling into their chosen rooms.

Once the thousands of guest rooms were filled with martial artists, the disciples of Qingzhu Stronghold began to lift the anchor, preparing to set sail.

"Wait... wait..." At this moment, faint shouts could be heard coming from the distant coast; Fang Bai's heart stirred upon hearing the noise, and he released his Divine Sense to investigate towards the source of the sound.

"It's the four of them..." The information Fang Bai gathered with his Divine Sense was quickly relayed back, and the images of Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, and a slender and statuesque girl appeared in his mind.

The girl was only about sixteen or seventeen, dressed in a pink long dress, with hair like a waterfall, skin as snowy, and features as picturesque, exuding an ethereal aura, indeed the secular world's Dongfang Family's young beauty, Dongfang Ruhua.

Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong were all disciples of Fang Bai from the Secular World, who followed him voluntarily in pursuit of the Martial Dao to the True Martial Realm.

Dongfang Ruhua had been one of Fang Bai's intimate female friends in the Secular World. When she heard that Fang Bai was leaving the Secular World, she and her sister Dongfang Rushi gave up everything in their family and followed him resolutely.

Fang Bai did not expect to encounter Dongfang Ruhua and the other three here. After detecting their figures with his Divine Sense, he abruptly stood up, rushed out of the sea ship, asked the Qingzhu Stronghold disciple who controlled the ship to delay its departure, then leaped off the sea ship and headed towards Dongfang Ruhua and the others.

Chapter 1187: Dongfang Ruhua, Three Eldest Disciples

A thousand meters away from the seaward coast, Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, and Dongfang Ruhua were all employing their movement techniques, speeding towards this side at full speed.

The four had anxious expressions on their faces, watching the ship that was about to set sail, continuously waving and shouting loudly as if they wanted the ship to wait for them for a while.

Originally, when Fang Bai and others from the Secular World passed through the Teleportation Array, due to an anomaly in the array, everyone was transported to different regions of the True Martial Realm, with Dongfang Ruhua, Ghost Hand, and the other four ending up in the same place in Tiansheng Continent.

Being in a foreign land for the first time and feeling alienated, after a period of panic, they finally settled down to cultivate. Once their strength had improved, they travelled together, exploring Tiansheng Continent in search of Fang Bai and others.

During this period, the four encountered many perilous situations but managed to safely get through them all by relying on the Combined Assault Formation they had learned from Fang Bai.

And with danger, there were also some fortuitous encounters, enhancing their powers considerably.

After arriving in Weixiang Nation, they heard about some of Fang Bai's exploits and were overjoyed, becoming ecstatic. When they reached Green Bamboo Stronghold, they learned that Fang Bai and the others had already departed for Shenwu Continent.

Without a second thought, they immediately mounted Swiftwind Horses and rushed towards Youlong Port. As they were nearing Youlong Port, fearing that the Swiftwind Horses were too slow and anxious they would not catch up with Fang Bai and others, they abandoned the horses and continued with their movement techniques.

About a kilometer from the ship, they saw the ship preparing to set sail by weighing anchor, which sent them into a panic, making them wave and shout even louder.

After traveling tens of thousands of li across Tiansheng Continent, they had finally received news of Fang Bai and others. If that ship were to leave now, they would have to wait several months before they could board the next ship to Shenwu Continent.

Although they learned from Gu Li, Stronghold Chief of Green Bamboo Stronghold, that Fang Bai's destination was Huaxia Sect on Shenwu Continent, making future searches much easier, the astronomical distance between Tiansheng and Shenwu continent and the remote inland location of Huaxia Sect meant that if they missed this chance, they wouldn't be able to reunite for at least half a year.

After receiving the news about Fang Bai, Dongfang Ruhua and the others couldn't wait to see him; the thought of waiting another half-year was unbearable.

They had previously heard that once a ship set sail, it wouldn't stop for anyone. So, seeing the ship about to set sail while they were still a kilometer away chilled their hearts.

At their current speed, by the time they reached the harbor, the ship would likely have already left the coast, and no matter how they called out, the ship wouldn't turn back for them.

"The ship is leaving, we won't be able to catch up!"

In despair, Dongfang Ruhua came to a halt, staring at the distant giant ship and burst into tears, crying loudly in grief as tears streamed down her face.

Suddenly, Ghost Hand spotted a figure swooping from the ship like a glimpse of light, landing on the shore and moving towards them. The figure seemed very familiar, and in a moment of excitement, he pointed to the figure and said to Dongfang Ruhua, "Master mother, look! Is that not the master?"

Dongfang Ruhua trembled, looked up with tear-filled eyes, and saw a white-robed man darting along the coast like lightning.

The figure of the white-robed man rapidly enlarged in her eyes, covering hundreds of meters in a blink, and she could vaguely make out his face.

"Brother Fang... it's Brother Fang..."

Seeing that the white-robed man was indeed her beloved Fang Bai, Dongfang Ruhua switched from crying to laughing excitedly and then twisted her slender waist as she moved to greet Fang Bai.

Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, and Fang Bai had a mentor-disciple relationship and had received great favors from Fang Bai. Seeing Fang Bai appear before them, they couldn't control their emotions any longer and tears streamed down their faces.

Aboard the ship, the disciples of Green Bamboo Stronghold, who were getting ready to maneuver the ship for departure, looked at each other in bewilderment, unsure of what to do.

According to convention, once the anchor of the ship is lifted, it should set sail immediately, without delay for anyone.

However, Fang Bai is the Elder of Tribute of the Green Bamboo Stronghold, holding a unique position within the stronghold. With over ten thousand disciples in the stronghold, each one grateful and extremely respectful towards him, even the Stronghold Chief Gu Li personally instructed the disciples

operating the ship to meet any request from Fang Bai and to fully cooperate with whatever he intends to do.

Now that Fang Bai has jumped off the ship, how dare they start the ship and leave Fang Bai behind?

"What's going on? Who is that guy? The ship is about to sail, why did he run down?"

"Who cares who he is! Let's just go!"

"Yes, all the passengers are aboard, it's time to depart!"

"The lifting of the ship's anchor means no delay, this has been the rule for thousands and thousands of years, and rules should not be broken!"

"Let's go! Let's go! I have many things to do in Shenwu Continent, not a moment can be delayed!"

...

Upon noticing that the ship wasn't moving after the anchor was lifted, the crew members also stood frozen, and thousands of martial artists from various places in Tiansheng Continent came out from their cabins to the deck, shouting and urging the crew to start the ship.

As for who Fang Bai is or why he jumped off the ship, they were indifferent.

Most of these martial artists were prepared to go to Shenwu Continent for training, and each had paid a significant amount of Essence Stones as fare, believing they had the right to do so; seeing the ship not departing, they vented their frustration.

Seeing more and more martial artists gathering on the deck and their voices of impatience and dissatisfaction growing louder, the crew faced a dilemma.

They dared not leave Fang Bai behind, nor offend the passengers on the ship.

Leaving Fang Bai could lead to unbearable repercussions if the Stronghold Chief investigates.

And offending the passengers could damage the longstanding good reputation of the Green Bamboo Stronghold and possibly displease the Stronghold Chief too.

The crew, at a loss and unsure of what to do, then turned their gaze towards Elder Qiu Menglan who was standing at the shore and still hadn't departed.

"Whatever concerns Elder Fang is the concern of the Stronghold Chief."

Elder Qiu Menglan, looking stern, said just this one line.

With this comment from Qiu Menglan, the crew knew what to do.

They lowered the anchor they had just lifted, returned to their positions, and patiently waited, ignoring the urging of the passengers gathered on the ship's deck.

They would only lift the anchor and set sail when Fang Bai returned to the ship.

One martial artist, unable to contain his anger, forcefully rushed into the control room where the crew were located, only to be grabbed by the collar by a steward accompanying the ship from Green Bamboo Stronghold and thrown into the sea.

The rest of the passengers, intimidated by this, although full of grievances, who dared to offend the currently flourishing and prominent Green Bamboo Stronghold? Thus, they obediently returned to their cabins on the ship.

Chapter 1188: Happy Encounter

At this very moment, a kilometer away on the coast, Dongfang Ruhua had already thrown herself into Fang Bai's arms, her hands tightly embracing him as she became a tearful figure.

Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, who had followed closely behind, stood a few meters away from Fang Bai and Dongfang Ruhua, continually wiping the tears that spilled from their eyes.

Though it's said that men shouldn't shed tears lightly, having been separated for nearly two years, upon seeing their highly respected master here, they simply couldn't control their emotions.

"There, there, Ruhua, stop crying! Look at your eyes, they're all swollen from crying! Hm, you used to have a pretty little face, but it's turned into a tear-stained mess! Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, Hero, you three big men, what are you crying for? It's not becoming!"

Being able to meet Dongfang Ruhua and the three from Ghost Hand here, Fang Bai was also very excited. He gently wrapped his arms around Dongfang Ruhua's frail, boneless body and after letting Dongfang Ruhua cry pitifully in his arms for a while, he straightened her up, wiped the tears from her face, and gently scolded the trio of Ghost Hand.

Immediately, Ghost Hand and his companions stopped crying, wiped away their tears, and knelt down side by side in front of Fang Bai, respectfully addressing him as "Master."

Fang Bai waved his hand, signaling for the three to stand, and intended to ask Dongfang Ruhua about everything that had happened since they were separated at the Teleportation Array. However, unexpectedly, her body suddenly went limp and she collapsed, fainting.

"Master's wife had been so thrilled upon hearing news about Master a few days ago. She, along with us three, traveled thousands of miles in a hurry to Green Bamboo Stronghold to find Master, only to learn that Master had already left the stronghold and was getting ready to head to Shenwu Continent. So we pursued all the way here..."

Seeing Dongfang Ruhua faint, Ghost Hand expressed his concern and said to Fang Bai, "These past days, Master's wife has been fluctuating between joy and sorrow, sometimes excited and sometimes anxious and tense. With such a great emotional upheaval and barely any rest, she was completely sustained by her strong will. Upon seeing Master, she finally relaxed and thus fainted..."

Fang Bai nodded, knowing that Dongfang Ruhua was still young, with an immature mind, and not having experienced much, she broke down emotionally and temporarily fainted, but it was nothing serious.

He grasped one of Dongfang Ruhua's small hands and secretly infused a strand of healing and soothing Water Element Qi into her meridians. Then he picked up Dongfang Ruhua's frail and boneless body in a horizontal carry.

"Let's go, to the ship!"

With these words, Fang Bai carried Dongfang Ruhua towards the ship.

Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, and Fang Bai were exhilarated at their reunion and used their movement technique to follow Fang Bai. Reaching the ship, they successively leapt and landed on the deck of the ship.

"Steward Wu, these four are my friends, and I'm planning to take them to Shenwu Continent. Please arrange another room for them," Fang Bai said, stopping on the deck to speak to a burly old man who approached.

The burly old man was Wu Rongshan, one of the eight Stewards of Green Bamboo Stronghold, possessing mid-level Cosmic strength. He was stationed on this ship by the Stronghold Chief Gu Li, commanding all crew members aboard.

Earlier, having received guidance from Fang Bai, Wu Rongshan had made considerable progress in his strength and was now on the verge of advancing to high-level Cosmic rank. It was very possible that he might break through within a year, which made him hold Fang Bai in high regard.

The nearly thousand rooms on the ship were all occupied by Martial Artists, with none to spare, but upon hearing Fang Bai's request, Wu Rongshan showed no sign of difficulty and gave up his own room to the trio of Ghost Hand, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, choosing to squeeze into a room with other crew members for rest.

The Martial Artists gathered on the deck, seeing Wu Rongshan's respectful demeanor towards Fang Bai, politely and courteously, couldn't help but exchange glances, speculating about Fang Bai's identity and why he warranted such treatment from a Steward of Green Bamboo Stronghold.

There were also Martial Artists who attempted to sense Fang Bai's Martial Artist Aura, trying to gauge his strength, but found that Fang Bai was like a deep abyssal sea, impossible to see through his depth.

A Martial Artist who could receive such exceptional respect from Wu Rongshan and whose strength was unfathomable must certainly possess a significant background.

For a moment, the martial artists on the deck looked at Fang Bai with eyes filled with a touch of reverence and fear.

Just now, Fang Bai had suddenly rushed out of his room and leaped off the ship. Wu De, who lived in the neighboring room, along with Su Linglong and the other three girls didn't know what had happened. By the time they gathered on the deck, Fang Bai had already returned carrying Dongfang Ruhua, leading the three members of Ghost Hand.

Upon Fang Bai's return to the deck, the group of five, Su Linglong included, walked out from the crowd. Seeing Dongfang Ruhua in Fang Bai's arms, they couldn't help but feel a mix of surprise and delight.

"What happened to Sister Ruhua?"

Su Linglong and Dongfang Ruhua were close friends in the Secular World, akin to sisters. Seeing her unconscious and looking haggard, Su Linglong was worried and, unable to hold back, frowned and asked.

Fang Bai sighed and said, "She traveled thousands of miles without rest in search of me, utterly exhausted and drained mentally and physically. She was too excited when she saw me just now and has temporarily fainted... Don't worry, she will wake up soon with no serious harm done."

After a pause, he continued, "There are too few rooms on the ship, so let Ruhua stay with you all!"

Su Linglong and the other three women nodded together, indicating they would certainly take good care of Dongfang Ruhua.

Although the four of them shared a room, as martial artists, sitting cross-legged in meditation was sufficient for rest. It wouldn't matter if there was one additional person like Dongfang Ruhua or even three to five more; they all could be accommodated.

Fang Bai handed Dongfang Ruhua over to Su Linglong to take her to the room for rest. Then he went into Wu Rongshan's room with the three members of Ghost Hand and began to inquire in detail about their experiences after being separated in the Teleportation Array.

The trio from Ghost Hand did not withhold anything, recounting to Fang Bai all that they had encountered in the past two years, eliciting his constant sighs.

Once Fang Bai and others, including Dongfang Ruhua, had returned to the ship, it lifted anchor and set sail, departing from Youlong Port towards the distant Shenwu Continent.

Over half of the thousands of martial artists on the ship were traveling by sea to Shenwu Continent for the first time to gain experience. They had all heard of the dangers and terrors of the Purgatory Sea and had mentally prepared themselves for it.

Half a day into the journey, the sky was clear and the sea calm. They only encountered some tame small sea beasts but no large ones that posed a threat to the ship.

The tight nerves of the martial artists aboard relaxed, as they thought that the warriors who had previously traversed the Purgatory Sea must have been exaggerating. The Purgatory Sea was not as terrifying as the tales they had heard.

Gradually, more martial artists started walking onto the deck with laughter, pointing here and there, admiring the majestic vastness of the blue sky and the turquoise sea.

After resting for half a day, Dongfang Ruhua woke up from her unconscious state. Following the nourishment of the Water Element Qi that Fang Bai had previously infused into her body, not only was she not weak as if she had just recovered from a serious illness, but she was also full of vitality, looking radiant and revitalized.

The group gathered in Fang Bai's room, chatted for a while and then went out together to the spacious deck to relax.

At dusk, the blood-like sunset dyed the sea surface a brilliant red, resembling a sea of blood, a sight that truly matched the "Purgatory" of the Purgatory Sea.

"Look, what is that?"

Just then, someone pointed toward a series of black dots emerging on the distant sea surface and exclaimed in shock.

Chapter 1189: The Sea Giant Beast Dragon Scale Whale

At this moment, the deck had already gathered hundreds of Martial Artists. Upon hearing that cry of alarm, everyone's gaze turned towards the distant sea.

"Sea Beasts! It's Sea Beasts!"

Those Martial Artists who had been to Shenwu Continent and personally experienced attacks by Sea Beasts were panic-stricken, shouting out loud as they each brought out their Spiritual Artifacts, prepared as if facing a formidable enemy.

Whereas those Martial Artists who were on their first trip to Shenwu Continent for training had merely heard of the ferocity of Sea Beasts and had not experienced it firsthand. So when they heard that Sea Beasts were attacking, although surprised, they exhibited little fear, more so curiosity instead.

At the same time, Qingzhu Stronghold's Steward Wu Rongshan leapt up tens of feet into the air and landed on the highest watchtower of the sea ship, his eyes intently gazing into the distance at the sea, then his face slightly changed color as he sharply inhaled a breath of cold air.

Wu Rongshan traveled at least twice a year between Tiansheng Continent and Shenwu Continent, with a wide range of knowledge and rich experience. With just one glance, he knew that those black spots in the distant sea were a group of Dragon Scale Whales.

Dragon Scale Whales are a kind of fierce Spirit Beast in the Purgatory Sea, massive in size, brutal by nature, feeding on other Spirit Beasts in the sea, and extremely aggressive, making them one of the least welcome encounters for Martial Artists traveling the Purgatory Sea.

At birth, a Dragon Scale Whale already measures more than a zhang in length, with the offensive power of an early-stage Vast Level Martial Artist. An adult Dragon Scale Whale can grow over ten zhang in length, with its body beginning to form a layer of large and sturdy dark scales, each scale akin to a shield, offering extremely strong defensive ability, and their offensive power is comparable to that of early-stage Cosmic Level experts.

One or two adult Dragon Scale Whales are not terrifying; even ten or eight cannot pose a threat to the sea ship. However, if the number of adult Dragon Scale Whales reaches more than a hundred, it is extremely frightening.

Just think, if there were more than a hundred early-stage Cosmic Level experts gathered together, how astonishing would their combined strength be?

If a sea ship is not robust enough and does not have a Defensive Array in place, once attacked by hundreds of Dragon Scale Whales, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Although Wu Rongshan did not know the exact number of Dragon Scale Whales that were rapidly approaching the sea ship, by looking at those densely packed black spots, he roughly estimated there were at least a hundred, hence his extreme nervousness.

"My friends, about a kilometer ahead on the left side of the sea ship, there is a large group of Dragon Scale Whales swimming our way. Dragon Scale Whales are naturally ferocious and have tremendous destructive power. We must unite our strengths to repel the Dragon Scale Whales and safely get through this crisis."

While Wu Rongshan ordered the crew to control the sea ship to sail forward at a faster speed in an attempt to shake off the pursuit of the Dragon Scale Whales, he called upon the thousands of Martial Artists on the sea ship to disperse around the vessel for defense, preparing to face the attack of the Dragon Scale Whales.

The Martial Artists on the sea ship were primarily Vast Level Martial Artists. Though they weren't strong individually, with more than a thousand people coming together, they were a force not to be underestimated. Moreover, the sea ship was sturdy, and together with the Defensive Array set up on the ship, they might well repel the attacking Dragon Scale Whales.

Every time a sea ship from Tiansheng Continent set sail, if a Spirit Beast attacked in the sea, all Martial Artists on board would join hands to fight back with all their might, as it involved the life and death of every Martial Artist, and no one dared not do their utmost.

Therefore, as soon as Wu Rongshan's words fell, the thousands of Martial Artists on the ship roared in response, each bringing out their Spiritual Artifacts, voluntarily spreading out to the front, back, left, and right of the sea ship to guard.

Fang Bai, Su Linglong, Dongfang Ruhua, and others went to the left side of the ship, looking out and seeing that group of Dragon Scale Whales plowing through the waves towards them, their speed astonishingly fast. Within dozens of breaths, the distance between them and the sea ship had closed from over a kilometer to just three to four hundred meters.

With the excellent eyesight of Fang Bai and the others at this distance, they could clearly see what those Dragon Scale Whales looked like.

These Dragon Scale Whales numbered one hundred and fifty, and most of them were adult Dragon Scale Whales with a lifespan of a millennium. The layers of shield-like scales covering their massive bodies glinted a sinister black under the sunset, producing an eerie luster.

Those Dragon Scale Whales, the smallest of which were several tens of feet long, while the largest reached more than a hundred feet. As they swam at high speeds in the sea, they resembled giant cannonballs, tearing through the waves with staggering force, and rapidly charging towards the sailing ship.

Although the ship stretched three hundred feet in length, a veritable behemoth, and was exceptionally sturdy, if these hundreds of Dragon Scale Whales were to continue crashing into it relentlessly, it was not guaranteed to remain unscathed.

Under the nervous watch of nearly a thousand Martial Artists on board, over a hundred Dragon Scale Whales closed in in an instant.

The Dragon Scale Whales were extremely intelligent, displaying a high degree of organization. Upon approaching the ship, under the command of the largest Whale King, they dispersed in all directions, encircling the ship in the middle.

Standing on the deck and looking down, one could feel the formidable aura exuding from the massive bodies of each Dragon Scale Whale, imparting a powerful pressure akin to facing mountains.

"What enormous whales! The ones in our Secular World are nothing compared to these—it's like comparing a witch doctor to a grand sorcerer!"

"Whales with scales... This is my first time seeing such a thing!"

"Did you see that? These whales even have sharp teeth!"

"Their bodies are surrounded by Essence Energy fluctuations! And they are very strong!"

...

Su Linglong and others stood on the edge of the ship, watching the hundred or so gigantic Dragon Scale Whales only a hundred meters away from the ship. At first, they were somewhat uneasy, but seeing Fang Bai next to them looking calm and indifferent, as if he had no concerns, they were influenced by his demeanor and no longer worried.

"Everyone be careful, the Dragon Scale Whales are about to collide with the ship!"

Wu Rongshan, who was standing on the lookout platform, had been closely monitoring the movements of the Dragon Scale Whales. Hearing the Whale King suddenly let out a short and sharp cry, his heart tightened, and he warned loudly.

Boom...

No sooner had his words faded when a dull thud reverberated, followed by a shaking of the ship beneath their feet, as a fully-grown Dragon Scale Whale with an attack power comparable to that of an early Cosmic Level expert initiated the assault.

The Spirit Beasts of Purgatory Sea usually attacked ships by ramming, and ramming was precisely what Dragon Scale Whales excelled at. Once the ships sustained damage from their impacts, the whales would follow up by using their sharp teeth to rip and tear, until the ships shattered and sank.

Records of voyaging through Purgatory Sea had existed for ten million years, and during these millions of years, tens of thousands of ships had been destroyed by various Sea Beasts, with countless Martial Artists perishing within the bellies of Sea Beasts.

Despite this, it still couldn't stop the ardor of the Martial Artists from Tiansheng Continent who crossed the ocean in search of Martial Dao opportunities. Every year, a large number of Martial Artists, one after another, boarded the ships of various Sects heading for Shenwu Continent on the other side.

"Ah... Help..."

Amid the shaking of the ship, a shrill cry for help rang out. The Martial Artists on board turned towards the source, only to see a weaker Desolate Level Martial Artist who was standing at the edge of the deck, caught off guard, lose his balance and fall from the ship.

Chapter 1190: Sea Beasts Attack

Watching the Desolate Level Martial Artist swiftly falling into the sea, other martial artists aboard the ship felt their scalps tingle and retreated one after another, not daring to stay too close to the ship's railing to avoid suffering the same fate and being shaken into the sea.

The ship's railing was nearly twenty zhang above the sea surface, and below in the sea waited hundreds of fierce, fierce-looking Dragon Scale Whales. It was imaginable what would happen to the Desolate Level Martial Artist who fell into their midst.

That Desolate Level Martial Artist falling into the sea seemed unwilling to become a gourmet meal in the belly of the Dragon Scale Whales, struggling with all his might in his final moments.

As he was falling and was still several zhang above the sea surface, he "pfft" spat out a mouthful of blood essence, forcefully stimulating his body's potential. His body paused momentarily in midair, then shifted a few feet sideways towards the ship, swinging the knife-shaped Spiritual Artifact in his hand and fiercely stabbing its tip towards the ship.

He wanted to drive the knife tip into the body of the ship so that his own body would not continue to fall, then he could ask for help from the martial artists on the ship. If a martial artist threw down a rope, he could escape this disaster.

However, the Desolate Level Martial Artist forgot that the knife-shaped Spiritual Artifact he was using was only a low-grade artifact, and the strength of the ship's body could withstand the full force attack of an early Cosmic Level Expert—how could his low-grade Spiritual Artifact possibly pierce through it?

"Clang!"

A crisp sound rang out, the knife-shaped Spiritual Artifact struck the ship's body, sparking a few sparks, and actually broke into two pieces.

"No!"

The Desolate Level Martial Artist let out a cry of despair, his Qi stagnated and his body continued to fall.

Just below him, an adult Dragon Scale Whale exuded a dim blue light from its eyes, raised its head upwards, opened its huge mouth revealing sharp teeth, waiting for the Desolate Level Martial Artist to fall into its mouth.

The Desolate Level Martial Artist, knowing he couldn't escape this calamity, sighed deeply in his heart and closed his eyes waiting for death.

At that moment, the sound of clothing tearing through the air rang by his ear, and then the falling figure suddenly halted in mid-air.

"What's going on?"

The Desolate Level Martial Artist suddenly opened his eyes, only to find a young man appearing beside him.

The young man wore a white robe, had eyebrows like swords and stars for eyes, and was extremely handsome with an extraordinary and transcendent aura. His left hand was tightly gripping the Desolate Level Martial Artist's right arm, and a strong Wind Essence Qi surrounded him.

It was this Wind Essence Qi that supported both of their bodies, temporarily suspending them in mid-air, preventing further descent.

"Many... many thanks to the senior for saving me..."

The Desolate-Level Martial Artist had thought he was undoubtedly doomed, and could never have imagined that someone would take such a huge risk to save him. He felt immensely grateful, combined with the joy and relief of escaping death, tears streamed down his face instantaneously.

"Don't thank me too early, we're not out of danger yet!"

The man in the white robe was Fang Bai. Unwilling to see the Desolate Level Martial Artist devoured by a sea beast, he activated the Wind Essence Qi and leaped off the ship the moment the other fell, catching his arm just in time.

Hearing his words, the Desolate Level Martial Artist instinctively looked down, and his soul nearly fled his body, sweating cold sweat.

At that moment, where they were suspended, the nearest Dragon Scale Whale in the water below was less than one zhang away; they could even smell the nauseating fishy scent emitted from the whale's mouth.

Just as the Desolate Level Martial Artist looked down, the Dragon Scale Whale's tail suddenly swayed, stirring a huge wave, and its massive body, leveraging the force of the tail's swing, emerged halfway out

of the water, attempting to leap upwards and bite at Fang Bai and the Desolate Level Martial Artist above.

"Get out of the way!"

The Desolate Level Martial Artist, whose right arm was grabbed by Fang Bai, could still move his left arm. Seeing the Dragon Scale Whale pouncing, he was shocked and then roared, launching a full-strength punch downward.

However, his full-strength punch was as ineffective as scratching an itch through a boot against the adult Dragon Scale Whale, which could withstand a full-strength strike from a Cosmic Level Expert. It was like an egg smashing against a giant thousand-catty rock, utterly ineffective.

The upward leaping speed of the Dragon Scale Whale was not affected in the slightest by the Desolate Level Martial Artist's punch.

"It's over..."

Seeing the Dragon Scale Whale arriving in an instant, with its huge mouth ready to swallow both of them, the Desolate Level Martial Artist despaired again.

"You vile creature, how dare you!"

Suddenly, a cold snort from Fang Bai reached his ear. Immediately after, the Desolate Level Martial Artist felt a massive amount of dense and pure Water Element Qi rapidly converging to the fist-end of Fang Bai's right hand, forming a water qi orb the size of an adult's head, containing horrifying energy that made the Desolate Level Martial Artist tremble.

As soon as the water qi orb formed, Fang Bai promptly smashed it down at the Dragon Scale Whale, which was about to bite their feet.

Boom!

The water qi orb fiercely struck the massive head of the Dragon Scale Whale, emitting a muffled thudding sound. The Dragon Scale Whale, as if struck hard, halted its massive body leaping upward and then plummeted like a meteor back into the sea, causing a huge wave several zhang high.

Even though the Dragon Scale Whale naturally had strong defensive abilities, and Fang Bai's heavy blow did not injure it,

despite Fang Bai not using his full strength, his power could now compete with Universe Level Experts. Even a casual strike packed an extremely terrifying force. Although the Dragon Scale Whale was not wounded, it was shaken up by the force contained in the water qi orb. After falling into the sea, it temporarily lost its ability to attack.

Meanwhile, Fang Bai, using the rebounding force of the qi shockwave, activated the Wind Essence Qi, carrying the Desolate Level Martial Artist like a Dapeng soaring into the sky, and they landed back on the deck of the sea ship.

Nearly a thousand Martial Artists on the ship watched as Fang Bai and the other person escaped the dangerous situation. They burst into exclamations of awe, and some praised Fang Bai's heroic rescue loudly.

From jumping down from the ship to returning on it, it was a brief period fraught with huge risks, where slight carelessness could lead to being devoured by the Dragon Scale Whale. That both of them could return alive was beyond everyone's expectations, allowing many Martial Artists to witness Fang Bai's power firsthand.

Being able to confront an adult Dragon Scale Whale head-on and repel it was enough to prove that Fang Bai's realm and cultivation level were not below those of a Cosmic Level early-stage expert.

"Now, we are finally safe!"

Fang Bai released the Desolate Level Martial Artist's arm, sighed lightly, and smiled while patting his shoulder.

The Desolate Level Martial Artist stood firmly on the deck, finally feeling relieved. He immediately knelt before Fang Bai, respectfully kowtowing several times, continuously saying, "Thank you, senior, for saving my life... thank you, senior, for saving my life..."

Just at that moment, the sea ship was attacked by the Dragon Scale Whale again, shaking and rocking, and this time it was not an attack by a single Dragon Scale Whale but rather continuous assaults by hundreds of adult Dragon Scale Whales from all around the ship.

Boom...

Boom...

Boom...

The dull thudding noises of the impacts kept resounding, and the ship began to sway more significantly left and right. Many Martial Artists on the deck had to use the Thousand Catty Drop technique to stabilize themselves, and some, worried about being shaken into the sea, simply lay down on the deck without regard for appearances.