

Doctor 1221

Chapter 1221: Houyi Bow, Essence Blood Arrow, Origin Qi Cauldron

The blood arrow was so fast that, although Madam Linghu reacted swiftly and did her utmost to dodge to one side from atop the Snow Swine, avoiding vital hits, her left arm was not spared.

"Whistle!"

Accompanied by a piercing whistling through the air, the blood arrow brushed past the edge of Madam Linghu's left arm and shot into the sea behind her.

"Boom!"

The astonishing energy carried by the blood arrow, along with the scorching Fire Primordial Qi, made contact with the seawater, causing the water to explode and whip up several large waves.

Madam Linghu groaned, lowering her head to look at her left arm, only to see a large chunk of flesh on the outside of her arm carved away by the blood arrow, exposing the stark white bones beneath the dripping blood.

At the same time, a burning smell spread, indicating that her dress and her raven-black hair were scorched by the high temperature carried by the blood arrow, either charred or twisted into clumps, leaving her appearance utterly disheveled.

At this moment, Madam Linghu, from head to toe, was in tatters, completely disheveled with a mix of the smell of blood and scorch on her, her face twisted and ferocious. Where was there any trace of her previous noble and beautiful demeanor?

Fang Bai's arrow, although it had not critically wounded Madam Linghu, still dealt a significant psychological blow to her, even bringing forth a thought to turn around and flee.

"Sigh..."

Fang Bai, having not critically wounded Madam Linghu with his arrow, couldn't help but feel greatly disappointed and let out a sigh of resignation.

First, he forcibly called upon the purest Wind Essence Qi from the turmoil of Chaos Origin Energy in his Qi Sea, formed a pair of Wind Wings, and then condensed an arrow from a drop of his blood, shooting it from the Houyi Bow, essentially using his body's potential to attack Madam Linghu.

Fang Bai had placed all his hopes of escape on that arrow. After the arrow was shot, his entire being was nearly drained of spirit, and his form involuntarily swayed in the air.

Seeing that the arrow, in which he had placed all his hopes, did not critically wound Madam Linghu, Fang Bai sighed, and his spirits instantly deflated. The wings made of Wind Essence Qi on his back vanished instantly, and he plummeted headfirst into the sea.

Just before crashing into the sea, Fang Bai stored the Houyi Bow into his Spatial Ring, to prevent any loss.

"So this lad suddenly burst out with strength, hoping to turn the tables on me, but it appears he's already at the end of his rope! Let's see how you can still be arrogant!"

Madam Linghu watched Fang Bai splash into the sea with immense satisfaction and immediately leaped back onto the Snow Swine, urging it towards Fang Bai.

At the moment Fang Bai shot the blood arrow using his Houyi Bow, pushing with all his might, the Essence Energy in his body was nearly depleted. After plunging into the sea, he felt extremely weak and wanted to immediately sit cross-legged to cultivate and recover his Essence Energy, but he knew that Madam Linghu would not give him that chance.

Seeing Madam Linghu urge the Snow Swine rapidly towards him, Fang Bai refused to resign himself to fate, and feebly circulated Water Element Qi, diving like a fish deep into the sea.

Fang Bai knew that with his current state, diving deep into the sea was just a temporary measure. He could not swim too far and would have to surface soon to breathe, thus he simply could not hide from Madam Linghu's search.

After diving about ten meters under the sea, Fang Bai's sensory abilities, which were several times more acute than those of an ordinary Martial Artist, allowed him to detect unusual slight movements in the water ahead.

"There's something sneaking up this way..."

Fang Bai's heart skipped a beat. In this vast ocean, anything that could approach him silently had to be a sea Spirit Beast of unimaginable strength.

With the last of his strength, Fang Bai gathered his Divine Sense and probed towards the source of the unusual water movements.

Soon, Divine Sense provided feedback that surprised Fang Bai greatly, leaving his face filled with shock.

In the deep sea a kilometer away, a Swordtooth Shark around fifteen meters in length, like a ghost from the abyss, was swiftly approaching Fang Bai and Madam Linghu.

The Swordtooth Shark ranks among the top dominators of the ocean, having not just thick skin and strong resistance to blows, but also rows of teeth, like sharp swords, easily tearing and chewing up almost any hard substance that enters its mouth, leaving virtually no chance of survival.

Feeding primarily on flesh, the Swordtooth Shark possesses exceptionally keen senses of smell. The one approaching must have detected the blood scent shed by Fang Bai and Madam Linghu earlier, which led it to silently draw near.

The power of the Swordtooth Shark's attacks was comparable to a Universe Level cultivator at perfection, and with its formidable defense, even Madam Linghu at her peak would have to evade it.

Now, Fang Bai was extremely weakened and Madam Linghu was far from her peak condition; if the Swordtooth Shark were to close in and attack, both of them would be in grave danger.

Madam Linghu's sensory abilities were much weaker than Fang Bai's. While Fang Bai could sense the Swordtooth Shark approaching, she remained utterly unaware that death was stealthily creeping up on them.

After Fang Bai detected the Swordtooth Shark, he felt terror followed by excitement, realizing this was an excellent opportunity to escape.

The Swordtooth Shark swam at an astonishing speed in the ocean. No sooner had Fang Bai's Divine Sense noticed its presence than it closed the distance from about a kilometer to just three or four hundred meters.

Fang Bai estimated that in at most ten breaths' time, the Swordtooth Shark could reach his side and launch an attack.

There was no time to think more; Fang Bai immediately took out the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron from his Spatial Ring.

The Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, also acquired by Fang Bai in the secular world, stood around six feet tall and was crafted from five different materials—metal, wood, water, fire, earth—making it the ideal Furnace Cauldron for crafting elixirs.

Although Fang Bai did not know the origins of the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron or determine its exact rank as a Spiritual Artifact, he knew this cauldron surpassed any Immortal Rank Spiritual Artifact he had used in his previous life by at least a notch.

This meant that this more than human-sized cauldron might possibly be a Divine Artifact.

And in the Immortal Realm, Divine Artifacts are the stuff of legends, coveted treasures pursued by cultivators.

The sturdiness of the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron exceeded Fang Bai's imagination, so his potential escape entirely depended on it.

After retrieving the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, Fang Bai quickly opened its lid and climbed inside.

The Swordtooth Shark approached incredibly fast; just as Fang Bai sealed the lid, the shark had already dashed toward the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, opening its abyss-like gaping mouth and swallowing the entire cauldron.

Fang Bai only felt darkness around him, unable to see any light. When he expanded his Divine Sense, he realized that he, along with the cauldron, had become prey within the Swordtooth Shark's mouth.

The Swordtooth Shark, evidently very confident in its rows of sharp teeth, bit down immediately after swallowing the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, not caring what the object was.

In the past, even hard stone and fine steel could not withstand the chewing and tearing of the Swordtooth Shark's rows of teeth and would have shattered immediately.

But this time, it left the Swordtooth Shark with an unforgettable trauma.

"Crack!"

Several crisp sounds almost rang out simultaneously. After the Swordtooth Shark's teeth bit into the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, they actually snapped off a few, while the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron remained undamaged, not even leaving a trace.

Chapter 1222: Fleeing in Panic

The mightiest weapon of the Swordtooth Shark was its two rows of invincible and destructive sword-like teeth.

In the past, even the sturdiest of ships that it encountered on the sea would easily be bitten through by the Swordtooth Shark, which would then devour all the cultivation resources and martial artists aboard.

The Swordtooth Shark, accustomed to rampaging within the Purgatory Sea, considered itself an invincible existence. Seeing Fang Bai hide inside the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, it bit down without a second thought, only to be met with a major setback. Several of its razor teeth instantly broke, flooding its mouth with blood, causing its entire body to tremble in pain.

Although the Swordtooth Shark possessed a certain level of intelligence, it belonged to the kind of ferocious beast with developed limbs and a simple mind. After suffering a huge loss, instead of spitting out the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, it became furiously enraged. With a flick of its massive tongue, it swallowed the cauldron, which was taller than a person, into its stomach, trying to dissolve the cauldron slowly with the powerful corrosive ability of its gastric juices.

Throughout this entire process, Fang Bai was monitoring with his Divine Sense.

As the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron tumbled into the vast stomach of the Swordtooth Shark, rolling and surging with its stomach contractions, Fang Bai, who observed all this, couldn't help but smile bitterly. Yet, at the same time, he felt a surprising sense of relief as though he had narrowly escaped danger.

The Swordtooth Shark was fierce and powerful, even Madam Linghu was unable to deal with it. Now that he, along with the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, had been swallowed by the Swordtooth Shark, it was like having an extra layer of protection. Madam Linghu no longer had any chance of harming him.

As for Madam Linghu, once the Swordtooth Shark swallowed Fang Bai, its next step would surely be to go after her. Facing the cruel and formidable Swordtooth Shark, it would be a stroke of great luck for Madam Linghu, no longer at her peak strength, to escape.

Whether Madam Linghu lived or died, Fang Bai was already too lazy to care. His most urgent wish now was to quickly recover his strength inside the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron.

As long as his strength returned to its peak state, Fang Bai had the confidence to escape from the interior of the Swordtooth Shark.

Even though there were no ships to take, as long as he could control the sea spirit beasts like Madam Linghu and use the spirit beasts as a ship, he could still reach the other shore of the Shenwu Continent.

Of course, during this period, it was best to pray not to encounter even more ferocious and fierce spirit beasts that could not be subdued and controlled by beast taming techniques, otherwise, the danger would persist.

Hence, Fang Bai calmed his breath, concentrated, and sat cross-legged inside the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, quickly entering a state of cultivation.

Once Fang Bai entered a cultivation state, he became completely isolated from the outside world as if he were cut off from all disturbances, so that even if the sky fell and the earth split apart outside, it would not affect him.

The battle with Madam Linghu had left Fang Bai with not only his Essence Energy nearly drained but also his body riddled with injuries. It could be said to be the most perilous battle he had faced since his soul had taken over another body.

Physical injuries and depletion of Essence Energy were issues that Fang Bai could recover from completely in not too long.

However, the desperate fight that he had narrowly survived acted as a catalyst on his strength, giving Fang Bai a faint sense of the potential to break through and advance to the next level.

Therefore, Fang Bai decided to take this opportunity to prolong his retreat. If he truly could advance, the likelihood of escaping from the Swordtooth Shark's body would be even greater.

As for where the Swordtooth Shark would swim and where it would take him, Fang Bai no longer cared. As long as he remained in the Purgatory Sea, once he finished his cultivation and got out, he would find a way to reach the Shenwu Continent and find Su Linglong and others.

In the time that followed, actively cultivating within the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron with his legs crossed, Fang Bai was like an Old Monk entering meditation, completely unaware of the outside world, immersed in his own Martial Dao world.

And that Swordtooth Shark, after devouring the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron in which Fang Bai had concealed himself, immediately targeted Madam Linghu for its next attack.

However, Madam Linghu was also a strong veteran of many battles and realized the grave danger upon seeing the highly aggressive Swordtooth Shark. Especially after Fang Bai was swallowed, she dared not

hesitate any longer and immediately controlled the Snow Swine under her feet to escape into the distance before the Swordtooth Shark could launch an attack on her.

Why would the Swordtooth Shark let its prey escape easily? With a flick of its massive tail, it immediately pursued Madam Linghu.

The sea area here was not too far from the Shenwu Continent, so Madam Linghu's direction of escape was towards the mainland of Shenwu Continent.

The Swordtooth Shark, a powerful predator at the top of the food chain in the Purgatory Sea, was not something even someone as powerful as Madam Linghu dared to confront in the sea. Only by reaching land could she hope for safety.

Fortunately, although Snow Swines were gentle by nature, their speed in the sea was no less than that of the Swordtooth Shark. Furthermore, Madam Linghu was controlling a group of Snow Swines. Whenever she noticed that the Swordtooth Shark was drawing close, she would direct other Snow Swines to block it, slowing down the shark's pursuit to some extent.

In this frantic chase and escape, they encountered more than one sailing ship. However, when Madam Linghu called out to the crew members on the ships for help, hoping they could temporarily remove the ships' Defensive Arrays to allow her to take refuge, not a single ship paid her any mind, instead speeding away in a different direction.

Madam Linghu was furious and cursed at this.

In fact, it wasn't that the crew on those ships were refusing to rescue her; they were simply too frightened to act upon seeing the Swordtooth Shark fiercely chasing after her.

The Swordtooth Shark was known for its formidable attack power and was one of the most feared Sea Beasts among Martial Artists travelling on the Purgatory Sea. Once a Swordtooth Shark was encountered, the only option a sailing ship had was to speed up and escape.

If any ship had rescued Madam Linghu, it would likely have angered the Swordtooth Shark that was chasing her, provoking a frenzied attack from this formidable sea creature.

Seeing that no ship was willing to help, Madam Linghu had no choice but to resign herself to her fate and continue controlling the Snow Swines to flee.

Originally, there were about forty or fifty Snow Swines under Madam Linghu's control, but to impede the pursuit of the Swordtooth Shark, more than half had lost their lives to its attacks.

The flesh and blood of the Snow Swine contained a violent toxin, and although the Swordtooth Shark dared not bite harshly with its sharp teeth, it was able to collide with its body and strike with its tail, causing massive casualties among the Snow Swines.

Watching her controlled Snow Swines die one by one under the Swordtooth Shark's attack, Madam Linghu was both shocked and anxious, thinking that without the Snow Swines to hinder it, the Swordtooth Shark would quickly catch up to her, at which point she would have no choice but to confront this ferocious sea creature head-on.

Suddenly, half a month had passed, and with only one Snow Swine left under her feet and the relentlessly pursuing Swordtooth Shark showing no signs of giving up without any land in sight, an exhausted Madam Linghu finally despaired.

"You beast! I'll fight you with all I've got!"

Madam Linghu, filled with boundless hatred in her desperation, no longer fled. She abruptly turned around, holding the Spirit Fox Grass in front of her chest, her eyes emitting a fierce light, surrounded by rising Killing Qi.

When the Swordtooth Shark closed in, attempting to launch an attack on Madam Linghu, she preemptively attacked with a tremendous barrage of Essence Stones, followed by a powerful swing of the Spirit Fox Grass in her hand.

A long Essence Energy Whip, trailing a dazzling green light, struck the Swordtooth Shark in a flash.

Chapter 1223: Promoted Three Levels in a Row

Sitting cross-legged in the center of the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, Fang Bai's inner Essence Energy began to flow crazily through his meridians and spill outwards, filling the space within the Five

Elements Origin Qi Cauldron as Madam Linghu and the Swordtooth Shark commenced their fierce battle.

If the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron were not sturdy enough, it would have shattered into pieces under the impact of the wildly overflowing Essence Energy, scattering and flying in all directions.

When this surging Essence Energy reached its peak, under the guidance of Fang Bai's will, it began to converge in one place, launching an assault on a new critical point of the Martial Dao realm.

The strong impact, like a bursting dam, lasted only for a short dozen breaths and broke through Fang Bai's critical point of the Martial Dao realm, elevating his "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique" from the initial stage of the Form Essence Realm to the middle stage.

In the past, after advancing in rank, the crazily circulating Essence Energy within Fang Bai's meridians would rapidly return to the Qi Sea until it calmed down.

But now, after breaking through a Martial Dao critical point, the mad Essence Energy showed no signs of ceasing. Instead, its momentum unabated, it surged forward like a wild lion breaking free from chains, unstoppable.

Fang Bai was both shocked and elated, knowing that this battle with Madam Linghu turned misfortune into a blessing.

Firstly, he was driven to a critical juncture by Madam Linghu's frenzied attacks, squeezing out his body's potential, and with multiple injuries, aligning with the principle of "no destruction, no construction," which doubled the effect of his secluded cultivation.

Moreover, the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, capable of nurturing the Five Elements Origin Qi of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth, is truly a treasure of heaven and earth. Fang Bai exhausted all Cultivation Resources during his cultivation inside it, which also had the effect of doubling his efforts.

These various favorable factors combined, bringing tremendous benefits to Fang Bai.

Since his rebirth, Fang Bai had experienced consecutive rank advancements, but this time was hugely different from the past. Seeing the undiminished power of the Essence Energy's assault, based on his past life's experience, Fang Bai felt there was a good chance of breaking through at least two minor realms in succession.

That is to say, the initial stage of Form Essence Realm cultivation could now possibly advance consecutively to the middle and high stages of the Form Essence Realm.

With some luck, he might even reach the perfection of the Form Essence Realm.

Perfection of the Form Essence Realm is equivalent to Cosmic Level perfection in the True Martial Realm. With Fang Bai's ability to challenge beyond his level, he could soon become an invincible hand among Universe Level Experts.

Even if he encounters Half-Step Innate Experts like Madam Linghu again, he would have the strength to contend and not be chased for thousands of miles and nearly lose his life as before.

In the following hundred breaths, Fang Bai continued to guide the turbulent Essence Energy with his will, advancing powerfully and breaking through two more Martial Dao barriers within his body, reaching the coveted perfection of the Form Essence Realm.

Upon reaching the perfection of the Form Essence Realm, the rampant Essence Energy that had wrought havoc in Fang Bai's meridians for a long time finally calmed down, swiftly returning to the Qi Sea, and regained tranquility, as if nothing had happened.

"Whew..."

Moments later, Fang Bai let out a sigh of relief and slowly opened his eyes, emerging from the cultivation state.

Two beams of sharp light shot out from Fang Bai's eyes, bright and piercing, making it hard for others to look directly at them.

Having secludedly cultivated in the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron for over half a month, Fang Bai had exhausted the Cultivation Resources piled up in his Space Ring. Not only had his injuries healed, but his physical body also became even more firm and robust than before, his strength leaping from the initial stage of the Form Essence Realm to perfection—a qualitative leap.

Even Fang Bai himself had not anticipated that this perilous journey to the Purgatory Sea would bring him such a great opportunity.

The higher the cultivation realm of a Martial Artist, the more difficult it is to advance further. Under a fortunate coincidence, Fang Bai consecutively advanced through three minor realms within half a month, which could be said to be unprecedented in the True Martial Realm. If the word of this spread, it would surely cause many envy and shame among the proud sons and daughters of powerful clans.

"Eh? It looks like this human and beast have started fighting. Heh, now there's going to be a good show!"

Fang Bai's first thought after leaving his cultivation state was to leave the inside of the Swordtooth Shark. When his Divine Sense extended outward, he discovered that Madam Linghu was already engaged in a fierce battle with the Swordtooth Shark.

Madam Linghu was a woman with a heart of a serpent and scorpion, and the Swordtooth Shark was a fierce and violent monster. Their battle was something Fang Bai enjoyed watching.

The Swordtooth Shark wanted to devour Madam Linghu as a delicacy; Madam Linghu wanted to kill or drive the Swordtooth Shark away to escape the crisis.

Both were putting forth their full effort to achieve their own goals through combat.

In the midst of the sea, the Swordtooth Shark had home-field advantage with its speed and formidable physical strength, giving it a significant edge. After a long and arduous battle, and seeing that she was unable to repel the Swordtooth Shark while her Essence Energy was also rapidly depleting, Madam Linghu had no choice but to stimulate her body's potential for a final struggle.

After a Half-Step Innate Expert stimulated their body's potential, their strength could increase by more than double than before. Thus, Madam Linghu's power immediately became a notch higher than that of the Swordtooth Shark.

But in the blink of an eye, the formidable body of the Swordtooth Shark bore numerous wounds inflicted by the whip of condensed Essence Energy from Madam Linghu, each cut deeply inches into its flesh, blurring blood and flesh.

The ferocious and violent Swordtooth Shark, accustomed to reigning over the Purgatory Sea, when has it ever suffered such a substantial loss? In a fit of enraged madness, its immense body rolled and twisted in the sea, diving in and out, causing waves like small mountains that relentlessly surged and struck at Madam Linghu.

Madam Linghu shouted angrily as she maneuvered the Snow Swine in the sea, weaving and dodging the Swordtooth Shark's attacks while also looking for its weakness, preparing for a lethal strike.

Suddenly, the giant tail of the Swordtooth Shark swung fiercely in the water, leveraging the reaction force of the water, its body, stretching dozens of feet long, unexpectedly leapt from the surface, like a toppling mountain, bearing down on Madam Linghu.

Its body weighed thousands of pounds, and with the added force of crashing down from mid-air, how could it not have the force of tens of thousands of pounds?

Madam Linghu looked up to see the vast body of the Swordtooth Shark pressing down from the air, and the sheer oppressive force filled her with a surge of panic, her first reaction being to dodge.

But then, she caught sight of the slightly paler belly of the Swordtooth Shark, prompting a flicker of opportunity in her mind.

"This is an excellent chance for a counterattack; if I miss it, I might not have another opportunity to kill this beast. Worse, I could fall to its attack!"

With thoughts racing through her mind like lightning, Madam Linghu gritted her teeth and quickly stowed away the Spirit Fox Grass, summoning a longsword glowing with green radiance.

"Kill!"

With a fierce shout, Madam Linghu wielded the sword with both hands and executed a full-powered upswing at the very moment the Swordtooth Shark was about to crash onto her head.

This sword was a high-quality Spiritual Artifact that Madam Linghu had a Artifact Refiner craft for her using a large amount of Cultivation Resources during her adventures in the Shenwu Continent. Since then, she had not encountered an opponent of equal standing, so this Sword-Type Spirit Weapon had remained largely unused.

The sword, already unparalleled in sharpness, combined with Madam Linghu tapping into her full potential, the Swordtooth Shark, despite its formidable body, could not withstand it.

"Chi-la!"

The sound of a sharp weapon slicing flesh sounded as the Swordtooth Shark's softest spot on the belly was cut open by the Sword-Type Spirit Weapon in Madam Linghu's hands, leaving nearly a ten-foot-long gash.

Blood rained down immediately, spraying through the air, along with a black and gloomy Furnace Cauldron.

Chapter 1224: Sitting on the Mountain Watching the Tigers Fight

Fang Bai sat cross-legged inside the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, his Divine Sense continuously observing the life-and-death battle between Madam Linghu and the Swordtooth Shark.

"Fortune favors me!"

Upon discovering that the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron had fallen from the Swordtooth Shark's massive abdominal wound, Fang Bai, who was inside the cauldron, couldn't help but excitedly swing his fist.

To Fang Bai, Madam Linghu's strike was akin to giving him a "big gift," allowing him to escape effortlessly from the belly of the Swordtooth Shark.

"Thump!"

The Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron fell from the Swordtooth Shark's abdomen, plunging into the sea and creating waves several feet high.

However, this minor wave, like a grain of sand in the vast ocean, did not catch the attention of Madam Linghu and the Swordtooth Shark.

Despite its modest size, the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron was extremely heavy and sunk dozens of meters into the sea in an instant.

Inside the cauldron, Fang Bai circulated Water Element Qi to form a protective shield around him before lifting the lid of the Furnace Cauldron and breaking out, then casually storing the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron in his Spatial Ring.

Propelled by Water Element Qi, Fang Bai shot out of the water like a bullet and hovered several meters above the surface of the sea.

The Swordtooth Shark, with a gaping hole torn in its abdomen by Madam Linghu, was not on the brink of immediate death, but would inevitably perish once its blood drained out.

The Swordtooth Shark, possessing a certain degree of intelligence, seemed to anticipate its eventual fate and became even more crazed, launching a frenzied, suicidal attack on Madam Linghu.

A vicious beast that disregarded its own life and a martial artist who had activated their body's latent potential; every collision between the two spurred huge waves and was shockingly imposing.

Even Fang Bai, who by now possessed the ability to directly confront Madam Linghu, watched with a secretly palpitating heart.

Fang Bai's exceptional vision allowed him to discern after just a moment that although Madam Linghu had the upper hand in their clashes and the Swordtooth Shark was doomed, Madam Linghu would not only exhaust her Essence Energy, but she would also suffer severe side effects from the activation of her body's potential. In a few hours, she would become as powerless as an ordinary person.

In these treacherous seas, where dangers lurk on an endless horizon and where sea beasts may emerge at any time, the outcome for an ordinary person was self-evident.

Therefore, even if Fang Bai did not take action, Madam Linghu's chances of escaping alive were slim.

This outcome was exactly what Fang Bai wished for, so he shifted laterally in mid-air, moving to a relatively calm area of the sea and leaving a wooden plank there to land on, preparing to sit back and watch the fierce battle unfold.

The gravely wounded Swordtooth Shark, now noticeably less agile than before, quickly suffered several new cuts in its weaker defense spots from Madam Linghu's high-grade Spiritual Artifact. Though the wounds weren't large, the relentless gushing of blood severely weakened the creature.

In just dozens of breaths, the seawater within tens of meters around had been stained red by the blood flowing from the abdominal wound of the Swordtooth Shark, and the smell of blood pervaded all directions.

"I originally wanted to watch them fight until they were both severely injured, but now it seems I can't stay here any longer!"

Fang Bai's released Divine Sense, now expanded to nearly a thousand meters than before his recent advancement, detected a group of fierce sea beasts rapidly approaching from all directions, likely drawn by the scent of blood.

Though the attacking power of these sea beasts was not comparable to that of the Swordtooth Shark, their potential frenzy was still quite terrifying. Even Fang Bai felt his scalp tingle and decided to leave, to avoid being surrounded and attacked by them.

Fang Bai could control a considerable part of the sea beasts with his Beast Taming Art, but firstly, controlling the sea beasts consumed a great deal of mental focus, and secondly, the sea beasts in this area would surely gather in greater numbers. Madam Linghu would have no chance of survival, and there was no benefit in him staying any longer. It was better to leave.

Fang Bai discerned the direction, stamped his feet, and the wooden plank beneath him shot out like an arrow, skimming over the water, speeding towards the eastern seas.

Although there were many sea beasts blocking the way in the eastern seas, with Fang Bai's current Cultivation Level, by circulating Wind Essence Qi, he could now remain airborne for longer periods. When encountering sea beasts blocking the way, he could easily fly over them from above.

Fang Bai easily broke free from the dangerous sea area where the sea beasts congregated. Glancing back, he saw that Madam Linghu had already slain a Swordtooth Shark, but she was then engulfed by sea beasts surging from all directions.

"The old witch is done for!"

The unwilling and sharp, miserable screams of Madam Linghu faintly reached his ears, then the sound was swallowed by the wind and waves. Fang Bai could imagine the scene of Madam Linghu depleting her Essence Energy, the side effects of stimulating her body's potential appearing, and being devoured by the competing sea beasts.

Madam Linghu, who had chased him like a ghost for thousands of miles, had fallen, and Fang Bai finally breathed a sigh of relief.

The only regret Fang Bai felt was that a powerhouse like Madam Linghu must have accumulated a staggering amount of Cultivation Resources over the years. Unfortunately, he was unable to obtain the Spatial Ring on her finger, which was a substantial loss.

Previously, Fang Bai's Spatial Ring contained quite a few Cultivation Resources too, but they were completely exhausted when he was advancing his Cultivation Level in the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, even the Spiritual Medicines prepared for refining Elixirs were gone.

Now, Fang Bai had nothing but some Spiritual Artifacts and materials for forging Spiritual Artifacts in his Spatial Ring, with not a single Cultivation Resource left, making him a true "penniless pauper."

Without Cultivation Resources, the cultivation of a Martial Artist will be affected, and it is tough to improve their strength.

Especially for a prodigy like Fang Bai, who needs a vast amount of Cultivation Resources for each cultivation attempt, the lack of Cultivation Resources is even more painful.

"It's rumored that Shenwu Continent is rich in dense Heaven and Earth Origin Energy and abundant Cultivation Resources. I hope it won't disappoint me."

Fang Bai checked his nearly empty Spatial Ring and couldn't help but smile wryly, thinking that he could only look for Cultivation Resources once he arrived at Shenwu Continent.

Fang Bai didn't know how far Shenwu Continent was, but as long as he continued eastward, he would eventually reach it.

After traveling tens of miles on the wooden plank, he saw a solitary sea beast with strength comparable to a Martial Artist of the Universe Level's early stage. Fang Bai controlled the beast with the Beast Taming Scripture, jumped onto its back, and continued forward with the sea beast as his vessel.

By evening, a sailing ship appeared on the sunlit sea.

The ship was coming from behind Fang Bai, heading in the direction of Shenwu Continent.

Fang Bai was overjoyed and, to avoid creating a spectacle, released control over the formidable sea beast under his feet and stepped back onto the wooden plank to approach the sailing ship.

Having been in the True Martial Realm for a while now, Fang Bai had learned quite a bit about it and realized at a glance that the sailing ship did not come from Tiansheng Continent.

The hundreds of Martial Artists aboard carried an aura that mostly consisted of Fire Primordial Qi. From this, Fang Bai deduced that the ship should come from the Land of Extreme South in the True Martial Realm.

The Land of Extreme South had numerous volcanoes, was hot all year round, and had the richest concentration of Fire Primordial Qi. As a result, Martial Artists there practiced Fire-type Martial Arts, leading Fang Bai to such a deduction.

Chapter 1225: Good Karma

"The ship I was on was recently attacked and sunk by sea beasts, and all the martial artists aboard perished. I was the only one who luckily escaped. I hope you all will allow me to board the ship for refuge and take me to Shenwu Continent."

When the ship was hundreds of meters away from him, Fang Bai boosted his Essence Energy and projected his voice out.

His voice cut through the wind and waves and clearly reached the ears of nearly a thousand martial artists on the ship.

At this moment, the martial artists on the ship, after hearing Fang Bai's voice, all gathered on the deck. Seeing Fang Bai stepping on a plank and moving across the sea surface, they all clicked their tongues in amazement.

In the Purgatory Sea, where sea beasts frequently appear, if a ship is sunk by an attack from a spirit beast, the martial artists on board would be besieged by groups of beasts in the sea after falling into the water, ultimately turning into their sumptuous feast.

It was a miracle that Fang Bai had managed to survive.

"Elder Yan, what should we do?"

A crew member on the ship turned his head and asked a female martial artist with the surname Yan behind him.

The woman with the surname Yan was dressed in a fiery red dress, with kind eyes and a benevolent face, her temples streaked with white, appearing to be around sixty years of age, with bright flashes of light twinkling in her eyes as they opened and closed.

In Fang Bai's Divine Sense detection, this woman surnamed Yan was the strongest person on this ship, possessing the strength of the Cosmic Level mid-stage.

In Tiansheng Continent, an elder with the strength of the Cosmic Level mid-stage generally comes from a second-tier sect, suggesting that the owner of this ship must be a second-tier sect from the extreme south of the True Martial Realm.

The woman surnamed Yan gazed intensely at Fang Bai for a moment, pondered briefly, and then spoke with seriousness: "Since we have encountered him, how can we stand by and watch him die? Slow down the ship's speed, and let him board!"

Elder Yan was the captain of this ship, her words carried great weight, and no one dared to contradict her. Hearing her directive, the crew member immediately signaled to his companions in the control room to further reduce the ship's speed.

Fang Bai, hearing the conversation between Elder Yan and the crew member, was delighted in his heart. Seeing that the ship had indeed slowed down, he quickly approached and then leaped aboard.

"Thank you so much, Elder Yan!"

After landing on the deck, Fang Bai gave a fist-and-palm salute to Elder Yan to express his gratitude.

"No need for formalities!"

Elder Yan waved her hand, her gaze still circling Fang Bai, and discovered that this young man's Cultivation Level was also at the Cosmic Level mid-stage, though slightly less than hers. She couldn't help but marvel in her heart.

"Young brother, may I ask for your honorable surname and name? And how old are you?"

Elder Yan looked at Fang Bai with a smile and asked with interest.

Her phrase 'how old are you' was her way of asking Fang Bai's age.

"I am Fang Bai, and I've wasted twenty years of time!"

Fang Bai responded with a cheerful smile.

"A twenty-year-old Universe Level Expert... How rare! Truly rare!"

Elder Yan's demeanor showed a hint of respect, and she spoke even more softly and gently, cautiously asking: "May I know if Brother Fang comes from a first-tier sect of Shenwu Continent?"

Upon his words, before Fang Bai could respond, the other martial artists gathered on the deck of the sea vessel were already in a stir, casting astonished gazes upon Fang Bai.

Although there are numerous Martial Dao geniuses in the True Martial Realm, a twenty-year-old at the mid-stage Cosmic Level could certainly be called a genius among geniuses, likely only comparable to the favored sons and daughters of the first-rate Sects.

If this young martial artist truly hailed from a first-rate Sect, then no matter his strength, the mere identity of a Sect Disciple would warrant the reverence of all martial artists on the ship.

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "Elder Yan has guessed wrongly. I am not a Sect Disciple from a first-rate Sect, but a Loose Cultivator from the Tiansheng Continent."

Fang Bai knew his current cultivation level was indeed quite astonishing, so when he came upon this sea vessel, he suppressed his cultivation to the same realm as Elder Yan. This way, although it would still surprise the martial artists on the ship, it was within an acceptable range.

In Elder Yan's view, only a first-rate Sect could nurture a monstrous talent like Fang Bai. She was truly surprised to learn that Fang Bai was a Loose Cultivator.

"Even a highly talented genius, without the aid of corresponding cultivation resources, cannot achieve great accomplishments in Martial Dao. Since Brother Fang is a Loose Cultivator and yet so powerful, you must have encountered great fortune."

Elder Yan exclaimed with admiration.

Although Fang Bai was not a Disciple of a first-rate Sect, reducing her awe slightly, the fact that a Loose Cultivator could cultivate to such a realm was nevertheless worthy of respect. Moreover, who could say that Fang Bai wouldn't become a Universe Level Expert or even higher in the future?

Elder Yan had made up her mind to befriend Fang Bai, whom she had encountered by chance, aiming to build a good relationship for herself and the Sect she belonged to.

Regarding the "fortune" mentioned by Elder Yan, Fang Bai responded with a noncommittal smile, appearing mysterious in the eyes of the other martial artists.

After Fang Bai boarded the ship, the sea vessel resumed its accelerated journey.

Through conversation with Elder Yan, Fang Bai learned that this sea vessel originated from Volcano Island in the Land of Extreme South.

Like Green Bamboo Stronghold, Volcano Island was a second-rate Sect, possessing two sea vessels that travel to and from Shenwu Continent, transporting martial artists who journey from the Land of Extreme South to Shenwu Continent.

The sea vessel from Volcano Island did not encounter any significant difficulties along the way and could be said to have enjoyed a smooth sailing.

Furthermore, Fang Bai learned that they were only a few days' sea voyage away from Shenwu Continent; upon arrival, the ship would dock at a port controlled by a first-rate Sect.

"Tianji Sect?"

When Fang Bai learned that the port where the vessel was to dock belonged to the Tianji Sect, he couldn't help but be startled, frowning slightly.

Back in Tiansheng Continent, Fang Bai had joined forces with Green Bamboo Stronghold to attack Swiftwind Valley, where he encountered Feng Lingtian's sister, Feng Peilan, who tried to stop them. Fang Bai had struck her down, and according to Gu Li, the Stronghold Chief of Green Bamboo Stronghold, that Feng Peilan was a Direct Disciple of the Tianji Sect.

Now, several months had passed since Swiftwind Valley was annihilated and Feng Peilan was killed, and that news should have already reached the Tianji Sect. Perhaps some information about Fang Bai had already been obtained by the disciples of the Tianji Sect.

If that was true, he really needed to be more cautious after the ship arrived at the port.

Although Fang Bai could now defeat even the Sect Master of a first-rate Sect in a one-on-one fight, the Tianji Sect, after all, was a major Sect with tens of thousands of disciples. He was not yet capable of contending against the entire Tianji Sect on his own.

Moreover, Fang Bai's main purpose for coming to Shenwu Continent was to search for friends and relatives from the Secular World. He did not wish to stir up trouble and create unnecessary hassles.

Seeing that Fang Bai's expression changed slightly upon hearing the words "Tianji Sect," Elder Yan was curious and asked, "Does Brother Fang know of the Tianji Sect?"

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "I only heard about this Sect when I was on the Tiansheng Continent... How much does Elder Yan know about the Tianji Sect?"

Chapter 1226: A Well-Intentioned Reminder

"Tianji Sect is one of the top Sects in Shenwu Continent, with tens of thousands of disciples, including over a dozen Universe Level Experts. Their overall strength is unimaginably powerful..."

Elder Yan's expression turned complex as she said this, and she lowered her voice to Fang Bai: "Brother Fang, let me remind you in advance: after arriving at the port, remember to keep a low profile. Don't let the Tianji Sect disciples know you've had a great fortune, otherwise you might get into trouble..."

Seeing the inquisitive look on Fang Bai's face, Elder Yan sighed and said: "From top to bottom, every disciple of Tianji Sect is immensely greedy. They charge a hefty mooring fee for vessels docking at their controlled ports. Take our ship, for instance; just to dock for a day, we have to pay 30,000 high-grade Essence Stones!"

Fang Bai thought to himself that 30,000 high-grade Essence Stones were equivalent to about 3 million low-grade Essence Stones, an amount that was not small by any means, and that was just for a day's mooring fees. Tianji Sect was indeed greedy.

"Why don't you choose another port controlled by different Sects to dock at then? There must be cheaper ones, right?"

Fang Bai asked.

Elder Yan said with a bitter smile: "The nearest port controlled by other Sects would require several more days of sea travel, and the consumption of Essence Stones during the journey is also considerable. Plus, we would have to pay a docking fee there too, so overall it wouldn't be much cheaper."

As she said this, her face took on a wrathful expression, and she continued: "Greed is one thing, but what's even more hateful is that some vicious-hearted disciples of Tianji Sect follow Martial Artists who leave the ships. They find a secluded place to intercept them, forcibly check their Spatial Rings, and if they find any rare Cultivation Resources, they will snatch them by force. Those who resist are robbed and murdered, their possessions claimed for their own..."

Fang Bai noticed Elder Yan's fists were clenched tightly, and her body was slightly trembling as she spoke, indicating her intense emotions. He suspected that she might have personally experienced such incidents, otherwise why would she be so enraged?

Elder Yan continued: "There are no walls in the world that don't leak. Although the deeds of the Tianji Sect's disciples are very secretive, some rumors always get out. Hence, Martial Artists who come to

Shenwu Continent to train, if they know their vessels will dock at a Tianji Sect-controlled port, will not bring any rare Cultivation Resources, in order to avoid fatal trouble."

She glanced at Fang Bai, advising him: "Brother Fang, as an Individual Cultivation Martial Artist, you possess such strength at a young age. Anyone with a bit of sense could guess that you've certainly had great opportunities. Once you reach the shore, you will inevitably be targeted by Tianji Sect disciples, so you must be very careful!"

Fang Bai knew Elder Yan's advice came from a place of kindness, and nodded: "Thank you for the warning, Elder Yan. I'll be careful."

Now Fang Bai had both talent and courage. He thought to himself, what if Tianji Sect was a top Sect? If they didn't provoke him, fine, but if they angered him, he would flatten their Sect without hesitation.

Fang Bai had both a compassionate and an iron-blooded heart. For those Martial Artists who provoked him, he would not hesitate to engage in bloody battles.

In his previous life, he had experienced countless eons, and countless Martial Artists who stood in Fang Bai's path of Martial Dao were mercilessly slain by him.

It can be said without exaggeration that Fang Bai's previous life, from an unknown cultivator of the three thousand great worlds to becoming the Immortal Emperor of the Immortal Realm, was paved with bloodshed and corpses along the way.

The thousands of rooms on the sea vessel were already filled with Martial Artists; not a single room was unoccupied. Elder Yan, who earnestly desired to be on good terms with Fang Bai, had a subordinate vacate a room for Fang Bai to stay in.

That subordinate, who was originally living comfortably in his own room, was asked to move out and share a room with another companion. He couldn't help but feel some resentment, however, this resentment disappeared without a trace after Fang Bai gave him a bottle of high-grade Gathering Yuan Pills and a bottle of high-grade Creation Pills.

The subordinate was a high-rank Vast Level Martial Artist, who had been unable to break through to Vast Level Perfection for a long time. High-grade Gathering Yuan Pills and high-grade Creation Pills were treasures to him, exactly what he needed most.

Especially the high-grade Creation Pills, which could greatly enhance the chance of a Martial Artist's advancement. However, in the True Martial Realm, the number of Alchemists who could refine such Elixirs could be counted on one's fingers, and even if they were made, they were extremely expensive, something that ordinary Martial Artists could not obtain.

The subordinate had long coveted the high-grade Creation Pills, but it had only been a dream, never expecting that Fang Bai would casually gift him a bottle. This filled him with such joy that he almost knelt down to thank Fang Bai.

When he received the high-grade Gathering Yuan Pills and high-grade Creation Pills from Fang Bai, the subordinate felt as if he were in a dream, still somewhat in disbelief that it was true. He stood there holding the two bottles of Elixirs for a long time without regaining his senses, until Elder Yan reminded him. He then thanked Fang Bai profusely, before leaving with great happiness.

Elder Yan took a deep look at Fang Bai, feeling astonished as well as concerned for him.

Astonished because Fang Bai could casually give away high-grade Spirit Pills, the kind of Cultivation Resources every Martial Artist yearned for, and from his appearance of not caring at all, it was obvious his Spatial Ring must contain many more of these rare Cultivation Resources.

Concerned because she had just reminded him to be more discreet to avoid attracting the attention of Tianji Sect disciples, yet in a blink of an eye, he disregarded her advice, easily revealing the high-grade Spirit Pills. If word spread, it could truly spell disaster.

After chatting with Fang Bai for a while, Elder Yan hurriedly left, and she specifically found that subordinate who had accepted Fang Bai's gift, insisting that he not divulge this matter to others.

The subordinate nodded in agreement, but ultimately couldn't contain his excitement. He secretly told a few close fellow Sect members, which incited envy among them.

As such things tend to go, what starts with one person can soon become known to ten, and before long, a good number of Martial Artists on the ship became aware that Fang Bai had many rare Cultivation Resources.

Upon learning of this, Elder Yan was both angered and anxious, firstly scolding that subordinate harshly, then going to apologize to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai was not at all fearful of Tianji Sect and didn't take it to heart, simply laughing it off.

Over the following days, whenever Fang Bai stepped out of his room to view the seascape on the deck, he would be met with complex gazes from other Martial Artists, some full of reverence, envy, greed, or jealousy...

On this day at dusk, while Fang Bai was in his room sitting cross-legged in Cultivation, he suddenly heard the Martial Artists gathered on the deck outside cheering. Listening carefully, he learned they had reached the borders of Shenwu Continent.

Thinking of his friends and relatives from the Secular World, many of whom were in Shenwu Continent, Fang Bai felt excited, quickly exiting his room.

Stepping onto the deck at the front of the ship, he was greeted with bursts of Heaven and Earth Origin Energy, far purer and denser than that of Tiansheng Continent. Bathing in this Origin Energy, every Martial Artist on the deck felt invigorated.

Gazing off into the distance, where the sea and the sky merged, a long coastline stretched out to both sides, with no end in sight.

Fang Bai knew—Shenwu Continent, the Cultivation Holy Land yearned for by countless Martial Artists of the True Martial Realm, had arrived.

Chapter 1227: Oblivious to Danger

"Look, that's Shenwu Continent!"

"Have you noticed? The mountains and trees of Shenwu Continent are much taller and sturdier than in other regions!"

"Of course, the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy here is several times purer and richer than in other areas, suitable for the growth of all things!"

"Bathing in this kind of Heaven and Earth Origin Energy all year round, if it were me, my strength would also be much more formidable! No wonder Martial Artists from all over the True Martial Realm consider Shenwu Continent as a Cultivation Holy Land, flocking to it eagerly."

"Haha, even though we haven't landed yet, I've already fallen in love with this place!"

"That's right, coming here was really the right decision!"

...

A thousand Martial Artists gathered on the deck of the sea vessel, gazing at the boundless coastline miles away, feeling the thick Essence Energy surrounding them and feeling indescribably refreshing. Unable to contain their excitement, many Martial Artists couldn't help but cheer loudly.

More than half of the Martial Artists cheered, with the majority being Vast Level Martial Artists, and no one tried to control their volume deliberately. Thus, waves of voices infused with Essence Energy spread out in all directions, causing the sea within several tens of yards around the ship to boil and surge as if it was on fire.

A flock of sea birds flying by not far away were startled by the huge sound waves. They cried out in distress and scattered in all directions, causing laughter among the Martial Artists on the ship.

"Careful! There's a fierce bird attacking!"

Just as the Martial Artists were pointing and laughing uproariously at the flock of sea birds, one of the Martial Artists happened to look up at the sky and his face drastically changed as he exclaimed in alarm.

Hearing this, the other Martial Artists looked up reflexively and saw a gigantic strange bird with wings spanning several yards wide, diving down from a patch of white clouds in the high sky, tracing a dazzling streak of silver light like a meteor falling, pouncing towards the Martial Artists on the deck of the ship.

"It's a Silverwing Hawk!"

"It must have been enraged by our laughter!"

Some well-informed Martial Artists shouted out, with a sense of panic in their hearts.

The Silverwing Hawk is a fierce bird unique to the Shenwu Continent, named for its silver wings, living in the forests near the sea and feeding on fish and shrimp from the sea, occasionally attacking human Martial Artists.

The Silverwing Hawk is a natural-born expert. From birth, its attack power is comparable to that of a human Vast Level Martial Artist, and an adult Silverwing Hawk is so fierce that even a Cosmic Level Expert at perfection has to give way to it.

The greatest strength of the Silverwing Hawk lies in having both wind and water attributes, being able to absorb Wind Essence Qi and Water Element Qi for its own use.

With these two abilities, the Silverwing Hawk can traverse through both sky and sea effortlessly.

When the Silverwing Hawk flies, it's faster than a Wind System Martial Artist; while swimming in the sea, it can leave swimming fish far behind.

Fortunately, although the Silverwing Hawk is formidable, it does not like to live in groups and always acts alone; otherwise, the threat it poses to human Martial Artists would be greatly increased.

The adult Silverwing Hawk diving down from the clouds overhead, although already possessing an attack power comparable to a Cosmic Level Expert at perfection, the experienced Martial Artists, despite feeling panic, did not think of fleeing in terror.

After all, there were nearly a thousand Martial Artists on the ship and their combined attack power was not to be underestimated. The powerful Silverwing Hawk would not dare to dive too low to attack the Martial Artists on the ship, or it would most certainly bite off more than it could chew.

Indeed, the Silverwing Hawk halted its form above the ship at a height of ten-odd zhang and circled in the air, seemingly wary of the gathering of over a thousand Martial Artists on the deck.

The Martial Artists on the ship, who were originally panicked and uneasy, grew bolder upon seeing this, pointing and laughing at the Silverwing Hawk above their heads, even tossing Essence Stones in an attempt to drive the hawk away.

By this time, the ship was gradually nearing the harbor, and those with good eyesight could see vague figures in the glow of the setting sun near the port.

"Whose ship is that? Those scoundrels on board dare to provoke my little hawk; they really have a death wish!"

Standing at the port, a black-robed elder with a sharp eagle nose and a thin body like a bamboo pole looked sickly and appeared as if a gust of wind could blow him away.

However, if anyone believed the black-robed elder to be weak and incapable, they would be gravely mistaken, for he was none other than Ying Guangping, Steward Ying, one of the eight Stewards of Tianji Sect from Shenwu Continent, possessing initial-stage Universe Level strength.

Shenwu Continent is vast and boundless, with thousands upon thousands of Sects big and small, and there are as many as a hundred first-rate Sects among them. Tianji Sect, being one of the first-rate Sects, has disciples numbering in the tens of thousands and controls a territory of ten thousand li. This port falls under their control, bringing in a vast amount of Cultivation Resources for the Sect every year.

Steward Ying Guangping is dispatched by Tianji Sect specifically to manage this port.

The disciples stationed at this port by Tianji Sect, including Ying Guangping, total only over a hundred people. Though not many in number, they are a force respected and feared by Martial Artists from various regions who come to Shenwu Continent for their Cultivation journey.

Ying Guangping himself is an Universe Level Expert, and the weakest among the other hundred or so Tianji Sect Disciples is of the initial Cosmic Level; such a force is already enough to easily crush any second-rate Sect.

Therefore, Martial Artists coming from all over the True Martial Realm to this port act cautiously and humbly, keeping their tails between their legs and not daring to provoke the Disciples of Tianji Sect to avoid potential disaster.

The Tianji Sect disciples stationed at this port are exceedingly greedy; overtly, they would not attack the Martial Artists coming from various parts of the True Martial Realm, to avoid scaring others away but would engage in numerous instances of coercion and extortion behind the scenes.

Over the years, every Tianji Sect disciple stationed at this port has amassed a staggering amount of Cultivation Resources.

And those Martial Artists robbed of their Cultivation Resources are mostly killed to silence them, and the very few who are lucky enough not to die are threatened by the Tianji Sect disciples, too angry yet too afraid to speak out.

"Those Martial Artists on the ship are indeed lawless! Steward Ying, how about we wait for the ship to dock and then double their berthing fees as a penalty, what do you think?"

A Tianji Sect disciple stood beside Ying Guangping, sycophantically suggesting to him.

Ying Guangping's face darkened as he coldly said, "My little hawk was first frightened by them, then attacked. Doubling the penalty is too lenient, it should be tripled!"

The Silverwing Hawk was a bird trained by Ying Guangping, released today to soar in the sky. Unexpectedly, it was disturbed by the Martial Artists on the ship and even attacked with Essence Stones, which greatly infuriated Ying Guangping.

"Right, triple the penalty! Let them witness the might of our Tianji Sect!"

The Tianji Sect disciple nodded repeatedly, agreeing vehemently.

"Also, if you find any Female Martial Artists with good looks and potential on the ship, remember to let me know!"

Ying Guangping murmured another reminder to the Tianji Sect disciple, then pursed his lips and let out a sharp whistle, calling the Silverwing Hawk back to him.

"Understood."

The Tianji Sect disciple knew that this Steward Ying liked to cultivate together with Female Martial Artists of good appearance and talent; over the years, countless Female Martial Artists had suffered under him. He chuckled with a knowing "I understand" expression and turned to signal a group of Tianji Sect Disciples to stand guard at the port, waiting for the ship to dock.

Chapter 1228: Extortion

Moments later, the sea ship docked at the port, and the onboard martial artists, filled with boundless longing for the Shenwu Continent, joyfully disembarked from the ship.

But to their astonishment, as they disembarked from the ship and prepared to leave, they found themselves surrounded by a group of Tianji Sect disciples, whose formidable presence was overwhelming.

"What's going on?"

"What happened?"

"Why won't they let us leave?"

"What do the disciples of Tianji Sect want to do?"

"Something seems a bit off!"

"They appear to harbor ill intentions..."

The martial artists stepping off the sea ship looked at the group of Tianji Sect disciples surrounding them and sensed the thick killing Qi emanating from them. They couldn't help but exchange glances of alarm, seeing the color of panic in each other's eyes.

"Elder Yan, what's happening?"

Upon seeing this, Elder Yan hurriedly disembarked from the ship and approached Ying Guangping, the grim-faced Tianji Sect Steward, with a smile on his face, and asked.

Elder Yan traveled between the Land of Extreme South and the Shenwu Continent two or three times a year and had quite a few dealings with Ying Guangping. They were familiar with each other, knowing that Ying Guangping was immensely greedy, arrogant, and petty—a very difficult person to deal with. Nevertheless, to avoid deliberate difficulties whenever the ship docked at the port, he had to "tribute" him a substantial amount of cultivation resources every year.

In Elder Yan's mind, as long as the martial artists on the ship disembarked and left the port smoothly, his mission would be considered perfectly accomplished. However, he did not expect that these martial artists would be blocked by a group of Tianji Sect disciples at the port.

Although once those martial artists disembarked the ship, anything that happened to them would be no longer related to Volcano Island, if they encountered trouble upon arrival, the news would reflect poorly on Volcano Island when it reached the Land of Extreme South. Fearful that no martial artist would dare to travel to the Shenwu Continent aboard Volcano Island's sea ships thereafter, this event could lead to significant losses for Volcano Island.

Consequently, when Elder Yan saw the martial artists obstructed, his heart skipped a beat, instinctively feeling the situation was ominous, and immediately disembarked to negotiate with Ying Guangping.

In Elder Yan's view, representing Volcano Island, he had been offering Ying Guangping a substantial amount of cultivation resources annually. On this basis, Ying Guangping ought to give him some face.

Though Elder Yan held the position of an Elder in his Sect, and Ying Guangping was merely a Steward, the disparity in their cultivation realms and the strength of their respective Sects determined the vast difference in their statuses.

Whenever Elder Yan met Ying Guangping, he always approached with a smile and addressed him respectfully as "senior." In contrast, Ying Guangping hardly regarded Elder Yan and never treated him with respect, always behaving superciliously.

Despite this, Elder Yan could only swallow his pride—after all, there was no arguing with superior skill.

"What's the matter? Heh... You people have upset me!"

Ying Guangping glanced at Elder Yan indifferently, swept his gaze over the nearly thousand encircled martial artists, then pointed at the Silverwing Hawk perched on a large tree on the left, and sneered, "That Silverwing Hawk is a Spirit Bird that I painstakingly tamed. It was disturbed by your actions, and someone even dared to attack it..."

As he spoke, the faces of the martial artists stepping off the sea boat drastically changed, especially for the few who had attacked the Silverwing Hawk with Essence Stones. They turned as pale as paper, trembling uncontrollably, a look of utter despair in their eyes.

No one expected that the damned Silverwing Hawk would be a spirit bird tamed by Ying Guangping. Causing a disturbance was one thing, but attacking it would amount to provocation towards Ying Guangping—how could he tolerate it?

Those few martial artists who had attacked the Silverwing Hawk were about to collapse from fear— they were mere Vast Level Martial Artists, how could they endure the fury of a Universe Level Expert?

The rest of the martial artists were also engulfed in fear, knowing that while those who attacked the Silverwing Hawk would certainly not escape calamity, they who had "disturbed" it were likely not to be let off easily by Ying Guangping either.

It was uncertain how Ying Guangping would punish them.

In an instant, the previously noisy and bustling crowd of over a thousand martial artists fell silent, each person feeling endangered, and the scene plunged into a deathly stillness.

Elder Yan knew that those who attacked the Silverwing Hawk probably had little chance of survival but still strived to save their lives, pleading, "Elder Ying, these martial artists are first-timers to the Shenwu Continent and didn't know the Silverwing Hawk was yours. So... please, show mercy."

Ying Guangping smiled grimly and said, "I can show mercy. Have them each come up with a hundred thousand high-grade Essence Stones or equivalent Cultivation Resources, and I'll consider that nothing happened."

When the martial artists who had attacked the Silverwing Hawk heard "I can show mercy," a glimmer of hope was kindled in their hearts, but it was quickly dashed by the phrase "a hundred thousand high-grade Essence Stones," plunging them back into hell, their hearts turning to ash.

A hundred thousand high-grade Essence Stones were equivalent to a million mid-grade Essence Stones or ten million low-grade Essence Stones. It might be nothing for a Universe Level Expert like Ying Guangping, but for those Vast Level Martial Artists, it was an astronomical figure.

Elder Yan was stunned for a moment, then understood that Ying Guangping's exorbitant demand was precisely because he did not intend to spare those martial artists.

Perhaps in Ying Guangping's eyes, those Vast Level Martial Artists were nothing more than ants whose lives were insignificant.

"This... Elder Ying, isn't there a way to ask for less? High-grade Essence Stones are extremely rare Cultivation Resources; how can those few Vast Level Martial Artists have so many..."

"No!"

Ying Guangping flatly refused, "Not a single one less! If they can't produce a hundred thousand high-grade Essence Stones, then let them pay with their lives! And all of you from Volcano Island..."

Ying Guangping's anger suddenly turned towards Elder Yan, coldly saying, "These martial artists were brought by you, and my Silverwing Hawk was frightened. You have a responsibility too. Considering our acquaintance, now you bring forth ninety thousand high-grade Essence Stones. Thirty thousand of those will cover the docking fee for your sea ship, and the remaining sixty thousand to pacify my Silverwing Hawk."

Elder Yan was shocked, exclaiming, "Elder Ying, how can you be like this?"

Ninety thousand high-grade Essence Stones were no small amount; although Elder Yan could afford it, it would probably be impossible to explain to the disciples of Volcano Island upon return.

The other disciples of Volcano Island were also greatly angered. Ying Guangping's demand for ninety thousand high-grade Essence Stones was clearly an opportunistic act of extortion!

"If you cannot produce the Essence Stones, then leave your sea ship here as collateral. Once you bring the stones, then you may leave."

Ying Guangping sneered.

Elder Yan looked at Ying Guangping's detestable face, clenching his teeth in silent fury, wishing to smash that face to bits with a punch. However, he knew that acting impulsively would mean that every disciple of Volcano Island present, including himself, would not survive the day.

Chapter 1229: Seek Your Own Blessing

Fang Bai stood among a group of Martial Artists being besieged, coldly watching Ying Guangping with a sardonic smile and his group of arrogant Tianji Sect disciples, feeling impatient in his heart.

Fang Bai traversed the Myriad Miles Purgatory Sea to reach Shenwu Continent in order to find those friends and relatives who came to the True Martial Realm with him. Now that he had arrived at Shenwu Continent, his desire to meet those friends and relatives grew even more urgent, not wanting to waste a single moment.

However, at this moment, a group of Tianji Sect disciples led by Ying Guangping had surrounded him, blocking his way, which greatly annoyed him.

Due to the matter with Feng Peilan, Fang Bai did not have a good impression of Tianji Sect, and now seeing Ying Guangping deliberately making things difficult for Elder Yan, he couldn't stand by idly.

"To stop for a day and to collect tens of thousands of high-rank Essence Stones, your Tianji Sect really isn't just ordinarily greedy!"

As Fang Bai spoke, he stepped forward from behind Elder Yan, standing in front of Ying Guangping, a mocking expression on his face.

Fang Bai was half a head taller than Ying Guangping and as he spoke, he looked down at Ying Guangping, which actually made Ying Guangping feel a bit of pressure.

"What background does this youngster have? He's so young yet seems to be no weaker than me; could he possibly be a disciple from those legendary Innate Sects?"

Ying Guangping stared at Fang Bai, murmuring silently in his heart.

In the True Martial Realm, powerful sects stand numerous, hidden dragons and crouching tigers. Ordinary Martial Artists might think the most powerful sects are the first-grade sects, but only high-ranking members of such first-grade sects like Ying Guangping know that there are Innate Sects which are beyond their reach.

Beneath the Innate are all ants.

This is a saying spread among the top experts of the True Martial Realm, meaning that any Martial Artist below the Innate Realm is no different from ants in the eyes of an Innate Expert, easily crushable.

It can be said without exaggeration that someone as powerful as Ying Guangping, a Universe Level early-stage expert, only has the fate of being instantly killed when facing an Innate Expert.

Let alone high-ranking members of an Innate Sect, even if it was a normal disciple, Ying Guangping wouldn't dare provoke them lightly.

"Which Sect does the young brother come from? It seems there might be some misunderstanding with our Tianji Sect?"

Not being able to gauge Fang Bai's background, and despite Fang Bai's hostile and mocking tone, Ying Guangping did not dare act rashly for the moment, fearing a tougher opponent which could lead to losses for himself and the sect.

"A misunderstanding?"

Fang Bai smirked and said, "The infamy of your Tianji Sect has reached me during my journey. Moreover, I am not a disciple of any sect; I am just a Loose Cultivator."

"So he's just a Loose Cultivator, had me worried..."

Ying Guangping's initially tense mood immediately relaxed, and his gaze towards Fang Bai revealed a bit of malice.

If Fang Bai were indeed a disciple from an Innate Sect, Ying Guangping would have never dared show him disrespect; but against a Loose Cultivator, he harbored no fear as a Universe Level early-stage Loose Cultivator could not contend against a first-grade sect like Tianji Sect.

"Elder Ying, young people are inexperienced, please don't take it to heart..."

Elder Yan didn't expect Fang Bai to suddenly step forward and accuse Tianji Sect, and seeing Ying Guangping frown slightly, exuding a strong killing intent, he couldn't help but inwardly sigh.

Elder Yan had a good impression of Fang Bai, feeling that he had great fortune and given time, would achieve awe-inspiring feats on the Martial Dao. If he were to fall here, it would truly be a pity.

Ying Guangping did not pay any attention to Elder Yan, his gaze fixated on Fang Bai, he coldly laughed and said, "Do you know the consequences of provoking Tianji Sect?"

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Sorry, I just arrived and didn't know."

Ying Guangping laughed out of anger, "You didn't know, let me tell you: Anyone who has ever provoked Tianji Sect has never survived!"

Fang Bai looked incredulous and turned to ask Elder Yan, "Is Tianji Sect really that powerful?"

Elder Yan stared blankly at Fang Bai, thinking to himself that he had already explained the situation of Tianji Sect when they were on the ship, so why is he pretending to be ignorant now?

Elder Yan didn't know what Fang Bai was scheming, and with a sigh of pity, he looked at Fang Bai with a bitter expression, "Brother Fang, you... you must fend for yourself."

Although he didn't directly answer how powerful Tianji Sect was, the phrase "fend for yourself" said it all.

Fang Bai pretended to be very scared and said with a trembling voice, "Oh no, doesn't this mean I've brought disaster upon myself? Elder Yan, what should I do now?"

Although Elder Yan hadn't interacted with Fang Bai for long, he understood to some extent that Fang Bai's character was modest and reserved, but inherently unyielding, and definitely not someone to fear to this extent, making him feel quite puzzled.

As for Fang Bai's inquiry, Elder Yan didn't know how to respond, should he just say wait for death since you've provoked the Tianji Sect?

"Now you're afraid? Haha..."

Ying Guangping, seeing Fang Bai's pale face and slightly trembling body, seemingly terrified to the extreme, felt a great satisfaction in his heart, laughed aloud, and then sinisterly said, "Now you have two options: either kill yourself, or I will do it for you. Choose one."

Fang Bai despondently said, "Both choices lead to death... Isn't there a third option?"

The martial artists who traveled on the same ship with Fang Bai, especially those who had attacked the Silverwing Hawk, looked at Fang Bai murmuring to himself and couldn't help but feel sorrowful.

"Right!"

Seemingly hopeless, Fang Bai suddenly slapped his palm, his expression becoming exhilarated as he said to Ying Guangping, "Let's make a deal!"

Ying Guangping was stunned, asking subconsciously, "What deal?"

Fang Bai said, "I give you a sum of cultivation resources, and you spare my life, how about that?"

Upon hearing Fang Bai's words, Elder Yan sighed audibly, knowing that Fang Bai no longer had any chance of survival and was doomed.

Ying Guangping, a man of extreme greed and sinister cruelty, if he knew Fang Bai possessed rare cultivation resources, he would definitely find every means to kill Fang Bai and seize all of his cultivation resources.

"If you can provide 100,000 High Rank Essence Stones or cultivation resources of equivalent value, I might consider sparing your life!"

Ying Guangping's interest was piqued, he twirled his mustache, his eyes shining with excitement as he looked at Fang Bai.

Fang Bai, young and an Individual Cultivation Martial Artist without the backing of a Sect, yet possessing strength not inferior to his own, meant he definitely had encountered great fortune, either by acquiring a substantial amount of high-rank cultivation resources or discovering some legendary Martial Arts Techniques left by a powerful expert.

Ying Guangping, one of the eight stewards of Tianji Sect, though in a high position, desired to be among the elders to wield greater power. Unfortunately, his strength had not yet broken through, causing him endless frustration.

Now, he saw an opportunity in Fang Bai, thinking that if the young man did possess high-rank cultivation resources or Martial Arts Techniques, and he could claim them, perhaps it could significantly boost his strength, making it not impossible to ascend to the position of an elder.

Chapter 1230: Caught a Big Fish

One hundred thousand high rank Essence Stones equal one million middle rank Essence Stones or ten million low rank Essence Stones. To any Martial Artist, this is not a small sum.

Ying Guangping's demand for Fang Bai to produce such an enormous amount of cultivation resources made many onlookers feel that he essentially didn't want to leave Fang Bai any way out.

"Elder Ying, one hundred thousand high rank Essence Stones is really too many. Brother Fang is just an Individual Cultivation Martial Artist, how could he produce such an amount?"

Elder Yan couldn't help but interject.

Ying Guangping glared at Elder Yan, and said viciously, "Is this any of your business? Go away!"

"You..."

Elder Yan's face turned bright red, his lips quivered as he wanted to retort, but he was concerned about infuriating Ying Guangping, which could lead to a fatal disaster and even implicate his Sect. So he had to swallow his anger.

"If I can produce one hundred thousand high rank Essence Stones, will you spare my life? Do you keep your word?"

Fang Bai asked somewhat excitedly.

"Of course I do. When Ying Guangping says something, it carries the weight of nine cauldrons!"

Ying Guangping, holding back an excitement even greater than Fang Bai's, patted his chest and said.

From the expression and tone of Fang Bai's words, Ying Guangping knew that Fang Bai could easily come up with one hundred thousand high rank Essence Stones, which also confirmed Ying Guangping's previous speculation that this young man indeed had a great fortune before.

Ying Guangping was overjoyed to the point of ecstasy. In his impulse, he almost immediately resorted to drastic measures on Fang Bai to force out the whereabouts of his cultivation resources.

Ying Guangping had observed carefully and noticed that Fang Bai only wore a single Space Ring on his finger, and even a high-quality Spatial Ring wouldn't be able to accommodate one hundred thousand high rank Essence Stones.

That is to say, the cultivation resources Fang Bai had were not all on his person, and a significant part was likely hidden in some secret location.

Therefore, by controlling Fang Bai, he could obtain those cultivation resources.

Disciples of Tianji Sect around traded glances, seeing the joy in each other's eyes.

They had originally intended to blackmail the Martial Artists on the ship for some cultivation resources but had unexpectedly caught a big fish.

Those Tianji Sect disciples, who had followed Ying Guangping for many years, thought that they would gain huge benefits this time. Steward Ying would definitely keep a large share, and they themselves could also bask in some glory, which would be a great joy for everyone.

"I only have tens of thousands of high rank Essence Stones on me; the other several hundred thousand are all hidden in a cave on Tiansheng Continent and can't be given to you right now..."

Fang Bai shrugged his shoulders as he spoke to Ying Guangping.

When Ying Guangping heard "several hundred thousand high rank Essence Stones," he was so excited that he almost leaped for joy, but soon he calmed down and stared intently at Fang Bai, threateningly saying, "If you dare to lie to me, I'll make it so that you can't live and can't die!"

Fang Bai put on a frightened look, with a pained expression, "I am very afraid of death. And right now, my life is entirely in your hands. If I lied, wouldn't I be courting death?"

Ying Guangping nodded, thinking that Fang Bai's words were quite reasonable. Although this youngster's strength might not be weaker than his own, facing the enclosure of dozens of Tianji Sect disciples, including himself, thinking of escaping was like a fool's dream. Unless he was fearless of life and death, he could only be obedient in front of Ying Guangping.

Even ants will fight for their lives; how much more so for a young martial artist like Fang Bai with a bright future ahead of him?

So Ying Guangping firmly believed that Fang Bai would not joke about his own life, and would definitely tell the truth without dare hiding anything.

"You have some sense of self-awareness!"

Ying Guangping huffed and then said: "Tell me the exact location of that cave. Once I find the cultivation resources and come back, I'll spare your life!"

Fang Bai shook his head and said: "That cave was left by an Innate Expert as a training ground, and is shrouded by a Concealment Formation, very secretive. Unless I lead you there, you will never find it!"

As soon as Fang Bai said this, there was a stir among the martial artists present, and all eyes were focused on Fang Bai, their hearts aflame with excitement.

Especially the group of Tianji Sect disciples, who were beaming and almost jumping for joy.

Ying Guangping was also excited, his hands clenched into fists within his sleeves, and his body was trembling involuntarily.

Innate Experts are beings that ordinary martial artists can hardly reach; mysterious and powerful, they are recognized as the top experts in the True Martial Realm and almost all martial artists regard them as role models and goals on the path of Martial Dao.

However, Innate Experts usually indulge in Martial Dao, often immersed in secluded and treasured places for cultivation, rarely walk in the world, and are as elusive as a Divine Dragon.

The strength of an Innate Martial Artist is so great that even Universe Level Experts are left in the dust; the cultivation resources and Martial Arts Techniques they have saved up are inevitably the highest rank in the world.

Fang Bai personally admitted that he had found a training ground left by an Innate Martial Artist, which meant he might have obtained not just high-quality Essence Stones but perhaps also high-rank elixirs, spiritual artifacts, or even Innate Techniques.

In short, the cultivation resources and Martial Arts Techniques left by an Innate Expert are the coveted treasures of every martial artist's dreams, and if Fang Bai's finds could be claimed for oneself, and used for cultivation, one might one day step into the Innate Realm as well.

The more Ying Guangping thought about it, the more excited he became, wishing he could immediately grow wings, fly with Fang Bai across the Myriad Miles Purgatory Sea, and obtain the relics of the Innate Martial Artist mentioned by Fang Bai in the Tiansheng Continent.

"Early tomorrow morning, I will take some Tianji Sect disciples to Shenwu Continent. You will come with us!"

Ying Guangping thought that the sooner he got his hands on those cultivation resources and techniques left by the Innate Martial Artists, the better, lest the night would bring more dreams, and thus, without much consideration, made this decision.

"Tomorrow? Isn't that a bit too hasty? I've been on a sea voyage for several months, and after such a long journey, now that I've arrived at Shenwu Continent, shouldn't I rest for three to five days before we go again?"

Fang Bai looked displeased, muttering under his breath.

Ying Guangping sneered and said: "Cut the crap! It's not up to you now! I know you're strong, but on your own, you can't fight against us. If we want to kill you, it would be as easy as flipping a hand! Stay here obediently tonight, and if there's any movement, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

To prevent Fang Bai from seizing an opportunity to escape, Ying Guangping dared not to be careless and immediately commanded a few dozen Tianji Sect disciples to surround Fang Bai. He also sat down cross-legged on a large stone not far away, planning to guard like this until tomorrow and then take Fang Bai and some Tianji Sect disciples to board the ship to Shenwu Continent.

"Fine, I'll accompany you back to Tiansheng Continent! But Elder Yan and the martial artists on the ship are my friends, and you cannot trouble them anymore!"

Fang Bai pretended to be very conflicted, pondered for a moment, then laid out his conditions.

"Enough! This has nothing to do with you anymore!"

Ying Guangping waved his hand impatiently, signaling Elder Yan and the other martial artists that they could leave on their own; he neither demanded a docking fee, nor did he try to extort cultivation resources from other martial artists for the disturbance caused to the Silverwing Hawk.