

Doctor 1311

Chapter 1311: A Matter of a Slap

"Are you Xuan Tianji, the Sect Master of Tianji Sect?"

Li Chenzhou gave Xuan Tianji a glance, his smile now turned to indifference.

Li Chenzhou became famous decades ago. At that time, he had already reached the Martial Dao Peak of the True Martial Realm, dominating the world with few opponents. Among the countless Martial Artists of the True Martial Realm, only a handful were worthy in his eyes.

Although Xuan Tianji also was a renowned figure in the True Martial Realm, in Li Chenzhou's view, he was merely the Sect Master of a first-rate Sect and a Martial Artist with Universe Level perfection strength—hardly someone worth the smiling face of Li Chenzhou.

Xuan Tianji, unclear about Li Chenzhou's strength, held several reservations in his heart. Although addressed by name, he dared not express anger. He greeted with a laugh and a fist salute: "I am Xuan Tianji. May I ask for your esteemed name..."

"Who I am is not something you need to know, nor are you worthy to know!"

Li Chenzhou waved his hand dismissively and casually said, "It's fine that you are Xuan Tianji. Brother Fang owes me a life-saving grace, and I have promised him to take your life as repayment. Will you settle this yourself, or shall I make a move?"

At these words, Xuan Tianji was taken aback, just as Shi Cheng and others were left agape.

Xuan Tianji, the majestic Sect Master of a first-rate Sect with Universe Level perfection cultivation, a first-class fighter in the entire True Martial Realm. Apart from the legendary Innate Experts, who would dare to speak such words to him?

The thousands of Martial Artists from Tianji Sect and Golden Crow Manor all fixed their gazes on Li Chenzhou, thinking that this person must either be an arrogant and ignorant Martial Artist or an Innate Expert.

In the eyes of ordinary disciples, Li Chenzhou, who seemed to be only in his forties or fifties, must be the former, because, in their knowledge, only martial artists over a hundred years old could possibly cultivate to the Innate Realm.

However, for Martial Artists like Shi Cheng, with Universe Level perfection strength, the likelihood that Li Chenzhou belonged to the latter was much higher since they simply couldn't gauge the depth of his strength, which spoke volumes.

"Haha... Hahaha..."

Having returned to his senses, Xuan Tianji could not help bursting into loud laughter once he confirmed that Li Chenzhou was not joking.

Li Chenzhou quietly watched Xuan Tianji laughing madly, remaining calm and indifferent, his face still wearing a dispassionate expression.

In Li Chenzhou's eyes, Xuan Tianji was already a dead man. Let him have a hearty laugh, as one last bout of madness.

"How many moves do you think Brother Li will need to kill Xuan Tianji?"

Standing shoulder to shoulder with Fang Bai, Xia Chenyu turned her head and asked with a light laugh.

Fang Bai curled his lips and said: "Below Innate, all are ants. That's not just an empty saying! For Brother Li to kill him, it's just a matter of slapping him."

Xia Chenyu stuck out her tongue in amazement and exclaimed, "He's still a Universe Level perfection strong one who's just a step away from the Innate Realm, can he really be killed with a single slap?"

Fang Bai shrugged and said, "What's so surprising about that? I can do it now, too!"

"And me?"

Xia Chenyu puffed up her chest and perked up, her tone revealing a bit of excitement as she asked, "I am at Cosmic Level perfection now, so if I were to challenge someone like Xuan Tianji who is higher in rank, what would the result be?"

She leaped from a Cosmic Level initial stage Martial Artist to a Cosmic Level Martial Artist at perfection, her Cultivation Level making a tremendous leap, and her confidence inevitably swelled, thinking to herself that, if she fought with all her might against Xuan Tianji, even if she could not overcome him, could she not still manage a few dozen or even a hundred unbeaten moves?

"You?"

Fang Bai looked at an overconfident Xia Chenyu and chuckled: "Not to burst your bubble, but if you fought Xuan Tianji, he'd need no more than a couple of slaps to kill you!"

Xia Chenyu, like a deflated ball, wilted in an instant, and then asked unwillingly, "Really? Is the gap that great?"

Seeing Fang Bai nod with a smile, she sighed and said, "I thought that after this advancement in rank, I could keep up with you. Little did I realize that I've been left even further behind. Sigh... It's quite despairing when I think about it!"

Seeing Xia Chenyu's face filled with frustration, Fang Bai smiled, wrapped his arms around her slender and soft waist, and whispered in her ear: "Once we reach the Huaxia Sect and meet with friends and family from the secular world, I will take more time to guide you in Martial Arts Techniques. You and Linglong are both Innate Spiritual Root geniuses of the Martial Dao. As long as you cultivate wholeheartedly, while I cannot guarantee you will catch up with my pace, reaching a realm like Brother Li's should pose no difficulty!"

"The Innate Realm at perfection... Can I really do it?"

Xia Chenyu's beautiful eyes sparkled, her emotions somewhat excited.

The Innate Realm at perfection represents the pinnacle of the Martial Dao in this world. Achieving the Innate Realm at perfection allows one to stand proud among billions of Martial Artists in the True Martial Realm.

Xia Chenyu, not being particularly competitive, still thought that standing at the summit, able to "surmount all mountains with a single view", must feel quite majestic.

"So what if you're an Innate Expert? Dream on if you think you can kill me, Xuan Tianji!"

Amidst his laughter, Xuan Tianji's figure rapidly retreated as he bellowed: "Senior Dongfang, remember our agreement, it's your turn to take action now!"

Li Chenzhou's indifference and calm made Xuan Tianji uneasy. For his own safety, he chose to retreat first, summoning his strongest ally to battle, to test just how strong Li Chenzhou really was.

If his strongest ally could slay Li Chenzhou, all the better. Even if he was no match for Li Chenzhou, at the very least, he could hold him off for a while, buying time for Xuan Tianji to escape.

"This bastard, trying to get me killed!"

Dongfang Zongheng, hiding among the scattered rocks afar, had been closely observing Li Chenzhou. Hearing Xuan Tianji suddenly call out to him, he was livid, cursing inwardly.

After all, Dongfang Zongheng is an Innate Expert, his eyesight much sharper than Xuan Tianji's. After watching Li Chenzhou for a moment, he was sure that Li Chenzhou was a lot stronger than himself. How could he be willing to fight for Tianji Sect against Li Chenzhou?

"Damn the agreement! Not worth risking my life for some Female Martial Artists! Heh, I'm not playing this game with you! Time to go!"

Dongfang Zongheng pulled tightly on the rope in his hands, dragging along the Rou Fu sisters, who were bound and wrapped like zongzi, and swept away to the distance.

Dongfang Zongheng and the Tianji Sect's relationship could be described as a love-hate one.

In the past, Dongfang Zongheng had once kidnapped female Disciples from the Tianji Sect for cultivation and pleasure, which led to conflicts between them. However, seeing Dongfang Zongheng as an Innate Expert, Xuan Tianji, as Sect Master, put aside the matter of the female Disciples being harmed, and instead went out of his way to please Dongfang Zongheng. Not only did he agree to help Dongfang Zongheng look for beautiful and talented Female Martial Artists across the True Martial Realm for his cultivation enjoyment, but he also provided Dongfang Zongheng with countless Cultivation Resources every year.

Xuan Tianji invested a lot in Dongfang Zongheng, hoping that Dongfang Zongheng would lend a hand when Tianji Sect needed help.

And although Dongfang Zongheng was powerful, being a Loose Cultivator, a lone individual, naturally he was not as well-informed as a large Sect with many Disciples, so he and Heavenly Secrets Sect struck a deal with ease.

Chapter 1312: Wings of the Wind

This time, Tianji Sect came to the Eternal Death Zone from thousands of miles away with the ambition to annihilate Golden Crow Manor and possess the Essence Stone Vein. Dongfang Zongheng, responding to Xuan Tianji's invitation, followed in secret.

As a hidden force, Dongfang Zongheng would not easily reveal himself unless the Tianji Sect disciples encountered a powerful enemy they could not overcome.

When Li Chenzhou, Fang Bai, and Xia Chenyu burst out from the underground, the first person Dongfang Zongheng paid attention to was Li Chenzhou, and then he was captivated by Xia Chenyu's peerless beauty and supreme aptitude.

As for Fang Bai, whose cultivation level was already at the Universe Level perfection, he was outright ignored by Dongfang Zongheng, the Innate Expert.

If it weren't for Li Chenzhou's presence, Dongfang Zongheng would have definitely abandoned the Rou Fu sisters and turned to capture Xia Chenyu, the exquisite Female Martial Artist with an Innate Spiritual Root and a Perfect Body.

In Dongfang Zongheng's eyes, using Xia Chenyu's body as a Furnace Cauldron for cultivation would be far more advantageous to him than the benefits that the Rou Fu sisters could bring.

However, Li Chenzhou's presence made Dongfang Zongheng extremely wary, curbing that thought for the time being and preparing to settle for less, planning to first take the Rou Fu sisters away from this place.

But Xuan Tianji's loud shout essentially exposed Dongfang Zongheng's presence.

Li Chenzhou wanted to kill Xuan Tianji, which clearly indicated that they were on opposing sides, whereas Dongfang Zongheng himself was effectively in an alliance with Xuan Tianji. If Li Chenzhou's attention turned to him, even his life might be at risk.

Especially after Xuan Tianji shouted, Dongfang Zongheng noticed that Li Chenzhou's gaze swept towards his direction unintentionally.

That one look was like a bolt of lightning, piercing through a kilometer of space, giving Dongfang Zongheng a feeling of having nowhere to hide, causing a chill in his heart, and he decisively chose to flee with the Rou Fu sisters.

"Help!"

Rou Fu, catching the panic on Dongfang Zongheng's face, opened her small mouth and suddenly let out a piercing scream.

Her cry successfully drew the attention of Li Chenzhou and Fang Bai.

Actually, since bursting out from the ground, Fang Bai's dispersed Divine Sense had already detected the whereabouts of Dongfang Zongheng and the Rou Fu sisters.

In Divine Fire Town, the Rou Fu sisters showed considerable care for Fang Bai, and being disciples from Ruoshui Palace, they had some connections with Fang Bai. Hence, upon discovering they were being controlled by Dongfang Zongheng, Fang Bai intended to find the right moment to help them out.

However, before Fang Bai could take action, the vigilant Dongfang Zongheng began to flee, and Rou Fu cried out for help.

"Brother Li, I'm going to rescue a few people. I'll leave Xuan Tianji to you! Chenyu, stay here and be careful on your own!"

Fang Bai quickly left these words, with a shudder of his shoulders, bladelike bones from either side of his back materialized into a pair of grey wings at a speed visible to the naked eye.

These grey wings, formed from Wind Essence Qi, had a span of more than a zhang when unfolded, and from afar one could sense the power of wind contained within them.

"Rise!"

Fang Bai's eyes shone brilliantly as he uttered a light shout. With a fierce flap of his Wind Wings, he shot up into the sky amidst a wild gale, soaring into the heavens.

His figure, like a Dapeng, hovered dozens of zhang high in the air for a few moments before flapping his wings again to chase after the escaping Dongfang Zongheng.

He was faster than lightning, leaving behind a long grey trail in his flight path.

Fang Bai's cultivation level was already comparable to an Innate Expert at full perfection; experts reaching this realm could form True Yuan into any shape for long-distance attacks and even grow wings for flight.

However, this ability to fly is not like that of flying birds, which can soar freely in the sky; both flight distance and height are limited by the martial artist's own strength.

That is to say, the stronger the martial artist, the denser the True Yuan, the higher and farther they can fly, and vice versa.

Moreover, condensing wings for flight consumes a great amount of True Yuan, and even Innate Experts would not do so lightly. If there is an urgent matter, the best option is to exchange Essence Stones for a top-quality Swiftwind Horse as a means of transportation.

Dongfang Zongheng is a Wind System Martial Artist and an Innate Realm expert. As he flees with the Rou Fu sisters, his speed is astonishingly fast. Although Li Chenzhou is much stronger than Dongguo Zongheng, catching up to him would likely prove difficult.

Fang Bai, who possesses the Chaos True Body and holds the seven Innate Spiritual Roots—with Wind Spirit Root being only one of them—far exceeds Dongguo Zongheng in talent and innate gifts. Using the Wind Essence Qi to form Wind Wings, Fang Bai pursues at a velocity much faster than Dongfang Zongheng at full speed. With several consecutive flaps of the Wind Wings, he quickly narrows the distance between himself and Dongguo Zongheng.

"Wind... Wind Wings? Is this kid also an Innate Expert?"

While fleeing, Dongguo Zongheng suddenly feels an overwhelming force of Wind Essence Qi bearing down from behind, causing him to be inwardly shocked. He turns around abruptly and sees a figure in midair, flapping a pair of wings condensed from Wind Essence Qi, swooping down on him like a hawk pouncing on a rabbit.

The speed of the shadow is so fast that it's like a meteor falling, leaving a faint grey trail that swiftly enlarges in Dongguo Zongheng's pupils.

As the figure plunging from the sky draws closer to Dongguo Zongheng, he finally recognizes the face—it's the young martial artist who had been standing by Li Chenzhou and Xia Chenyu and whom he himself had overlooked.

But that young martial artist's cultivation level was clearly only at Universe Level perfection, so how did he suddenly possess the strength of an Innate Expert?

Punching above his weight!

The four words suddenly flash through Dongguo Zongheng's mind.

As an Innate Expert, Dongguo Zongheng knows far more about the oddities and secrets of this world than ordinary martial artists—he is aware that there are extremely rare talented martial artists who can challenge opponents beyond their own realm.

Could it be that this young martial artist is one of those legendary monstrously talented beings?

And why must he be so unlucky as to encounter such a freakishly strong opponent?

"Forget about the four beauties, saving my own life is more important!"

With gritted teeth and a heavy heart, Dongguo Zongheng releases his grip on the clues and abandons the Rou Fu sisters, promptly invoking his Wind Essence Qi and suddenly sprouting a pair of gigantic Wind Wings on his back.

"Go!"

With a light shout, Dongguo Zongheng unfurls his Wind Wings for rapid vibration, leveraging their force to soar skyward, fleeing towards the distant deep mountains.

Dongguo Zongheng's fear is not just of Fang Bai. In his mind, even if Fang Bai could punch above his weight, at most it would result in a draw. His real concern is about Li Chenzhou, that unfathomably powerful figure—if by chance he were held up by Fang Bai, and Li Chenzhou came to assist, he would have no hope of escape.

"Stay right there!"

Fang Bai has no intention of letting Dongguo Zongheng go. Seeing him attempting to flee, he shouts thunderously, throwing a "Furious Flame Fist" with his right fist.

A gigantic fiery fist formed of Fire Primordial Qi, like a small sun emitting terrifying heat, rolls with searing waves and hurtles towards Dongguo Zongheng, who is flying ahead.

"How is this possible?!"

Dongguo Zongheng feels the temperature behind him suddenly skyrocket, as if he is about to be devoured and overwhelmed, a sense of unprecedented intense crisis flooding his mind, and he can't help being completely astonished.

Chapter 1313: The Evil One is Punished

"Pfft..."

Feeling a fatal threat, Dongguo Zongheng, spewing a mouthful of essence blood, stimulated his body's potential at all costs, thereby suddenly speeding up his flight in an attempt to escape the scorching blast from behind.

"This guy is really going all out to save his life! But does he really think he can escape? No way!"

A hint of coldness appeared on Fang Bai's lips as he began to circulate the Fire-based Technique "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art". Within his eyes, faint images of two clusters of orange flames appeared.

"Nine Revolutions True Fire Art" was a highly potent Fire-based Technique Fang Bai learned by chance in his previous life, consisting of ten levels, each stronger than the last. It was said that upon reaching the tenth level, nine different colored flames combine into one, possessing the power to destroy heaven and earth, incinerating everything.

In his previous life, although Fang Bai had reached the perfection of the Immortal Emperor realm, he had only cultivated the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art" up to the eighth level, producing black flames.

At this moment, Fang Bai is merely at the Universe Level perfection in cultivation, his combat strength at the perfection of the Innate realm, and he had barely reached the second level of the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art", producing orange flames.

What rank the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art" exactly holds, even Fang Bai from his previous life could not say, only knowing that this technique surpasses the confines of Immortal Rank Techniques, its power boundless, and extraordinarily marvelous.

As Fang Bai activated the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art", his body instantly started a frenzied absorption of Fire Primordial Qi, drawing in all Fire Primordial Qi within ten miles at a speed visible to the naked eye towards his surroundings, and then guided it between his outstretched palms.

The massive amount of Fire Primordial Qi, compressed by Fang Bai using the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art" between his palms, quickly expanded from the size of a ping-pong ball to that of a football, and as more Fire Primordial Qi gathered, its volume continued to increase.

To an ordinary martial artist, that orange fireball might not seem formidable, but for Universe Level Experts like Shi Cheng with their keen senses, the fireball contains a terrifying amount of energy, and they could even imagine that once the fireball bursts, everything within its range would be unable to escape being incinerated to ash.

When the orange fireball expanded to the size of two footballs, even Fang Bai seemed to struggle to contain it.

"Immortal Incinerating True Fire!"

With a thunderous shout, Fang Bai pushed forward with both palms, sending the orange fireball flying towards Dongguo Zongheng.

The orange fireball shot out at high speed, releasing dazzling light and terrifying high temperature.

The moment Fang Bai pushed the orange fireball from his palms, in the next instant, it appeared right behind Dongguo Zongheng, merely several meters away from him.

This scene seemed like the high temperature of the orange fireball had burned through the space in front, achieving the miracle of spatial teleportation.

"Boom!"

A loud explosion, the orange fireball burst open behind Dongguo Zongheng, the released compressed Fire Primordial Qi sent shockwaves that trembled the space, and the blazing Fire Primordial Qi expanded violently in all directions at an astonishing speed, forming a vast aerial sea of fire spanning a hundred meters.

And Dongguo Zongheng's body was instantly engulfed and submerged by the sea of fire.

Dongguo Zongheng was plunged into the sea of fire, the scorching temperature of Fire Primordial Qi unbearable even for an Innate Expert like him, corroded his surrounding Qi Shield in just a few moments.

"Aaah!"

In a prolonged and agonizing scream, the clothes on Dongguo Zongheng along with the outer layer of his skin began to burn, the excruciating pain that gnawed at his bones made Dongguo Zongheng wish for death.

"Save me... save me..."

The intense fear that gripped Dongguo Zongheng shattered his guts, and the pair of Wind Wings on his back vanished. He screamed in agony as he fell from the sky to the ground, rolling over and over without dying immediately, emitting a terrifying cry for help.

At this moment, Fang Bai appeared amid the sea of flames in the sky; the high temperature capable of melting stones posed no threat to him whatsoever.

Fang Bai fluttered his Wind Wings slightly, his body suspended in the air, looking down upon Dongguo Zongheng who was enveloped and struggling within flames on the ground, his expression indifferent and devoid of any mercy.

Across his two lives and experiences spanning thousands of years, witnessing countless martial artists, Fang Bai had seen evil ones like Dongguo Zongheng, who used the bodies of female martial artists as Furnace Cauldrons for cultivation. He would end such evil whenever encountered, showing no mercy.

In just a few short moments, Dongguo Zongheng was reduced to nothing but chilling bones, and after a few more breaths, even those bones turned to ash and dispersed with the wind, vanishing between heaven and earth.

Thus, a mighty figure of the Innate Expert realm, who stood proudly atop millions in the True Martial Realm, perished by Fang Bai's hand within merely tens of breaths.

The scene, however, was witnessed only by Rou Fu's four sisters nearby, and from afar, only Li Chenzhou, an Innate Expert endowed with Divine Sense, was aware of it.

As for the other martial artists, including Shi Cheng, they knew only that Fang Bai suddenly sprouted wings and chased after Dongguo Zongheng but were unaware of the outcome.

Fang Bai gently landed on the ground, the Wind Wings on his back vanishing immediately thereafter.

"The evil one has been punished; all is safe now."

Fang Bai walked over to Rou Fu's four sisters who had been subdued by Dongguo Zongheng, and with a light touch, he freed them.

Rou Fu and her sisters had thought that they would not only lose their innocence but possibly their lives too when they fell into Dongguo Zongheng's hands, and they had cried continuously along the way. Their cute, dust and tear-streaked faces looked dirty, evoking both pity and an urge to laugh.

After being rescued by Fang Bai and regaining their ability to move, they immediately cleaned each other's faces, then turned together and knelt in front of Fang Bai.

"Thank you, Senior Fang, for saving us! Please accept our gratitude."

The sisters bowed respectfully and spoke crisply.

The sisters had witnessed Fang Bai slaying Dongfang Zongheng. Though the event was brief, it was intense, and they recognized that this young martial artist, not much older than themselves, was a formidable Innate Expert. They felt both immense respect and gratitude towards him.

"Rise, all of you," Fang Bai said.

As Fang Bai lifted his palms, the sisters felt an invisible force lifting their bodies, leaving them no choice but to stand despite any resistance.

"Back in Divine Fire Town, you four helped me. This was merely returning the favor!" Fang Bai said with a chuckle.

The sisters blushed at his words.

The youngest, Rou Ling, whispered, "At that time, we didn't know Senior Fang was such a hidden Innate Expert! Otherwise... otherwise we wouldn't have dared to stand up for you."

The other three sisters nodded in agreement, realizing that had they known about Fang Bai's remarkable strength back when he was surrounded by martial artists in Divine Fire Town, they wouldn't have intervened. They even thought that Senior Fang might have considered their actions meddling!

Looking back now, it felt utterly embarrassing!

Chapter 1314: Have You Heard?

The Roufu sisters huddled around Fang Bai, like a group of fangirls in the secular world, after expressing their gratitude, they held their hands to their hearts, looking at Fang Bai with faces full of adoration, their eyes sparkling with tiny stars.

Although the Yunnv Sect where the Roufu sisters belonged to had many Innate Experts, those Innate Experts were all women over a hundred years old, and each one of them was serious and rigid, hardly smiling, which made the Roufu sisters respect and fear them, daring not to get too close.

However, Fang Bai was a young, handsome, and powerful man, whose smile was as warm as the sunshine, making people feel the warmth of spring and immensely approachable. The Roufu sisters had met some talented male martial artists during their previous cultivation journeys, but none could hold a candle to Fang Bai.

Just as a beautiful young girl could make men lose their senses, a remarkable young man like Fang Bai was also an object of admiration among the girls.

With shy yet bold expressions, the Roufu sisters lifted their pretty little faces, looking at Fang Bai, their expressions intoxicated and full of blushing fantasies in their minds.

Their current expressions, in the secular world, would be those of a group of fanatics.

Being surrounded by four tender and pleasant beauties, who were all looking up at him with adoration, would be considered a delightful situation by any man, and Fang Bai was no exception.

However, Fang Bai had many beauties in his past life and had seen a great deal, so naturally, he would not be intoxicated and forget himself. Thinking of the Roufu sisters' sect, the Ruoshui Palace, he had a thought and lightly coughed, saying, "I'd like to inquire about something..."

"What is it?"

The Roufu sisters perked up, jostling to get closer to Fang Bai, their big eyes looking at him with a mixture of confusion and curiosity, in an eager "ask me, quickly ask me" manner.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "You are disciples of the Ruoshui Palace, right?"

"Yes."

The sisters nodded vigorously.

Although they were told not to reveal their identities lightly before leaving their palace for training, Fang Bai was their life-saving benefactor, and their gratitude towards him was greater than anything else; naturally, they would not hide anything from Fang Bai.

"The current Palace Master of the Ruoshui Palace is named Zhou Qingyan?"

Fang Bai continued to ask.

"Eh? How do you know the name of our Palace Master?"

Roufu was surprised, blinking her big eyes as she asked in return.

The Ruoshui Palace was a hidden Innate Sect that seldom interacted with the outside world. If its disciples went out for cultivation journeys, they would usually conceal their identities. Thus, although the True Martial Realm had countless martial artists, very few knew of the Ruoshui Palace, and even fewer knew the name of the current Palace Master.

Zhou Qingyan became the Palace Master of the Ruoshui Palace and had not left it for decades. Given that Fang Bai was only in his twenties and was a Loose Cultivator, how could he possibly know that Zhou Qingyan was the current Palace Master of the Ruoshui Palace?

Not being able to figure out the answer, Roufu felt amazed.

"I don't only know the name of your current Palace Master, but I also know quite a few things about your Ruoshui Palace..." Fang Bai said with a mysterious smile, and then he asked, "Have you heard of a person named Zhuge Dingtian?"

"Zhuge Dingtian? No..."

The Roufu sisters thought hard, tilting their heads, then shook their heads in unison.

"Really haven't?"

Fang Bai paused and was a bit surprised.

"Really haven't!"

The Roufu sisters thought carefully once again, and then shook their heads with certainty.

Fang Bai nodded, seemingly coming to a realization.

Zhuge Dingtian was Zhou Qingyan's beloved daughter Zhou Yuruo's Martial Dao companion, and also an Innate Expert. Such a person should be well-known by all disciples of the Ruoshui Palace, yet why do the four Rou Fu sisters not know of Zhuge Dingtian's existence?

Could it be that the affair between Zhuge Dingtian and Zhou Yuruo was concealed by Zhou Qingyan, to the extent that the younger generation of disciples is unaware of it?

Fang Bai furrowed his brows in thought, feeling that this was indeed a possibility.

Through the strand of information in Li Chenzhou's Divine Sense, Fang Bai knew that Zhou Qingyan turned love into hate, loathing all men in the world, including Li Chenzhou. She strongly opposed the love between her daughter Zhou Yuruo and Zhuge Dingtian. As a result, her daughter eloped with Zhuge Dingtian and gave birth to a girl, who was Zhuge Lian.

Perhaps Zhou Qingyan regarded this incident as a tremendous shame. In her anger, she forbade the palace's disciples from discussing it, attempting to erase this scandal.

As time went by, it became less surprising that the later generations of disciples like the four Rou Fu sisters, who joined the Ruoshui Palace later, were unaware of this incident.

"What about Zhou Yuruo? Have you heard of her?"

Fang Bai inquired further.

The four Rou Fu sisters continued shaking their heads.

"And Zhuge Lian? You haven't heard of her either?"

Fang Bai continued to ask.

"No."

As Fang Bai expected, the four Rou Fu sisters shook their heads again.

Zhou Qingyan was ruthless enough to destroy a loving couple, driving away her own daughter. It was unlikely she would care about her granddaughter Zhuge Lian.

In fact, Zhuge Lian had grown up within the third-rank sect, the Yunnv Sect, in Tiansheng Continent. She only saw her mother and had no memory of her father, much less did she know that her grandmother was Zhou Qingyan—the current Ruoshui Palace Master, one of the strongest Innate Sects of the age.

"Then Li Chenzhou...you certainly don't recognize him either, right?"

Fang Bai sighed and asked casually.

Li Chenzhou was once deeply loved by Zhou Qingyan, but later became the man she loathed the most. As it involved her own privacy, Zhou Qingyan would definitely not permit any disciple in the Palace to mention this matter, and so the younger disciples would know even less about it.

The four Rou Fu sisters, unsurprisingly, shook their heads again, the confusion in their eyes growing deeper, wondering why Fang Bai was asking them these questions.

"Brother Li still wonders if he can reconcile with Zhou Qingyan and reignite their former bond! Yet he does not realize just how terrible a woman's grudge accumulated over decades can be. If he meets with

Zhou Qingyan, all explanations might be seen as unreasonable excuses. This broken mirror... I fear it will be difficult to mend! Regardless, I still wish them well."

Fang Bai subconsciously turned his head, looking towards Li Chenzhou's direction in the distance.

On Fang Bai's side, Dongguo Zongheng had already been slain, while on Li Chenzhou's side, there were still sounds of Essence Energy collisions booming, accompanied by Xuan Tianji's frustrated and furious yelling.

"Brother Li sure knows how to play!"

When Fang Bai spread his Divine Sense Diffusion and "saw" the situation over there, he couldn't help but chuckle silently.

Maybe after spending over a decade in the Essence Stone Vein underground, Li Chenzhou wanted to get reacquainted with his Martial Arts Techniques, treating Xuan Tianji as a sparring partner. Even though he wasn't exerting his full strength, he still played Xuan Tianji like a top.

Poor Xuan Tianji, a Sect Master of a powerful first-rank sect, was teased by Li Chenzhou like a monkey, full of fury and shame, desperately wanting to end his life, yet utterly at Li Chenzhou's mercy. He could not even choose to die, screaming frantically and his old face turning red as he spouted several mouthfuls of blood.

"The evildoer has been vanquished; take care of yourselves."

Fang Bai discreetly left a trace of his own Essence Energy on the four Rou Fu sisters, so he could later trace this energy to find the Ruoshui Palace, in the hope of finding a clue to Zhou Yuruo, Zhuge Lian's mother.

If he could help Zhuge Lian find her mother, Fang Bai would consider his promise made to Zhuge Dingtian's remains in the Secular World as truly fulfilled.

Chapter 1315: The Thoughts of the Beautiful Ladies Big and Small

"Senior Fang, don't go!"

"We haven't yet repaid you for saving our lives!"

"Disciples of Ruoshui Palace never owe anyone a debt of gratitude!"

"Hey, Senior Fang, wait for us!"

...

The four sisters of Rou Fu, having finally encountered a martial artist they admired and were captivated by, naturally wouldn't just leave like that. Seeing Fang Bai accept Dongfang Zongheng's Spatial Ring and head towards the entrance to the Essence Stone Vein, they exchanged glances and followed him, using the excuse of repaying the debt of gratitude, and sped up using their movement techniques.

Fang Bai arrived near the entrance of the Essence Stone Mine, where he saw Li Chenzhou suppressing his own realm, sparring with Xuan Tianji and having a whale of a time. Although he could have killed Xuan Tianji with a single slap, he deliberately showed mercy. Understanding his intentions, Fang Bai laughed and said, "Brother Li, you seem to be having a great time! Didn't you say you'd kill this guy with one slap? How many slaps have you thrown now, and he's still jumping around alive!"

Li Chenzhou sent Xuan Tianji flying with a palm strike and laughed heartily, saying, "It's been over a decade since I exercised my fists and feet, and I'm a bit rusty. After coming out, I wanted to find someone to have a good fight with. This guy may not be an Innate Expert, but he's passable to use! Brother Fang, don't be impatient, once I've had my fill, I'll kill him for you!"

The two laughed and talked, while Xuan Tianji, sent flying by Li Chenzhou's palm, was about to explode with anger.

At this moment, Xuan Tianji was tormented by Li Chenzhou, full of scars, and harboring the desire to die. Several times he made up his mind to Self-Detonate, thinking that even if he couldn't take Li Chenzhou down with him, at least causing him severe injuries would be satisfying.

However, a martial artist needs time to gather Essence Energy to Self-Detonate, and Li Chenzhou, with his Divine Sense, could easily detect the fluctuations of his internal Essence Energy, not giving him a chance to gather a large amount of Essence Energy in the Qi Sea for Self-Detonation.

With no possibility of Self-Detonation and suffering extreme pain from Li Chenzhou's fists and feet, Xuan Tianji, unable to live or die as he wished, could only grit his teeth and serve as Li Chenzhou's "sparring partner." This unprecedented humiliation made him want to cry out.

Especially after being sent flying by Li Chenzhou and landing, hearing Li Chenzhou's remark "he's passable to use," Xuan Tianji spurted blood again in anger, thinking what does "passable to use" mean? Even at his worst, he was still the Sect Master of a first-rate major Sect, a Universe Level martial artist at perfection stage, right? Isn't it difficult for him to be punched and kicked around here, serving as your "sparring partner"? Can't you say something nice for once? If you're going to kill me, can't you just let me die peacefully?

The four sisters of Rou Fu, following Fang Bai, saw the changing expressions and the contorted, hideous face of Xuan Tianji, his expression indescribably strange. Knowing he and Dongfang Zongheng were in league, they felt a sort of schadenfreude, pointing at him and laughing non-stop.

What Xuan Tianji was thinking, of course, Li Chenzhou didn't care about. After speaking a few words with Fang Bai, he once again plunged into the "great battle" with Xuan Tianji.

If it were two Innate Experts dueling, Fang Bai might have been somewhat interested in watching, but seeing Li Chenzhou suppress his realm to fight Xuan Tianji, Fang Bai found it quite boring. He looked around and saw that the tens of thousands of martial artists from the Martial Artists Alliance, as well as the disciples of Tianji Sect, had already run off, leaving only a few thousand disciples of the Golden Crow Manor on the scene.

Fang Bai saw Xia Chenyu standing pretty by Shi Cheng's side, smiling at him. He waved at her and walked over.

"Fang Bai."

When Fang Bai got a bit closer, Xia Chenyu stepped forward to meet him, pursed her lips toward his followers, then with a smile that was not quite a smile, looked at the Rou Fu sisters trailing behind Fang Bai like tails.

"I saved their lives, and they clamored to repay the debt of gratitude, then followed me over..."

Fang Bai turned his head to look at the four sisters of Rou Fu, smiled helplessly, and said, "Four innocent and adorable girls, I really don't have the heart to send them away..."

Xia Chenyu chuckled, "Having four youthful and beautiful girls following, if it were me, I'd definitely be gleeful inside, and wouldn't have the heart to drive them away!"

Xia Chenyu was sizing up the Rou Fu sisters, and the Rou Fu sisters were also sizing her up in return.

Although they had previously met in Divine Fire Town, at that time Fang Bai and others were surrounded and besieged by many martial artists, and they left in a hurry afterward, so neither side had the time to observe each other.

Now that they had met again, both sides marveled at the other's beauty, naturally leading them to take a few more glances at each other.

Especially the Rou Fu sisters, at the age of sixteen or seventeen, at the time when they were innocently experiencing feelings of romance, on top of their admiration and adoration for Fang Bai, they also harboured some indescribable fondness. Knowing that Xia Chenyu was close to Fang Bai, they couldn't help but feel a competitive spirit.

They assessed Xia Chenyu, trying to find flaws to highlight their own strengths and catch Fang Bai's attention.

Xia Chenyu, having gone through her girlhood, understood the thoughts of the Rou Fu sisters. Seeing them puffing up their chests and holding their chins up high, proud like four little peacocks vying for beauty, she couldn't help but find it somewhat amusing.

As for whether Fang Bai would take a liking to these four young beauties, or whether they posed any threat to her own position in Fang Bai's heart, Xia Chenyu did not bother to consider these questions, nor did she care to think about them.

Xia Chenyu and Fang Bai knew each other in the secular world, had shared both sweetness and hardship, and this kind of affection was not something the Rou Fu sisters could compare with.

Moreover, given Xia Chenyu's understanding of Fang Bai, even if he liked many women, her position in his heart would not change because of it.

Furthermore, Xia Chenyu thought to herself that she was a few years older than the Rou Fu sisters, a mature and charmingly seductive big beauty—why bother comparing herself with four clueless young girls?

"Four beautiful young ladies, let me introduce myself; my name is Xia Chenyu!"

Xia Chenyu's gaze only lingered briefly on the Rou Fu sisters before she pulled it back, and with a smile, she reached out her right hand to them, only to remember that they were not in the secular world and there was no such custom of shaking hands, so she withdrew it again.

Knowing the Rou Fu sisters were powerful, and having learned from Fang Bai's recent Thread Condensation Sound Transmission that they were disciples of an Innate Sect, Xia Chenyu thought it would be beneficial to befriend them if she wanted to get along well in the Shenwu Continent in the future.

"Nice to meet you, Sister Xia. My name is Rou Fu!"

"Nice to meet you, Sister Xia. My name is Rou Zhi!"

"Nice to meet you, Sister Xia. My name is Rou Xin!"

"Nice to meet you, Sister Xia. My name is Rou Ling!"

The Rou Fu sisters, who were simply hoping to compete with Xia Chenyu in terms of body shape and beauty, had no hostility at all. Seeing Xia Chenyu taking the initiative to be friendly, they put aside their comparative spirits and cheerfully introduced themselves.

Among women, especially beautiful women, it's always easy to find common topics. Once they started chatting, it was as if there were endless things to say without pause.

When it comes to understanding of human relationships and worldly matters, how could these four inexperienced young beauties match up to Xia Chenyu, a true beauty? With just a few words about Fang Bai and some compliments for the four young girls, Xia Chenyu easily won over their good feelings.

Chapter 1316: You're the Tang Monk's meat, I'll take the first bite!

Xia Chenyu was chatting with Rou Fu and her four sisters while Fang Bai engaged in conversation with the higher-ups of the Golden Crow Manor.

At this moment, the originally grief-stricken expressions on the faces of the Golden Crow Manor leaders like Shi Cheng had been replaced by excitement and elation.

Although the battle had been costly for Golden Crow Manor, with Fang Bai's and that unnamed powerful person's help, they finally managed to crush the Martial Artists Alliance and the Tianji Sect that were coveting the Essence Stone Vein, successfully protecting it.

For Shi Cheng and the other Golden Crow Manor leaders, achieving such a victory was worth the price, no matter how costly.

As long as the Golden Crow Manor could firmly hold on to the Essence Stone Vein, they would have a vast amount of Cultivation Resources. With those resources, it would not take more than twenty years for Golden Crow Manor to recover its Essence Energy and regain its former glory.

Twenty years might seem very long to the common person, but for martial artists who easily live over a hundred years, it's nothing significant.

"This time, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Senior Fang for saving our lives and the Essence Stone Vein. We etch Senior Fang's kindness deeply into our hearts, endlessly grateful. Please accept our bow!"

As Shi Cheng spoke, he and the other high-ranked members of the Golden Crow Manor, along with the remaining thousands of disciples, all clasped their fists and bowed deeply to Fang Bai to express their gratitude.

Even though Fang Bai did not kill a disciple of the Tianji Sect, when he pursued Dongguo Zongheng, he condensed a pair of Wind Wings from Wind Essence Qi, displaying the Cultivation Level of a legendary Innate Expert, greatly shocking the tens of thousands of martial artists from the Martial Artists Alliance and the disciples of the Tianji Sect who were present.

Moreover, with the Sect Master of the Tianji Sect, Xuan Tianji, being completely suppressed by Li Chenzhou with no chance of winning, the tens of thousands of martial artists finally lost their will to fight and dispersed in all directions.

The tens of thousands of martial artists were not fools; realizing that Golden Crow Manor had the support of an Innate Expert, they knew they stood no chance. Staying on could very well mean walking down a path to death, so fleeing promptly was the best strategy.

It is safe to say that if not for Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, at this moment Shi Cheng and the others might have been decimated, and the Essence Stone Vein would have fallen into the hands of others. However, Shi Cheng and the others were not familiar with Li Chenzhou, and as he was still immersed in his showdown with Xuan Tianji, they could only express their gratitude to Fang Bai.

"There's no need for thanks,"

Fang Bai waved his hand, seriously saying: "I lent my help also for my half of the Essence Stone Vein!"

Shi Cheng was taken aback; only then did he remember the agreement between Golden Crow Manor and Fang Bai that if they could repel those coveting the Essence Stone Vein, Fang Bai would become the co-owner of the vein.

Although Golden Crow Manor emerged victorious in this great battle, they paid a heavy price and in the end could only secure half of the Essence Stone Vein, while Fang Bai alone enjoyed the other half...

At this thought, Shi Cheng felt somewhat imbalanced in his heart.

At that moment, Shi Cheng even harbored a fleeting thought of regretting the deal, feeling that Golden Crow Manor, having paid a greater price, deserved more.

But then, the intimidating sight of Fang Bai sprouting Wind Wings and soaring into the sky resurfaced in Shi Cheng's mind, causing a chill to run down his spine and abruptly snuffing out any thoughts of reneging on the deal.

Flying with wings formed from condensed Essence Energy is something said to be possible only for legendary Innate Experts; as for what happens if one offends an Innate Expert, the Tianji Sect serves as the best example.

"I wonder how things are at Golden Crow Manor..."

Having dealt with the enemy at the Essence Stone Vein, Shi Cheng began to worry about the safety of Golden Crow Manor.

If what Xuan Tianji said before was true, then the power the Tianji Sect mobilized to besiege Golden Crow Manor was evidently stronger than that at the Essence Stone Vein. Coupled with the assistance of a High Rank Array Master, Shi Cheng was unsure of Golden Crow Manor's safety at this moment.

Golden Crow Manor was their martial artists' main base and their very foundation; its significance far exceeded that of the Essence Stone Vein, and it was absolutely critical to preserve it.

"Senior Fang, please guard the Essence Stone Vein here for now. I will take some disciples back to Golden Crow Manor to check on it."

Thinking of the perilous state of Golden Crow Manor, Shi Cheng became anxious. After receiving Fang Bai's consent, he quickly gathered some disciples of Golden Crow Manor who were still combat-ready and prepared to set out to aid Golden Crow Manor.

"Look... it's the Manor Master and the others!"

Just at that moment, some disciples from Golden Crow Manor standing on the bastion pointed excitedly into the distance and shouted.

Upon hearing this, Shi Cheng and the others leapt atop the bastion, gazing into the distance. They saw thousands of Swiftwind Horses charging towards them at breakneck speed, kicking up a trail of dust. Who else could it be at the forefront if not Manor Master Huang Canghai?

"That's wonderful!"

Seeing Huang Canghai leading over a thousand disciples to their location, Shi Cheng knew that Golden Crow Manor was safe and sound. He was so moved that he couldn't help but shed tears of joy.

The thousands of Golden Crow Manor disciples who survived the ordeal around the bastion were even more exhilarated than Shi Cheng and the higher-ups. Regardless of whether they were injured or not, they all cheered and rushed forward to welcome Huang Canghai and the others.

"You don't need to go welcome them."

Seeing Xia Chenyu also seemed somewhat eager to go greet Huang Canghai, Fang Bai grasped her delicate hand and whispered, "As a woman of Fang Bai, your status is much more distinguished than Huang Canghai's! It is he who should be coming to pay respects to us!"

Xia Chenyu's gaze twinkled playfully as she glanced at him with a flirtatious smile, saying teasingly, "We haven't had the closest of relationships yet. I can't really be considered your woman, can I?"

Fang Bai, knowing she was toying with him again, snorted twice, and said, "I believe that soulful communion is more important than physical interaction!"

"But I feel that the communication between soul and body is equally important!"

"Well... we will have plenty of time for that in the future..."

"And when is this future?"

"When we both reach the Innate Realm and successfully establish our foundations."

"What? Didn't you say before that once we reach the Innate Realm, we can become true Martial Dao partners?"

"I thought about it, and decided it's best after successfully establishing our foundations. Think about it, those tall buildings in the mundane world, if their foundations are not solid, they might risk collapse. If we compare Cultivation to building a structure, only with a solid foundation can we reach higher realms more quickly and safely. Otherwise, we might encounter various risks, like Deviation... I am considering our future Cultivation..."

"I don't care about Cultivation or not! Anyway, when I reach the Innate Realm, if you don't come to conquer me, then I will conquer you!"

"Ssh... you want to force the issue like a conquering overlord! I will resist!"

"Resistance is futile! Giggle... You are now like the 'Tang Monk's flesh'; surrounded by so many women, it wouldn't be wrong for me to take the first bite!"

"Not just anyone can handle my flesh..."

"I know, I know, you have the Chaos True Body, a single drop of your blood could burst a normal Martial Artist's body... Just keep bragging!"

"I'm really not bragging..."

Chapter 1317: He Can't Afford It!

Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu were conversing when the four sisters of Rou Fu stood right beside them, exhibiting no intention to excuse themselves.

The four sisters of Rou Fu pricked up their ears to eavesdrop on Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu, catching every word. However, they were utterly confused, understanding only half of the conversation.

"What does 'soul melding' mean?"

"Don't really get it..."

"And what about 'physical interaction'?"

"Don't understand that either..."

"What about when Sister Xia talks about 'you push me down, I push you down'... Do they actually want to fight?"

"Probably..."

"And what does 'overbearing force' mean?"

"No idea..."

"And who is this Monk Tang? Is his meat really that delicious?"

"Hmm, from what Sister Xia says, it seems to be really tasty!"

...

Hearing the sisters of Rou Fu whispering among themselves, Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu exchanged glances and couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Xia Chenyu held back her laughter and whispered to Fang Bai: "Stop it, we'll spoil the kids!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and nodded: "Right, let's drop it... drop it..."

"Let's talk about serious matters."

After exchanging jokes with Fang Bai for a bit, Xia Chenyu then put away her smile and said seriously, "Regardless, Golden Crow Manor has granted me the favor of saving my life and offering refuge. Now that Manor Master Huang has arrived, wouldn't it be inappropriate if I don't go to greet him?"

Fang Bai curled his lips and said, "Golden Crow Manor only saved your life, yet I saved the lives of tens of thousands of disciples of Golden Crow Manor. In terms of favors, mine are much greater! Besides, I'm a genuine Innate Expert in terms of combat ability; even Huang Canghai would have to call me Senior upon seeing me. Since you're my woman, why should you greet Huang Canghai? It's more than he deserves!"

After some thought, Xia Chenyu felt that Fang Bai's words made sense. If she went to greet Huang Canghai, it would be lowering her own status, and by extension, Fang Bai's as well.

The True Martial Realm is a world where the strong prey on the weak, a world that deeply believes in the law of the jungle. The status and identity of a Martial Artist are all earned through strength. Although Huang Canghai is the Family Head of a Prominent Clan, facing Fang Bai with Innate strength, he could only consider himself a junior.

"Alright, I'll listen to you."

Xia Chenyu corrected her mindset, obediently stood beside Fang Bai, and waited for Huang Canghai to come and pay his respects.

From a distance, Huang Canghai, Shi Cheng, and the others exchanged a few words upon meeting, and then hurried over to Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu under the lead of Huang Canghai.

Shock and disbelief were written all over Huang Canghai's face, clearly, Shi Cheng had already informed him of Fang Bai possessing Innate strength.

Fang Bai, within the Golden Crow Manor, had only shown the power of perfection at the Universe Level, earning the right to stand on equal footing with Huang Canghai. However, not long after arriving at the Essence Stone Vein, he leaped into the realm of Innate Experts. No wonder Huang Canghai felt both shocked and incredulous at the same time.

"Could it be that Fang Bai did not reveal his true strength when he was in the Golden Crow Manor?"

Gazing at Fang Bai's excessively handsome, youthful visage from afar, Huang Canghai harbored a feeling of unreality, unable to understand how such a monstrously talented genius could exist in the True Martial Realm.

An Innate Expert in his twenties, such a prodigy is likely to make even the favored sons of those Innate Sects feel ashamed, aren't they?

Huang Canghai approached Fang Bai with complex emotions, studying him closely. Fang Bai seemed enshrouded in mist and clouds; at first glance, his cultivation level seemed to be similar to his own, yet there was an underlying pressure emanating from Fang Bai, venerable and unattainable, making his true strength utterly unfathomable.

"Senior Fang..."

Remembering what Shi Cheng had said about Fang Bai forming wings out of Essence Energy—a most notable trait of Innate Experts—Huang Canghai did not dare to be negligent. Taking a deep breath, he clasped his fist and bowed deeply to Fang Bai, saying, "I have heard about everything from Elder Shi. If not for Senior Fang, Golden Crow Manor would have faced a catastrophe! On behalf of the tens of thousands of disciples of Golden Crow Manor, I thank Senior Fang!"

"Thank you, Senior Fang!"

Standing behind Huang Canghai, Shi Cheng and the others, together with Huang Canghai, clasped their fists and bowed deeply, expressing their profound gratitude.

At this moment, over ten thousand disciples of the Golden Crow Manor were present, thanking in unison. Their voices thundered, making for an impressive scene.

Xia Chenyu stood side by side with Fang Bai, watching Manor Master Huang Canghai and her former cultivation peers bow deeply towards them, feeling unexpectedly at a loss for what to do and turned her head to look at Fang Bai.

Fang Bai gave Xia Chenyu a reassuring look, and after Huang Canghai and the others had finished their deep bows of thanks, he lazily said, "Manor Huang, you're too courteous! Is everything at Golden Crow Manor resolved?"

Huang Canghai was taken aback for a moment, then he understood what Fang Bai was referring to and hurriedly replied, "It's resolved. Thanks to Senior Fang and your friend here breaking through the Tianji Sect disciples, the news reached the ears of those besieging the Golden Crow Manor, and they immediately retreated in disarray. Otherwise, it would have been difficult to say whether Golden Crow Manor could have been saved..."

Just then, a muffled sound came from the sky in the distance. Fang Bai, Huang Canghai, and the others looked in the direction of the noise, only to see Li Chenzhou and Xuan Tianji rising from the ground into the sky.

At this moment, there was not a single spot on Xuan Tianji's body that was intact; he had become a bloodied figure, his skin split open possibly from the scorching heat of the Fire Primordial Qi, appearing charred and giving off an unpleasant burnt smell, as he gasped and moaned painfully, clearly having suffered terribly.

Xuan Tianji, using all his strength to skim through the air, tried to escape into the deep mountains far away, seeking a slim chance of survival, while Li Chenzhou, whose back now sported a pair of fire wings, followed behind in a steady pursuit.

The vast difference in strength rendered their chase reminiscent of a cat playing with a mouse.

"Who would have thought that Xuan Tianji, a Sect Master of a first-rate Sect, would end up in such a state today!"

As Huang Canghai witnessed Xuan Tianji's pathetic and severely wounded figure, he was moved with emotion, and also marveled at the fire wings on Li Chenzhou's back, thinking to himself that Elder Shi had rightly said Fang Bai's friend was also an Innate Expert.

Seeing the fire wings that had formed on Li Chenzhou's back, a cultivation of Fire-type Martial Arts brought to its zenith, affected Huang Canghai, who cultivated the same Fire-based Technique, with both admiration and envy.

The Tianji Sect had mobilized tens of thousands of their elite disciples, intent on annihilating the Golden Crow Manor and occupying the Essence Stone Vein, only to encounter the counterattack of two great Innate Experts—a truly unfortunate fate well deserved.

"They have only themselves to blame for their misdeeds which are beyond redemption!"

Shi Cheng, who had deep animosity towards Xuan Tianji, snorted, "If this old thief, Xuan Tianji, hadn't been consumed by his ambition to destroy our Golden Crow Manor and take over our Essence Stone Vein, how could he have come to such an end? The Golden Crow Manor has lost tens of thousands of disciples in this battle, and the injured are countless. It's largely because of Xuan Tianji that he should die ten times, a hundred times, and it would still not be enough to make up for the blood debt!"

The other high-ranking officials of the Golden Crow Manor agreed, each word they uttered filled with hatred.

Chapter 1318: Crossing the Void

Fang Bai looked up at the two people in the sky and after a few glances, he knew that Xuan Tianji was at the end of his rope. He loudly said, "Brother Li, have you had enough fun? If so, come down! I have something to discuss with you!"

In the sky, Li Chenzhou heard this and laughed heartily, responding, "Alright! Once I take care of this guy, I'll come down!"

Xuan Tianji, desperately trying to escape ahead, trembled all over when he heard the exchange between Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou. Knowing that his life was in its final moments, he spat out more vital blood from his mouth, his figure suddenly increased in speed trying to widen the gap between him and Li Chenzhou.

"If you manage to escape, I, Li Chenzhou, would have lost all my face! Just come down!"

Behind Li Chenzhou, a pair of fiery wings fluttered at high speed, and in an instant, he caught up to a few dozen feet behind Xuan Tianji. Amidst a cold laugh, he raised his hand and struck towards Xuan Tianji through the air.

As soon as his palm was extended, violent fluctuations occurred in the sky above Xuan Tianji's head, a large amount of crimson Fire Primordial Qi instantly converged there, forming into a giant palm of Fire Primordial Qi spanning ten feet.

That giant palm of Fire Primordial Qi emitted dazzling light, carried scorching high temperatures, and was accompanied by endless might, thunderously pressing down towards the top of Xuan Tianji's head.

"No..."

Xuan Tianji's body seemed to be bound by some mysterious force, unable to move, and he could only watch wide-eyed as the giant palm of flame pressed down, his face showing horror and desperation, his mouth emitting a piercing, tragic scream.

"Boom!"

The giant palm slammed onto Xuan Tianji, crashing his body from the sky to the ground, causing dust to fill the air.

Once the dust settled, a giant palm imprint over a dozen feet deep appeared on the ground, with Xuan Tianji's body lying across at its very center, his bones crushed, body flattened like a pancake, dead beyond doubt.

Huang Canghai, whose status and strength were both comparable to that of Xuan Tianji, witnessed this scene and felt a chill down his spine.

This was the first time Huang Canghai had witnessed an Innate Expert unleash their divine might, killing Xuan Tianji, a Universe Level perfectionist, with a single slap. It truly shocked him, increasing his reverence for Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou.

For Li Chenzhou, killing Xuan Tianji seemed like an insignificant trifle. He dissipated the wings of Fire Primordial Qi behind him, then as if treading on an invisible Heavenly Ladder, he stepped down from the void to the ground one step at a time.

His display of this Martial Arts technique, crossing the void as if on solid ground, dazzled everyone present except for Fang Bai.

"Brother Fang, what is it that you are in a hurry to discuss with me?"

After landing, Li Chenzhou walked up to Fang Bai to inquire, then with a smile, nodded towards Xia Chenyu who was beside Fang Bai.

As for the four sisters Rou Fu standing behind Fang Bai, although they were young, beautiful, and with impressive abilities, being rare Martial Dao Geniuses, Li Chenzhou had seen countless geniuses throughout his life and thus didn't pay much attention to them.

And as for Huang Canghai and others, they were outright ignored by Li Chenzhou.

Not to mention that Xia Chenyu possessed an Innate Fire Spirit Root, with boundless potential on the Martial Dao path, but also considering her close relationship with Fang Bai, Li Chenzhou would not neglect her.

Although Huang Canghai was the head of a prominent clan and a Universe Level perfectionist, Li Chenzhou didn't even consider ordinary Innate Experts, let alone him?

Used to being the center of attention, Huang Canghai now felt somewhat awkward being ignored, but he understood that the world's powerhouses all possess a proud spirit, so even though Li Chenzhou snubbed him, he dared not show the slightest grudge, and could only stand by with a forced smile.

"Let me start with an introduction."

Fang Bai glanced at Huang Canghai's expression and knew that he was eager to acquaint himself with Li Chenzhou, the Innate Expert, so he smiled, stepped aside, and introduced to Li Chenzhou, "This is Huang Canghai, the current Manor Master of Golden Crow Manor. The Golden Crow Manor has graced Chenyu with rescue and shelter."

Li Chenzhou "Oh"ed, his indifferent face finally showing a hint of a smile, and he nodded slightly towards Huang Canghai.

Huang Canghai was immediately thrilled, his spine instinctively straightening.

Innate Experts are legendary powerful beings, their strength at the Martial Dao Peak of this world. For any Loose Cultivator or Sect to make acquaintance with an Innate Expert is a matter of great prestige, able to deter enemy Sects and factions.

This was also Huang Canghai's purpose for wanting to foster a closer relationship with Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou.

Of course, Fang Bai is now also an Innate Expert, but with Xia Chenyu serving as a link, Golden Crow Manor had already established a certain relationship with Fang Bai.

In Huang Canghai's view, however, Li Chenzhou's strength seemed to be even more formidable than Fang Bai's, and to make another Innate Expert acquaintance would be plentiful in advantages for Golden Crow Manor.

"Manor Huang, this is Brother Li Chenzhou, a friend whom I made acquaintance with not long ago," Fang Bai introduced Li Chenzhou to Huang Canghai again.

"Junior Huang Canghai, has the honor to meet Senior Li!"

Huang Canghai suppressed the excitement in his heart, composed himself with solemn dignity, bowed deeply with hands clasped in front, extremely respectful in demeanor.

Though Li Chenzhou's actual age was around sixty, which was only half of Huang Canghai's, his strength was an entire major realm higher than Huang Canghai. In a world where the accomplished take precedence and strength is revered, he was indeed a senior, and it was natural for Huang Canghai to pay his respects.

"Manor Huang, now that the Martial Artists Alliance and Tianji Sect who coveted the Essence Stone Vein have been driven away, should we not also fulfill our previous agreement?" Fang Bai asked with a smile, watching Huang Canghai.

Huang Canghai hurriedly said, "Of course, of course... Not to mention half of the Essence Stone Vein, if Senior Fang wishes to take it all, by all means, help yourself..."

Both Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou were Innate Experts. Together, they were a force even the Golden Crow Manor at its zenith could not contend with, let alone the now heavily damaged Golden Crow Manor. Should Fang Bai truly wish to possess the entire Essence Stone Vein, Huang Canghai could only silently cry inward, daring not utter a word of refusal.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Don't worry, half is enough for me! However, the amount of Essence Stones is too vast for me to carry away all at once, so I shall leave it here in your care at Golden Crow Manor for the time being. When the time comes and I need them, I'll come to retrieve them."

Upon hearing this, Huang Canghai inwardly sighed with relief and said with sincere earnestness, "Please rest assured, Senior Fang. Our Golden Crow Manor's disciples will guard the Essence Stone Mine well, preventing anyone from laying a finger on it!"

Fang Bai then said to Li Chenzhou, "Brother Li, if you ever need Fire Elemental Stones for your cultivation, just come here and ask the Manor Master for them. We are brothers, there's no need for politeness."

"Alright."

Li Chenzhou was a straightforward man, not fond of being coy, and he nodded in agreement with a laugh.

After a brief chat, Huang Canghai, seeing that Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou seemed to have some private matters to discuss, quickly excused himself to handle the aftermath of the battle.

And Xia Chenyu, after hearing a few whispered words from Fang Bai, displayed a hesitant expression but ultimately said, "You must be careful," before also following Huang Canghai and leaving.

Once everyone else had departed and only Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou were left on the scene, the two exchanged a look, then simultaneously turned their heads to gaze into the depths of the Eternal Death Zone.

Chapter 1319: Uncovering the Truth

"Back in the day, when I first arrived at the edge of the Eternal Death Zone, I had the same thought as you and tried to enter its core area to discover what caused this thousand-mile radius to be unbearably hot and devoid of any vegetation, and also why it harbored a huge Flame Elemental Stone Vein. However, the closer I got to the core area of the Eternal Death Zone, the hotter the surrounding temperature became, and eventually, I had to retreat because I could not withstand the extreme heat..."

Li Chenzhou stood shoulder to shoulder with Fang Bai, reminiscing about his past experiences with a sigh, then continued, "However, at that time, my strength had been compromised due to cultivation deviation, which was less than half of what it was at my peak—hence I was unable to venture further into the core of the Eternal Death Zone, leaving some regrets..."

Saying this, a proud look appeared on his face, and he said with a heroic spirit, "Now that my strength has returned to its peak, I'll accompany Brother Fang back into the core area of the Eternal Death Zone to unravel the truth! With the two of us joining forces, no matter how great the danger we encounter, we will be fearless!"

An Innate Expert at perfection is an existence that stands at the pinnacle of the Martial Dao in this world. Together, the two could indeed sweep across the era, unbeatable; thus Li Chenzhou had such bold assertions.

And the decision to join forces and venture deep into the Eternal Death Zone to investigate was mutually agreed upon by the two after Fang Bai healed Li Chenzhou in a deep underground pit previously.

Fang Bai was certain that there was a Spiritual Fire in the core area of the Eternal Death Zone, and Li Chenzhou was highly interested in the cause of the Eternal Death Zone's creation, so the two hit it off and decided to join forces.

Moreover, both of them were experienced and knowledgeable experts who knew that the depths of the Eternal Death Zone were not as some Martial Artists speculated—barren due to the high temperatures and devoid of life. Instead, it was very likely that fire-based Spirit Beasts that thrived on Fire Primordial Qi were active there, with formidable attacking power for sure.

Together, if they indeed encountered powerful fire-based Spirit Beasts, they would be more confident in repelling or even slaying them.

"Brother Li, shall we set off now?"

After standing in place for a moment, Fang Bai let out a soft sigh and said to Li Chenzhou.

"Alright!"

Li Chenzhou took several deep breaths and nodded solemnly.

The next moment, they dashed towards the deep parts of the Eternal Death Zone like lightning.

"Fang Bai, Brother Li, take care!"

Xia Chenyu, who was far away but had been watching them closely, saw their figures quickly disappearing into the dense Fire Primordial Qi, silently praying for them in her heart.

Just as Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou had anticipated, the deeper they went into the Eternal Death Zone, the richer the Fire Primordial Qi became. The red Fire Primordial Qi was like smoke and fog, enveloping everything and drastically reducing the visibility for Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, making the range they could see with their naked eyes more and more limited.

Luckily, both of them had developed Divine Sense, and any dangers within a radius of a thousand meters couldn't escape their keen perception.

They maintained a distance of several hundred meters apart, advancing side by side, swiftly moving forward. In this way, if one party was attacked, the other could come to their aid in a timely manner.

More than a hundred miles deep into the Eternal Death Zone, they began encountering incomplete human skeletons along the way. Some of the skeletons were lying next to items like Spatial Rings and Spiritual Artifacts, indicating that their owners were Martial Artists in life.

Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou collected near the skeletons of these Martial Artists to examine them.

Li Chenzhou's gaze swept over those skeletons, he sighed and said, "It's no wonder that the Eternal Death Zone is regarded as a Forbidden Zone of Life by Martial Artists, who dare not tread lightly within it. These fallen Martial Artists are the best evidence of that!"

He paused, then added, "More than a decade ago when I entered the Eternal Death Zone, I probably reached this place too. At that time, the high temperatures here were unbearable, so I withdrew before I could take a closer look at these skeletal remains."

Fang Bai crouched down to inspect the space rings and spiritual artifacts left beside the martial artists' skeletal remains, casually tossing them into his own spatial ring before standing up and saying, "These fallen martial artists, each and every one of their strength was above the high rank of Universe Level. Their purpose for entering this Eternal Death Zone must be the same as ours, wanting to explore and uncover the truth."

Li Chenzhou nodded, his gaze falling on a set of martial artist's bones, his expression growing ever more solemn as he said, "Under normal circumstances, these martial artists should have been able to retreat from the high temperatures here with ease, but they perished in this place. I think they must have encountered an attack from some powerful fire-based spirit beast!"

"So as we continue forward, we must be cautious! Brother Li, if we encounter danger, remember to sound a warning call!"

After exchanging a few words in haste, Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou again increased their distance and continued forward.

The two slowed down, becoming even more careful and watchful, especially Li Chenzhou, who clenched his fists tightly and kept his eyes wide open, fully on guard.

The spirit beast capable of killing martial artists of high Universe Level must be even stronger, plus, since those beasts live in the Eternal Death Zone, they should be more adapted to the environment and able to wield the fire primordial qi here to launch attacks at will.

Considering this point, even though both of them were Innate Experts at perfection or possessed the fighting power of such, they didn't dare to be careless.

Fortunately, after walking another hundred li, they did not spot any traces of spirit beasts.

Yet, Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou did not relax in the slightest because of this, but instead became even more cautious.

You must know, the deeper one goes into the core area of the Eternal Death Zone, the richer the fire primordial qi becomes, and the higher the temperature rises. Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou had already ventured nearly three hundred li inward, and by a rough estimate, they were not far from the most concentrated and scorching core of the Eternal Death Zone.

Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou were certain that there were fire-based spirit beasts in the Eternal Death Zone, and there was more than one. However, they had not yet encountered any, which likely meant that these fire system spirit beasts were in areas even closer to the core of the Eternal Death Zone.

The strength of a spirit beast that could survive in such high temperatures was truly formidable.

"The fire-based spirit beasts here are at least equivalent to humans at the Universe Level of perfection!"

Li Chenzhou transmitted his voice to Fang Bai, "Against such spirit beasts, we wouldn't fear ten or eight, and we could also slay or drive away thirty or fifty. But if the numbers are greater, it would be troublesome."

Fang Bai replied, "If they are equivalent to spirit beasts at the Universe Level of perfection, as long as there aren't more than a hundred, leave them to me to handle. If there's a large number of Innate Level spirit beasts, the two of us may only have the pathetic option of fleeing back."

With his current cultivation level, Fang Bai could control about a hundred spirit beasts equivalent to Universe Level martial artists by exerting the Beast Taming Art, and even control three to five comparable to Innate Experts for a short while. But beyond that number, he would be overwhelmed.

"Brother Fang, you also know the Beast Taming Art?"

Li Chenzhou was greatly surprised upon hearing Fang Bai's claim that he could handle a hundred spirit beasts equivalent to Universe Level perfection.

If Fang Bai truly had this ability, it would add an important safety factor for their journey to the core region of the Eternal Death Zone.

Seeing Fang Bai nod in confirmation, Li Chenzhou's mood suddenly became much lighter.

Chapter 1320: There is a Strong Opponent Ahead

As they continued forward, both of them noticed that the scorched earth beneath their feet gradually turned into sand and stones, and each grain of sand, each stone, seemed to be suffused with a faint crimson hue, as if they had just been tempered by intense flames, radiating astonishing heat, abruptly causing the surrounding temperature to soar by more than double.

"Brother Fang, could it be that we have arrived at the core region of the Eternal Death Zone?"

Li Chenzhou's voice, suddenly carrying over from a few hundred meters away, came to Fang Bai's ears, infused with a hint of excitement.

"Mmh, it seems likely."

Fang Bai responded.

"Eh? There are actually spiritual medicines here! And they are all high-quality fire-attribute spirit medicines!"

A moment later, Li Chenzhou exclaimed in surprise, his tone filled with delight.

"That's right, these are all fire-attribute high-quality spirit medicines with a medicinal age of over two thousand years."

Fang Bai had spotted the spiritual medicines growing amidst the sand and stones on the ground even before Li Chenzhou, and was equally surprised.

At first, the fire system spirit medicines were sparse, but the closer to the core region of the Eternal Death Zone they got, the more plentiful they became, visible as far as the eye could see, and the longer their medicinal age, the more luxuriant their growth.

Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou even saw quite a few fire-attribute high-quality spirit medicines that were over three thousand years old.

Spirit medicines with an age of over three thousand years, if placed in the outside world, would drive countless martial artists insane with greed, fighting over them desperately. Even Innate Experts like Li Chenzhou would be tempted.

Li Chenzhou said, "I've only come to know now that those who say that a thousand li around the Eternal Death Zone is barren, not a blade of grass growing, they are all talking nonsensical! With so many high-quality spiritual medicines here, this is truly a treasure land that martial artists dream of!"

Fang Bai responded with a smile, "Perhaps no martial artist has managed to venture this deep before us and thus assumed that the entire thousand-li radius of the Eternal Death Zone was a desolate wasteland."

Li Chenzhou's eyes sparkled with excitement, "That being said, are we the first to come here? Haha... Brother Fang, let's continue forward. Who knows, there may be more surprises waiting ahead of us! Even if there aren't, just bringing back these high-quality fire-attribute spirit medicines would make this trip worthwhile!"

Hence, the two of them temporarily ignored the increasingly abundant fire-attribute spirit medicines at their sides and continued to move forward at a reduced speed, watching the surrounding spirit medicines carefully to avoid missing any with an even greater medicinal age.

For Innate Experts in their peak state like them, spirit medicines with a three-thousand-year medicinal age could only pique their interest slightly, while those over four thousand years of age belonged to the rarest and most precious in the world, and they would definitely pick and take them away if they found any.

Fang Bai gazed toward the direction ahead where the crimson essence energy was denser, thinking to himself, "There must be a Spiritual Fire in the core region of the Eternal Death Zone, and alongside it, powerful Spirit Beasts on guard. Securing the Spiritual Fire will likely entail a tough battle. I wonder if Brother Fang and I can successfully capture the Spiritual Fire."

Fang Bai's purpose for entering the core region of the Eternal Death Zone this time was for the Spiritual Fire; he was determined to obtain it.

As for Li Chenzhou, Fang Bai never considered letting him have the Spiritual Fire.

It was not that Fang Bai was unwilling to share, but rather that the Spiritual Fire is an existence surpassing worldly flames, its power far too fierce and domineering. Although Li Chenzhou was an Innate Expert, and possessed a Fire Spirit Root, he was still incapable of withstanding the Might of the Spirit Fire; to give the Spiritual Fire to him would be tantamount to harming him.

Concerning the matter of the Spiritual Fire, Fang Bai had not informed Li Chenzhou previously, but believed that after witnessing the power of the Spiritual Fire, Li Chenzhou would naturally shy away from it, not daring to harbor any thoughts of claiming it for himself.

Thus, the Spiritual Fire within the Eternal Death Zone would ultimately have to be subdued by himself.

During his past life when Fang Bai roamed the nine domains of the Immortal Realm, he had subdued several powerful Immortal Fires capable of burning the heavens and scorching the earth, and as for the Spiritual Fires in the Cultivation World, he had conquered countless, bringing with him a wealth of experience.

It was just that presently, Fang Bai's cultivation level had not reached the true Innate Realm, and to subdue the Spiritual Fire might encounter some unimaginably difficult challenges.

However, Fang Bai believed that with the terrifyingly powerful Chaos True Body, which was even stronger and rarer throughout the ages than in his previous life, he should be able to withstand the impact of the Spirit Fire Power even if he forcefully absorbed the Spiritual Fire into the Qi Sea within his body.

After advancing several tens of miles further, Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou seemed to sense something, their eyebrows raising in unison, exchanging glances with a look of surprise in their eyes.

"There seems to be the presence of an Innate Expert ahead..."

Fang Bai frowned and said, pausing his movement.

"I've sensed it too..."

Li Chenzhou flew toward Fang Bai's side, his face grave as he spoke: "Moreover, there's not just one Innate Expert. Among them, the cultivation level of two individuals is on par with mine. Alas, I thought we were the earliest to arrive, but I never expected others to have gotten ahead of us..."

"Let's go over and see first!"

Fang Bai pondered briefly before moving ahead swiftly.

Li Chenzhou took a deep breath and followed closely behind Fang Bai.

"Brother Fang, if the treasures we desire have been taken by the others, do we rob them or not?"

Li Chenzhou asked as they sped along.

Without turning his head, Fang Bai replied: "First come, first served. If the others are willing to share the treasures, all will be well. Otherwise... we'll take action and forcibly seize them!"

Li Chenzhou laughed heartily: "I like the way you think! I had the same intention!"

After dozens of breaths, they looked ahead to find a mountain ridge hundreds of meters tall suddenly appearing in front of them.

The mountain ridge stretched across their path, blocking their way forward, with no end in sight to the left or right.

The sky on the other side of the ridge was a shade of crimson, likely illuminated by the flames underneath, and waves of extraordinarily hot air were spreading over the ridge, surging toward them and engulfing Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou with heat comparable to flames.

"It's so hot! Could the other side of the mountain ridge be the very core area of the Eternal Death Zone?"

Li Chenzhou wiped the thin layer of sweat on his forehead, unable to help himself from remarking.

Fortunately, he possessed the Innate Fire Spirit Root, allowing him to barely withstand such heat without the need to use True Yuan to counteract it. Otherwise, once his True Yuan was depleted, he wouldn't be able to stay here and would be forced to retreat the way he came.

As for Fang Bai, his physique was much stronger than Li Chenzhou's, and his ability to resist heat was even more formidable; such temperatures had no impact on him.

"To reach the core area of the Eternal Death Zone, there's still some distance to go. Let's head up the ridge first and take a look!"

Fang Bai slightly narrowed his eyes, gazing intently toward the ridge ahead.

On the ridge, more than a dozen martial artists were standing, each one radiating the aura of an Innate Expert, with the strongest two being on equal footing with Li Chenzhou, and the rest were also high-rank Innate Experts.

Those Innate Experts were all cultivating Fire-based Techniques, closely attuned with the Fire Primordial Qi. Otherwise, regardless of their strength, they would not have been able to venture so deeply into this place where the temperature had reached a terrifying degree.