

Doctor 1331

Chapter 1331: Another Promotion, Innate Perfection!

The Red Silkworm Spirit Fire was one of the spiritual fires that Fang Bai subdued in his previous life in the three thousand great worlds.

Fang Bai's physical body was destroyed in the ninth heavenly domain of the Immortal Realm by the joint attack of eight Immortal Emperors, including various kinds of spiritual fires and Immortal Fires like the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, which subsequently scattered across the universe, whereabouts unknown.

The encounter with the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire was the first time Fang Bai had come across a spiritual fire from his previous life after his rebirth through body possession, naturally stirring immense excitement in his heart.

If he could devour the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire again, Fang Bai would have the hope of directly forging a foundation of Fire Primordial Qi, which would substantially enhance his strength.

Although the body Fang Bai took over through possession is a rare Chaos True Body, far more robust than his physical form in his past life, Fang Bai's current cultivation level has not truly entered the Innate Realm. If he forcefully consumed the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, whether his body could withstand the terrifying high temperatures of the impact is something Fang Bai had no solid confidence in.

If the power of the spiritual fire were to exceed Fang Bai's body's capacity, his internal organs would probably turn to ash instantly, essentially setting himself on fire.

Yet, upon seeing the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, a natural sense of affection pervaded Fang Bai's heart, and he involuntarily took steps closer towards it. Even though his body suffered from the burning high temperatures released by the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, causing excruciating pain, he still persevered through gritted teeth.

Fang Bai is not an impulsive man, but upon first sight of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, he made up his mind to devour it.

For Fang Bai, forcefully devouring the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire was a risky gamble.

If he won this gamble, Fang Bai's strength would significantly increase, moving him a substantial step closer to his goal of returning to the three thousand great worlds.

But if he lost, Fang Bai might perish here, with his remains possibly reduced to dust under the intense heat of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire.

Five hundred meters... three hundred meters... two hundred meters... one hundred meters...

Fang Bai's legs felt as if they were weighed down with lead, becoming heavier and heavier, and his pace slower, yet he never stopped walking, his gaze also unwaveringly firm.

When he was about a hundred meters away from the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, the cluster of fire that resembled a silkworm suddenly seemed to be whipped up by a gust, flickering rapidly a few times.

Then, a Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion about the size of a fist seemed to burst forth from the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, joyfully rushing towards Fang Bai at high speed.

During this process, the size of the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion rapidly increased from small to large, reaching Fang Bai's front, its size had grown to a couple of meters.

On closer inspection, it could be seen that the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion was not made of flesh and blood, but entirely of fire illusion, extremely lifelike, indistinguishable from the real thing.

By the time one looked back at that small flame, it had already disappeared.

"I never expected that after so many years, even though I've changed bodies, you still recognize me..."

Fang Bai looked at the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion that had run up to him, his expression filled with excitement, muttering as he couldn't help but reach out to touch its head.

The Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion blinked its eyes, lowered its head, and actively rubbed against Fang Bai's hand, showing extreme docility.

"Hmm..."

Fang Bai's palm touched the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion, and instantly a burning pain like never before spread from his palm to his entire body, followed by a blur before his eyes, and the giant Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion unexpectedly vanished into thin air.

Fang Bai clearly knew what had happened and showed no sign of panic. With a face bearing pain, he sat down cross-legged where he was, eyes slightly closed, and swiftly entered a cultivation state.

At this moment, beneath the epidermis of Fang Bai's body, it was as if raging flames were burning, leaving his entire body reddened, seemingly on the verge of exploding at any moment—an extremely horrifying sight.

While cultivating, Fang Bai used his Divine Sense to look inward and found that the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion, which had disappeared from his sight, was indeed lying in his Qi Sea, only now it had shrunk to the size of a grain of rice.

Yet, this rice-sized Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion contained astonishing energy. If released, even ten Martial Artists at the peak of the Innate Realm could hardly endure it.

The so-called Spiritual Fire is flame that absorbs the Heaven and Earth Fire Essence Energy and possesses certain spirituality; its power is indeed not comparable to ordinary mundane fire.

And Spiritual Fire will give birth to a Fire Spirit. The Fire Spirit of a Spiritual Fire is akin to the thoughts and soul of human Martial Artists. Once the Fire Spirit disappears, the Spiritual Fire ceases to exist as well.

And the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion that had just transformed from Fire Primordial Qi was precisely the Fire Spirit of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire.

In his past life, the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire was subdued by Fang Bai and later, as Fang Bai's physical body was destroyed, the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire scattered across these thousand Minor Worlds,

creating miles of Essence Stone Veins and also turning this place into a Forbidden Zone of Life, feared by Martial Artists.

As Fang Bai approached, the Fire Spirit of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire sensed the aura of this former master. Without waiting for Fang Bai to devour it again, it actively entered into Fang Bai's Qi Sea, aiming to merge with the Chaos Origin Energy within.

The sudden intrusion of the Fire Spirit of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire into his Qi Sea caused Fang Bai immense pain. If not for Fang Bai possessing the Chaos True Body in this life, with a divine physique forcibly suppressing the power of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire's Fire Spirit, his body truly might have exploded.

Even so, Fang Bai's internal meridians and blood vessels were continuously scorched by the powerful force of fire, breaking and then healing, healing and then breaking, over and over again. The pain was unimaginable to ordinary people, but Fang Bai persevered through it with stubborn will.

Day and night passed, the moon rose and set, and after an indeterminate amount of time, Fang Bai, whose face was contorted from the pain, finally regained a calm state, sitting cross-legged like an Old Monk in meditation for a long time before he took a relieving deep breath and slowly opened his eyes.

Inside his pupils, two clusters of flame appeared and disappeared instantly, and a startling fiery aura suddenly dispersed from his body, scattering vigorously in all directions, turning the surrounding area for miles into flat land.

By this time, the Fire Spirit of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire in Fang Bai's Qi Sea had been integrated into the pool of Chaos Origin Energy, and the Fire Primordial Qi component that constituted the Chaos Origin Energy had thus grown stronger.

"What a pity, with the aid of the Spiritual Fire, I still couldn't establish the foundation..."

Fang Bai stood up regretfully, sighing lightly.

At this moment, Fang Bai had transcended from the previous Universe Level perfection and stepped into the realm of Innate perfection. However, he felt somewhat disappointed for not successfully establishing the foundation.

"Advancing from Universe Level perfection to Innate perfection is already a great leap; expecting to establish a foundation is being too greedy. Moreover, if the foundation is unstable, it could hinder future cultivation. Let's take it slow!"

Fang Bai consoled himself, then took out a set of clothes from the Spatial Ring, put them on with a relaxed smile, and turned, striding away.

The temperature in the Eternal Death Zone was incredibly high because of the presence of the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, but now that the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire had been subdued by Fang Bai again, the temperature there drastically decreased.

Although the Fire Primordial Qi in the Eternal Death Zone did not disperse and there were Flame Elemental Stone Veins underground, the temperature was still much hotter than other regions. However, compared to before, it had improved significantly, at least allowing Martial Artists above the Innate Realm to venture deeper into it now.

Chapter 1332: Return to Simplicity

"What's happening?"

"The temperature has suddenly dropped a lot!"

"I wonder if this has anything to do with Brother Fang."

...

The temperature in the Eternal Death Zone plummeted suddenly, and Li Chenzhou, Yin Tianyu, and Jing Chaoyu felt it the moment it happened.

The three of them stood up one after another, looking towards the core area of the Eternal Death Zone with a look of surprise on their faces.

The Eternal Death Zone had existed for who knows how long—through countless trials of wind, frost, rain, and snow—but the temperature within these thousand miles had never changed.

However, after Fang Bai entered, the apparently constant temperature here underwent a tremendous change, which naturally led Li Chenzhou and the others to think of Fang Bai.

But then again, they dismissed the thought, reasoning that no matter how powerful Fang Bai was, he was still human, not a deity. How could one person change the temperature across a thousand miles?

Yet, if this matter was unrelated to Fang Bai, what else could have caused it?

With that question in mind, Li Chenzhou and the others used their movement technique to rush towards the core area of the Eternal Death Zone.

After covering several miles, a figure suddenly appeared in their line of sight.

"That is... Brother Fang!"

Seeing the figure, Li Chenzhou's face lit up with joyful surprise, exclaiming involuntarily.

The newcomer was dressed in a white robe, extraordinarily handsome—it was none other than Fang Bai himself.

Fang Bai seemed to walk slowly, but with each step, he covered dozens of yards, and in almost the blink of an eye, he had traveled hundreds of meters to appear before Li Chenzhou and the others.

His speed was incredibly fast, making Yin Tianyu and Jing Chaoyu's pupils contract slightly. They exchanged glances, both seeing a trace of shock in each other's eyes.

Although the two of them were quite proud, they knew even if they gave their all, they couldn't match Fang Bai's speed.

From this, it could be inferred that Fang Bai's current strength had far surpassed theirs.

"It seems that Brother Fang must have obtained the treasured item guarded by the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion in the core area of the Eternal Death Zone, and thus his strength has been greatly enhanced."

Thinking this, Yin Tianyu and Jing Chaoyu felt both envy and jealousy. However, the strength Fang Bai had just shown thoroughly extinguished any thoughts of seizing it from him.

Despite knowing they couldn't get the treasure, Yin Tianyu and Jing Chaoyu were still very curious to see what the treasured item was, which would make their trip to the Eternal Death Zone worthwhile.

"Brother Fang, you have been gone for half a month, which truly worried me! Seeing that you are unharmed, I can rest easy!"

Li Chenzhou had also noticed the improvement in Fang Bai's strength and looked him up and down a few times, saying cheerfully.

"Has it been half a month?"

Fang Bai was startled, then gave a wry smile. He hadn't expected that after absorbing the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, it would take him half a month to completely refine it and integrate it into the bead of Chaos Origin Energy.

And in his previous life, when Fang Bai subdued such a low-level Spiritual Fire as the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, it only took him three to five days to refine it.

However, in his previous life, Fang Bai was only able to subjugate and refine the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire after successfully establishing his Foundation, but the current Fang Bai has just stepped into the Innate Realm and has already subdued and refined the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, a very rare feat.

"From the time you left until now, no more no less, just half a month!"

Li Chenzhou, just like the Black and White Demons, was full of questions and wanted to get answers from Fang Bai's mouth, so he asked, "Brother Fang, what have you been doing in this half a month? And, what exactly is the treasure guarded by those Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lions?"

Fang Bai smiled and said: "I have already said, it's just a cluster of flames."

Seeing that Li Chenzhou and the other two were skeptical, Fang Bai extended his left arm out, palm facing up, and a red gleam flashed through his eyes.

Immediately, under the astonished gazes of Li Chenzhou and the others, a small flame, resembling a silkworm, appeared in the center of Fang Bai's palm, gently pulsating.

"You mean to say... the treasure guarded by the ten Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lions is this cluster of flames?"

Li Chenzhou pointed at the flame in Fang Bai's palm as he asked.

Seeing Fang Bai nod, Li Chenzhou frowned and began to carefully observe the cluster of flames, muttering, "There doesn't seem to be anything special about it..."

No sooner had he spoken than the flame in Fang Bai's palm suddenly released a dazzling light, so bright that it pained Li Chenzhou's eyes and he instinctively closed them.

The next moment, Li Chenzhou felt the temperature around him sharply increase, returning to the previous intensely hot state, and in an instant, his clothes were soaked with sweat.

"This flame is not ordinary fire but Spiritual Fire, naturally born from heaven and earth. Its temperature is so high that it can melt steel. If I had just released the full heat of the Spiritual Fire, even with your strength, Brother Li, it would be hard to withstand."

Fang Bai saw Li Chenzhou retreat ten-odd zhang before opening his eyes again and continued with a smile, "Without this cluster of flames, the Eternal Death Zone would not exist, nor the underground Essence Stone Vein... "

Li Chenzhou, observing the flame in Fang Bai's palm from a distance, showed a slight trace of fear in his expression, and said, "Are you suggesting... that it was this Spiritual Fire that created the Eternal Death Zone and formed the Essence Stone Vein?"

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Exactly."

"This... such a small cluster of flames, could it really be so miraculous?"

Li Chenzhou was astounded and muttered, "I suppose only Immortal Fire would possess such power, right?"

Fang Bai rolled his eyes, thinking that Immortal Fire can burn the heavens and destroy the earth, with a might beyond imagination. If the flame in my palm were really Immortal Fire, then including myself, all four of us would have already turned to ash, how could we still be standing here talking just fine?

Yin Tianyu and Jing Chaoyu were originally arrogant and conceited, rarely putting any Martial Artist in their eyes, but at this moment, the look they gave Fang Bai carried a hint of reverence.

This cluster of Spiritual Fire made them step back far away, not daring to approach, and Fang Bai was able to subdue it, doesn't that mean that Fang Bai's strength has reached an extremely terrible level that they can only look up to?

At this time, when they looked at Fang Bai closely, they found that Fang Bai increasingly resembled an ordinary person; they could not sense any trace of Martial Artist Aura on him.

Such a discovery was even more shocking to Yin Tianyu and the others.

Because they knew that this state of Fang Bai's was what is known in legends as returning to simplicity and truth.

If before entering the Eternal Death Zone, the two of them felt they had some competition with Fang Bai, now, setting aside the terrifyingly powerful Spiritual Fire in Fang Bai's palm, even with just his fists and kicks, Fang Bai could easily eliminate the both of them.

That is to say, Fang Bai's combat strength has already far surpassed that of Innate perfection level experts like them, reaching a higher level.

However, the Innate Realm is already the pinnacle of the Martial Dao in this world; what kind of realm lies beyond that, and how should one cultivate to reach such a realm?

For a time, the Black and White Demons, whose very names could change the expressions of Martial Artists in the True Martial Realm, stood there as if entranced, seemingly lost in their thoughts.

Chapter 1333: Harvest

A few breaths later, under the reverent gazes of Li Chenzhou, Yin Tianyu, and Jing Chaoyu, Fang Bai retracted the Red Silkworm Spiritual Fire, and the temperature around them instantly dropped.

Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons

breathed a sigh of relief and then returned to Fang Bai's side.

"A single spark affecting thousands of miles around... this Spiritual Fire is formidable indeed!"

Li Chenzhou marveled, reminiscing about the terrifying sensation of being engulfed in fierce flames, still feeling residual fear.

"With this Spiritual Fire, you are unmatched in the True Martial Realm!"

Yin Tianyu spoke up, his face, previously cold and proud, had completely changed to one of envy and humility.

Although Jing Chaoyu was somewhat more reserved than Yin Tianyu, his gaze towards Fang Bai was also filled with reverence.

In this world, without power, there is no basis for pride.

The Black and White Demons could maintain an overwhelming presence in front of Martial Artists weaker than them, but in front of Fang Bai, they dared not.

The small cluster of Spiritual Fire displayed by Fang Bai just now forced them to retreat tens of meters to avoid its sharpness, leaving them deeply shaken. They realized that in future confrontations, Fang Bai would not even need to resort to physical attacks; merely presenting the cluster of Spiritual Fire would be sufficient to make opponents retreat in alarm.

The Black and White Demons were envious yet not jealous, understanding that they lacked the capability to subdue such a powerful and domineering cluster of Spiritual Fire even if Fang Bai were to transfer it to them at that moment.

The Black and White Demons also understood that treasures of the world belong to those destined to have them; those not fated cannot forcibly claim them.

Fang Bai obtaining the Spiritual Fire was through his own fortune.

Through this event, the Black and White Demons gained a new understanding of Fang Bai's power and their attitude towards him transformed greatly. Though they did not overtly flatter, their manner of speaking was inexplicably humble and respectful, clearly positioning themselves as juniors.

The purpose of Fang Bai and the others' journey was to explore the core area of the Eternal Death Zone for treasures. Now that the treasure has revealed its true form as a cluster of Spiritual Fire and obtained by Fang Bai, there's no further point in staying.

"It's a pity about those Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lions that got away; we missed their Beast Cores!"

Slightly remorseful, Li Chenzhou lamented before leaving.

Earlier, they had formed the Boundless Extreme Array, slaying five Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lions and obtaining five Beast Cores. However, another five managed to escape without a trace, which filled Li Chenzhou with regret.

It's worth mentioning that among those escaped, there were two Innate Perfection level Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lions. Their Beast Cores would have been greatly beneficial for their cultivation as Innate Perfection experts; missing out now, who knows if such an opportunity would come again.

Fang Bai waved his hand and said, "Forget it, since they escaped, it means their fate was not yet sealed. We need not pursue them to the point of extinction!"

Since Fang Bai spoke up, no one dared to object, though they felt it was a pity about the Beast Cores of the Innate Spirit Beasts.

"When you go back, Brother Li, try to pick as many Fire-attribute Spirit Medicines as possible. I will refine a batch of superior elixirs for you, to make up for the loss of those Beast Cores!"

Fang Bai said with a smile to Li Chenzhou, glancing at the Black and White Demons and added, "You two are included!"

After saying this, he strode back the way he had come.

"Brother Fang once told me that he used to be a high-rank Alchemist, capable of refining high-rank elixirs. Now his strength far surpasses ours, and the elixirs he refines will certainly be of the highest quality among the superior ones. His promise to refine elixirs for you two is also your good fortune!"

Li Chenzhou said to the Black and White Demons, his eyes smiling.

The Black and White Demons were stirred, knowing that high-rank elixirs had superior, middle, and lower grades, with the superior ones being the best. Currently, in the True Martial Realm, they had never met an alchemist who could refine superior high-rank elixirs. If Fang Bai really could refine such Spiritual Medicine, it would assist their cultivation nearly as much as the superior Innate-level Beast Cores of the Red-Horned Golden-Eyed Lion.

"Brother Li, the martial artists of the world think that the Innate perfection is the pinnacle of Martial Dao, but you and I both know that's not the case. Do you know what Martial Dao Realm lies above the Innate perfection?"

Yin Tianyu looked at the silhouette of Fang Bai and voiced his doubt.

In Yin Tianyu's opinion, Fang Bai was mysteriously unpredictable, far surpassing their strength, and might have already touched some Martial Dao secrets unknown to their realm. Since Li Chenzhou was familiar with Fang Bai, perhaps through Li Chenzhou, he could learn something related from Fang Bai's mouth.

Li Chenzhou chuckled bitterly, "I won't hide it from you; I am also in the dark about the Martial Dao Realm above Innate perfection. Let me ask Brother Fang when I get back and then I'll tell you."

"That would be much appreciated, Brother Li."

Yin Tianyu and Jing Chaoyu exchanged a glance, a hint of joy visible on their faces.

Both their cultivation levels were equal to Li Chenzhou's, but they were much older in age. Addressing him as "Brother Li" was both reasonable and also fostered closer relations.

The Black and White Demons bore no actual grudge against Fang Bai or Li Chenzhou; their previous disdain and desire to contend over treasures stemmed from simply not understanding Fang Bai's strength. Now, they lowered their posture and purposely tried to please Li Chenzhou.

Li Chenzhou was the type who responded better to soft tactics than hard ones. If the Black and White Demons continued being hostile, he would simply stop interacting with them. But now that the Black and White Demons were conceding, his original slight irritation vanished, and after a few words, they quickly became good friends.

As Fang Bai walked far ahead, the three also spread their movement techniques to follow.

However, they did not dare walk alongside Fang Bai, falling half a step behind instead, even the usually thick-skinned Li Chenzhou felt embarrassed to push forward, as it might disrespect Fang Bai.

On their way back, when they passed through the 'sea of fire' formed by thousands of high-grade Fire System Spirit Medicines, Fang Bai unreservedly opened his Spatial Ring and began picking rapidly.

The Spirit Medicines Fang Bai selected were all over three thousand years old, the value of which goes without saying, and they would be beneficial for Fang Bai's cultivation too.

Although Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons envied Fang Bai's actions, they could do nothing about it. They dared not openly compete or fight with Fang Bai, to avoid displeasing him.

A hundred breaths later, including Fang Bai, the four of them had their Spatial Rings filled with various high-grade Spirit Medicines and left contentedly.

Passing through the 'sea of fire' they saw on their way, they found it no longer as magnificent as before. The flames had significantly weakened, the temperature had dropped a lot, and most of the stone pillars standing in the sea of fire were exposed, making it easy to pass through with the help of the pillars—what was once a chasm had turned into a thoroughfare.

Chapter 1334: Must Not Speak

After Fang Bai subdued the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, the temperature within a thousand miles of the Eternal Death Zone suddenly changed dramatically, and even martial artists at the edge of the Eternal Death Zone sensed this change.

Most of these martial artists were from the upper echelons of the Golden Crow Manor, in addition to the "Fortune's Blessing" four sisters from the Ruoshui Palace, and Gu Yan along with four other Innate Experts from the Divine Fire Sect who had recently exited the core area of the Eternal Death Zone.

Although these martial artists were astonished by the temperature change in the Eternal Death Zone, they were clueless about the cause of this change and had not associated it with Fang Bai and his group.

"Do you think... Senior Fang has been gone for so long, could something have happened to him?"

The youngest of the "Fortune's Blessing" sisters, Rou Ling, tiptoed and gazed deeply into the depths of the Eternal Death Zone, her delicate, fair face filled with worry.

"Tsk tsk tsk, don't talk nonsense!"

"Senior Fang is so powerful, he won't be in any trouble!"

"Just wait a bit longer, maybe he will be back soon?"

Rou Fu, Rou Zhi, and Rou Xin, the three other sisters, also spoke out, each expressing their concerns and worry for Fang Bai.

The four sisters were innocent and young-at-heart, just at the age when affections start to form, and Fang Bai, being young, handsome, and highly capable, naturally attracted their favor, especially since he also had saved their lives.

Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou have been in the depths of the Eternal Death Zone for over half a month, during which Gu Yan and other Innate Experts had exited in succession, waiting for news at the fringe of the zone. Yet, there has been no sign of Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, deeply worrying the four sisters who never left.

They wanted to ask Gu Yan and the others if they had seen Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou but were intimidated by the oppressive aura of these high-rank Innate Experts and didn't dare to approach them.

If the Rou sisters were concerned and fond of Fang Bai, then the high-ranking individuals of Golden Crow Manor, led by Huang Canghai, could hardly settle their minds, fraught with anxiety for the return of Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou.

Although the Martial Artists Alliance and the Tianji Sect coveting the Essence Stone Veins had been defeated, the Golden Crow Manor itself had also suffered heavy losses and would not recover its strength quickly. If other powerful Sects like the Tianji Sect targeted the Essence Stone Veins during this time, Golden Crow Manor surely wouldn't be able to defend them and could only watch as the Essence Stone Veins were taken by others.

Unless, of course, Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, the two great Innate Experts, were present.

"Little girl, do you know Senior Fang?"

Hearing the Rou sisters discussing Fang Bai, Gu Yan became intrigued and looked at them with a smile, asking.

"Of course we know him! Senior Fang saved our lives! We are here waiting for him!"

Gu Yan's initiative to speak and even refer to Fang Bai as "Senior Fang" took the Rou sisters by surprise, and they immediately showed delighted expressions.

Rou Fu bravely asked, "Senior, have you... have you seen Senior Fang?"

Gu Yan smiled and nodded: "Yes, yes! Senior Fang also saved the four of our lives! Haha, in that way, we are also kindred spirits!"

Rou Zhi urgently asked, "Senior, since you have seen Senior Fang, how is he now? And why didn't he come back with you?"

Not far away, Huang Canghai heard the words "Senior Fang" and carefully moved closer to them, listening intently to their conversation, hoping to gather information about Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou.

Gu Yan said, "Little girls, rest assured, we saw Senior Fang and Senior Li, and they were both unharmed."

He paused, his face showing a bit of embarrassment, and added, "It's rather embarrassing to say, Senior Fang and Senior Li went to the very core of the Eternal Death Zone to explore and hunt for treasures, but the four of us had to leave midway due to insufficient strength... We've stayed here hoping to wait for Senior Fang and Senior Li to return, to once again show our gratitude for saving our lives, and also to see what treasures they might find."

Rou Xin blinked her clear black-and-white eyes and asked crisply, "Senior, are you an Innate Expert?"

Seeing Gu Yan nod, she asked again, "Then, which realm of the Innate are you in?"

Gu Yan didn't know why she was asking, but he didn't hide the truth and said, "All four of us are at the High Rank Innate realm."

"Ah?"

As soon as Gu Yan spoke, not only were Rou Fu and her sisters dumbstruck, but Huang Canghai and others nearby were also shocked.

Rou Ling exclaimed, "Senior, you are already at the High Rank Innate realm, and yet you say your strength is insufficient? Are you being modest?"

Gu Yan shook his head and said with a wry smile, "Senior Fang and Senior Li are both prodigies. In front of them, our strength really isn't much!"

Recovering from her surprise, Rou Fu chimed in, "So, what you're saying is... Senior Fang and Senior Li - are they at the realm of Innate Perfection?"

Gu Yan said, "Senior Li is indeed at Innate Perfection, but Senior Fang... his external cultivation level is only at Universe Level Perfection. However, I suspect that Senior Fang has concealed some of his cultivation. His combat power is not the slightest bit inferior to Senior Li."

Rou Xin exclaimed excitedly, "Wow, Senior Fang is so impressive!"

Rou Zhi stuck out her little pink tongue and said, "Senior Fang isn't much older than us, but his strength is comparable to a Sect Master of an Innate Sect. Such a genius has never been seen before in the True Martial Realm!"

Rou Xin nodded in agreement and said, "Compared to Senior Fang, those sisters in our sect who pride themselves as Martial Dao Geniuses must be ashamed to death."

Gu Yan's heart stirred, and scrutinizing Rou Fu and her sisters, he asked, "Girls, which Sect do you come from?"

"We cannot say."

Rou Fu said with a serious face.

Rou Zhi, Rou Xin, and Rou Ling, the three sisters, also showed a wary expression on their faces.

Before the four sisters set out for their training, the higher-ups of their Sect specifically admonished them not to reveal their identities easily, to avoid attracting enemies that could bring about disasters, and they kept this admonition firmly in mind.

Gu Yan was taken aback, then with a smile and stroking his beard, he said, "There's no harm in just talking about it, right? Perhaps we have some connections?"

"We really can't tell! Senior, please don't make it difficult for us!" Rou Ling said with a pained expression.

Gu Yan laughed heartily and suddenly made a move, his hand wide open, reaching towards Rou Ling's left shoulder.

Rou Ling, taken aback, instinctively struck back with a palm, a True Yuan palm made of condensed Water Element Qi, loudly meeting Gu Yan's approaching hand.

Gu Yan casually waved away the Water Element Qi palm sent by Rou Ling and stopped attacking, saying, "So you are a disciple of Ruoshui Palace... No wonder at barely over ten years old, your cultivation level has reached the High Rank Universe Level!"

Seeing her identity exposed by her own action, Rou Ling's face turned red with anger, and she stamped her foot, saying, "Senior... that was unfair!"

Gu Yan said with a chuckle, "If I remember correctly, Ruoshui Palace is located to the far east, by the Weak Water Lake, made up of three thousand large and small islands, and the current Sect Master is named Zhou Qingyan, right?"

Chapter 1335: The Legend of the Lotus Pool Secret Realm

To the average martial artist, a sect like Ruoshui Palace, an Innate Sect, is mysterious and powerful, a legendary existence.

However, for an elder like Gu Yan, who comes from an Innate Sect himself, Ruoshui Palace holds no secrets.

Through Rou Ling's martial arts techniques, Gu Yan saw through her identity, which was anything but unusual.

"Does Senior have some kind of connection with our Ruoshui Palace?"

Rou Ling, her eyes wide and full of curiosity, asked this after Gu Yan mentioned her background and even knew the name of her Palace Master.

In Rou Ling's mind, since Gu Yan knew so much about Ruoshui Palace, he was either a friend or a foe. And since there was no intent to kill or hostility after Gu Yan learned of Rou Ling's background, he was likely not an enemy of the palace, if not a friend.

Therefore, Rou Ling and her sisters only maintained the necessary caution toward Gu Yan and his companions, without feeling anxious or panicked.

"Speaking of connections, our Divine Fire Sect does have some with your Ruoshui Palace..."

Gu Yan said to Rou Ling with a smile that was not quite a smile: "Little girl, you should know about the 'Heaven's Pride Ranking' held every five years in the True Martial Realm, right?"

As Core Disciples of an Innate Sect, Rou Fu and her sisters of course had heard of the Divine Fire Palace, a sect located in the Land of Extreme South with overall power comparable to that of Ruoshui Palace, and this elder before them was a high-rank Innate Expert, presumably an elder of the Divine Fire Palace.

The Divine Fire Sect and Ruoshui Palace are separated by more than a hundred thousand miles, with a vast ocean in between, seemingly making it hard for them to intersect, but in reality, all the Innate Sects within the True Martial Realm have some connections with each other.

To outsiders, Innate Sects appear extremely mysterious, and their disciples seldom travel the world for experience, but this is only surface level.

The truth is, regardless of the sect, each Innate Sect has numerous disciples hidden within various other sects' influence, with their tentacles stretching across the True Martial Realm, thus weaving a terrifying network of intelligence that allows any happening within the realm to be promptly passed on to those Innate Sects.

The primary purpose of Innate Sects establishing such intelligence networks is naturally for Cultivation Resources; upon finding resources suitable for their disciples' cultivation, they will act with full force, whether to seize or to possess them.

However, the clashes between disciples of Innate Sects mostly occur in the shadows, unknown to the common martial artist.

The Essence Stone Vein beneath the Eternal Death Zone has a strong allure to martial artists below the Innate Realm, but it does not catch the eye of Innate Sects, which is why none have formally intervened in it.

The Rou Fu sisters were only passing by for their training and thought of getting involved, rather than being dispatched by Ruoshui Palace.

Divine Fire Sect and Ruoshui Palace had once cooperated over the ownership of a cultivation treasure land, eventually satisfying the needs of both; the "connection" Gu Yan spoke of was referring to this event.

As for the "Heaven's Pride Ranking" mentioned by Gu Yan, not only did Rou Fu and her sisters know of it, but it is practically known to every disciple of the Innate Sects.

The so-called "Heavenly Prides" refers to the exceptionally talented young men and young women of the Innate Sects.

And the "Celestial Ranking" is a strength ranking established jointly by the Innate Sects of the True Martial Realm. It is held once every five years, during which each of the major Innate Sects sends out talented junior disciples to gather together and compete for the rankings on the "Celestial Ranking".

The rankings on the Celestial Ranking not only concern the face of the various Innate Sects, but are also related to crucial interests that are highly important to them.

To speak of these crucial interests, it's a long story.

It is unknown how many years ago, an Innate Martial Artist stumbled into a secret realm during his training, and this secret realm was veritably a Minor World with exceptionally rich Heaven and Earth Origin Energy, far superior to other areas in the True Martial Realm.

In that secret realm, the Innate Martial Artist discovered seven pools of the same size, with each pool growing a lotus of a distinct color.

The seven colors of the lotuses were white, blue, black, red, yellow, gray, and purple, corresponding to the elemental colors of gold, wood, water, fire, earth, wind, and thunder respectively.

The lotuses of seven colors were constantly absorbing Heaven and Earth Origin Energy, which then permeated the water of the pools through the lotuses without evaporating or dispersing.

Over the years, the water in the seven pools also became the same color as the lotuses, and the water became thick like porridge.

The Innate Expert, who cultivated the Wood System Skill, soaked in the blue pool for forty-nine days and discovered that the water had the miraculous effect of Marrow Cleansing and strengthening bones and

muscles. After emerging, he felt like he had been reborn, with his physical body much stronger than before and his cultivation level significantly improved.

Later, that Innate Expert named the seven interconnected pools the "Seven-Colored Lotus Pool," and the secret realm was named the "Lotus Pool Secret Realm".

It is said that Universe Level Martial Artists achieve the best cultivation results in the Seven-Colored Lotus Pool. Over ten thousand years, many Universe Level Martial Artists from various Innate Sects have entered the Lotus Pool Secret Realm to cultivate in the Seven-Colored Lotus Pool, with not a few breaking through to the Innate Realm.

Therefore, the Lotus Pool Secret Realm has become a coveted place of cultivation for all Sect Disciples of the Innate Sects.

However, oddly enough, the entrance to the Lotus Pool Secret Realm opens on its own only once every five years, each time lasting for forty-nine days, and each time it can only accommodate exactly one hundred Martial Artists.

In the Innate Sects of the True Martial Realm, each Sect has tens of thousands of Universe Level Realm Disciples. To compete for these one hundred slots available only once every five years, the major Sects have had no shortage of fierce conflicts.

Later on, the high-ranking members of the various Innate Sects in the True Martial Realm realized this was not the solution, so they gathered together to make a rule. They agreed that every five years, each Sect would send their most talented Heavenly Sons and Heavenly Daughters to fight for the one hundred slots based on their strength at the entrance of the Lotus Pool Secret Realm. Thus, the "Celestial Ranking" came into existence.

Inside the Lotus Pool Secret Realm, what attracts the Innate Sects are not just the Seven-Colored Lotus Pool for Universe Level Disciples to cultivate in, but also the "Heavenly Ladder" for Innate Experts.

The so-called "Heavenly Ladder" refers to a series of stairs located at the very top of a mountain near the Seven-Colored Lotus Pool.

This mountain is called Heaven-Reaching Peak, towering thousands of feet high, with its peak reaching into the clouds, and the "Heavenly Ladder" extends from the top of the peak diagonally upwards into the sky. No one knows what it is made of, and no one knows where it leads to.

It is said that only Innate Experts can ascend the Heavenly Ladder, and with each step, the pressure doubles. If one cannot withstand the pressure and cannot continue to ascend, they may stay where they are and meditate. After forty-nine days, depending on each person's fate and talent, their cultivation level will improve to varying degrees.

Consequently, a portion of the one hundred slots to enter the Lotus Pool Secret Realm is taken by the high-ranking officials of the major Innate Sects, making the competition even more intense.

Chapter 1336: Rendezvous

The Lotus Pool Secret Realm is a naturally formed cultivation treasure land, boasting the "Seven-Colored Lotus Pool" for Universe Level Experts to cultivate in, and the "Heavenly Ladder" for Innate Experts. The effects on the enhancement of one's cultivation level are significant.

Therefore, any Innate Sect would rather give up a small Essence Stone Vein than forfeit a spot in the Lotus Pool Secret Realm.

The Lotus Pool Secret Realm opens once every five years, making the opportunity extremely rare. Thus, in every "Heaven Chosen List" battle, the major Innate Sects send their most talented, skilled, and promising disciples with the greatest potential for a breakthrough to participate, hoping to secure more spots in the Lotus Pool Secret Realm.

The Rou Fu sisters, being core disciples of Ruoshui Palace with high-rank Universe Level cultivation, are in theory qualified to go to the Lotus Pool Secret Realm to compete in the "Heaven Chosen List." However, considering their young age and limited experience, the higher-ups of Ruoshui Palace have not allowed them to participate, as a form of protection for the sisters.

This time, the higher-ups of Ruoshui Palace allowed the four sisters to come out for experience to increase their knowledge and worldly exposure, so that after returning to the Sect, they may have a chance to participate in this term's "Heaven Chosen List."

"I know about the 'Heaven Chosen List'!"

Upon hearing Gu Yan mention the "Heaven Chosen List," Rou Ling's eyes lit up with excitement as she rubbed her small, jade-like hands and said, "The Palace Master said that this term's 'Heaven Chosen List' is coming up, and we sisters have a chance to participate! However, we know very little about the 'Heaven Chosen List.' Senior, you are so experienced and knowledgeable, could you tell us about it?"

Rou Fu, Rou Zhi, and Rou Xin, the other three sisters, also perked up, their eyes fixed on Gu Yan, full of expectation.

As for the Lotus Pool Secret Realm, the Rou Fu sisters had only heard of its name but had never been inside. The higher-ups of Ruoshui Palace seldom mentioned it, so they were immensely curious and eager to know more.

For any disciple of an Innate Sect, the Lotus Pool Secret Realm, which opens only once every five years and admits only a hundred Martial Artists each time, holds an unparalleled attraction; the Rou Fu sisters are no exception.

Before the Rou Fu sisters ventured out, the higher-ups of the Sect specifically informed them that after they return to Ruoshui Palace, they would rest and recuperate for a period of time. Then they would set off with several dozen talented disciples selected by the Sect, heading to the Lotus Pool Secret Realm in East Shengzhou, to compete with other Innate Sects for the hundred spots in the realm.

The Rou Fu sisters, with their high-rank Universe Level cultivation, could expect at least a small increase in their cultivation level, reaching the perfection stage of the Universe Level, should they get to practice in the Lotus Pool Secret Realm for forty-nine days.

If fortune favors them, it is not impossible to break through directly to the Innate Realm.

Since the discovery of the Lotus Pool Secret Realm, there have already been numerous precedents of high-rank Universe Level Experts surmounting the Universe Level perfection and advancing to the Innate Realm.

Although the Rou Fu sisters do not possess Innate Spiritual Roots, they are highly regarded in terms of potential, ranking among the very best of the tens of thousands of Ruoshui Palace disciples, and so the higher-ups have great expectations for them.

The higher-ups of Ruoshui Palace plan to take the Rou Fu sisters with them to this term's "Heaven Chosen List" because their age and cultivation level have reached the participation criteria. Sending the sisters out for experience is also a move to enhance their knowledge and practical combat experience, adding a bit more assurance for the upcoming battle of the "Heaven Chosen List."

"Speaking of the 'Heaven Chosen List,' I indeed participated in a few terms... Well, since I have nothing better to do right now, I might as well tell you some things about the 'Heaven Chosen List'..."

The Rou Fu sisters are innocent and adorable, almost universally beloved. Seeing them wide-eyed with anticipation, Gu Yan twirled his beard with a slight smile and began to elaborate on the "Heaven Chosen List" based on what he knew.

The stories Gu Yan told were breathtaking and soul-stirring. The Rou Fu sisters listened intoxicatedly, lost in reverie. The old man and the four young girls completely forgot their surroundings, so much so that they did not bother to wonder why the temperature in the Eternal Death Zone had suddenly dropped sharply.

"Look quickly! Someone is coming out of the Eternal Death Zone!"

"That is..."

"It's Senior Fang, Senior Li and the Black and White Demons!"

"The Black and White Demons are Innate Experts of perfection, notoriously aloof and cold. How could these four come together? And they are all of infamous repute!"

"Neither Senior Fang nor Senior Li are lacking in strength either!"

...

As Gu Yan and the four sisters of Rou Fu were deep in conversation, some martial artists noticed four figures walking out from the depths of the Eternal Death Zone, and they began to speak.

"Eh? It really is them!"

"It truly is Senior Fang and the others!"

Upon hearing this, Gu Yan and the four sisters of Rou Fu stopped their conversation and gazed intently, indeed seeing Fang Bai in his fluttering white robe leading the way, with equally white-robed Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons a few steps behind, closely following.

The four approached from the edge of the Eternal Death Zone with seemingly slow footsteps; however, each step they took covered a distance a hundredfold that of ordinary people, appearing to tread on clouds as they approached.

The disciples of Golden Crow Manor, including Manor Master Huang Canghai, recognized only Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou and did not know the Black and White Demons. However, since the four were traveling together, it indicated that the two clad in black and white robes were also undoubtedly Innate Experts.

The movements of Innate Experts were mysterious and elusive, much like the Divine Dragon that shows its head but not its tail. Ordinary martial artists would rarely see one, yet now they witnessed the presence of not just one but eight Innate Experts, including the four Elder-level figures from the Divine Fire Sect, as well as Fang Bai, Li Chenzhou, and the Black and White Demons. The disciples of Golden Crow Manor were immensely shocked by what they saw.

The Manor Master of Golden Crow Manor, Huang Canghai, had been worried that other Sects might covet the Essence Stone Vein. Seeing Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou return, his heart finally settled. With a look of excitement and joy, he led the senior officials of the Manor quickly towards Fang Bai and the others.

Four fragrant breezes swept past as the four sisters of Rou Fu dashed ahead at even greater speed, reaching Fang Bai and the others ahead of Huang Canghai and the Golden Crow Manor disciples, eagerly welcoming them.

Xia Chenyu's mouth quirked into a smirk, and with a light twist of her waist, she stepped forward to greet them.

"Let's go and greet them too!"

Exchanging glances with the three Divine Fire Sect Elders beside him, Gu Yan walked shoulder to shoulder with them.

In the eyes of Gu Yan and the Elder-level figures from the Divine Fire Sect, Fang Bai, Li Chenzhou, and the Black and White Demons were on par with their own Sect Master, powerful beings who were their seniors. It only made sense for them to go and pay their respects.

Upon meeting, there was no shortage of pleasantries exchanged.

Despite the many questions in the minds of Gu Yan and the others, no one dared to directly ask Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, to avoid any discomfort.

However, the four sisters of Rou Fu had no such reservations. With their delicate faces raised, they gathered around Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, chattering nonstop, obviously wanting to know what gains and treasures Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou had obtained after entering the core area of the Eternal Death Zone.

In response to the inquiries from the four sisters of Rou Fu, Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou patiently replied with smiles, though their answers were a mix of truth and falsehood.

Chapter 1337: A Trail of Dust

Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou were surrounded by a group of strong characters, amidst a lively atmosphere, whereas the Black and White Demons were left in cold isolation, ignored by all.

The Black and White Demons exuded an air of cold indifference that seemed to distance others by a thousand miles, their aura chilling to the bone without being cold, hence people chose to respect them from afar and dared not approach.

Despite the neglect, the Black and White Demons were neither irate nor angry, appearing as if they have long grown accustomed to this, standing on two hills not far apart, with their eyes slightly closed as if they were old monks in meditation.

"The temperature around this Eternal Death Zone has always been high, but today it has suddenly dropped drastically, I wonder what the cause is..."

After exchanging pleasantries with Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, Gu Yan steered the conversation to this topic.

Although Gu Yan did not believe that Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou could change the temperature of a thousand miles around the Eternal Death Zone with their own power, in fact, the temperature in this area had changed only after the two entered the Eternal Death Zone, making it difficult for others not to associate the change with them.

Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou exchanged a glance, then chuckled without confirming or denying anything.

Gu Yan scratched his head, not understanding the meaning behind their "chuckle," and had no choice but to laugh awkwardly along.

Fang Bai spoke seriously: "Elder Gu, we are also very interested in knowing the answer to that question."

Li Chenzhou echoed, "Indeed! The high temperature of the Eternal Death Zone has persisted for who knows how many years, why would it suddenly drop? Strange indeed!"

Not far away, the Black and White Demons' lips twitched, barely holding back their laughter.

The high temperature of the Eternal Death Zone was caused by the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, and with the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire subdued by Fang Bai, the temperature had drastically dropped.

Apart from Fang Bai himself, only Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons knew about this. Seeing Fang Bai's reluctance to speak of it, both Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons naturally kept silent.

Gu Yan observed their expressions and felt that Fang Bai and the others seemed to be hiding something, but since Fang Bai and the rest were Innate Experts of perfection, who were senior figures, even if Gu Yan was itching with curiosity, he dared not inquire.

"Manor Huang, I wish to borrow the Alchemy Room and Furnace Cauldron of your manor, may I have the convenience?"

Fang Bai promised to concoct some high-grade superior elixirs for Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons. Although he has two Furnace Cauldrons in his Spatial Ring, one obtained from the Martial Artists Trading Market has a somewhat outdated grade, not suitable for concocting the high-grade superior elixirs.

The other is the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron obtained from the secular world, its grade and level undetermined by Fang Bai, who thus presumed it to be a Spiritual Artifact surpassing Immortal Grade, like the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade.

With Fang Bai's current Cultivation Level, he was unable to effectively control the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, nor could he use it to concoct elixirs.

Fang Bai had seen the Furnace Cauldron in the Alchemy Room of Golden Crow Manor, which was made from superior materials, perfectly suited for concocting high-grade superior elixirs.

"Senior Fang, please feel free to use it! If you need any alchemy materials, just let us know, and Golden Crow Manor will certainly strive to provide whatever you require!"

With Fang Bai wanting to borrow the manor's Alchemy Room and Furnace Cauldron to concoct elixirs, Huang Canghai naturally agreed without hesitation, his face filled with excitement and delight.

Huang Canghai knew of Fang Bai's profound skills in Alchemy, and now that he had become an Innate Expert, his Alchemy would certainly improve, rising to even greater heights. Such an Innate-level Alchemist, even if they failed their concoctions, would still be an invaluable Cultivation Resource for a Universe Level Expert like Huang Canghai.

Manor Huang Canghai made up his mind that after returning to the Golden Crow Manor, while Fang Bai was concocting Elixirs in the Alchemy Room, he himself would personally stand guard outside the room. If Fang Bai became grateful for his efforts and rewarded him with even a flawed batch of Elixirs, it would benefit him immensely.

"Brother Li, Chenyu, let's go to the Golden Crow Manor!"

Fang Bai called on Li Chenzhou and Xia Chenyu, waved to Rou Fu's four sisters and the distant Black and White Demons, then, under the escort of the Golden Crow Manor's high-level officials, mounted a Swiftwind Horse. Stirring up clouds of dust, they galloped swiftly towards the Golden Crow Manor.

"Sister, Senior Fang has left, what do we do now?"

Rou Ling stamped her foot in anxiety and asked as she watched Fang Bai's figure getting farther and farther away.

She admired and revered Fang Bai, her heart had long been secretly fluttering with fondness, wishing she could stay by his side at all times, just watching over him. Now that Fang Bai was leaving, her heart was frantic, and she wanted to chase after him.

Rou Fu hesitated for a moment before speaking earnestly, "The once-every-five-years 'Heroes Ranking' is approaching, and we don't have much time... Right, let's return to Ruoshui Palace now, to conserve our strength, diligently cultivate, hoping to win a spot in the upcoming 'Heroes Ranking' battle!"

Lingrou reluctantly said, "But... But Senior Fang just waved at us, seeming to want us to accompany him to the Golden Crow Manor..."

"Senior Fang might have just been being polite."

Rou Fu patted Lingrou on the shoulder and spoke with the weighty tone of an elder, "As for Senior Fang... as long as there's fate, we will surely meet him again."

Though she said this, she repeatedly looked back towards the direction where Fang Bai had departed, her eyes filled with a reluctance to part and sorrow of separation.

After a moment, only when Fang Bai's figure had completely disappeared, the Rou Fu sisters, feeling melancholy and lost, then packed up and set off on their journey back to Ruoshui Palace.

Gu Yan and the other three Divine Fire Sect Elders whispered among themselves for a short while before shamelessly tagging along behind Fang Bai and the others, following behind at a distance.

The four of them already knew that Fang Bai was an Alchemist, and their main purpose in following him was actually to see whether this rising star—who could compare in strength to their own Sect Master—was able to concoct Elixirs required by Innate Experts.

If Fang Bai truly could concoct Elixirs needed by Innate Experts, then in the future he would certainly become a figure whom various sects and powers would go to great lengths to flatter and curry favor with, not excluding even an Innate Sect like the Divine Fire Sect. Hence, initiating conversation and fostering good relations with Fang Bai became the primary goal for Gu Yan and the other three Elders of the Divine Fire Clan.

As Fang Bai and the others departed one by one, the number of Martial Artists near the Essence Stone Vein grew fewer and fewer, the scene became increasingly desolate, leaving only over a thousand elite Disciples guarding the entrance to the Essence Stone Vein.

The Swiftwind Horses that Fang Bai and the others rode were among the best in the Golden Crow Manor, not only enduring but also strong-footed, and it took only half a day for Fang Bai, Li Chenzhou, Xia Chenyu, and the Black and White Demons to reach the outer area of the Golden Crow Manor, ahead of the other high-level members.

Previously, to protect the entrance of the Essence Stone Vein near the Eternal Death Zone, the Golden Crow Manor's Disciples clashed fiercely with the Martial Artists Alliance, resulting in heavy casualties on both sides.

At almost the same time, a similar fierce battle also took place on the side of the Golden Crow Manor, with the Disciples of the Tianji Sect as their opponents.

The outcomes of the battles on both sides were the same, with the Golden Crow Manor victorious, all thanks to Fang Bai turning the tide.

At this moment, the outer area of the Golden Crow Manor was left in shambles from the aftermath of the great battle.

The plants that used to be lush with leaves or in the midst of robust growth were now toppled and twisted, damaged and incomplete, and on the ground, countless severed limbs were scattered with blood flowing everywhere, a testament to the intense battle that had taken place here before.

Chapter 1338: If One Understands Three Parts, Invincible in the True Martial Realm!

In the following ten days, the disciples of the Golden Crow Manor were extremely busy cleaning up the battlefield around the manor and handling the aftermath.

Huang Canghai, the Manor Master, along with his son Huang Yuanqi, took positions to the left and right outside the Alchemy Room, replacing the attendants who had been there before, ready to be summoned and directed by Fang Bai.

Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons, although they did not absorb the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire like Fang Bai and thereby gain tremendous fortune during their trip to the Eternal Death Zone, still acquired a large number of Beast Cores, Spiritual Medicines, and Essence Stones, as well as other precious cultivation resources.

While Fang Bai was using the Alchemy Room of the Golden Crow Manor to refine Elixirs, Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons, having nothing else to do, decided to cultivate in seclusion in the three large halls next to the Alchemy Room.

As for the cultivation resources Fang Bai had obtained, he naturally also shared a portion with Xia Chenyu. However, Xia Chenyu, who was worried about Fang Bai, did not cultivate in seclusion but instead lived in one of the large halls next to the Alchemy Room. This allowed her to pay close attention to any activity in the Alchemy Room and wait for Fang Bai to emerge from seclusion.

Fang Bai spent ten full days inside the Alchemy Room of the Golden Crow Manor.

During these ten days, Fang Bai first consolidated the realm he had abruptly elevated after swallowing the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, then refined all the Spiritual Medicines from his Space Ring into Elixirs, and incidentally also crafted a batch of Spiritual Artifacts using Beast Cores and some special materials.

From the Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts he refined and crafted, Fang Bai kept some for himself and gifted a portion to Xia Chenyu, Li Chenzhou, the Black and White Demons, and Manor Master Huang Canghai of the Golden Crow Manor.

The Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts crafted by Fang Bai were all of high quality. Although high-quality ones also come in superior, middle, and inferior grades, what Huang Canghai received was of the inferior grade, not comparing with the superior grade that Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons received. Despite this, Huang Canghai had no complaints and was instead overflowing with gratitude.

Because Huang Canghai knew that, although the Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts given to him by Fang Bai were of high quality but inferior grade, they were perfectly suited for his current Universe Level perfection cultivation and would also be suitable if he were to potentially advance to the Innate Realm in the future.

Li Chenzhou and the Black and White Demons were all practitioners at the perfection of the Innate Realm; for them, the superior grade high-quality Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts were also the most appropriate.

Huang Canghai was self-aware, realizing that given his natural talent, even if he could advance to the Innate Realm, the early stages of the Innate Realm might be the endpoint of his Martial Dao. Therefore, even if Fang Bai gave him superior grade high-quality Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts, he would not be able to withstand the powerful medicinal impact of those Elixirs and wouldn't be able to unleash the true power of the Spiritual Artifacts.

It would be better to know when to stop rather than waste resources and commit an act of wanton destruction, which would leave a good impression on Senior Fang of being neither greedy nor indecisive, and that would facilitate future interactions between himself and Senior Fang.

The number of Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts given by Fang Bai to Huang Canghai was quite significant. Huang Canghai did not keep them all to himself; he retained some and distributed the rest to the senior members and disciples with outstanding potential of the Golden Crow Manor. He believed that with these Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts, Golden Crow Manor would recover its Essence Energy at the fastest speed and restore the sect's prestige.

The life of Huang Yuanqi was saved by Fang Bai, and he also received a lucky break, seeing a great increase in his strength.

Huang Yuanqi knew that all this was thanks to Fang Bai, so when Fang Bai came out of the Alchemy Room, Huang Yuanqi kneeled in deep respect once again and ceaselessly kowtowed to express his gratitude towards Fang Bai.

"You've been paying respects again and again; if I don't present something in return, it would seem rather petty of me. Well then, I shall pass on to you another Martial Arts Technique..."

Fang Bai's tone sounded old and mature, incongruent with his age, but Huang Canghai and his son Huang Yuanqi felt that it was completely natural for a senior to speak to a junior in such a way.

Upon hearing Fang Bai's last words, Huang Canghai was thrilled as if he was listening to celestial music, and quickly flashed a look at his son Huang Yuanqi.

Huang Yuanqi, who knew that a few words of guidance from a powerhouse at Fang Bai's level could equate to an immense fortune, understood that the Martial Arts Techniques bestowed upon him would undoubtedly be profound and powerful. Thus, just after standing up, he knelt down once more and said, "Thank you, Senior Fang, for your guidance!"

"Stand up!"

Fang Bai smiled and casually brushed out a stream of Essence Energy, causing Huang Yuanqi to stand up involuntarily. Shocked by Fang Bai's formidable strength, yet fearing to provoke him, Huang Yuanqi didn't dare to kneel again and stood respectfully with his hands hanging down, waiting for Fang Bai to impart his teaching.

After a moment of thought, Fang Bai explained a set of fire-type Martial Arts Techniques of the lowest order from his previous life to Huang Yuanqi using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique.

Huang Yuanqi listened attentively to Fang Bai's explanation, feeling that the Martial Arts Techniques Fang Bai taught were profound and exquisite. Compared to all the techniques he had learned before, they seemed hardly worth mentioning.

Fang Bai's explanation went from the basics to the advanced. Huang Yuanqi was so engrossed that when Fang Bai finished, Huang Yuanqi, overcome with excitement, jumped and danced around, almost crazed with joy.

Huang Canghai read their expressions and saw his son's excitement to the point of losing composure. He realized that the Martial Arts Techniques Fang Bai had imparted must be extraordinary and couldn't help feeling overjoyed.

"If you can fully comprehend a third of this Martial Arts Technique I've taught you, you will be able to defeat anyone in the True Martial Realm without rival!"

Fang Bai finally said to Huang Yuanqi.

The Martial Arts Techniques Fang Bai imparted to Huang Yuanqi were of the lowest order from his previous life, but their power far surpassed any other technique in the True Martial Realm. Let alone three parts, if Huang Yuanqi could even grasp one or two parts of it, it would be infinitely useful.

"Brother Li, Chenyu, now that this matter is concluded, shall we set off for the Huaxia Sect?"

Fang Bai turned his head to consult Li Chenzhou and Xia Chenyu.

Fang Bai had previously discussed the Huaxia Sect with Li Chenzhou. Li Chenzhou, being a Loose Cultivator without allegiance, and deeply in tune with Fang Bai, referred to each other as brothers and thus decided to accompany Fang Bai on a visit to the Huaxia Sect. Even if he didn't join the sect, serving as an honorary Elder was also an option.

Meanwhile, Fang Bai himself thought that upon his arrival at the Huaxia Sect, he may need to stay in the True Martial Realm for quite some time. First, he would need to focus on Cultivation to continue improving his strength; second, he wanted to find the Teleportation Array that leads from the True Martial Realm to the Three Thousand Major Worlds.

Originally, Fang Bai had used a mundane Teleportation Array to reach these Three Thousand Minor Worlds; from this, he hypothesized that there must also be a Teleportation Array leading to the Three Thousand Major Worlds. However, the array in this place must be much more concealed, and with the

vast territory of the True Martial Realm, locating the exact position of the Teleportation Array would likely be doubly difficult.

Fang Bai also figured that once he joined the Huaxia Sect, he would often need to venture out in search of Cultivation Resources and the Teleportation Array. During his absences from the Huaxia Sect, having Li Chenzhou, a top martial expert of his era, stationed there would add an extra layer of security to the sect.

Li Chenzhou laughed and replied, "Brother Fang, you mentioned you have many kins and friends who are martial prodigies of our age. I can hardly wait to meet them. Let's go! Let's leave right now!"

"Alright!"

The two of them were ready to go without waiting for Huang Canghai and his son to speak in retention, and taking Xia Chenyu with them, their silhouettes flickered like ghosts. With a slight shudder, they disappeared from the sight of Huang Canghai and his son.

With his mouth wide open, Huang Canghai stared blankly in the direction where the three had vanished. It took him a while to come to his senses before he stomped his foot and lamented, "They... How could they just leave like that? I still had many questions about the Martial Dao I wanted to ask them!"

At this point, he glanced at his son, who was already lost in fascination, and asked casually, "Yuanqi, what Martial Arts Technique did Senior Fang teach you? Come on, you lad, speak up!"

Seeing his son ignoring him, Huang Canghai frowned, reached out, and patted his shoulder.

Chapter 1339: Worship from Afar

Huang Canghai's palm had not yet touched Huang Yuanqi's shoulder when Huang Yuanqi reacted reflexively. His shoulder sank slightly, evading Huang Canghai's descending palm, and at the same time, he unleashed a punch with all his might.

Huang Canghai only felt a dazzling red light before his eyes, and the temperature suddenly rose. A raging and intense surge of scorching Fire Primordial Qi rushed towards his own chest.

"Uni... Universe Level High Rank! How is this possible?"

Huang Canghai was astonished, never expecting that his son, Huang Yuanqi, who was originally only at the Cosmic Level perfection Cultivation Level, would unleash a punch with the force of a Universe Level High Rank expert, catching him, a Universe Level perfection expert, completely off guard.

Huang Canghai quickly withdrew backward, forming a layer of Fire Primordial Qi Defense Qi Shield in front of him to guard against the full-powered strike unconsciously released by Huang Yuanqi.

However, Huang Canghai's hastily gathered Fire Primordial Qi was scant, resulting in a weak True Essence Barrier which barely defended. It collapsed and vanished under the fierce impact of Huang Yuanqi's punch.

The momentum of Huang Yuanqi's punch was slightly hindered, pausing briefly before it brutally struck Huang Canghai's chest.

In a booming sound, Fire Primordial Qi scattered in every direction, and Huang Canghai let out a muffled grunt, his body flying backward.

Fortunately for him, Huang Canghai's Cultivation Level was significantly stronger than Huang Yuanqi's. Although knocked back by the True Yuan, he did not suffer grievous injuries, but his chest roiled with churning blood and qi, causing him to involuntarily spit out a mouthful of blood.

For a Martial Artist of Huang Canghai's realm, coughing up blood was common and could hardly even be considered a minor injury.

"Yuan Qi, am I hallucinating? That punch just now, was it really you who threw it?"

Huang Canghai casually wiped away the blood from the corner of his mouth, his eyes wide with disbelief as he stared at his son, Huang Yuanqi, in utter shock.

Before being awakened by Fang Bai, Huang Yuanqi was merely a Cosmic Level perfection expert, but the power he just displayed in that punch was undeniably that of a Universe Level High Rank expert. This gave Huang Canghai an unreal, dreamlike feeling in an instant.

A father knows his son best.

Although Huang Yuanqi's talent was better than average Martial Artists, it paled in comparison to someone with an Innate Spiritual Root. Huang Canghai had thought his son's Cultivation would likely peak at the Universe Level mid-stage in this lifetime. He never imagined that his son's recent punch would exhibit the power of a Universe Level High Rank expert, which is why Huang Canghai felt as if he was dreaming.

"Dad!"

After delivering the punch, Huang Yuanqi finally snapped out of his trance. Seeing his father sent flying over a dozen meters away before landing, staggering and flushed as if injured, Huang Yuanqi was shocked. He hurried forward to help him.

"I'm fine..."

Huang Canghai waved his hand off, circulated his Cultivation Technique to regulate his breath for dozens of seconds before he finally took a long sigh of relief, and said loudly, "Yuan Qi, you haven't answered my question just now!"

"Ah? Oh..."

Huang Yuanqi looked down at his own fist, silently sensing it for a moment, then lifted his head with a twinkle of excitement in his eyes, vigorously swung his fist, and declared, "Dad, it's not an illusion. That punch just now was indeed mine. My current Cultivation Level... has reached the Universe Level High Rank realm!"

"Haha... Hahaha... My son is fortunate to have encountered a great opportunity!"

In fact, Huang Canghai had already sensed the explosive increase in the Martial Artist Aura emanating from his son, but he dared not believe it to be true until now. Upon hearing Huang Yuanqi's own confirmation, he finally accepted it and could not help but burst into delighted laughter.

The beloved son who was thought to be only capable of reaching the mid-Universe Level realm in his martial cultivation has now surpassed that realm, achieving the higher high-Universe Level. This made Huang Canghai harbor even greater fantasies about his son's future martial accomplishments, feeling that if his son continues to cultivate like this, perhaps one day, he might be able to advance to the Innate Realm.

"Just a set of martial arts techniques has greatly increased your cultivation level... That Senior Fang is indeed a remarkable person!"

Upon saying this, Huang Canghai couldn't help but reveal a face of regret, sighing: "It's just a pity that Senior Fang was in a hurry to leave; had he stayed for a while longer, and by consulting with him, our gains would've further increased! Alas... what a pity..."

Struck by a thought, Huang Yuanqi's handsome face flushed with excitement, his voice trembling as he asked, "Father, do you remember what Senior Fang said before he left?"

"What did he say?"

Huang Canghai was taken aback for a moment, then, as if struck by lightning, said with a tremble, "I remember... I remember... Senior Fang said, if you could comprehend one-third of the martial arts techniques he passed on to you, you would be able to defeat all in the True Martial Realm without a rival... Yuan Qi, how much have you... how much have you comprehended?"

Huang Yuanqi replied with a bitter smile, "One part... seems not even that..."

"Not even one part, and you've reached the high-Universe Level realm?"

Huang Canghai's eyes bulged with excitement, nearly jumping up, rubbing his hands together nonstop, pacing back and forth, and muttering to himself, "To defeat all in the True Martial Realm without rival, one must at least have the cultivation level of Innate perfection... That is to say, if you could

comprehend one-third of the martial arts techniques passed on by Senior Fang, you might become an Innate Realm expert at perfection? Then... what if you could comprehend four parts, five parts, or even more? What kind of martial realm would that lead to?"

Upon saying this, Huang Canghai patted Huang Yuanqi's shoulder, unable to restrain his laughter as he looked up to the sky once again with indescribable pride and vigor in his laughter.

"Father, I feel that with my talent and aptitude, comprehending one-third of that martial arts technique is my limit. I dare not be greedy for more!"

Seeing his father overwhelmed with excitement, Huang Yuanqi couldn't help but splash some cold water on him.

Huang Canghai waved his hand and said, "Don't talk so pessimistically. If you don't try hard, how will you know where your limit is? Yuan Qi, I believe in you; you will surely bring me greater surprises in the future!"

He paused for a moment, then continued, "From today on, you may use all the cultivation resources in the manor as you please. Just concentrate on your cultivation. I truly hope that one day, our Golden Crow Manor will be able to rise from a first-class prominent clan to an Innate realm clan, and join the ranks of the strongest sects and clans in the True Martial Realm!"

"Father, I will try my best!"

Huang Yuanqi earnestly said.

"Senior Fang saved your life; he has granted you a second birth. He bestowed martial arts techniques upon you, he has taught you skills. He gave our Golden Crow Manor elixirs and spiritual artifacts, he has supported us... Such kindness cannot be repaid with mere words. Come, Yuan Qi, let us father and son bow in respect to Senior Fang once more!"

Thus, the father and son stood in the square in front of the alchemy room, with solemn expressions they clenched fists and deeply bowed towards the direction in which Fang Bai had departed, standing reverently for a long while before rising from their bow.

...

As Huang Canghai and Huang Yuanqi bowed in the distance towards Fang Bai, Fang Bai, along with Li Chenzhou and Xia Chenyu, had already arrived at a wide road several miles away, walking aimlessly along the road.

"No way, Brother Fang, you actually don't know where the Huaxia Sect is exactly located? The True Martial Realm is so vast, how are we supposed to find it?"

Li Chenzhou, having left Golden Crow Manor with Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu, originally thought that the trio would head directly to Huaxia Sect, but was unexpectedly surprised to learn that Fang Bai only heard mentions that the Huaxia Sect was in the Shenwu Continent, without knowing its exact location, which left him feeling frustrated.

Chapter 1340: Spirit Lake City

Li Chenzhou once traveled throughout the entire True Martial Realm and knew almost everything about both large and small Sects within it.

However, when the Huaxia Sect was established, it was precisely the time Li Chenzhou was trapped in the Essence Stone Mine beneath the Eternal Death Zone, thus he knew nothing about this newly founded Sect.

Nevertheless, with Li Chenzhou's familiarity with the True Martial Realm, as long as Fang Bai could provide a rough location of the Huaxia Sect, he would be able to find it quickly.

Unexpectedly, aside from knowing that the Huaxia Sect was in Shenwu Continent, Fang Bai knew nothing else, leaving Li Chenzhou helpless.

Shenwu Continent is vast, spanning hundreds of thousands of miles with billions of Martial Artists and countless Sects and prominent clans. Since Huaxia Sect was not well-known, it would be difficult for the three of them to find it quickly.

Xia Chenyu said, "There must be Martial Artists who know about Huaxia Sect, let's ask around as we go!"

Li Chenzhou said, "I've been stuck underground for over a decade, now that I am out, it's a good opportunity to wander around! No rush, we can take our time to search!"

Fang Bai said, "Initially, to divert Madam Linghu, Ghost Hand, Ruhua and others were separated on the ship, I have no idea if they have found the Huaxia Sect now."

The strength of people like Ghost Hand, Dongfang Ruhua, and others is considered below average among the formidable competitors in Shenwu Continent. If they encounter strong opponents, they would likely fall into dangerous situations, thus Fang Bai has always been somewhat worried.

Xia Chenyu glanced at Fang Bai, knowing that he was worried about Ghost Hand, Dongfang Ruhua and others, gently pulled Fang Bai's hand, and softly comforted, "Don't worry, although Ruhua and others might not be strong alone, the combined strength of their formation is not to be underestimated. As long as they don't encounter Innate Experts, they should be fine."

"I hope so."

Fang Bai was also aware of the profound intricacies of the Combined Assault Formation he taught to Ghost Hand, Dongfang Ruhua, and others. Moreover, they have collaborated very proficiently. Indeed, if they encounter an Innate Expert, they still have the power to fight.

Moreover, compared to the billions of Martial Artists in Shenwu Continent, Innate Experts are extremely rare, and ordinary Martial Artists have a very low chance of encountering them.

During his time in the Eternal Death Zone, Fang Bai encountered many Innate Experts, including some of the top-level perfect Innate Experts of the True Martial Realm. It was the treasures within the Eternal Death Zone that greatly attracted them and brought them together.

In the long history of the True Martial Realm, only three things could attract a large number of Innate Experts: the emergence of peerless treasures, the once-five-year "Genius Ranking," and the opening day of the Lotus Pool Secret Realm.

Apart from these, other times, Innate Experts simply do not appear within the sight of ordinary Martial Artists.

Unless extremely unlucky, the chances of people like Dongfang Ruhua encountering Innate Experts are quite slim.

"What I'm most worried about is that Ghost Hand and Ruhua both possess Innate Spiritual Roots. If they encounter Innate Experts who take a fancy to their talents and want to forcefully take them as disciples or force them to join a certain Sect or prominent clan, it could cause resentment and resistance, bringing trouble upon them..."

After thinking it over, Fang Bai decided to voice some of his concerns.

"If any Sect dares to force Brother Fang's disciples or the beloved to join them, we shall flatten that Sect! If any Individual Cultivation Innate Martial Artist dares to forcefully take them as disciples, we shall chase them to the ends of the earth relentlessly!"

Upon hearing Fang Bai's words, Li Chenzhou clenched his fists and said wrathfully.

With the capability of Fang Bai and Li Chenzhou, if they were to confront any Innate Sect or prominent clan, or pursue any individual cultivation Innate Martial Artist, the adversary would certainly meet a dire end.

"Brother Li is right, whoever dares to harm a hair on them, I will show no mercy!"

Fang Bai let out a cold snort, with a heavy Evil Qi emanating from him. Even a powerful warrior like Li Chenzhou felt shocked sensing it, thinking that Brother Fang indeed harbors immense Evil Qi. It seems that numerous martial artists have perished by his hand; any sect or martial artist provoking him would certainly meet a gruesome death.

In the following months, the trio of Fang Bai traveled through cities and towns, asking local martial artists if they had heard of the Huaxia Sect, but the answer was always negative.

One day, the three of them arrived at a large city in the middle of Shenwu Continent named "Spirit Lake City."

It is called a large city because Spirit Lake City spans thousands of miles and has a vast scale, with a resident population of tens of millions. The number of martial artists passing through the city from north to south daily is incalculable.

Within Spirit Lake City, there are five major Martial Artists Trading Markets located in the east, west, south, north, and center of the city. Every day, over a million martial artists conduct transactions in these five markets. The variety of cultivation resources traded is enormous, making it one of the most bustling places in Shenwu Continent.

The most famous feature of Spirit Lake City is a large lake called "Linghu Lake" located outside the city in Xianyun Mountain.

The area of Linghu Lake is comparable to Spirit Lake City. The lake's surface is rich with Water Element Qi, which appears cloud-like and misty, lingering without dispersing. Because of this, every day a large number of martial artists practicing Water System Martial Arts Techniques gather around Linghu Lake, absorbing its Water Element Qi for cultivation.

Over time, Linghu Lake's reputation has spread far and wide, becoming a well-known Cultivation Holy Land within thousands of miles.

A hundred years ago, a Universe Level Martial Artist delved into Linghu Lake and inadvertently discovered a bottle of high rank superior Elixir at the lake bottom, using it to advance to an Innate Expert.

Afterwards, martial artists have successively found high-rank Elixirs, Essence Stones, Spiritual Artifacts, and even Martial Arts Techniques and other cultivation resources at the lake bottom.

According to a martial artist who obtained treasures from the lake bottom, he vaguely saw a palace there and speculated that the palace might be a Martial Artists' Relic from many years ago. Later, as the terrain changed, the relic was submerged by Linghu Lake, and the abundant cultivation resources within the palace sank to the bottom. Most resources obtained by martial artists over the centuries are likely from that relic.

Upon spreading these words, countless martial artists have gone mad, flocking to Linghu Lake in groups to hunt for treasures, making it a daily spectacle to see numerous martial artists moving up and down and around in the lake.

Every martial artist who comes to Linghu Lake to hunt for treasures hopes to find the Martial Artist Relics at the bottom of the lake, aiming for a leap in their capabilities.

However, regrettably, despite continuous claims over the past hundred years of sightings of the Martial Artist Relics, no martial artist has ever managed to enter it. Even Innate Experts at the height of perfection came and eventually had to leave empty-handed.

Thus, the Martial Artist Relics became increasingly mysterious.

"Friend, have you ever heard of the Huaxia Sect?"

"Brother, do you know where the Huaxia Sect is located?"

"If anyone has information about the Huaxia Sect, I am willing to offer a bottle of high-rank Elixir or cultivation resources of equivalent value as a reward! If anyone can provide the exact location of the Huaxia Sect, I am willing to offer ten times the cultivation resources as a thank you!"

After entering Spirit Lake City, Fang Bai and his companions inquired about the Huaxia Sect everywhere and distributed rewards through some casual martial artists, spreading the word across the city.