

Doctor 1431

Chapter 1431: Strength is the Reason

It's better if Huang Zhong doesn't explain. His explanation somehow gives away the secret.

"You really were spying... A bunch of shameless, indecent lechers!"

The woman laughed in fury, spiritual energy swirling around her, the air filled with killing intent.

"Hey, what are you saying, woman? Who's a lecher? We're training in the mountains, just happened to pass by here, we didn't come here intentionally to see you!"

Shi Ming, seeing the woman's disrespectful words, angrily shouted aloud, then muttered under his breath: "Besides, your figure is like a wooden board, what's there to look at..."

"You..."

The woman pointed at Shi Ming, her delicate body trembling in anger, almost jumping up in fury.

Shi Ming, a straightforward and rude man, didn't understand any tenderness for beautiful women. Seeing the woman's furious expression, he only felt an indescribable pleasure in his heart, coldly sneered: "What 'you'? Move your hand away, I, Shi Ming, hate being pointed at, especially by women!"

"Die!"

The woman couldn't suppress her anger anymore, purple light flashed in her right palm, lightning snakes surged, and with a tender shout, she suddenly struck forward.

A crescent-shaped purple light, accompanied by faint thunderous sounds, shot fiercely towards Shi Ming, swift like lightning, with astonishing force.

During the process of the crescent-shaped purple light shooting, the trees and flowers in front of the woman turned into powder.

"Watch out, Junior Brother Shi!"

Sun Lin knew the woman was a Foundation Establishment expert, her combat strength a notch stronger than his, aware that Shi Ming couldn't withstand her attack, with a tender shout, she kicked a stone several feet large from under her feet, blocking in front of Shi Ming.

"Bang!"

The crescent-shaped purple light slashed at the stone, which shattered into dozens of pieces, scattering and flying everywhere.

"Ouch!"

Shi Ming was affected by the residual force of the purple light, his body flew back, falling into a patch of grass behind several meters.

Though uninjured, he was struck in the chest by a piece of the broken stone, burning painfully, grinning and grimacing.

Shi Ming got up, casting a fearful glance at the woman.

The woman's casual strike was so powerful, if Sun Lin hadn't timely intervened to block, Shi Ming might have suffered serious injuries.

If the woman fought with full force, would there be any life left in him?

Shi Ming was not a fool. Recognizing the gap in strength between the two sides, he obediently shut up, no longer speaking, lest he provoke more anger from the woman.

"Sister, we indeed just passed by, didn't deliberately watch you bathe in the lake. What reason do you have to attack people like this?"

As the leader of this five-member cultivation team, Sun Lin naturally felt uncomfortable seeing her teammates suffer losses or injuries. She took two steps forward, stood in front of Fang Bai and the other four, looked at the gracefully approaching woman, and coldly asked.

"Reason? In this world, strength is reason! You angered me, prepare to accept my punishment!"

The woman coldly chuckled, stepping forward slowly.

Above her head, the sky which was just clear gathered thick clouds at the moment, with thunder lightning spirit qi rapidly accumulating around her from the clouds, streaks of purple lightning snakes whirling and circulating on her body.

With each step forward, the pressure felt by Fang Bai and the other four increased.

Lightning attacks are the most destructive forces in the world. When such power reaches a certain level, it is capable of destroying the heavens and the earth, in the blink of an eye.

Though Sun Lin was also a Foundation Establishment expert, she felt immense pressure under the woman's palpable advance.

Standing among the four, Huang Zhong bore a weight as though thousands of pounds, face pale and shaky, seemingly unable to withstand.

"This woman's cultivation level surpasses mine, she must be at the peak of early Foundation Establishment stage. Even if our five join hands, we might not be her match!"

Sun Lin raised her sword-type spirit weapon across her chest while transmitting thread condensation sound to Fang Bai and the others: "Listen, I will attack soon and distract her. You four take the chance to head to White Bone Gully, we'll meet there!"

Fang Bai and the other four exchanged glances, showing hesitation on their faces.

Though Sun Lin was their team's leader and a Foundation Establishment expert, she was ultimately a woman. Fang Bai and the other four men of loyalty and righteousness could hardly abandon Sun Lin to escape at such a moment.

"Are you not going?"

Sun Lin glared at Fang Bai and the others, seemingly knowing what they were thinking, then transmitted sound again: "Don't worry, though she's strong, I'm also a Foundation Establishment expert, it's not that easy for her to harm me! I'll find a way to escape later!"

After saying that, Sun Lin no longer hesitated, and with a tender shout, she swung her spiritual artifact, releasing streaks of red light.

Those red lights crisscrossed each other, forming a giant net of fire, covering the approaching woman from afar.

"Let's go!"

Fang Bai glanced at Sun Lin, who was now battling the woman fiercely, knowing she wouldn't be defeated for at least a hundred breaths, felt slightly relieved, and without hesitation, signaled to Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, and Huang Zhong, and started his movement first.

His body moved like the wind, bypassing the fiercely battling two women, swiftly heading toward White Bone Gully.

Witnessing this, Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, and Huang Zhong also fully stretched their figures, following behind Fang Bai.

The woman, having been spied on while bathing, naturally resented the four men the most. She originally planned to teach them a harsh lesson and gouge out their eyes to vent her anger, but was entangled by Sun Lin.

Seeing Shi Ming and the others escape without a trace, the woman was both furious and anxious, venting all her anger on Sun Lin, making her attacks increasingly fierce.

Sun Lin, having just leveled up to Foundation Establishment realm, was still a bit unstable in her tier, but her vigorous fighting spirit added strength to her battle prowess.

Despite being pushed back in the woman's fierce offensive, Sun Lin stubbornly resisted, holding that woman tightly, preventing her from chasing Shi Ming and the other four.

Two Foundation Establishment experts dueling, fists punching and palms slashing, spiritual artifacts clashing, the commotion loud enough to spread several miles.

Weaker birds and beasts fled far away, avoiding involvement.

Powerful spirit beasts closed in to observe, waiting for the two human martial artists to fall into mutual destruction, ready to swarm and feast on their remains.

"Inner court disciple... Wu Shufeng... Are you a Soul Summoning Hall disciple?"

Amidst the fight, Sun Lin noticed that during the swirl of Wu Shufeng's clothes, a soul tablet hung from her waist was revealed, the unique emblem of Soul Summoning Hall engraved on it, along with name and identity, prompting Sun Lin to narrow her gaze and ask aloud.

The inner court woman named Wu Shufeng from Soul Summoning Hall coldly replied: "So what if I am? Little girl, I originally didn't intend to kill, but blame yourself for letting those four foul men go! So don't blame me for being cruel and ruthless!"

Chapter 1432: Five Foundation Establishment Experts

Sun Lin heard the woman admit her identity, her eyebrows knitted, her eyes glaring round with anger, and she shouted, "So it was you disciples from the Soul Summoning Hall who recently seized one of our Lingxu Palace's Spirit Stone Veins and also injured Elder Wu! This debt will be settled with you today!"

Wu Shufeng swept her gaze over Sun Lin with disdain and said, "So you're a disciple of Lingxu Palace, no wonder those four ran away with their tails between their legs before I even made a move."

Pausing, she then sneered and said, "So what if we took your Spirit Stone Veins? If you have the skills, take them back! So what if we injured your Elder Wu? If you have the skills, strike back! Settle accounts? Ha... just with you, a little girl who just entered the Foundation Establishment, whose realm is still unstable?"

Wu Shufeng seemed less than thirty on the surface, but she was actually over forty. Due to cultivation, she appeared much younger. In her eyes, the twenty-year-old Sun Lin was indeed a "little girl."

Lingxu Palace and Soul Summoning Hall had been at odds for years due to the struggle over cultivation resources, and they were practically blood enemies.

When disciples from both sides met while training outside, verbal disputes were nothing, as fierce conflicts often erupted, with casualties on both sides.

However, the overall strength of the Soul Summoning Hall was a notch above that of Lingxu Palace, so in these conflicts, Lingxu Palace suffered greater losses.

Previously, Lingxu Palace disciples discovered a Spirit Stone Vein with rich reserves, but after only a few days of mining, the Soul Summoning Hall forcibly intervened, occupying a large portion of it.

Later, Wu Zhihua led Lingxu Palace disciples to drive away the Soul Summoning Hall disciples and reclaim the occupied Spirit Stone Vein, but they were defeated due to inferior strength, and Wu Zhihua was also injured in the process.

Because of this, the tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples were all holding back their anger.

Before Fang Bai and others set out for their training, they felt a pervasive atmosphere of grief and indignation within Lingxu Palace, knowing that the disciples were accumulating strength, preparing to counterattack when the opportunity arose, to reclaim the occupied Spirit Stone Vein.

Now encountering Wu Shufeng and Sun Lin here, it was indeed a narrow path for enemies.

All the Lingxu Palace disciples held a grudge against the Soul Summoning Hall, and Sun Lin was no exception. Under such circumstances, she naturally held animosity towards Wu Shufeng in front of her.

The remarks Wu Shufeng made earlier not only mocked Lingxu Palace and Elder Wu but also included Sun Lin, making her grit her teeth in anger and stomp her foot, saying, "I'll fight you to the end!"

She wielded her sword with both hands, merging her body with the sword, transforming into a scarlet rainbow as she shot towards Wu Shufeng.

If Sun Lin's earlier duel with Wu Shufeng was aimed at buying time for Fang Bai and the others to escape, now she was truly risking her life against Wu Shufeng.

A Martial Artist can be killed but not humiliated, and Sun Lin acted this way to defend her own dignity.

However, she was ultimately a notch below Wu Shufeng in strength. Even when she exerted all her strength, she couldn't harm Wu Shufeng at all, while her own physical strength and spiritual energy were quickly depleting.

"Tsk tsk, you little girl, you're somewhat pretty and seem to still have a perfect body. Senior Brother Wen will surely be pleased. Let me call Senior Brother Wen so he can take you as a Martial Dao partner!"

Wu Shufeng said with a gleeful tone, suddenly retreating dozens of yards, then whistled sharply.

A few breaths after the whistle sounded, four figures stepped on Spiritual Artifacts, turning into long rainbows as they broke through the sky, revealing four disciples of the Soul Summoning Hall with Foundation Establishment realm cultivation.

After the four figures landed, they put away their Spiritual Artifacts. A slender man with handsome features and a carefree demeanor walked to Wu Shufeng's side and asked with a laugh, "Junior Sister Wu, you summoned us here in such a hurry, what's the good news?"

As he spoke, his gaze fell on the opposite Sun Lin, feeling slightly amazed by her beauty.

Wu Shufeng rolled her eyes coquettishly at the slender man and said in a charming voice, "I've found you a woman with decent aptitude, how will you thank me?"

She pouted her lips towards Sun Lin and continued, "Senior Brother Wen, you cultivate Water System Martial Arts Techniques, and this woman cultivates Fire-type Martial Arts Techniques. The fusion of water and fire, the complementarity of yin and yang, is very beneficial for enhancing cultivation level!"

Senior Brother Wen's name was Wen Dongyang, ranked second in the combat power list within the Soul Summoning Hall's Inner Court, with strength surpassing Wu Shufeng.

Wen Dongyang's greatest interest wasn't in Spiritual Pills or Spiritual Liquid as cultivation resources, but in seeking beauties all over the world.

In the Soul Summoning Hall where Wen Dongyang resided, whenever there were female disciples with good aptitude and some beauty, Wen Dongyang would find ways to win their hearts and then engage in dual cultivation to enhance his cultivation level.

Every time he went out to train, if he encountered a female Martial Artist he liked, Wen Dongyang would either use forceful means to possess her or flatter and deceive her, never giving up until he succeeded.

Many female Martial Artists had become Martial Dao partners with Wen Dongyang, sacrificing their bodies only to be abandoned by him later.

Wu Shufeng and Wen Dongyang were also a pair of Martial Dao partners, but unlike other Martial Dao partners who have a mutual understanding and emotional harmony,

they maintained a Martial Dao partner relationship while both having other Martial Dao partners. Sometimes they engaged in dual cultivation together purely for the physical pleasure it brought.

This time, Wu Shufeng, Wen Dongyang, and three other Inner Court disciples of the Soul Summoning Hall formed a team for training. When they passed through the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, they entered it to seek cultivation resources.

All five were Foundation Establishment realm experts with some self-preservation abilities, so after entering the mountain range, they spread out to seek opportunities, agreeing to summon each other if any tension arose by using a whistle.

When Wu Shufeng passed by this small lake, she saw the water was clear, so she went into the lake to bathe, not expecting to be "peeped" at by Fang Bai and the others, leading to the subsequent events.

Sun Lin saw that four Foundation Establishment realm experts from the Soul Summoning Hall had gathered around Wu Shufeng, each one stronger than herself, and felt secretly alarmed.

Upon hearing the dialogue between Wu Shufeng and Wen Dongyang, Sun Lin suddenly felt a sense of fear. She thought that although "Senior Brother Wen" appeared noble and dignified, the look he gave her was full of undisguised greed and desire, like a Hungry Wolf seeing a delicious prey. If she were really captured by him, her purity might not be preserved, which would be a fate worse than death.

"Run!"

At this moment, Sun Lin no longer had the heart to fight to the death. Taking advantage of them being preoccupied with their conversation, she threw her Lihuo Sword and then leaped onto it, riding the sword to flee through the sky, hoping to escape from the five of them.

"Trying to run? It's not that easy!"

Senior Brother Wen laughed heartily and said to Wu Shufeng and the other four disciples, "Chase her with me! Whoever catches her for me will receive Spiritual Pills and Spiritual Liquid as rewards!"

The four of Wu Shufeng cheered and each mounted their Spiritual Artifacts, transforming into long rainbows as they pursued Sun Lin.

Although Sun Lin fled swiftly, she knew she was not as powerful as Wen Dongyang and the other four. If she fled towards the outer direction of the mountain, she would eventually be caught, with unimaginable consequences at that time.

So, Sun Lin decided to take a gamble and flew towards the core area of the mountain range, thinking that perhaps Wen Dongyang and the others from the Soul Summoning Hall would be apprehensive and not dare to pursue deep inside.

However, Sun Lin also knew that by doing so, she was placing herself in extreme danger.

After all, the spirit beasts in the core area of the mountain range were extremely strong, and some even surpassed the Foundation Establishment realm. With her strength, encountering one would mean certain death.

Chapter 1433: Survival After Despair

The journey to White Bone Gully may not be far, but peaks and valleys rise and fall along the way, ravines crisscross, dense forests spread across, and many Spirit Beast territories must be passed through, which are perilous and difficult for ordinary Martial Artists.

Fortunately, Fang Bai, Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, and Huang Zhong were all able to condense Spirit Energy wings for brief flights, which posed no real obstacles for them along this journey.

Although Huang Zhong's flying speed was somewhat slow, he was carried by Shi Ming throughout, without slowing the group down.

During their flight, the five faintly heard a distant howl from behind.

"That howl... seems to be from that woman by the lake!"

Shi Ming said with a frown.

"Hmm, that howl is likely a signal for summoning sect members among the Soul Summoning Hall disciples..."

Zheng Hong, having joined Lingxu Palace earlier and interacted with many Soul Summoning Hall disciples, knew what the howl signified.

Huang Zhong exclaimed, "That woman is a Soul Summoning Hall disciple?"

The enmity between the Soul Summoning Hall and Lingxu Palace was like fire and water, already a deep-seated vendetta, a fact well-known even to menial servant disciples like Huang Zhong.

Zheng Hong said solemnly, "It should be the case."

Shi Ming asked puzzled, "But that woman's strength is slightly superior to Senior Sister Sun's; why would she need to summon fellow disciples?"

"Could it be that Senior Sister Sun used some powerful method, forcing that woman to call for help?"

Thinking of this possibility, Huang Zhong couldn't help but get excited.

Zheng Hong and Shi Ming also felt their spirits lifted.

In this world of Martial Artists, many possess treasures or secret techniques to preserve their lives, typically used only as a last resort.

In the minds of Zheng Hong, Shi Ming, and Huang Zhong, Sun Lin being Elder Sun Jing's precious granddaughter, wouldn't Elder Sun impart some advanced Martial Arts Techniques or extraordinarily powerful treasures to her for such a training expedition?

But Fang Bai knew that Sun Lin had only received some Spirit Pills and Spiritual Liquid from Elder Sun, and the primary boost she relied on was the significantly enhanced strength obtained after advancing to the Foundation Establishment Realm.

However, Sun Lin's opponent, that Soul Summoning Hall woman, was also a Foundation Establishment Expert and slightly superior in strength. If she were to summon fellow disciples for assistance, Sun Lin would indeed find herself in dire straits.

"You three go wait by the entrance to White Bone Gully first. I'll go back and take a look... Don't worry, if we can't defeat them, Senior Sister Sun and I will escape. I'm quite skilled at fleeing. I'm off!"

Without waiting for Shi Ming and the others to reply, Fang Bai changed direction mid-air, flapped his Spirit Energy Wings vigorously, and dashed away.

"Should we go back together?"

Shi Ming watched Fang Bai's figure grow distant, turned his head, and asked Zheng Hong and Huang Zhong.

Zheng Hong pondered for a moment and shook his head, "It's unnecessary. With our strength, even if we go back, we won't be able to help, and we'll only end up being a hindrance to them. Let's follow Junior Brother Fang's suggestion and head to the entrance of White Bone Gully and wait."

The three accelerated their flight and soon reached the entrance of White Bone Gully, finding a secluded spot nearby to sit cross-legged and recover, waiting patiently for Fang Bai and Sun Lin to arrive.

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Six rainbows, one leading and five following, accompanied by the sound of breaking through the air, streaked over the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range like meteors.

Sun Lin flew swiftly on her sword, covering over three hundred miles in an instant, regularly glancing back to see the five pursuing Soul Summoning Hall disciples growing ever closer, her heart filled with urgency.

The five Soul Summoning Hall disciples were veteran Foundation Establishment experts; each held strength slightly superior to Sun Lin. At this pace, within a hundred more miles, Sun Lin would be intercepted.

Once confronted five-to-one, Sun Lin would have no hope of victory, with her life entirely in the hands of her pursuers.

Considering the potential consequences of her capture, Sun Lin shivered with fear.

"Little girl, you can't escape! Save your strength!"

Wu Shufeng's voice called out from afar, echoing in Sun Lin's ears.

"Haha, my little beauty, wouldn't it be better to be my Martial Dao companion, Wen Dongyang? When we cultivate together, not only can we enjoy extreme pleasure but also improve our cultivation levels together, why not?"

Wu Shufeng's voice had just fallen when Wen Dongyang's voice continued.

The other Soul Summoning Hall disciples laughed nastily, occasionally saying things that made Sun Lin feel disgusted.

Though they casually joked, the five Soul Summoning Hall disciples flew at full speed, closing the gap so that Sun Lin could already distinguish their facial features upon turning back.

Riding on Spiritual Artifacts allows for faster travel than moving on the ground but significantly depletes Divine Sense and Spiritual Energy.

After flying over three hundred miles, Sun Lin clearly felt her Divine Sense weakening and Spiritual Energy rapidly draining, realizing she could fly only a hundred more miles before she would need to stow away her Spiritual Artifact and land.

The same was true for the five Soul Summoning Hall disciples.

"Little girl, if you keep running, I won't go easy on you!"

Seeing Sun Lin's speed undeterred, heading towards the core of the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, Wu Shufeng guessed her intentions and threatened in her voice.

Sun Lin gritted her teeth, ignoring her, and accelerated.

The core of the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range is extremely perilous; even Foundation Establishment perfection experts dare not tread lightly, let alone initial Foundation Establishment practitioners like them.

Sun Lin betted that Wu Shufeng, Wen Dongyang, and the other Soul Summoning Hall disciples wouldn't dare pursue too deeply. If she could shake them off, she might yet find a glimmer of survival.

If caught by them, she would truly find herself in a fate worse than death.

"Swoosh!"

"Zzzz..."

"Boom..."

A rapid cutting sound of the air, along with the crackling of electricity and the roar of thunder, a long sword shimmering with purple electric light launched like a spirit snake from Wu Shufeng's hand, stabbing towards Sun Lin's back.

Ordinary Martial Artists find it exceedingly rare to possess even a single Spiritual Artifact, but Wu Shufeng, due to a chance encounter, had obtained two Spiritual Artifacts from a Martial Artist's trail simultaneously. One was the "Purple Thunder Sword" she rode upon, and the other was the "Lightning Snake Sword" she just released.

The Lightning Snake Sword, as swift as lightning, moving twice as fast as Sun Lin, pierced the space between them, instantly reaching within ten feet of Sun Lin's rear.

Facing the Lightning Snake Sword's attack, Sun Lin had two options.

One was to stop, using her Spiritual Artifact to counter the Lightning Snake Sword, but this would lead to her being surrounded by the five Soul Summoning Hall disciples.

The other was to change her flight direction, descending into the forest below.

After a slight hesitation, Sun Lin decisively chose the second option.

If surrounded by the five Soul Summoning Hall disciples, escape would be impossible.

After descending into the forest below, with numerous Spirit Beasts present, both Sun Lin and the Soul Summoning Hall disciples would act with caution, unable to move freely.

This would provide Sun Lin a chance to escape.

"What a cunning little girl; she's aiming for the death trap to find life!"

Wu Shufeng retrieved her Lightning Snake Sword, somewhat annoyed as she looked down at Sun Lin hastily plummeting into the forest, asking, "Senior Brother Wen, should we pursue?"

"Pursue!"

Wen Dongyang said through gritted teeth.

After expending their Divine Sense and Spiritual Energy, chasing all the way here, how could they give up easily?

Furthermore, though the forest below shelters Spirit Beasts, they, as five Foundation Establishment experts combined, should be able to handle whatever may come.

Chapter 1434: That Woman Went Crazy!

Sun Lin felt that her luck had reached rock-bottom.

Just as her feet touched the ground, she noticed a Red-Tailed Leopard under a towering tree dozens of feet away, glaring at her with furious eyes, fixated on her.

Clearly, the spot where Sun Lin landed was part of its territory, and her sudden arrival was seen by the leopard as an invasion.

What left Sun Lin even more desperate was that at the next moment, two more Red-Tailed Leopards emerged from the tree hollow, standing alongside the first leopard.

Three Red-Tailed Leopards, two big and one small, unmistakably a "family of three."

The most terrifying thing was that all three Red-Tailed Leopards were ancient, with hundreds of years to their age, belonging to the Holy Rank Spirit Beasts, with combat power even more formidable than an ordinary Foundation Establishment Expert.

Holy Rank Spirit Beasts absorb nature's spiritual energy for hundreds of years, developing rudimentary spiritual awareness and having a certain level of "Transformation" ability.

The so-called "Transformation" refers to the Spirit Beast's ability to take human form.

However, when Holy Rank Spirit Beasts transform, they can only hold the form for a short time, and even then, they cannot speak human languages, and their attack power is greatly reduced.

Only Spirit Beasts that have lived for over ten thousand years and have reached an even higher realm can permanently transform into a form indistinguishable from human Martial Artists and possess the ability to communicate with humans.

"Roar!"

While Sun Lin was in a daze, the most robust male Red-Tailed Leopard opened its enormous mouth and roared at Sun Lin, expressing its anger towards her invasion.

The powerful sound wave generated by the Red-Tailed Leopard's roar hit Sun Lin like an invisible tidal wave.

Despite Sun Lin using spiritual energy to protect herself, she was still shaken to the core by the sound wave, feeling dizzy and disoriented.

At that moment, Wu Shufeng, Wen Dongyang, and five other disciples of the Soul Summoning Hall also landed one after another.

"Red-Tailed Leopard!"

"There are actually three of them... What rotten luck!"

"This woman is a jinx, leading us right into the Spirit Beast's den!"

"Maybe we should just retreat? Otherwise, it's going to be a tough battle!"

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Upon hitting the ground, Wu Shufeng and the other Soul Summoning Hall disciples saw the three Red-Tailed Leopards and couldn't help but change their expressions slightly.

Sun Lin knew how formidable the three Red-Tailed Leopards were, and of course, they knew as well.

Though there were only three Red-Tailed Leopards, if they went berserk, even with Sun Lin among their ranks, the six Foundation Establishment experts wouldn't dare to face them head-on.

"Let's stay on the side and watch how it unfolds!"

Wen Dongyang knew the ferocity of the Spirit Beasts and said in a deep voice, not daring to confront them directly.

Wen Dongyang's plan was to temporarily exit the Red-Tailed Leopard's territory with the other four, letting Sun Lin fight with them first to exhaust both sides' spiritual energy as much as possible, hoping for mutual defeat. Then, his group of five could seize the opportunity to slaughter the three Red-Tail Leopards and capture Sun Lin.

The value of three Transformable Spirit Beasts' Spirit Cores was considerable, offering significant benefits for the cultivation of Foundation Establishment experts, surpassing the effectiveness of thousands upon thousands of Spirit Stones.

However, although Wen Dongyang had this plan in mind, how could Sun Lin let him succeed?

Even before Wen Dongyang finished speaking, Sun Lin was already wielding her Spiritual Artifact, the Lihuo Sword, actively launching an attack on the three Red-Tailed Leopards.

"That woman is insane!"

Everyone, including Wen Dongyang, thought the same.

"What a cunning woman!"

Wu Shufeng's face turned ugly as she shouted harshly, "She's provoking the Red-Tailed Leopards to drag us all into this mess!"

By the time she realized it, Sun Lin had already turned and was charging towards them.

Hot on Sun Lin's trail were the three Red-Tailed Leopards, their rage reaching the skies.

Red-Tailed Leopards are fire attribute Spirit Beasts, capable of gathering fire spirit energy to spit flames for long-distance attacks.

The most prominent feature of the Red-Tailed Leopard is its approximately six-foot-long tail. When swung, it feels like a fire whip dancing wildly and can be surprisingly effective during an attack.

Once the Red-Tailed Leopards started moving, their speed was astonishing. Nearly at the same moment Sun Lin reached Wen Dongyang and the others, they also arrived.

"Roar!"

Amid earth-shattering roars, the three Red-Tailed Leopards leaped high with their gigantic bodies, wielding whip-like six-foot-long tails, baring claws and teeth, pouncing at Sun Lin, Wen Dongyang, and the others from above.

The Red-Tailed Leopards don't distinguish between friend or foe; anyone invading their territory is seen as a mortal enemy.

Unlike human Martial Artists, Red-Tailed Leopards do not hold back during an attack. Once they strike, they do so with all their might.

The three Red-Tailed Leopards, engulfed in fire spirit energy, resembled three massive flames. As they attacked from above, waves of heat surged towards Wen Dongyang and the others, instantly igniting the dry grass and leaves within several dozen feet around.

Sun Lin was fine, as she was not an Innate Fire Spirit Root but had cultivated fire-type martial arts from a young age, so she was unafraid of the scorching heat waves enveloping her.

As the three Red-Tailed Leopards pounced from above, the five disciples of the Soul Summoning Hall could not withstand the onslaught of the heatwave and had to retreat.

Only Sun Lin, ducking low, glided swiftly to the rear of the three Red-Tailed Leopards, quickly fleeing in the opposite direction, covering a hundred feet in the blink of an eye.

"Wu Shimei, you go chase that woman! The four of us will deal with these three Red-Tailed Leopards!"

Seeing Sun Lin seize the chance to escape, Wen Dongyang shouted in anger, brandishing his Spiritual Artifacts alongside the three fellow disciples to entangle the three Red-Tailed Leopards with all their might.

"Don't worry, she won't get away!"

Wu Shufeng said coldly, pulling herself away, twisting her waist, and pursuing Sun Lin.

Sun Lin knew that if she flew using her Spiritual Artifact, Wu Shufeng would catch up to her quickly, so she weaved through the dense forest in an attempt to lose Wu Shufeng.

With more experience and more numerous training sessions in the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range than Sun Lin, Wu Shufeng was more familiar with the terrain and geography here. No matter where Sun Lin fled, Wu Shufeng followed closely, not letting up.

Several times, Wu Shufeng almost caught up to her; had it not been for Sun Lin's desperate counterattacks, she would've been injured and captured by Wu Shufeng.

As Sun Lin dashed through the terrain, she felt her spiritual energy depleting rapidly. Despite swallowing several Spirit Pills, the speed of replenishing spiritual energy was far less than her rate of depletion, and her pace gradually slowed.

The excessive consumption of spiritual energy meant that she would not be able to fly using her Spiritual Artifact for a short period.

Wu Shufeng, although also heavily consuming spiritual energy, had a Spatial Ring with a substantial reserve of Spirit Pills to boost spiritual energy, so she remained confident.

"Now, let's see where you can run to this time!"

Upon reaching the edge of a gorge, hundreds of feet wide and bottomless, Wu Shufeng laughed coldly, pointing the Purple Thunder Sword in her left hand and the Lightning Snake Sword in her right at Sun Lin, her eyes full of sarcasm.

With no Spirit Pills left, and almost completely drained of spiritual energy, Sun Lin knew she was unable to cross the gorge and felt a chill in her heart. Pausing her movement, she gripped the Lihuo Sword, turning around to face Wu Shufeng.

Right at that moment, a Giant Eagle let out a sharp cry from the sky, diving down.

On the back of the Giant Eagle sat a young man in white, cross-legged, gazing down coldly at Wu Shufeng, with the corners of his mouth curled into a chilling smile.

The young man in white was none other than Fang Bai.

Chapter 1435: Divine Sense Attack

On the back of the Giant Eagle, Fang Bai had altered his appearance and changed his attire. The Martial Artist Aura that emanated from him also shifted from Fire Attribute to Wood Attribute.

Not to mention Sun Lin, even those who knew Fang Bai the best, those closest to him, could not recognize him at this moment.

Since Fang Bai's cultivation level hadn't reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, he lacked the ability to fly using a Spiritual Artifact. However, he could control flying Spirit Beasts stronger than himself with the Beast Taming Scripture.

The Giant Eagle beneath Fang Bai had combat power equivalent to a human Foundation Establishment Expert. It was under his control, coming to rescue Sun Lin from her peril.

When the Giant Eagle dove down to a distance of a hundred feet from the ground, Fang Bai condensed Spirit Energy Wings, suspending himself in the air while letting out a sharp, urgent, and murderous screech.

Within the screech, the Giant Eagle became noticeably frenzied, exuding a violent aura, and its diving momentum suddenly accelerated, shooting toward the ground like an arrow, targeting Wu Shufeng.

Wu Shufeng, wielding the Thunder Lightning Twin Swords, was preparing to launch an attack on Sun Lin, planning to harshly punish the woman who had led their group of five on a wild chase before handing her over to Senior Brother Wen for further dealing. Unexpectedly, a gust of wind whipped up above, and as Wu Shufeng looked up, a "dark cloud" rapidly expanded in her view, bearing down oppressively.

"A Foundation Establishment Twin Pupil Eagle!"

After recognizing the "dark cloud" as the Wind System Spirit Beast, Twin Pupil Eagle, Wu Shufeng was taken aback.

The Twin Pupil Eagle, named for its twin pupils, was among the fiercest birds in the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range.

A juvenile Twin Pupil Eagle possesses combat power equivalent to a human Innate Perfection expert, while an adult one can rival human Foundation Establishment experts.

The Twin Pupil Eagle controlled by Fang Bai's cultivation level was similar to Wu Shufeng's, yet the innate advantages of a Spirit Beast gave it an edge in battle power over Wu Shufeng.

Furthermore, the Twin Pupil Eagle was naturally vicious and favored feeding on human Martial Artists. Unless one's strength surpassed it enough to kill or repel it, being entangled with it would lead to a relentless struggle of life and death.

As a result, the appearance of the Twin Pupil Eagle made Wu Shufeng inwardly curse and feel a headache brewing.

"Who might you be, and why are you interfering in the affairs of my Soul Summoning Hall?"

Wu Shufeng sidestepped dozens of feet, avoiding the Twin Pupil Eagle's aerial strike, and looked up at the floating Fang Bai, questioning him sternly.

At the same time, Sun Lin also looked towards Fang Bai in the sky, puzzled about why this unfamiliar Martial Artist would help her.

"I find Soul Summoning Hall displeasing—how's that for a reason?"

Fang Bai chuckled, a glint flashing in his eyes. He activated his Divine Sense, commanding the Twin Pupil Eagle to launch a fierce attack on Wu Shufeng.

Within a radius of several dozens of feet, vegetation, mountains, and stones were leveled and swept away in the fierce duel between a person and an eagle.

The Twin Pupil Eagle's battle power already surpassed Wu Shufeng's by a notch, and now, with its consciousness completely under Fang Bai's control, it waged a relentless, unceasingly frenzied attack on Wu Shufeng.

At first, Wu Shufeng could still resist, but as time dragged on and her Spiritual Energy was overly depleted, she found herself struggling to cope, left defending on both sides in a perilous situation.

A hundred breaths later, Wu Shufeng's shoulders and back were slashed by the Twin Pupil Eagle's sharp claws, leaving long wounds where blood flowed incessantly.

Her once neatly tied black hair was now a disheveled mess, making her look like a madwoman, an image of extreme wretchedness.

"Damn it!"

With the Giant Eagle attacking overhead, Sun Lin nearby watching like a hawk, and the unfamiliar man floating high above, Wu Shufeng realized that if she didn't leave now, her life might end here.

"Beast, get lost!"

Filled with rage, Wu Shufeng swallowed an entire bottle of Explosive Essence Pills, her power surged by several levels. She swung the Thunder Lightning Twin Swords fiercely towards the sky, electric snakes wildly danced, thunder roared, and two purple beams slashed down on the Twin Pupil Eagle.

The Twin Pupil Eagle let out a miserable screech; half its wing was cut off by the purple beams, receiving a heavy blow, and its massive body lost balance, plummeting towards the ground.

Wu Shufeng felt a momentary relief, withdrew her Thunder Lightning Twin Swords, and dashed forward.

Though a bottle of Explosive Essence Pills could significantly boost Wu Shufeng's power, after a hundred breaths, the side effects would manifest. Under the backlash of the medicine's power, Wu Shufeng's body would become extremely weak, akin to a cripple, and Sun Lin, even barehanded, could easily kill her.

Thus, within a hundred breaths, Wu Shufeng could only flee far away, find a secluded place to recover, or return to Wen Dongyang and other Soul Summoning Hall disciples to escape disaster.

The speed at which Wu Shufeng fled after taking Explosive Essence Pills was shockingly fast, leaving Sun Lin unable to catch up, stomping her foot in frustration.

At this moment, a thunderous shout from the sky struck like a clear day strike, causing Sun Lin's head to spin with dizziness.

That shout was clearly directed at Wu Shufeng, whose rapid escape was momentarily halted, as she too experienced a short spell of dizziness under the powerful sonic wave strike.

"This is the legendary Divine Sense attack... Who exactly is that young man?"

Despite her mind swirling with dizziness, Wu Shufeng maintained a shred of clarity, realizing that the white-robed man attacking her from the sky was employing a Divine Sense attack, leading her to despair.

Divine Sense attacks surpassed ordinary Martial Arts Techniques in their invisibility and secrecy, capable of directly affecting or damaging the opponent's Divine Sense, rendering them sluggish at best or unconscious at worst, achieving victory through surprise.

Typical Foundation Establishment experts, though possessing Divine Sense, generally only used it for perceiving surroundings and detecting imminent danger due to its weakness, unable to wield it for offensive purposes.

Even Foundation Establishment Perfection experts, though having relatively stronger Divine Sense, could not launch Divine Sense assaults without the necessary secret techniques for focusing their Divine Sense into offensive strikes.

Wu Shufeng speculated that the white-robed stranger in midair might belong to a powerful Sect, armed with a Sect's inherited Divine Sense attack secret technique.

The "powerful Sect" Wu Shufeng conjured in mind would be at least one with Golden Core Realm experts stationed.

Yet, Wu Shufeng couldn't fathom how the small Lingxu Palace, which overall wasn't as strong as the Soul Summoning Hall, could be associated with a powerful Sect having Golden Core Realm proponents.

"Had I known earlier, I wouldn't have deliberately troubled those Lingxu Palace disciples by the lake..."

In this moment, Wu Shufeng profoundly regretted her actions.

But there was no medicine for regret in the world; Wu Shufeng's regret came too late.

She realized that, following the Divine Sense attack, the white-robed man's next move was certain to be the most formidable attack.

"Whizz!"

A long blade, glistening with blood-light and exuding a sanguine aura, sliced down from the sky, trailing a blade glow several feet long, cutting toward the motionless Wu Shufeng with an irresistible force.

"What a fierce blade stance, what formidable pressure! Even my grandmother, with her high-rank Foundation Establishment cultivation, might struggle to resist this strike effortlessly?"

The alarming strike cleaving through the air caused Sun Lin, watching from afar, to shudder in fear and awe.

Sun Lin's curiosity about the identity of the sudden stranger in white, who had come to her aid, only intensified.

Chapter 1436: Who are you?

"Puff!"

The blade's light sliced down, blood splattered everywhere.

The Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, slashing through the air, effortlessly severed the Lightning Swords Wu Shufeng had raised high, continuing its momentum to strike Wu Shufeng.

Within the Inner Court of the Soul Summoning Hall, a Foundation Establishment Expert, under Fang Bai's one stroke, perished gracefully.

Sun Lin watched, utterly stunned, as Wu Shufeng, who had just chased her into hiding, was killed in one stroke by the stranger in white. It felt like a dream.

A white figure drifted down from the sky; it was the unexpected stranger dressed in white.

The Blood Blade, which had slain Wu Shufeng, was no longer in his hand, evidently stored away in his Space Ring.

"You..."

Sun Lin took a few steps forward, her eyes sparkling with curiosity, and asked, "Why did you help me?"

Fang Bai grinned, winked at Sun Lin, and said, "Little girl, don't flatter yourself! I just said it, I just don't like the look of the Soul Summoning Hall. I didn't do it to help you."

Sun Lin's face turned red, somewhat disappointed in her heart, she bit her lip and said, "Then can you tell me...who are you?"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "What, are you thinking about repaying the saving of your life?"

Sun Lin nodded.

Fang Bai pointed to Wu Shufeng's body and said, "My aim was to eliminate her; saving you was just a side act. So there's no need to repay."

After a pause, he teased, "Besides, even if you want to repay me, what good things can you provide?"

Sun Lin froze, thinking that what he said was true, he easily slew Wu Shufeng, a veteran Foundation Establishment expert, she really had nothing to repay him with.

"I...I..."

Sun Lin was at a loss, not knowing what to say.

"I was joking, don't take it seriously! As for who I am...I won't tell you!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily, turned to Wu Shufeng's corpse, reached out and grabbed her Spatial Ring, forcibly broke the Formation of the Spatial Ring, infused a wisp of Spiritual Energy into it, his eyes brightened, murmuring, "Unexpectedly, a small Foundation Establishment expert, stored quite a bit of cultivation resources! Hmm, this time I've made a small fortune..."

Fang Bai's gaze then fell on the cut Purple Thunder Sword and Lightning Snake Sword, frowned a little, casually collected the broken swords as well, thinking, "After all, they are holy grade Spirit Artifacts with lightning attributes, it's a pity to throw them away. I'll take them back and refine them, someday give them to Ruhua to use."

Sun Lin's gaze followed Fang Bai's movements, showing curiosity, admiration, and frustration.

"We're about the same age, but the difference in strength is too great! In front of him, there's a feeling of being overshadowed!"

Sun Lin thought secretly.

"Hey, here's the Twin Pupil Eagle's Spirit Core! I'm not interested in these things, it's yours!"

Fang Bai's voice suddenly sounded in her ears, Sun Lin exclaimed and looked over, Fang Bai was tossing a fist-sized Spirit Core towards her.

Sun Lin instinctively caught it, looking down to see it was indeed the Spirit Core of the Twin Pupil Eagle.

The Twin Pupil Eagle was severely wounded in the battle with Wu Shufeng, Fang Bai casually finished it off, taking its Spirit Core, also sparing it from pain.

A Spirit Beast comparable to a human Foundation Establishment Realm is quite valuable, at least worth exchanging for tens of thousands of Spirit Stones, but it was of little use to Fang Bai, so he gifted it to Sun Lin.

Sun Lin was delighted in her heart, just as she was about to thank Fang Bai, the ground beneath her feet trembled slightly, followed by the roar of spirit beasts.

"Not good, it's a beast horde!"

Fang Bai's expression changed dramatically, guessing that the earlier battle's commotion had been too great, inciting the wrath of many nearby Spirit Beasts, now charging towards them.

An enraged beast horde is extremely terrifying; if surrounded, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Hearing "beast horde", Sun Lin was instantly paralyzed with fear.

From the commotion of the beast horde and the roars, Sun Lin deduced that at least a hundred gigantic Spirit Beasts were charging towards them, rapidly closing the distance. If they delayed even a moment, they might be swallowed by the beast horde, never to escape.

They had already penetrated a few hundred miles into the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, where Spirit Beasts are comparable to human Foundation Establishment experts, hence a hundred beasts approaching equaled a hundred Foundation Establishment experts.

How could Sun Lin not be afraid?

"Run!"

Fang Bai grabbed the still stunned Sun Lin, formed Spirit Energy Wings, and soared into the sky, flying towards the direction of the White Bone Gully.

"You can let me go now. I can fly myself..."

After flying dozens of miles, Sun Lin noticed Fang Bai's breathing becoming heavier, guessing he was exhausting too much Spiritual Energy. She struggled a bit and loudly said.

When she formed the Spirit Energy Wings, Fang Bai released her, pointed forward, and said, "White Bone Gully is just over thirty miles from here, you head there yourself! Farewell!"

"Hey, how do you know I'm going to White Bone Gully?"

Sun Lin raised her hand to call out Fang Bai, however, he ignored her. His Spirit Energy Wings flapped, and he was a thousand feet away, leaving her unable to catch up.

"Suddenly appearing... suddenly leaving... he truly is a strange person..."

Sun Lin looked in the direction Fang Bai disappeared, feeling a bit lost, she murmured to herself.

"I wonder if Junior Brother Fang and the others have reached White Bone Gully. I should go check first..."

Lingering in the air dazedly for several breaths, Sun Lin finally remembered Fang Bai and the others, and then flew towards White Bone Gully.

...

Fang Bai, after taking a large detour, landed in a small valley near the entrance of White Bone Gully, changed back to his original clothes and appearance, and appeared before Sun Lin and the others who were waiting at the entrance of White Bone Gully.

Sun Lin had arrived at the White Bone Gully entrance before Fang Bai. After learning about the situation from Shi Ming and the others, the four waited there for Fang Bai.

Sun Lin had decided that if they didn't see Fang Bai after waiting for two hours, they would return together to search for him.

Her reasoning was, being a group of five, they shared fortunes and hardships, and they must not abandon any teammate.

At the very least, alive they must see the person, dead they must see the corpse.

"Junior Brother Fang, you're finally back!"

"Senior Sister Sun has been here for a while, didn't you two meet on the way?"

"Haha, you must have taken different paths!"

"As long as you're safe..."

...

Seeing Fang Bai return safely, Sun Lin and the others breathed a sigh of relief.

"You rascal, I told you to stay here with Junior Brother Shi and the others, why didn't you listen?"

Sun Lin rolled her eyes at Fang Bai, speaking with exasperation.

Fang Bai said, "Senior Sister Sun, I wanted to lend you a helping hand! I didn't expect you could escape from being surrounded by several Soul Summoning Hall disciples. It must be your great luck and destiny!"

Chapter 1437: Legend of White Bone Gully

"It's not that I'm blessed or lucky... someone helped me. Otherwise, I'd already be in the hands of the Soul Summoning Hall disciples."

In front of Sun Lin's eyes, the image of the white-clothed man riding a Twin Pupil Eagle, handsome and unrestrained, appeared. She couldn't help but sigh softly.

Fang Bai smiled without speaking.

Zheng Hong was curious, "Senior Sister Sun, who helped you?"

Sun Lin shook her head, dejected, "I don't know who he is either. He struck down the female disciple of the Soul Summoning Hall with a single blade, and then he left!"

Zheng Hong and the others, upon hearing this, looked at each other in shock.

Shi Ming clicked his tongue in admiration, "That Soul Summoning Hall female disciple's strength was a step above ours. To take her down with one strike, it must have at least been a Foundation Establishment mid-level expert, right?"

Zheng Hong said, "Even for a mid-level Foundation Establishment expert, they would have to give their all and catch the opponent off guard to possibly achieve a one-hit kill. I think the expert who saved Senior Sister Sun should be a high-level Foundation Establishment expert!"

Huang Zhong asked, "Senior Sister Sun, if you don't know him, why would he help you?"

Sun Lin gave a bitter smile, "Actually... he didn't intentionally help me. He said... he just found the Soul Summoning Hall disciples displeasing, that's why he acted. I guess I was just conveniently saved by him!"

Shi Ming and the others were speechless, thinking that this reason was indeed peculiar.

But many strong individuals in this world kill based on whim; who needs a reason?

Sun Lin added, "By the way, that person also knows the Beast Taming Art. Before he acted, he controlled a Foundation Establishment realm Twin Pupil Eagle to attack that female disciple from the Soul Summoning Hall, and then he struck her down from mid-air. That person was very young, probably around my age."

"What? Only in his early twenties?"

Zheng Hong and the others gasped in surprise upon hearing this.

They originally thought that the powerful individual who saved Sun Lin was at least in his fifties, but to think he was so young greatly surprised them.

In the Spirit Martial Realm, being in your twenties and reaching the Foundation Establishment realm could be considered exceptional and highly talented.

And someone who reached mid or high Foundation Establishment in their twenties would be a martial genius.

To Zheng Hong and the others, such a martial genius couldn't possibly be from a small sect like Lingxu Palace; only a powerful sect with Golden Core realm experts could have such disciples.

"Could it be that the expert who helped Senior Sister Sun is a disciple of a powerful sect with a Golden Core realm expert presiding?"

Zheng Hong and the others, thinking of this, couldn't help but feel their hearts race.

Golden Core realm experts, in the eyes of martial artists who hadn't even reached the Foundation Establishment realm, were entities to be revered and worshipped. If one could encounter such an expert, it might be a rare opportunity.

Unfortunately, according to Senior Sister Sun, that expert left after defeating the Soul Summoning Hall disciple, leaving no useful information. It was a bit regretful.

"Oh, by the way, before he left, he gave me the Spirit Core of the Twin Pupil Eagle..."

As Sun Lin spoke, she took out the Twin Pupil Eagle's Spirit Core from her space ring to show Zheng Hong and the others.

Zheng Hong and the others took the Spirit Core and examined it, feeling envious.

A Spirit Beast Core of the Foundation Establishment realm might not be considered rare, but it could be exchanged for tens of thousands of Spirit Stones, which was a decent sum.

Fang Bai stood aside, listening to Sun Lin and Zheng Hong and the others discuss the mysterious expert with great interest, finding it amusing.

"The White Bone Gully is right ahead. Let's take a break and prepare to enter!"

A moment later, Fang Bai urged.

Training at the White Bone Gully was their main purpose for this trip. With Fang Bai's reminder, Sun Lin and the others stopped their discussion and each found a place to sit cross-legged and rest.

Several hours later, the five of them were fully refreshed and in peak condition, then they filed into the White Bone Gully.

As soon as they entered the White Bone Gully, a sinister chill enveloped them. Huang Zhong, who was the weakest among them, couldn't help but shiver, his skin breaking out in goosebumps.

"It's said that countless martial artists and spirit beasts have fallen in the White Bone Gully. As time passes, it gives off a sinister aura. This aura might affect martial artists who are not firm of mind, causing them terrifying hallucinations..."

Sun Lin led the way in front, walking along a stream in the White Bone Gully, talking to Fang Bai and the others about the place.

These stories were all ones Sun Lin heard from her grandmother Sun Jing.

The White Bone Gully stretches east-west, over two thousand miles long. Sun Jing had once traversed it with the high ranks of Lingxu Palace.

But during that trip, the high ranks of Lingxu Palace lost two people, and the rest were all injured. Even the Lingxu Palace Master Li Sanfu, who had reached perfection in the Foundation Establishment realm, suffered multiple injuries.

Sun Lin's grandmother Sun Jing was severely injured at the time and was only saved by the protection of the high ranks. She didn't fall in the White Bone Gully, but it took her five years to fully recover after returning to Lingxu Palace.

Although the high ranks of Lingxu Palace successfully traversed the White Bone Gully, it left a deep shadow. Since then, Lingxu Palace disciples have been warned not to delve more than five hundred miles into the gully.

This is because beyond five hundred miles lies the core area, where more martial artists and spirit beasts have fallen. The sight is white bones everywhere, the dark aura thick and lingering, causing terrifying hallucinations. There are also a few but very powerful spirit beasts lying in wait. A slight misstep, and one might fall and become one with the bones.

"The core area of the White Bone Gully is a forbidden zone even in the eyes of ordinary Foundation Establishment experts. They dare not enter lightly. For our Lingxu Palace, only five inner court disciples can jointly venture to the edge of the core area. As for the five of us... my grandmother Sun Jing has repeatedly warned me that with our limited strength, we shouldn't go beyond three hundred miles, else our lives could be at risk."

Sun Lin continued speaking.

Shi Ming said dismissively, "Experience is all about going through various difficult and dangerous trials. Otherwise, how can one's cultivation level rise, and how can one's strength improve?"

Zheng Hong, being more cautious, advised, "Junior Brother Shi, life is not a game. We should listen to Elder Sun and be careful!"

Huang Zhong also said, "Let's just go three hundred miles this time. We can go further when we become stronger!"

Shi Ming snorted, "You two cowards, just say you're afraid of dying!"

Zheng Hong and Huang Zhong knew Shi Ming's straightforward nature. He kept nothing to himself and said whatever came to his mind, which made them smile wryly.

Sun Lin, after all, was a young martial artist with a spirit of not wanting to lose. She didn't completely heed her grandmother's warnings. After hearing Shi Ming's words, she felt quite tempted.

Chapter 1438: Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb

"Fang Bai, what do you think? Should we turn back after advancing three hundred li, or continue forward?"

Sun Lin turned her head to seek Fang Bai's opinion.

As the leader of this cultivation team, Sun Lin could easily make the decision on her own. However, Fang Bai was her lifesaver and possessed an Innate Spiritual Root, destined to achieve more in the Martial Dao than she could. Therefore, Sun Lin felt it very necessary to hear Fang Bai's opinion, as a sign of respect for him.

Fang Bai thought for a moment and said, "Let's proceed as we go! If there's a chance to go deeper, we might as well see more; after all, it's not easy to go out and explore like this."

All four of Sun Lin's team knew that Fang Bai's "if there's a chance" meant not encountering powerful Spirit Beasts or dangerous situations. If the road ahead was difficult, they would have to turn back.

The five formed a formation that could be both defensive and offensive, moving forward at a steady pace, carefully observing the surrounding mountains and terrains along the way, looking for Spiritual Medicine, Spirit Stones, or other usable special materials.

White Bone Gully was famous for being a place where many Martial Artists came to hone their skills. Any cultivation resources like Spirit Stones and Spiritual Medicine found along the way had mostly been picked or taken.

Only a small amount of Spiritual Medicine, Spirit Stones, or other cultivation resources, located in perilous places within White Bone Gully that were difficult for Martial Artists to access, remained preserved.

Therefore, to obtain more rare cultivation resources, one had to continually venture deeper into the rarely reached depths of White Bone Gully.

After entering White Bone Gully for less than a hundred li, they began to see skeletons, some of Martial Artists, others of Spirit Beasts.

Some of the bones were very old, corroded by time, mottled, and incomplete.

While some bones were new, with flesh still clinging to them, making them look terrifying.

"Martial Artists and Spirit Beasts who fall in White Bone Gully, over time, their tendons and flesh turn to dust, merging with the nearby rocks and soil, becoming excellent material for the growth of Spiritual Medicine. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why there's so much Spiritual Medicine in White Bone Gully. And the abundance of Spiritual Medicine attracts many Spirit Beasts to reside here..."

"There is Spiritual Medicine to pick, Spirit Beasts to slay, Spirit Stones, and special materials to collect. How could Martial Artists not be fond of it? Over time, White Bone Gully became a favored place for Martial Artists to cultivate. Perhaps right now in White Bone Gully, besides our team, there are others too!"

As the five moved forward continuously, their chances of encountering Spirit Beasts also increased. While Sun Lin heightened her vigilance, she kept talking with Fang Bai and the others to ease the increasing tension among them.

However, the piles of bones appearing along the way made Sun Lin and the others more and more solemn, the tension in their hearts escalating.

Huang Zhong was so nervous that the hand holding the Spiritual Artifact trembled incessantly.

"There's Spiritual Medicine!"

"Haha, it's the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb, the main ingredient for refining the Creation Pill!"

"The herb age is about seven thousand years, belonging to the mid-level Holy Grade Spiritual Medicine!"

"There are six stalks. Each of us can have one, and there will still be some left!"

"Naturally, the extra one goes to Senior Sister Sun!"

...

In a region lush with vegetation, in a crevice on the northern side of the gorge, Fang Bai and the others found six stalks of Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb growing together.

The Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb is the main ingredient for refining the Creation Pill. It is about three feet high, composed of five human-shaped leaves, each leaf a different color, hence the name "Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb."

The Creation Pill can greatly enhance a Martial Artist's chances of advancing to the next level. Many Martial Artists use the pill's power when they are not fully confident of advancing on their own.

Therefore, among all the Spirit Pills in the world, the Creation Pill is one of the top-tier Spirit Pills.

And the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb, which can refine the Creation Pill, is naturally extremely precious and valuable.

Finding even one Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb is typically difficult. Discovering six at once is even rarer, so it's no wonder Zheng Hong and others were so excited.

Huang Zhong let out odd exclamations of excitement, rushing toward the six stalks of Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb immediately.

"Junior Brother Huang, be wary of Spirit Beasts!"

Sun Lin shouted a reminder.

Those six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs were not ordinary Spiritual Medicine. How could there not be fierce beasts guarding them?

Having charged several dozen yards forward, Huang Zhong skidded to a halt, his eyes scanning the area around the six stalks of Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb, looking for any fierce beasts.

"There's... there's no Spirit Beast guarding around here!"

After observing for a while and not sensing any Spirit Beast presence, Huang Zhong turned his head, smiling relaxedly at Sun Lin and the others.

"Some powerful Spirit Beasts are skilled at concealing their presence, beyond the usual Martial Artist's detection. So it's still better to be cautious."

Sun Lin said as she walked over to stand beside Huang Zhong, along with Fang Bai, Shi Ming, and Zheng Hong.

Like Huang Zhong, Sun Lin and the others also observed around the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb to see if there were any Spirit Beasts present, but apart from Fang Bai, none of them found anything.

However, Sun Lin and the others dared not act recklessly.

They knew well that just because they couldn't sense the Spirit Beasts didn't mean there weren't any nearby.

There were two possibilities in such cases:

One, the Spirit Beast guarding the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb was adept at hiding its presence and lurking in a covert area, making it difficult for them to discover.

Two, the Spirit Beast guarding the herb was much stronger than all five of them.

Normally, Spirit Beasts guarding Spiritual Medicine would not easily appear. They would only emerge from hiding for a deadly attack if they deemed their guarded herbs were being intruded upon.

"Why don't I go out and test it, lure the Spirit Beasts out."

Shi Ming, eager to try, said as he looked at the six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs.

"Let me do it."

Sun Lin stepped forward two steps and said, "My cultivation level is slightly stronger than yours. If we encounter a Spirit Beast attack, I'm more confident in handling it."

At this moment, a blue sword light, accompanied by the sound of a dragon's roar, pierced through the air, landing directly on the ground in front of the five's feet.

Immediately afterward, five figures rushed from behind Fang Bai and the others, arriving in an instant.

All five were dressed in uniformly styled blue robes, with a Furnace Cauldron for refining Spirit Pills embroidered on the left chest part, emanating Wood Spirit Qi.

With just one glance, Sun Lin knew all five were disciples from Medicine King Mountain.

The five disciples from Medicine King Mountain included four men and one woman.

Among them, the four men were Foundation Establishment Experts and were inner court disciples of Medicine King Mountain.

The only woman was a Half-Step Foundation Establishment Expert and belonged to Medicine King Mountain's external courtyard disciples.

Needless to say, the five disciples of Medicine King Mountain, like them, came to White Bone Gully for cultivation.

However, it seemed they had come at the wrong time!

Sun Lin knotted her brow and a worried gleam flashed across her eyes.

The five disciples from Medicine King Mountain clearly possessed much greater strength than them. If they intended to seize the herbs by force, Fang Bai's team couldn't even dream of getting a single Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb.

Chapter 1439: Tong Yaoyao

"Haha, it's indeed the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb!"

"As expected, Senior Brother Chang is perceptive, he sensed the aura of the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb from afar!"

"Six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs, they're quite valuable, our journey wasn't in vain!"

"With six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs, we can at least exchange them for two bottles of Creation Pill with the Alchemists in the nearby city, right?"

"I've recently felt the possibility of advancing, and I just need the Creation Pill for assistance."

...

The five disciples from Medicine King Mountain who rushed forward set their sights on the six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs amid the mountain crevice, each of them excited beyond measure.

As for Fang Bai and his group of five, they were completely ignored by these disciples.

"Hey, we were the ones who discovered these Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs first!"

Shi Ming, hearing the conversation among the five disciples of Medicine King Mountain and feeling as if those herbs were already in their pockets, got anxious and raised his voice.

"Hmm?"

Upon hearing this, the five Medicine King Mountain disciples finally turned their heads to look at Fang Bai and his group of five, and then burst into loud laughter.

One Medicine King Mountain disciple laughed and said, "So what if you found them first? In the world of Spiritual Medicine, the capable shall possess! Whoever has the ability to harvest them will own them! If you have the skills, go ahead and pick them!"

Another Medicine King Mountain disciple said, "Judging by the look of you all, it seems you've been standing here for a while, are you worried about being attacked by the Spirit Beasts guarding the Spiritual Medicine and dare not approach to pick them? Haha, since you can't do it, we'll let the disciples of Medicine King Mountain handle it!"

"You..."

Shi Ming's face turned red with anger, wanting to argue back, but what the two Medicine King Mountain disciples said was unfortunately true, leaving him speechless.

The disciple from Medicine King Mountain referred to as "Senior Brother Chang" scanned Fang Bai's group, noticing that Sun Lin had the highest cultivation level among them, and walked straight up to her. With a courteous smile, he clasped his hands and said, "I am Chang Shan, an Inner Court disciple of

Medicine King Mountain. These four are my junior brothers and sisters. May I ask, are you all disciples of Lingxu Palace?"

Chang Shan appeared to be around thirty years old, with handsome features and a refined bearing, speaking with a smile and displaying politeness and elegance, giving an impression of a gentleman scholar. This, in turn, made Sun Lin and the others regard him favorably, as he did not exhibit the arrogance of the other Medicine King Mountain disciples.

Sun Lin also saw that among the five disciples of Medicine King Mountain, Chang Shan was evidently the leader of their Cultivation Team, just like herself.

"We are indeed disciples of Lingxu Palace."

Returning the smile, Sun Lin courteously clasped her hands and said, "I am Sun Lin. These four are my junior brothers."

Chang Shan nodded to Fang Bai and the others, then pointed back towards the six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs in the mountain crevice, and said earnestly, "The disciples of Medicine King Mountain have always been sincere and cherish harmony, never taking advantage of others. Since you were the first to discover these herbs and yet are unable to pick them, how about we join forces to harvest them?"

Sun Lin, heart stirred, exchanged glances with Fang Bai and the others, and seeing them nod, said, "We can join forces, but how do we distribute them after harvesting?"

Chang Shan thought for a moment, then said, "We take four, and you take two. How about that?"

This method of distribution happened to align with Sun Lin's expectations, and after a brief hesitation, she nodded in agreement.

In Sun Lin's view, among the five disciples of Medicine King Mountain, there were four Foundation Establishment Experts and one close to Foundation Establishment, their overall strength far exceeded her side. Even if they took all six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs, there was nothing her group could do.

Thus, obtaining two Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs already seemed a great boon for her side.

The other four disciples of Medicine King Mountain followed Chang Shan's lead; though dissatisfied with this allocation, they dared not voice their discontent.

"Brother Fang, we meet again."

The only female disciple among the five from Medicine King Mountain walked up to Fang Bai with a cheerful greeting.

"Yes, Miss Tong, I didn't expect to meet again so soon."

Fang Bai also showed a smile.

This female disciple from Medicine King Mountain, with her delicate appearance and slender figure, possessed an Innate Wood Spirit Root. She was one of Fang Bai's friends from the Three Thousand Minor Worlds when he first arrived in the Spirit Martial Realm, named Tong Yaoyao.

Originally, when Fang Bai entered the Spirit Martial Realm from the Three Thousand Minor Worlds, there were over a dozen Martial Artists. Later, Fang Bai and Shi Ming were taken by Lingxu Palace, while Tong Yaoyao was chosen by Elder Chang Yuanlong of Medicine King Mountain, and others from the Minor Worlds found their own paths.

When the five disciples from Medicine King Mountain arrived, Tong Yaoyao and Fang Bai immediately recognized each other, and only now had the chance to exchange greetings.

Upon learning this connection between Fang Bai and Tong Yaoyao, Sun Lin remarked with a smile that the two indeed shared a fateful bond.

However, as soon as she said this, she noticed the strange expressions on the faces of the Medicine King Mountain disciples opposite, with Chang Shan looking particularly displeased, making her suddenly realize Chang Shan might be a suitor of Tong Yaoyao, and she quickly changed the subject out of embarrassment.

Sun Lin's guess was correct; ever since Tong Yaoyao entered Medicine King Mountain, she had become the most admired female disciple there. Her beauty, charm, and promising future in the Martial Dao enamored many male disciples, including Chang Shan, all of whom sought to become her Martial Dao partner.

This time, Chang Shan had specifically taken Tong Yaoyao out for training, hoping to win her favor and strengthen their bond during this opportunity.

Upon hearing that Fang Bai and Tong Yaoyao both hailed from the Minor World and knew each other long ago, Chang Shan felt a bit tense, but seeing how Fang Bai and Tong Yaoyao were merely acting as ordinary friends relieved his concerns.

After a brief discussion among the disciples, they decided that Chang Shan and four others would be responsible for picking the six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs, while Sun Lin and the others would fend off any Spirit Beasts that might appear.

"Charge!"

Having made the decision, both sides hesitated no longer, avoiding any additional Cultivation Teams from arriving and complicating matters. Under Chang Shan's lead, the five disciples from Medicine King Mountain each wielded their Spiritual Artifacts, surrounded themselves with Spirit Qi Shields, and rushed towards the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs at top speed.

Sun Lin and the others charged simultaneously, guarding alongside Chang Shan's group with their fighting spirits raised to a peak, on high alert.

Near the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs, a powerful Spirit Beast was surely lurking.

This was beyond doubt for both Chang Shan's and Sun Lin's groups.

Sure enough, as Chang Shan's group approached within three meters of the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs, a rustling sound came from the dense grass, and a fishy wind surged out from between the grass, overwhelming the air.

Accompanying the gust of wind was a pitch-black mist, like a vast net, sweeping towards Chang Shan's group as they rapidly approached the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs.

Even before the black mist enveloped them, Chang Shan's group felt dizzy and nauseous.

Chapter 1440: Twin-Headed Serpent

"Oh no! It's a Twin-Headed Serpent!"

When that mass of inky mist appeared, the one at the forefront, Chang Shan, was the first to react, his face changing dramatically.

The Twin-Headed Serpent is a unique spirit beast within the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, ferocious and savage, with extremely potent poison. Especially its venomous mist, black as soot; even a stone as hard as steel, if touched by even a speck, would be quickly corroded into a pile of ash.

From the spirit beast's aura he sensed, Chang Shan deduced that the Twin-Headed Serpent emitting the poison mist had an attack power comparable to a human martial artist at the initial stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, the same as himself.

Nevertheless, Chang Shan still felt a sense of fear towards the Twin-Headed Serpent which had yet to appear.

The Twin-Headed Serpent's skin has a layer of extremely strong defensive scales, making it difficult for ordinary Holy Grade Spirit Artifacts to harm it. Additionally, the corrosive nature of its poison mist makes it perilous to approach, and thus, knowing he was no match for that serpent under similar circumstances, Chang Shan realized.

Even a human martial artist at the mid-stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm would likely avoid this Twin-Headed Serpent.

Chang Shan felt that with the appearance of this Twin-Headed Serpent, the ten disciples from Medicine King Mountain and Lingxu Palace present would have to pay a considerable price to slay it, even if they worked together.

"Retreat quickly!"

With a loud shout, Chang Shan clapped his palms forward, using the momentum to rapidly retreat backward.

His powerful palms created a gust that formed a wall of spiritual energy, blocking the mass of poison mist rushing forward.

Chang Shan's palm strike was executed with all his might, the force within could shatter a massive boulder weighing ten thousand pounds.

However, when his gust collided with the advancing poison mist, it only slightly stalled the mist's speed, failing to stop it, and soon after, the poison mist covered the ten of them even faster.

Wherever the poison mist passed, grass, trees, and stones were all corroded into ash, emitting wisps of white smoke.

The disciples of Medicine King Mountain and Lingxu Palace knew things were critical as soon as Chang Shan shouted and immediately began to retreat.

Yet Huang Zhong was stunned by the sudden situation, responding a few beats slower than the others, and saw the poison mist about to envelop him.

"Go!"

Fang Bai moved like lightning, grabbing Huang Zhong's collar, and retreated dozens of feet, narrowly avoiding the encroaching poison mist.

Huang Zhong, narrowly escaping death, looked at the grass, trees, and stones at the place where he had just stood, all corroded into ash, realizing that without Fang Bai, he might not have even a pile of bones left. Relieved, he broke into cold sweat, almost collapsing on the ground.

The bodies of ten disciples from Medicine King Mountain and Lingxu Palace had just stabilized when they saw a Twin-Headed Serpent, about ten feet long and covered in a layer of inky scales with two snake heads, emerging from the mass of poison mist, mouth wide open, exposing sharp fangs, and an inch-long tongue flicking rapidly, as if demonstrating against Fang Bai and the others.

"What should we do? Do we pick those six Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs or not?"

Chang Shan, holding his spiritual artifact, guarded against possible attacks from the Twin-Headed Serpent, and asked Sun Lin in a low voice.

The serpent's body was coiled in front of the mountain crevice; to collect the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs, it must be slain.

But looking at the inky scales on the serpent's body and the mass of poison mist surrounding it, Chang Shan felt a chill down his spine, knowing that slaying the Twin-Headed Serpent would certainly involve a bitter battle.

"What do you think?"

Sun Lin asked in return.

Chang Shan exchanged a glance with several disciples from Medicine King Mountain and said through gritted teeth, "A risk-free training holds no meaning! So... we won't back down!"

Sun Lin nodded, sought opinions from Fang Bai and others, and then also nodded, "We'll advance and retreat with you!"

Chang Shan laughed loudly, full of courage, "Good! Then let's join forces and slay this Twin-Headed Serpent!"

The ten of them spread out, each wielding a spirit artifact, forming a semicircle, slowly closing in on the Twin-Headed Serpent.

The Twin-Headed Serpent, having absorbed nature's spiritual energy for thousands of years, already had awakened intelligence, as smart as a human Martial Artist. It knew the ten martial artists before it targeted the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs it had guarded for years, and grew furious.

Its two snake heads swayed uneasily, flicking its tongue more rapidly, and a bloody stench permeated the air of several feet around it, while its tail vibrated quickly, producing a strange sound.

The martial artists familiar with the Twin-Headed Serpent, like Chang Shan and others, all knew this was a signal before the serpent struck.

"Kill!"

Chang Shan, Sun Lin, and other strong cultivators at the Foundation Establishment Realm exchanged a glance filled with mutual understanding, and shouted loudly, simultaneously brandishing their spiritual artifacts, attacking the Twin-Headed Serpent from different directions.

Several spirit artifacts transformed into several beams of rainbow lights, fast as lightning, reaching the serpent in the blink of an eye.

Despite the Twin-Headed Serpent's massive body, its movements were surprisingly agile, dodging most of the spiritual artifact attacks deftly, only Chang Shan's and Sun Lin's artifacts landed on its body.

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

Two crisp sounds; Chang Shan's and Sun Lin's powerful Holy Grade Spirit Artifacts only left two shallow white marks on the serpent's inky scales, causing no substantial harm.

"Well, the Twin-Headed Serpent's defensive capability is astonishing!"

"Even Holy Grade Spirit Artifacts can't hurt it, how else could we kill it?"

"It seems to be enraged!"

"If it becomes rampant and attacks us, no one among us can withstand!"

...

The disciples from Medicine King Mountain and Lingxu Palace were greatly shocked seeing their joint attack unable to deal with the Twin-Headed Serpent.

Fortunately, the serpent was extremely cunning. Even though Chang Shan and others' attacks made it furious, it still remained in front of the mountain crevice, unwilling to leave, lest it provide Chang Shan and human martial artists the opportunity to snatch away the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herbs.

"Under the neck, seven inches down, there's a fist-sized area not protected by scales, very weak in defense. If our spiritual artifacts strike there, it will suffer great injury. At that point, slaying it will be easy."

Chang Shan relayed words from an Elder of Medicine King Mountain to Sun Lin and others.

Sun Lin observed the Twin-Headed Serpent for a moment, and said with a bitter smile, "The serpent is cunning, it will undoubtedly guard its vulnerable points doubly. It's easier said than done to strike under its neck, seven inches down?"

Seeing the serpent guarding its vulnerable spot closely, Chang Shan knew finding an opportunity to strike would be extremely tough, and he felt anxious.

"How about I go and attack it, draw its attention, and you find the opportunity to strike!"

Fang Bai suggested suddenly.

"You?"

Sun Lin looked at Fang Bai and shook her head vehemently, "You're only at Half-Step Foundation Establishment, probably can't endure a single hit from the Twin-Headed Serpent! No, we can't let you take such a risk!"

Chang Shan laughed, "Young man, your spirit is commendable, but attacking the Twin-Headed Serpent is tantamount to courting death. Let's not do that."

Other disciples from Medicine King Mountain looked at Fang Bai with disdain, thinking to themselves, even our Senior Brother Chang fears that serpent and dares not attack, and yet you dare?

Is this overestimation of ability? Or is it ignorance leading to fearlessness?