

Doctor 1451

Chapter 1451: Fang Bai's Deal with the Green Tail Wolf

The Green Tail Wolf never expected that the human Martial Artist it had underestimated would actually be able to tame and control ten Golden Beak Giant Eagles, draw away the four Spirit Beasts guarding the cave, and barge into the cave to face it directly.

From the gaze of this human Martial Artist, the Green Tail Wolf saw undisguised passion.

The Green Tail Wolf knew that this human Martial Artist was just like those who had chased it down previously, only to be killed by it—all harboring ill intentions, wanting to obtain its Spirit Core or even its Golden Core.

At the same time as the Green Tail Wolf was astonished and angry, it was also somewhat terrified.

The side effects of using its Golden Core for defense had already started to manifest, and its current combat strength was far from a tenth of its peak. It had no confidence in winning against the human Martial Artist before it.

In usual circumstances, the Green Tail Wolf, with Golden Core Realm strength, would only need to release a hint of pressure, and the human Martial Artist before it wouldn't be able to endure and would have to submit to being butchered.

But at this moment, the Green Tail Wolf could only hope that its remaining power could intimidate the human Martial Artist before it, making him too afraid to act rashly.

Of course, even though the Green Tail Wolf was extremely weakened, it wasn't entirely powerless.

If the human Martial Artist before it dared to make a move, the Green Tail Wolf was confident that a full-force strike could easily tear him to pieces.

However, the Green Tail Wolf also knew that in its current state, forcefully making a move would be like hurting the enemy by a thousand, while injuring itself by eight hundred. Injuries and strength that would normally take several days to recover might be extended tenfold.

"Human brat, I know you want to kill me, but without certainty, you don't dare to make a move. Ha... It's wise of you not to act, or you'd already be without your corpse!"

Not wanting a mutually destructive fight with Fang Bai, the Green Tail Wolf suddenly spoke in human words, saying, "Likewise, I need to heal, and don't want to fight you. So... how about we talk?"

A Spirit Beast whose Cultivation Level has reached the Foundation Establishment Realm can have its intelligence greatly increased and can temporarily transform into human form.

Spirit Beasts at the Golden Core Realm, having absorbed nature's spiritual energy for thousands of years and practiced deeply, can not only transform but also speak human words.

Thus, for the Green Tail Wolf to speak human words, Fang Bai didn't find it strange.

"Don't boast! You're just a facade now, and killing me isn't so easy! Otherwise, you'd have acted already... ha ha..."

Fang Bai laughed a few times, letting his gaze sweep around the Green Tail Wolf's cave, before continuing, "But... I also don't want to expend Spiritual Energy in a fight with you. Thus... talking could be possible."

The Green Tail Wolf knew that the longer the time dragged on, the larger the side effects within its body would become, and the more unfavorable the situation would be for it, so it said, "If you are willing to cease and leave, you can take one-tenth of the Spiritual Medicine in my cave, how about it?"

This cave contains tens of thousands of spiritual herbs, and their age is very high. One-tenth is several thousand, and the Green Tail Wolf believed this number was quite a lot for Fang Bai.

The Green Tail Wolf saw Fang Bai's young age and assumed he was an inexperienced human Martial Artist, believing that several thousand spiritual herbs would be enough to make him eagerly agree.

But unexpectedly, Fang Bai pursed his lips, looking very much displeased.

"I'll give you a maximum of two-tenths! That's over ten thousand spiritual herbs! Spending ten or twenty years, you still might not harvest this much! Human Martial Artist, don't be too greedy!"

There was a hint of threat in the Green Tail Wolf's voice.

"I'll take eight-tenths and leave you two-tenths!"

Fang Bai calmly replied.

"Impossible!"

The Green Tail Wolf hadn't expected Fang Bai to demand so much, its fur bristling as it angrily said, "I can only give you two-tenths; don't even think about getting more!"

Fang Bai replied, "Is there no room for negotiation then? Alright, let's prove ourselves in battle..."

"Three-tenths! That's my bottom line!"

Seeing Fang Bai poised to make a move, the Green Tail Wolf was very frustrated. It really didn't want to battle Fang Bai and cause loss to its Cultivation Level, so it conceded a bit.

However, while conceding, it opened its blood-red mouth, revealing two rows of sharp fangs as a show of force to Fang Bai.

"I'll take six-tenths and leave four-tenths for you... If that's unacceptable, then let's fight!"

Fang Bai thought briefly and realized it was not wise to anger the Green Tail Wolf, thus he also conceded a step.

The Green Tail Wolf was extremely angry, wishing it could pounce and tear Fang Bai apart, but its increasingly weakened body forced it to hold back the impulse.

"Half for each... nod if you agree, don't if you don't... then we'll fight!"

The Green Tail Wolf's steel-tail-like appendage stood erect, showing a willingness to battle to the end.

"Deal!"

Fang Bai grinned, nodding cheerfully.

The Green Tail Wolf secretly breathed a sigh of relief, thankful that the human Martial Artist before it hadn't discovered the Spiritual Spring in the cave, or perhaps he didn't know how the Spiritual Spring's role in cultivation surpassed that of the spiritual herbs in the cave.

At this moment outside the cave, ten Golden Beak Giant Eagles and four Spirit Beasts were fiercely battling, with constant roars and cries resonating.

The Green Tail Wolf knew both sides were evenly matched, unable to overcome each other in the short term, feeling deeply disappointed.

It initially planned to temporarily compromise with Fang Bai; once Fang Bai left the cave, it could order the four Spirit Beasts to besiege him, eliminate him, and then reclaim its spiritual herbs.

But unexpectedly, its four Spirit Beasts were unable to defeat the ten Golden Beak Giant Eagles controlled by the human Martial Artist, being intensely tied down.

Thus, as long as Fang Bai acted quickly, he could take the spiritual herbs and leave leisurely.

"I'll start taking my half of the spiritual herbs now!"

After negotiating with the Green Tail Wolf, Fang Bai didn't hold back. While secretly wary of the Green Tail Wolf, he walked to a pile of spiritual herbs and, with a flick of his left hand, his Space Ring glimmered slightly, already storing the pile of spiritual herbs inside.

Although the space of the Space Ring on Fang Bai's finger wasn't as vast as the cavern's, it was more than sufficient for storing half of the spiritual herbs.

The Green Tail Wolf's gaze remained fixed on Fang Bai, clearly guarding against any surprise attack from the human Martial Artist.

Fang Bai was stealthily cautious of the Green Tail Wolf but outwardly pretended to be relaxed, meticulously selecting the spiritual herbs he favored. As time passed, the Green Tail Wolf, seeing no intentions of assault from him, relaxed its vigilance.

"Oh, this Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus, must be around seven thousand years old... excellent! I'll take it!"

"Ha, an eight-thousand-year-old Spirit Fox Grass, very good! Keeping it!"

"Wow, nearly nine-thousand-year-old Earth Immortal Ginseng! Great!"

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During his selection of spiritual herbs, Fang Bai constantly shouted loudly, intentionally provoking the Green Tail Wolf.

Every time he stored a spiritual herb, the Green Tail Wolf's heart ached a bit more, and its hatred for Fang Bai increased a bit.

Whether a Martial Artist or a Spirit Beast, whenever emotions are stirred, they can't remain highly focused. The Green Tail Wolf was just like this, its vigilance against Fang Bai not as intense as before.

Just then, as Fang Bai was picking spiritual herbs, he suddenly turned, wielding a scarlet long blade that transformed into countless blade shadows, filled with a bloody aura, carrying an overwhelming pressure exceeding Fang Bai's Cultivation Level, and struck the somewhat unfocused Green Tail Wolf.

"Kill!"

As the Blood Blade sliced, Fang Bai's tongue split like a spring thunder, letting out a loud roar.

Chapter 1452: Laughing Till the End

At the moment Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade slashed down and his shout erupted, the Green Tail Wolf experienced a brief moment of distraction.

This truly shocked the Green Tail Wolf, and then it became outraged.

The Green Tail Wolf was astonished because this mere Half-Step Foundation Establishment Martial Artist was able to influence its mind with the blood-colored Spiritual Artifact in his hand and his sudden shout.

It was enraged because this human Martial Artist actually "betrayed" it, disregarding the "agreement" they had just reached, and suddenly attacked.

"Damn human!"

In its anger, the Green Tail Wolf did not dodge, and with a roar, its massive body charged at Fang Bai like lightning.

As for the descending Blood Blade, the Green Tail Wolf completely ignored it.

Although it knew that the Blood Blade in Fang Bai's hand was very strange, the Green Tail Wolf's physical body was exceptionally strong with its Golden Core Realm power. In its eyes, even a Holy Grade Spirit Stone used by a Foundation Establishment perfection expert would find it hard to harm it, let alone the Spiritual Artifact used by this Half-Step Foundation Establishment Martial Artist?

Moreover, the Green Tail Wolf hated Fang Bai so much that even if it meant getting hurt, it wanted to smash Fang Bai into pieces.

The cave was narrow, and the speed of the Green Tail Wolf's charge was extremely fast, making it impossible for Fang Bai to dodge.

In the next moment, with a loud "bang," the massive body of the Green Tail Wolf collided solidly with Fang Bai.

And at the same instant before the collision, Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade fiercely slashed at the Green Tail Wolf's head, which was harder than refined iron.

The Green Tail Wolf's full force impact was enormous, sending Fang Bai flying backward like a bullet.

"Boom!"

With a thunderous roar and debris flying everywhere, Fang Bai's body slammed into the mountain wall behind him, deeply embedding more than ten feet in.

"Ha, human Martial Artist, even with a body of steel and iron, how could you survive a chance against my collision? A glowworm has no chance to rival the bright moon!"

Seeing Fang Bai, deeply embedded in the mountain wall and seemingly lifeless, the Green Tail Wolf relaxed a little and couldn't help but feel a bit proud.

With the death of that human Martial Artist, the ten Golden Beak Giant Eagles he controlled could break free and leave this place, and the four Spirit Beasts it had subdued could continue guarding the outside of the cave, allowing it to rest peacefully.

Just then, a liquid began to flow down from the top of the Green Tail Wolf's head, blurring its vision.

Soon after, a searing pain, deep into its bones, emerged from its head.

"What's going on?"

The Green Tail Wolf vigorously shook its head, shaking off the liquid dripping from its head. Its vision cleared a bit, revealing the ground stained with puddles of fresh blood.

The intense pain rendered the Green Tail Wolf's consciousness somewhat hazy, causing its body to sway and nearly collapse.

"Damn it! A mere Half-Step Foundation Establishment human Martial Artist, how could have I suffered such severe injuries?"

Only then did the Green Tail Wolf realize that the earlier strike from that human Martial Artist had cut a deep wound into its hardest head.

The pools of blood on the ground were gushing from the wound.

After its anger, the Green Tail Wolf felt a surge of fear, followed by a sense of relief.

It knew that if the force of that human Martial Artist's strike had been a bit stronger, its head might have been split in two by him.

No matter how powerful a Spirit Beast's vitality is, if its head is split in two, the result would only be death.

That strike from Fang Bai, though it dealt the greatest injury the Green Tail Wolf had ever experienced, was still not sufficient to be fatal. However, the Green Tail Wolf would now need three to five months longer than before to recover due to that severe injury.

The Green Tail Wolf originally intended to return to its resting place, continue licking its wounds, and recuperate. But suddenly, a heatwave surged from the deep pit where Fang Bai was embedded, enveloping the entire cave in an instant.

Within the scorching waves, the Green Tail Wolf sensed a trace of a primitive and ancient dominance.

"What? That human Martial Artist... he's not dead? Is his body even stronger than mine?"

The pupils of the Green Tail Wolf shrank as its gaze locked onto the deep pit in the mountain wall where Fang Bai's body had hit.

From that deep pit, the Green Tail Wolf sensed Fang Bai's burning battle intent and vigorous fighting spirit, even more intense than before.

Since advancing to the Golden Core Realm, the Green Tail Wolf, reigning over a wide region, had never seen a human Martial Artist with a body stronger than its own, nor had any human Martial Artist endured its attack.

It originally thought that the young human Martial Artist it had knocked away would turn into a pancake after being embedded in the deep pit in the mountain wall, dead beyond doubt. However, it had not expected that the human Martial Artist not only endured its severe collision but even seemed to have grown stronger than before.

This was evident from the human Martial Artist's stronger battle intent and more vigorous fighting spirit.

The temperature inside the cave was rising at a terrifying pace. When it reached a level that even made the Green Tail Wolf feel a bit hot, a sharp whistling sound pierced the air.

"Swish!"

Just as the whistling sound began, an arrow the length of an arm shot out from the deep pit in the mountain wall where Fang Bai's body was buried, moving at a speed imperceptible to the naked eye, aimed directly at the Green Tail Wolf.

The arrow was completely crimson, infused with astounding fire energy, clearly an arrow formed from Fire Spirit Energy.

An arrow formed from ordinary Fire Spirit Energy, shot out, would not possess such astonishing power, nor would it pose any threat to the Green Tail Wolf.

But Fang Bai had formed the arrow using the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, and infused it with a mouthful of his essence blood. Additionally, he used the Houyi Bow to launch it, a power so strong that even a Foundation Establishment perfection expert would not dare face it head-on.

Moreover, at this moment, the side effects of the Green Tail Wolf's Golden Core defenses were increasingly manifesting. Having just suffered a severe wound from Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, its state reached its lowest point. Not only was facing the arrow impossible, but even dodging was out of the question.

"Howl..."

Knowing there was no hope, the Green Tail Wolf let out an unwilling howl, only for it to be abruptly cut off right after it began.

The arrow launched by Fang Bai with the Houyi Bow pierced through the Green Tail Wolf's head, penetrated its ten-foot-long body, and emerged from its tail end, embedding deeply into the mountain wall behind it, leaving a bowl-sized, ten-foot-deep arrow pit.

To the Green Tail Wolf, this was a fatal strike.

The Green Tail Wolf lost its vitality almost instantaneously, standing in place for several breaths, before collapsing with a thump.

Just when the Green Tail Wolf was pierced by the Fire Spirit Energy arrow, Fang Bai's body also leapt from the pit.

"Phew!"

Glancing at the lifeless Green Tail Wolf, Fang Bai finally sighed with relief and stored the Houyi Bow in his hand and the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade on the ground into his Space Ring. He brushed off a layer of rock dust from his body, wiped a trace of blood from the corner of his mouth, and a victorious smile appeared on his face.

"So what if it's a Golden Core Realm Spirit Beast? Wasn't it still killed by me? The one who laughs last, laughs best!"

Fang Bai laughed a few times and, noticing the pile of Spirit Stones accumulating in the cave, collected some. At the cave's entrance, he quickly set up a Defensive Array to prevent outsiders or Spirit Beasts from intruding, then returned to the Green Tail Wolf to reap the rewards of victory.

Chapter 1453: Refining the Golden Core

The most precious thing on a Golden Core Realm Spirit Beast naturally is the golden core formed within its Qi Sea.

The golden core is not solely condensed from spiritual energy; it also integrates the essence, energy, spirit, emotions, will, and thoughts of both martial artists and spirit beasts.

Once the golden core becomes complete, it can transform into a nascent soul, possessing certain life characteristics and spiritual intelligence.

Once the nascent soul materializes and liberates outside the body, it reaches the Soul Severing Realm beyond the Martial Dao, granting martial artists or spirit beasts a clone.

This clone is almost a replica of the martial artist or spirit beast's original form, identical in appearance. A powerful clone possesses certain autonomous thought capabilities, assisting the main body in battles and helping probe distances the divine sense cannot reach.

However, whether human martial artists or spirit beasts, upon death, the golden core rapidly escapes the body and disperses into the world.

If one can absorb its essence before the golden core dissipates, it provides unimaginable benefits for the cultivation of martial artists or spirit beasts.

This is why hundreds of strong fighters flocked to attack the Green Tail Wolf, desiring to claim its golden core once it was expelled.

Fang Bai painstakingly slew the Green Tail Wolf, unwilling to miss the opportunity and let the golden core disperse on its own.

After setting up a defensive formation at the cave entrance and eliminating possible disturbances from outside, he waited by the Green Tail Wolf's corpse, calmly awaiting the golden core's emergence.

Tens of breaths later, Fang Bai's eyes lit up as he saw a fist-sized bead emerge from the Green Tail Wolf's body, slowly levitating into the air.

The bead emitted green and golden light, dazzling and illuminating the entire cave; it was indeed the Green Tail Wolf's golden core.

In his previous life, a golden core like this wouldn't catch Fang Bai's eye at all.

Yet in this life, with Fang Bai cultivating anew, he felt immense surprise and excitement upon facing such a golden core.

Fang Bai extended his right hand, holding the golden core in his palm.

Despite the Green Tail Wolf having previously expelled the golden core, unleashing its terrifying power that swept away thousands of enemies and reduced hundreds of martial artists to ashes in an instant,

at this moment, the golden core appeared exceedingly docile; Fang Bai held it gently in his palm, without the slightest movement, quietly releasing pure and intense Wood Spirit Qi, filling the entire cave space.

Fang Bai took a deep breath, sat cross-legged on the ground, and gently grasped the golden core in his hand, beginning to circulate his cultivation technique, activating the Chaos Origin Energy within his Qi Sea.

The Chaos Origin Energy, originally rotating slowly, began spinning rapidly under Fang Bai's intent, generating a powerful centripetal force.

Under the influence of this force, the Green Tail Wolf's golden core in Fang Bai's hand started releasing Wood Spirit Qi abundantly and swiftly, all absorbed into Fang Bai's body.

In a fist-sized golden core, there's the Wood Element Qi that the Green Tail Wolf absorbed and accumulated over thousands of years.

These Wood Spirit Qi continuously flowed into Fang Bai's body; though a significant amount of spiritual energy was destined to be lost in the process, as long as Fang Bai absorbed half, it would greatly boost his cultivation level.

Fortunately, Fang Bai possessed the rarely seen Chaos True Body, a special constitution capable of rapidly absorbing the spiritual energy released from the golden core without any harm.

If other martial artists tried to absorb such a vast amount of spiritual energy like Fang Bai, their Qi Sea would burst from the sudden influx, ending with their bodies shattered.

Therefore, other martial artists, if fortuitously acquiring a golden core, would only dare to absorb its spiritual energy slowly and carefully, unlike Fang Bai's whale-like absorption.

Even so, if ordinary martial artists could absorb ten to twenty percent of the spiritual energy within a golden core, their martial dao cultivation would soar like a rocket.

As time progressed, more Wood Spirit Qi poured into Fang Bai's Qi Sea from the golden core, while some spiritual energy scattered into the atmosphere, causing the originally radiant golden core to gradually dim.

"What bliss!"

The unprecedented influx of Wood Spirit Qi into the Qi Sea not only posed no discomfort to Fang Bai but instead made him feel every cell in his body brimming with vitality, like rebirth, an indescribable comfort.

As the Wood Spirit Qi continued to be drawn away or scattered into the atmosphere, the golden core in Fang Bai's palm shrank, its light weakening until it disappeared after a hundred breaths.

Absorbing the spiritual energy within the golden core doesn't mean the task is accomplished, nor does it mean immediate quick advancement in cultivation.

In fact, this is only the beginning.

"Whew..."

Fang Bai exhaled a light breath, opened his eyes briefly, then slowly closed them again, his body remaining motionless.

Fang Bai knew that the substantial Wood Spirit Qi filling his Qi Sea needed continuous "purification and refinement" to eventually become the purest Wood Spirit Qi and merge with the Chaos Origin Energy in his Qi Sea for his use.

This "purification and refinement" process equates to a closed-door cultivation session, impossible to complete in a short time, requiring at least three to five days.

Fang Bai wasn't worried about being disturbed during cultivation.

The defensive formation he set at the cave entrance previously ensures even perfected Foundation Establishment Realm spirit beasts cannot break in.

"I wonder if Senior Sister Sun and the others might think, upon waking and not finding me, that like those hundreds of martial artists, I've vanished under the golden core's power?"

Fang Bai suddenly thought of Sun Lin, Shi Ming, and others, wondering how they'd feel upon waking and discovering he's missing.

Perhaps they would merely feel slightly saddened, then return together to Lingxu Palace to report the matter to the high authorities, each resuming normal life?

After all, in this world where survival of the fittest reigns supreme, the life and death of martial artists is all too common and hardly surprising.

Only those tied by blood, or deeply bonded martial dao companions, would grieve profoundly for the loss of a loved one or partner, perhaps for a lifetime.

Focusing his mind and abandoning distractions, Fang Bai began entering his cultivation state, immersing himself in refining the boundless, ocean-like Wood Spirit Qi in his Qi Sea.

Fang Bai couldn't predict to which level his cultivation might advance after refining the golden core's spiritual energy from the Green Tail Wolf, yet succeeding in Foundation Establishment was indeed certain.

Once a martial artist succeeds in Foundation Establishment, they transcend ordinary martial dao cultivation and embark on the long journey of martial to immortality.

For Fang Bai, his mind holds a vast array of powerful secret techniques and profound methods from his previous life. As soon as Foundation Establishment succeeds, he can begin to wield some of these methods, ensuring he has the power to face even the strongest Foundation Establishment Realm adversaries.

Chapter 1454: Advancement, Foundation Establishment High Rank!

Three days later, Fang Bai, like an old monk in meditation, felt a slight tremor in his body.

Immediately, a powerful aura erupted from within him, forming a wave-like impact.

This shockwave, centered around Fang Bai, violently spread in all directions, crashing into the cave walls with a thunderous roar, causing countless rocks to fall from above.

The residual force penetrated the mountain, causing the entire peak to tremble slightly.

Fortunately, the cave chosen by the Green Tail Wolf was extremely sturdy; otherwise, it would have collapsed under such a powerful shockwave.

"Hoo..."

Once everything calmed down, Fang Bai exited his cultivation state, exhaled softly, and slowly opened his eyes.

At that moment, his eyes shone like lightning, daring no one to meet his gaze, appearing like sharp arrows that could pierce the heart.

However, in an instant, the brilliance in his eyes disappeared, replaced by a clear and gentle look as usual.

"What a pity... almost reached Foundation Establishment Perfection!"

Fang Bai inwardly observed with his Divine Sense, watching the transformation of the once-massive Chaos Origin Energy in his Qi Sea into a lotus platform shape, muttering to himself with a mix of joy and regret on his face.

The joy was that, with the Golden Core Power of the Green Tail Wolf, he had successfully achieved Foundation Establishment and even broke through the initial and middle stages in quick succession, reaching the high rank of Foundation Establishment.

The regret was that he was just a step away from advancing further to Foundation Establishment Perfection.

But then he thought, within just three days, he had successfully achieved Foundation Establishment and attained a high cultivation level, something that countless Martial Artists wouldn't even dare to dream of. What more could he want?

Moreover, with his high-rank cultivation at the Foundation Establishment level, he was now capable of sweeping away any Martial Artists at the same realm and had gained some self-preservation power while traversing the Three Thousand Worlds.

Fang Bai stood up, feeling as light as a feather, with heightened senses that enhanced his perception of everything around him, seemingly merging with the world, bringing his understanding and insight into the Dao to a new level.

All in all, compared to three days ago, Fang Bai had undergone a massive transformation in every aspect.

It was not an exaggeration to say he had been reborn.

Extending his Divine Sense, Fang Bai discovered that the four Spirit Beasts guarding the Green Tail Wolf's cave and the ten Golden Beak Giant Eagles he had previously subdued with the Beast Taming Scripture had perished together, fallen within a few miles around the cave.

Unfortunately, the flesh and Spirit Cores of those fallen Spirit Beasts had already been devoured by other beasts, leaving only carcasses.

For ordinary Martial Artists, those remains would have considerable value and could be used to craft Spiritual Artifacts or sold to Artifact Refiners, but Fang Bai didn't care in the slightest.

Because next to him lay the corpse of a Golden Core Realm Green Tail Wolf.

Even a single bone from the Green Tail Wolf held far more value compared to those outside.

The corpse of a Golden Core Realm Spirit Beast could be exchanged for a substantial amount of Cultivation Resources in nearby major cities.

Thus, merely taking the Green Tail Wolf with him secured a significant amount of Cultivation Resources.

Fang Bai stored the Green Tail Wolf's corpse into his Space Ring and then looked at the tens of thousands of Spiritual Medicines and the pool of Spiritual Spring within the cave, feeling a bit troubled.

Before entering the Three Thousand Worlds, he had left all Space Rings containing Cultivation Resources to his friends, loved ones, and confidantes in the Minor World, keeping only an almost empty Space Ring for himself.

The space in this ring, sufficient to hold the Green Tail Wolf's corpse, was far from enough to take away those tens of thousands of Spiritual Medicines and the pool of Spiritual Spring.

"Isn't there talk of many special materials in the White Bone Gully? I wonder if there's any Space Stone..."

With this thought, Fang Bai swiftly left the cave and shot towards the direction of the White Bone Gully.

The Defensive Array set up at the entrance was solvable by only him, so even if he left, there was no fear of anyone entering the cave to take those Spiritual Medicines.

The Space Stone is the primary material for crafting Storage Spiritual Artifacts; combined with Fine Gold, and an understanding of spatial formation, one can craft such artifacts.

On the way to White Bone Gully, Fang Bai deliberately passed by the site where hundreds of Martial Artists fought the Green Tail Wolf days ago, finding only desolate white bones of human Martial Artists or Spirit Beasts, with dried bloodstains on the ground, and a group of Spirit Beasts roaming among the bones, seemingly searching for some delicacy.

Among those Spirit Beasts were Foundation Establishment level ones, but upon Fang Bai's appearance, they all kept their distance, looking at him with fear in their eyes.

He hadn't hidden his aura along the way; his high rank Foundation Establishment cultivation was enough to deter those beasts.

Observing the scene closely, Fang Bai didn't find signs of Sun Lin, Shi Ming, and others' demise, concluding they might have left the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range for Lingxu Palace.

Fang Bai, having just advanced to high rank Foundation Establishment, required some time to solidify his realm and should avoid high-intensity battles. Thus, upon entering the core region of White Bone Gully, he consciously bypassed some powerful Spirit Beasts to search for materials like Space Stones.

"It's said White Bone Gully is abundant with special materials, and indeed it's true!"

In the depths of White Bone Gully, Fang Bai didn't spend much time before collecting numerous materials for crafting various attribute Spiritual Artifacts. These included Fire Essence Iron for Fire Spirit Weapons, Water Ice Crystal for Water Spirit Weapons, Green Wood Marrow for Wood Spirit Weapons, and so on.

Among them was a large piece of Holy Grade high-quality Space Stone and several pieces of essential Fine Gold for crafting Spiritual Artifacts.

The Holy Grade high-quality Space Stone, combined with Fine Gold and Fang Bai's spatial formation techniques, was sufficient to craft a dozen Space Rings capable of holding tens of thousands of Spiritual Medicines.

The sheer number of Spirit Beasts in White Bone Gully was overwhelming. Had he not concealed his aura and evaded promptly on several occasions, he would have potentially faced fierce battles with powerful Spirit Beasts.

With his current strength, unless encountering Golden Core Realm Spirit Beasts like the Green Tail Wolf, Fang Bai was confident in escaping unharmed. However, the vast number of beasts in White Bone Gully made him worry about attracting a swarm of beasts, making escape problematic.

Knowing it wasn't suitable to stay long in such a place, Fang Bai swiftly returned to the previous cave after collecting some Space Stones and Fine Gold.

Fang Bai spent half a day in the cave, crafting a dozen Space Rings from the Space Stones and Fine Gold, then storing the tens of thousands of Spiritual Medicines and the Spiritual Spring before leaving gracefully.

This visit to White Bone Gully yielded the greatest opportunity—obtaining the Green Tail Wolf’s Golden Core. The harvest of tens of thousands of Spiritual Medicines and the pool of Spiritual Spring also greatly enriched him, proving invaluable for future cultivation.

Fang Bai planned to hand over some of these things upon returning to Lingxu Palace.

However, regarding his cultivation level, Fang Bai decided to conceal it for a while.

Having advanced in cultivation, Fang Bai now had self-preservation power and no longer needed to stay under the protection of others in Lingxu Palace.

However, Fang Bai was a person who valued loyalty and gratitude. When he first arrived in the Spirit Martial Realm, Lingxu Palace took him in, and he spent several months there, receiving considerable care during that time. His return was an intention to repay the kindness, acknowledging the bond he once had there.

Chapter 1455: Fang Bai Hasn’t Returned?

The four tall, robust, and fierce-looking Wind-Chaser Steeds galloped swiftly across a wide mountain road and stopped at the large plaza outside Lingxu Palace’s mountain gate.

"Senior Sister Sun is back with her team!"

The four disciples guarding the mountain gate of Lingxu Palace saw the riders dismount from the Wind-Chaser Steeds, their eyes lit up, and their faces were filled with smiles as they stepped forward to greet them.

"Senior Sister Sun, Senior Brother Zheng, Junior Brother Shi, Junior Brother Huang, what an arduous journey!"

"What have you gained from this cultivation mission?"

"Eh? Where is Junior Brother Fang?"

"Did he not return with you?"

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The four mountain guarding disciples, who were all external courtyard disciples with Half-Step Foundation Establishment Cultivation Level, knew that Sun Lin and her team had previously gone to White Bone Gully for their mission. Seeing them return, they stepped forward to inquire about the situation.

Sun Lin and her team's expressions were already somewhat heavy. Upon hearing the name Fang Bai mentioned by the mountain guarding disciples, their brows furrowed even more tightly, a touch of sadness passing across their faces.

Sun Lin ignored the four mountain guarding disciples and patted her Wind-Chaser Steed, letting it run off by itself, then, with Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, and Huang Zhong, sped towards the Palace Master Hall of Lingxu Palace.

"What's going on?"

The four mountain guarding disciples wanted to take the opportunity to exchange pleasantries with Sun Lin, hoping to curry favor with Elder Sun's granddaughter, but Sun Lin left without a word, leaving them standing there, looking at each other awkwardly.

Even if they had countless complaints in their hearts, they dared not say anything offensive, or they would face consequences once Sun Lin heard about it.

Half an hour later, a rapid and deep bell sound came from Lingxu Peak, where the Palace Master Hall of Lingxu Palace was located.

Upon hearing this sound, the four Elders and eight Stewards of Lingxu Palace showed surprised expressions, not knowing what had happened, and quickly left their respective halls, flying towards Lingxu Peak to gather inside the Palace Master Hall.

The Great Bell set on Lingxu Peak was rarely touched; only in major events or emergencies would the Palace Master authorize it to be rung to summon the higher-ups to discuss in the Palace Master Hall.

The twelve high-ranking officials of Lingxu Palace had barely entered the Palace Master Hall when they felt a heavy and oppressive atmosphere, knowing that the Palace Master had summoned them not for a pleasant reason.

"Lin'er? When did you come back? Why are you here?"

Elder Sun Jing from the Elixir Hall spotted her granddaughter standing on one side of the great hall, raised an eyebrow, and asked bluntly.

Her gaze then shifted and found that among those who had gone with her granddaughter to White Bone Gully, Fang Bai was notably missing, which caused her heart to skip a beat with a looming sense of foreboding.

"Grandma!"

Seeing her grandmother Sun Jing appear, Sun Lin's face showed even more sadness.

"Where's Fang Bai, that boy? Didn't you all come back together?"

Wu Zhihua, who entered after Sun Jing, stepped forward to Sun Lin, questioning sharply.

Fang Bai had been brought into Lingxu Palace by Wu Zhihua, and he was to personally instruct Fang Bai in Martial Arts Techniques in the future, thus he was more concerned about Fang Bai than others in Lingxu Palace.

Going into the Palace Master Hall, Wu Zhihua noticed the unusual expressions on Sun Lin and others, and realized Fang Bai might have encountered trouble during the mission, he urgently questioned Sun Lin, with a somewhat accusatory tone.

After all, as the leader of the cultivation team, Sun Lin's failure to protect Fang Bai amounted to negligence.

Moreover, in this five-person cultivation team, the other four returned safely, yet only Fang Bai met with incident, which made Wu Zhihua's anger understandable.

The other high officials in Lingxu Palace also speculated the same outcome, regretting deeply in their hearts.

With an Innate Spiritual Root, Fang Bai's future achievements in the Martial Dao would surely shine bright, and Lingxu Palace had planned to cultivate him fully, but unexpectedly, he met his demise during his first mission.

To Lingxu Palace, this was undoubtedly a huge loss.

"Elder Wu, I... I... Fang Bai, he..."

Already feeling down, Sun Lin detected the reproachful tone in Wu Zhihua's voice, causing her eyes to redden and tears to flow.

Sun Jing, seeing her beloved granddaughter in tears, felt distressed but knew she couldn't speak up to defend her, or else the other high officials might feel discontent.

In her heart, Sun Jing was also somewhat resentful towards her granddaughter.

Fang Bai was not just a rare Innate Spiritual Root, he had even refined Holy Grade Medium Spirit Pills, which was a genius rarely seen, of great importance to Lingxu Palace.

Sun Jing had intended for Fang Bai to manage the Elixir Hall in the future once he grew.

When her granddaughter led the team to White Bone Gully for the mission, Sun Jing admonished her to protect Fang Bai at all costs, and even if faced with life-and-death situations, prioritize saving Fang Bai over others.

Now, the team of five returned with only Fang Bai missing.

If Sun Lin weren't her granddaughter, Sun Jing might have reacted even more vehemently than Wu Zhihua.

Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, and Huang Zhong knew that Fang Bai's incident was unrelated to Sun Lin. Seeing her wronged, they wanted to speak up for her but dared not under the immense pressure from the high officials inside the great hall.

"Enough, enough, all of you don't blame Lin'er. Fang Bai's accident is unrelated to her!"

Li Sanfu, who sat on the stone chair at the top of the hall and had remained silent, suddenly stood up and spoke.

Everyone was taken aback and shifted their gaze from Sun Lin to Li Sanfu.

"Lin'er and her team have already explained the events to me..."

Li Sanfu walked back and forth in the center of the great hall, recounting what Sun Lin and her team had just told him, and finally sighed, saying: "Who would have thought that a Golden Core Realm spirit beast would appear in White Bone Gully? It's said dozens of Martial Artists who attacked that Golden Core realm spirit beast were swept away, obliterated... It's unfortunate that Fang Bai's fate was slim, unable to evade such calamity!"

Upon hearing this, the other high officials in the great hall all sighed, thinking that Fang Bai's demise indeed couldn't be blamed on Sun Lin.

After all, even if all the high officials of Lingxu Palace were present when facing a Golden Core realm spirit beast, they wouldn't be able to protect Fang Bai, let alone Sun Lin with only Foundation Establishment initial level cultivation?

The four people being able to escape by luck was already considered a miracle.

"So... Fang Bai perished under the attack of that Golden Core realm spirit beast..."

Sun Jing muttered to herself, walked over to her granddaughter who was still sobbing, and comforted, "Alright, my dear granddaughter, stop crying! We all wronged you!"

Although Wu Zhihua was an Elder, he wasn't unreasonable and smiled wryly, "Lin'er, I lost my temper a bit earlier, don't mind me!"

"Elder Wu, I'm not offended." Sun Lin hurriedly wiped away the tears and shook her head repeatedly.

Chapter 1456: A Powerful Enemy Invades

"I heard from Lin'er and the others that when Fang Bai fell under the attack of that Golden Core Realm Spirit Beast, Inner Court disciple Ye Xiong also perished."

Li Sanfu's towering figure paced slowly within the great hall, a trace of sorrow showing on his face. He said in a deep voice, "First the Spirit Stone Veins were occupied by the Soul Hall, now two outstanding disciples, Fang Bai and Ye Xiong, have fallen... Lingxu Palace truly has had a streak of misfortune recently!"

Everyone in the Palace Master Hall clenched their fists when he mentioned the words "Soul Hall," their faces showing anger.

Not long ago, the Soul Hall had forcibly seized a Spirit Stone Veins discovered by Lingxu Palace and injured Elder Wu Zhihua. This humiliation made every disciple of Lingxu Palace feel enraged.

Unfortunately, the strength of Lingxu Palace was inferior to Soul Hall, so they couldn't retrieve the seized Spirit Stone Veins or seek justice for Elder Wu. This left the disciples of Lingxu Palace feeling extremely stifled.

And now, Fang Bai and Ye Xiong, two outstanding younger disciples of Lingxu Palace, have perished during their training, causing Palace Master Li Sanfu great sorrow.

"Elder Wu, Elder Sun, go and prepare. Three days from now, I'll take that 'Golden Crow Meteor,' and we'll visit the 'Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion' in Flaming Sun City!"

Li Sanfu stopped at a stone pillar in the hall, pounding his right fist heavily against it, a resolute look flashing in his eyes.

Wu Zhihua and Sun Jing exchanged glances and nodded in agreement.

They knew the Palace Master intended to use Lingxu Palace's treasured item, the "Golden Crow Meteor," to visit an alchemist at the "Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion" in Flaming Sun City, hoping to convince him to refine a bottle of King Grade Creation Pill with it.

Li Sanfu's cultivation level had been stuck at Foundation Establishment perfection for years, with repeated failed attempts to advance to the Golden Core Realm, realizing that only a King Grade Creation Pill, which had a better effect than a Holy Grade Creation Pill, could increase his chances and give him hope of progressing.

The alchemist at the "Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion" in Flaming Sun City was a Golden Core stage expert, one of the few in several major cities within tens of thousands of miles who could refine a King Grade Creation Pill.

However, any martial artist wanting to ask the alchemist at "Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion" for help in refining Spiritual Medicine must offer compensation that satisfies him.

Although Lingxu Palace had accumulated considerable cultivation resources over the years, Li Sanfu knew these resources wouldn't catch the eye of an alchemist at "Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion," and only the "Golden Crow Meteor" might move him.

The "Golden Crow Meteor" was obtained by Lingxu Palace's Founding Ancestor years ago by chance; it is said to be a rare King Grade material capable of crafting a King Grade Spiritual Artifact.

The power of a King Grade Spiritual Artifact is far superior to that of a Holy Grade Spiritual Artifact, even coveted by Golden Core experts.

Which shows how precious the "Golden Crow Meteor" is.

Previously, Li Sanfu pondered over the "Golden Crow Meteor" more than once but couldn't bring himself to use it. However, recent unfortunate events for Lingxu Palace urged him to make up his mind.

Although the "Golden Crow Meteor" is rare and precious, it became a mere decoration for generations of Lingxu Palace's disciples due to their inability to offer sufficient compensation to have it crafted into an artifact.

Instead, using the "Golden Crow Meteor" to trade for the opportunity to have the alchemist at "Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion" refine pills is more worthwhile.

If they could obtain a bottle of King Grade Creation Pill, Li Sanfu's chances of advancing to the Golden Core Realm would greatly increase, and should he succeed, then Lingxu Palace could suppress the Soul Hall and rise strongly.

Three days later, at dawn, Lingxu Palace Master Li Sanfu, External Affairs Hall Elder Wu Zhihua, Elixir Hall Elder Sun Jing, along with several disciples, took the "Golden Crow Meteor," rode the Wind-Chaser Steed, and set off for Flaming Sun City.

"Have a safe journey!"

Classics Hall Elder Gong Qingquan and Enforcement Hall Elder Yun Feng, responsible for guarding Lingxu Palace, stood at the mountain gate, cupping their hands to bid farewell to Li Sanfu and the others before returning.

About two hours after Li Sanfu and the others left Lingxu Palace, tens of thousands of figures surged towards Lingxu Palace from the sky and the ground, forming a massive looming dark cloud.

In the sky were Foundation Establishment experts capable of flying using Spiritual Artifacts.

Sweeping rapidly across the ground were Half-Step Foundation Establishment experts.

In an instant, those martial artists appeared like a tidal wave in the square before Lingxu Palace's mountain gate, standing solemnly at a thunderous command, their Killing Qi soaring to the sky.

The disciples guarding the mountain gate at Lingxu Palace turned pale with fear at the sudden appearance of these thousands of experts. Some shrieked for help, while others frantically dashed to the peak where the Palace Master Hall was located, ringing the Great Bell vigorously.

"Dong... Dong... Dong..."

The urgent and low bell echoed from the mountain top to the surroundings, alerting Lingxu Palace disciples of the incoming enemy. They laid down everything and gathered before the mountain gate.

Within mere moments, except for those disciples outside on missions or training, tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples arrived before the mountain gate, forming a defensive stance.

"It's the Soul Hall people!"

"Damn it! What are they doing here?"

"They've appeared suddenly, each full of killing intent, surely it's nothing good!"

"These Soul Hall disciples are the most elite strong ones! Things seem to be going wrong..."

"The Palace Master and both elders aren't here; what now?"

...

Seeing the menacing Soul Hall disciples across from them, brimming with Killing Qi, tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples murmured, many conjuring a fearsome thought.

Some clever ones even noted that not long after the Palace Master and the elders had just left, the Soul Hall people appeared, making this alarmingly peculiar.

"People of Soul Hall, why have you intruded upon our Lingxu Palace's mountain gate without cause?"

At this moment, the leadership of Lingxu Palace temporarily fell upon Elders Gong Qingquan and Yun Feng, who stepped forth with anger, standing at the forefront of tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples, harshly questioning the thousands of Soul Hall disciples opposite.

"Hahaha... Elder Gong, Elder Yun, how have you been?"

A chilling, cold female laugh echoed closer; everyone gazed upward and saw a dozen Foundation Establishment experts riding upon Spiritual Artifacts, dragging long rainbows, flying swiftly from distant mountain peaks to stand before the Soul Hall disciples.

Leading them was a middle-aged woman in her forties.

The middle-aged woman appeared unimpressive, dressed in black, with purple hair, thin build, and narrow eyes emitting a coldly sinister light like a venomous snake ready to bite, making others shiver.

"Purple... Purple-haired Yin Lady? She came too! And the Soul Hall's high-ranking members are also here..."

Seeing the purple-haired middle-aged woman and the dozen high-ranking Soul Hall members standing beside her, Elders Gong Qingquan and Yun Feng tightly furrowed their brows, their expressions growing heavier.

Chapter 1457: Who is the Traitor?

"Yin Lady with Purple Hair" is the nickname of the Hall Master of Soul Summoning Hall. Her real name is Yin Lengyue, possessing a Foundation Establishment perfection cultivation level. It is said her true age is over a hundred years old.

Due to her formidable strength, eccentric temperament, heart like a snake and scorpion, and countless murders, many martial artists are fearful of Yin Lengyue and avoid her.

Yin Lengyue's strength slightly surpasses that of Lingxu Palace Master Li Sanfu, which provides Soul Summoning Hall with the confidence to frequently provoke Lingxu Palace.

However, in the impressions of Elder Gong Qingquan and Elder Yun Feng, Yin Lengyue, the Hall Master of Soul Summoning Hall, rarely appears in public. This time, she led ten thousand elite disciples of Soul Summoning Hall in a grand arrival, which is indeed an extraordinary move.

Looking at the ten thousand disciples of Soul Summoning Hall opposite them, each wielding spiritual artifacts and exuding killing qi, all the disciples of Lingxu Palace present knew that their intentions were clearly hostile.

If it were in the past, such a large-scale invasion by Soul Summoning Hall would not frighten Lingxu Palace disciples.

But now, with the Palace Master and two elders absent, only two elders and eight stewards remain to hold the fort, facing the overwhelming elite disciples of Soul Summoning Hall, the Lingxu Palace disciples inevitably felt a bit flustered.

Although Lingxu Palace has an overwhelming advantage in numbers, the final outcome of the conflict depends on the few high-level members.

Without the Palace Master and two elders, Lingxu Palace is already at a disadvantage in high-level numbers, let alone that Yin Lengyue's strength surpasses Lingxu Palace Master Li Sanfu.

Comparing the two sides, Lingxu Palace almost has no chance of winning.

"Hall Master Yin, why have you brought your forces to Lingxu Palace?"

Elder Yun Feng from Lingxu Palace Enforcement Hall asked fiercely, his tiger eyes filled with authority, staring at Yin Lengyue.

"Elder Yun, have you considered switching masters?"

Yin Lengyue replied with a question instead of answering.

Yun Feng was stunned, then angrily said, "Yin Lengyue, what do you mean?"

Yin Lengyue said calmly, "I mean from today on, Lingxu Palace will cease to exist, and those Lingxu Palace disciples who don't want to die must serve me as their master and submit to me!"

Yin Lengyue's words immediately provoked angry reprimands and curses from the disciples of Lingxu Palace.

Yun Feng laughed aloud several times, suddenly raised his hand to point at Yin Lengyue, and said indignantly, "I knew all along that the Soul Summoning Hall has always wanted to annex Lingxu Palace! Hmph, we have tens of thousands of disciples in Lingxu Palace. As long as we unite, how can you succeed?"

Yin Lengyue's face darkened, and she said coldly, "Elder Yun, you are a clever person. You should know that without Li Sanfu to oversee and with the absence of two elders, Lingxu Palace cannot possibly withstand the attacks of our elite disciples from Soul Summoning Hall!"

Yun Feng's face changed dramatically, and he said in disbelief, "How...how did you know the Palace Master and others are not here?"

It's understandable that Yun Feng was shocked. Only a dozen high-level members of Lingxu Palace and four disciples including Sun Lin knew about the departure of Palace Master Li Sanfu and Elders Wu and Sun to Flaming Sun City. How did Yin Lengyue, an outsider, learn about this?

The other high-level members of Lingxu Palace present, including Sun Lin, Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, and Huang Zhong, were also at a loss, looking at each other.

Yin Lengyue chuckled proudly and said, "Not only do I know Li Sanfu and the others are not here, but I also know they took Lingxu Palace's treasure 'Golden Crow Meteor' to Flaming Sun City to seek an alchemist from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion Sect to make a Creation Pill. Haha, Elder Yun, are you surprised?"

"Damn it!"

Yun Feng's eyes immediately turned bloodshot, and he suddenly turned around, his gaze filled with killing qi sweeping over the dozen or so high-level members standing behind him.

At this moment, if he didn't know what had happened, he would be foolish.

"Lingxu Palace has a traitor who leaked this information to Soul Summoning Hall!"

Besides Yun Feng, the high-level members of Lingxu Palace also thought of this.

But who could be the despicable traitor who leaked the information?

Sun Lin, Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, and Huang Zhong had been in seclusion for the past few days, never leaving their residence.

Moreover, if they wanted to go out, they must first report to Elder Wu Zhihua of the External Affairs Hall and could not leave without permission.

Furthermore, with their strength, it's impossible for them to sneak out of Lingxu Palace without anyone knowing.

Therefore, they can be ruled out.

If it wasn't them, the greatest suspect would be among the high-level members of Lingxu Palace itself.

Palace Master Li Sanfu is impossible, and Yun Feng is completely loyal to Lingxu Palace and has never harbored any treachery.

Then the other elders and stewards remain as suspects.

Thinking of this, Yun Feng felt cold in his heart, shivering with a chill.

"Ahem..."

At this moment, Gong Qingquan, standing next to Yun Feng, lightly coughed and stepped forward, then turned to face Yun Feng and the others with a strange smile.

"I remembered that Elder Gong left Lingxu Palace once three days ago! At that time, I casually asked him where he was going, and he said he was going to wander around and perceive the Martial Dao."

A steward suddenly showed excitement on his face, pointing at Gong Qingquan and shouting.

As soon as he said this, the high-level members of Lingxu Palace, including Yun Feng, turned their questioning gazes toward Gong Qingquan standing opposite them.

"That's right, it's me."

Under Yun Feng and others' gaze, Gong Qingquan smiled and pointed to his nose, saying, "I leaked the information to Hall Master Yin."

"Elder Gong, you...why? Why did you do it?"

Yun Feng looked incredulous, his heart full of sorrow.

Yun Feng and Gong Qingquan entered Lingxu Palace together years ago, later both advancing to the rank of elder, in charge of the Enforcement Hall and Classics Hall respectively, as friends for decades.

Unlike Yun Feng's stern rigidity and iron-faced ruthlessness, Gong Qingquan treated every disciple of Lingxu Palace with a kind smile, earning high praise from every disciple.

Therefore, no one expected that he would be the one to leak the information of Lingxu Palace.

For a while, shock, amazement, disbelief, anger, confusion, and other negative emotions appeared on the faces of Lingxu Palace disciples. Their initial united, fearless momentum against the tens of thousands of disciples from Soul Summoning Hall was greatly weakened.

"Why? Because I don't want to stay beneath others! Because I want to be the Palace Master of Lingxu Palace!"

Gong Qingquan's face showed no trace of shame. He turned to Yin Lengyue, clasped his fists in salute, and then turned to Yun Feng and others, saying, "Hall Master Yin promised me she would help me ascend to the position of Palace Master. All I need to do is timely transmit some important information from Lingxu Palace to her and henceforth follow her lead! Haha, this small price in exchange for the position of Palace Master, it's totally worth it!"

Yun Feng's eyes spewed fire, roaring loudly, "Gong Qingquan, you want to be Yin Lengyue's dog, but we do not! You want to be Palace Master of Lingxu Palace? Dream on!"

Chapter 1458: Who is willing to fight alongside me?

The man called "a dog under Yin Lengyue's command" by Yun Feng, Gong Qingquan, didn't show any sign of anger.

He chuckled at Yun Feng and said slowly, "Elder Yun, you say I can't become the Lingxu Palace Master? Ha, then you're wrong!"

His previously slightly hunched back suddenly straightened, and a sharp gleam shot from his murky eyes, as he said, voice booming like thunder, "Let me tell you, I have coveted the position of Lingxu Palace Master for years. Today is the day I reach the pinnacle! Even if Li Sanfu and the others return, they cannot stop me!"

"Gong Qingquan, you despicable traitor! You want to become the Lingxu Palace Master, but the tens of thousands of disciples of Lingxu Palace will never agree!"

A steward, eyes bloodshot, shouted angrily.

"That's right!"

"How can a person who knows no shame become our Lingxu Palace Master?"

"I only support Palace Master Li!"

"Expel Gong Qingquan from Lingxu Palace!"

...

The moment the steward's words fell, several stewards around him quickly echoed, condemning and criticizing Gong Qingquan.

However, a few stewards had their eyes darting around, remaining silent.

"Haha... hahaha..."

Gong Qingquan suddenly burst into laughter and said, "Go ahead, curse all you want! After today, maybe you all will never have the chance to speak again!"

His gaze swiftly swept across the tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples and loudly declared, "Who says all tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples are of one mind with Li Sanfu? In Lingxu Palace, I, Gong Qingquan, also have quite a few supporters! Steward Qian, Steward Feng, Steward Shen... and my loyal disciples, come out and show yourselves to Elder Yun!"

"Swoosh!"

"Swoosh!"

"Swoosh!"

...

As soon as Gong Qingquan finished speaking, the sound of clothes slicing through the air rang out, as more than a thousand figures sprang out from among the tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples, landing behind him.

The number of these people was not large, but among them were some of the most elite disciples of Lingxu Palace, including several stewards and Inner Court disciples as well as core disciples.

These more than a thousand followers of Gong Qingquan, though not enough to face ten for each one, were enough to contend against four to five thousand Lingxu Palace disciples.

"You... all of you want to follow Gong Qingquan and become despicable traitors?"

Yun Feng was also aware of how formidable the over a thousand disciples loyal to Gong Qingquan were and was shocked by the sight, trembling with anger.

He initially thought that the tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples would stand united like a solid block, even if the Soul Summoning Hall wanted to destroy Lingxu Palace while the Palace Master was away; it would not be an easy task.

But to his great surprise, internal division appeared even before the battle began. An elder, several stewards, and over a thousand elite disciples became accomplices of the Soul Summoning Hall.

Under such circumstances, the morale and fighting spirit of the other Lingxu Palace disciples would inevitably suffer a major blow. Once the Soul Summoning Hall disciples launched a full-scale attack under Yin Lengyue's leadership, aided by traitors like Gong Qingquan, Lingxu Palace would likely be doomed.

Following Gong Qingquan, the thousand disciples paid no heed to Yun Feng's accusations and abuse. Instead, each face was filled with excitement and anticipation.

Because Gong Qingquan had already promised that if they could help him ascend to the position of Lingxu Palace Master, they would receive ample cultivation resources and higher-ranked martial arts techniques as rewards.

For martial artists, what in this world is more tempting than ample cultivation resources and higher-ranked martial arts techniques?

"Elder Yun, we've been friends for many years; I don't want to be enemies with you. If you and I can both look up to Hall Master Yin from now on, then how about we rule Lingxu Palace together?"

Gong Qingquan extended an olive branch to Yun Feng.

With Gong Qingquan's rebellion, Yun Feng had become the current leader of Lingxu Palace. If he could be persuaded to surrender, the tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples might lose their will to resist, and then the Soul Summoning Hall could take Lingxu Palace without a fight.

This was precisely the outcome Yin Lengyue most hoped for.

Countless gazes fell upon Yun Feng, some from the Soul Summoning Hall disciples and some from the Lingxu Palace disciples.

The Soul Summoning Hall disciples hoped Yun Feng would nod, thus avoiding a hard-fought battle.

Meanwhile, the vast majority of the Lingxu Palace disciples hoped Yun Feng would lead them into a full-scale fight, fighting to the death to defend Lingxu Palace.

Yun Feng clenched his fists tightly, gritting his teeth, and glaring at Gong Qingquan, wishing he could smash this traitor into pieces with one punch.

"Disciples of Lingxu Palace, I, Yun Feng, will never surrender even in death! Who among you is willing to fight alongside me?"

Yun Feng suddenly turned his head, facing the numerous gazes of Lingxu Palace disciples, and asked loudly.

"I am!"

Tens of thousands of Lingxu Palace disciples shouted in unison.

The sound gathered to a thunderous volume, shaking the heavens and the earth with its impressive momentum, even causing Yin Lengyue's expression to change slightly.

"Since they seek their own deaths, there's no need for further talk! Kill them!"

Yin Lengyue's eyes gleamed coldly as she raised her hand high and then dropped it abruptly, making a slashing gesture.

"Roar!"

The tens of thousands of disciples on both sides gripped their spiritual artifacts, their killing qi soaring to the sky, preparing for a massive battle to commence.

Screee——

A clear, long howl, almost carrying a kind of magic, came from the northern sky, resonating in the ears of the tens of thousands of martial artists, drawing their eyes upward toward the source of the sound.

Following that resounding call, a dense "buzzing" sound ensued, as a gigantic "fire cloud" surged rapidly across the sky, covering them almost instantly.

The "fire cloud" painted the sky red, and wherever it shrouded, the temperature soared rapidly.

"Fire... Fire Fierce Bees! It's Fire Fierce Bees!"

"There appear to be at least tens of thousands of them, but where did they come from?"

"Fire Fierce Bees prefer to live in dense forests and don't fly out easily. Their sudden appearance here in such large numbers is truly unusual!"

...

Both the Lingxu Palace disciples and the Soul Summoning Hall disciples present felt puzzled by the appearance of such an enormous number of Fire Fierce Bees and were extremely tense, as if facing a formidable enemy.

Fire Fierce Bees are miniature fire-based spiritual beasts, about the size of an ordinary person's palm. Despite their small size, their attack power is extremely formidable, capable of easily and swiftly condensing Fire Primordial Qi, mixing it with their own venom to form fire arrows they spray out.

If one is struck by the fire arrows sprayed by the Fire Fierce Bees, the result could be paralysis and loss of combat ability, or, in severe cases, corroded and broken meridians and blood vessels, or the destruction of one's Qi Sea, rendering one a cripple.

For a martial artist, having one's Qi Sea destroyed and becoming a cripple is more unbearable than perishing.

Fire Fierce Bees do not easily attack human martial artists unless provoked.

There is another scenario, and that is if they are controlled by a Beast Tamer proficient in Beast Taming Art.

Based on the habits of the Fire Fierce Peak, Yin Lengyue believed the latter option was more likely, and she couldn't help but grow wary and worried.

Chapter 1459: Beautiful Dream Gone to Waste

Countless Fire Fierce Bees hovered in the sky above tens of thousands of Martial Artists, forming a sea of fire stretching for miles, releasing scorching heat, forcing some weaker Martial Artists to conjure Spirit Qi Shields for protection.

"Chirp... chirp... chirp..."

The clear cry echoing in everyone's ears suddenly became urgent and sharp.

Yin Lengyue's eyelids twitched violently, the innate sensitivity of a Foundation Establishment perfection cultivator allowed her to sense the tens of thousands of Fire Fierce Bees above, becoming restless and uneasy after the sharp cries sounded.

"Chirp..."

The cries became increasingly urgent, the volume escalated again, tens of thousands of Martial Artists' ears buzzed under the intense sonic waves, nearly deafening them.

The cry seemed like the horn of attack, tens of thousands of Fire Fierce Bees gathered into groups of hundreds, forming crimson long swords, then rushed down from the sky with a fierce killing intent.

Their target was directly aimed at the ten thousand disciples of the Soul Summoning Hall below.

"Those Fire Fierce Bees are being controlled by someone!"

Yin Lengyue watched as the crimson long swords came fiercely stabbing toward her, her heart filled with terror.

The tens of thousands of Fire Fierce Bees, although most were not very powerful, some were comparable to human Foundation Establishment Realm experts.

Especially among them, the queen bees and king bees, their singular combat power is comparable to high-rank human Foundation Establishment experts, if they joined forces to attack Yin Lengyue, it would undoubtedly give her a headache.

Furthermore, Fire Fierce Bees usually don't fight alone, but use group tactics, at this moment with hundreds gathering together, their attack power is not weaker than any human Foundation Establishment expert.

Tens of thousands of Fire Fierce Bees forming hundreds of attack teams was equivalent to hundreds of Foundation Establishment Realm experts launching an attack, plus Spirit Beast's naturally superior combat prowess compared to human experts of the same rank, enough to reverse today's battle.

Yin Lengyue had carefully planned for years, wanting to annex Lingxu Palace. After learning that the Lingxu Palace Master Li Sanfu would be leaving soon, she was overjoyed, leading the elite disciples of the Soul Summoning Hall to come near Lingxu Palace and lie in ambush, ready to attack once Li Sanfu and the others left.

Originally thinking that without Li Sanfu to guard it, and with Gong Qingquan and other Lingxu Palace disciples as internal spies, they could smoothly take over Lingxu Palace, yet unexpectedly the plan was thwarted, and tens of thousands of Fire Fierce Bees suddenly appeared to cause trouble.

Yin Lengyue understood that capturing Lingxu Palace today would be nearly impossible.

Realizing years of preparation had gone to waste, Yin Lengyue couldn't help but sigh.

She also knew, if today's opportunity was missed, it would be exceedingly difficult to annex Lingxu Palace in the future.

Considering the Lingxu Palace, having experienced today's events, would certainly heighten their vigilance, especially closely monitoring every move of the Soul Summoning Hall.

Moreover, Gong Qingquan, this internal sleeper agent, could no longer stay at Lingxu Palace.

"Who is it?"

Yin Lengyue scanned the surroundings frantically, muttering, "Who is controlling the Fire Fierce Bees, opposing my Soul Summoning Hall?"

Her heart was furious to the extreme, wanting desperately to engage recklessly in battle, to vent her anger and resentment.

However, the sudden cries of agony that echoed around her forced Yin Lengyue to calm down quickly.

She knew, if she didn't issue the retreat order now, the disciples present from the Soul Summoning Hall would suffer heavy losses.

"Retreat!"

After a brief internal struggle, Yin Lengyue finally painfully uttered the word she least wanted to say.

The ten thousand Soul Summoning Hall disciples felt relieved as they began rapidly retreating while using Spiritual Artifacts to fend off the Fire Fierce Bees.

And Gong Qingquan, who had betrayed Lingxu Palace and his following thousand disciples, seeing the unfavorable situation, also retreated.

Under the furious attacks of the tens of thousands of Fire Fierce Bees overhead, the retreat of the Soul Summoning Hall disciples was orderly and without panic, clearly well-trained.

Yun Feng considered leading Lingxu Palace disciples to pursue and kill during the Soul Summoning Hall's retreat, but feared provoking Yin Lengyue into a crazy retaliation, thus he refrained.

The tens of thousands of Soul Summoning Hall disciples came quickly and retreated even quicker, but the Fire Fierce Bees did not let them off so easily, continuing to chase for hundreds of miles before finally retreating into the sky and dispersing.

Yin Lengyue, leading tens of thousands of Soul Summoning Hall disciples, either flew using Spiritual Artifacts or ran swiftly on the ground, escaping for a thousand miles until no Fire Fierce Bees continued pursuing, whereupon she sighed in relief and stopped to rest.

Yin Lengyue counted the numbers, discovering that under the relentless attacks from the Fire Fierce Bees, the tens of thousands of Soul Summoning Hall disciples dwindled to only over seven thousand.

This meant that the attempt to annex Lingxu Palace not only failed, but more than two thousand elite disciples were lost in vain, causing Yin Lengyue great heartache and intense hatred toward Lingxu Palace and the mysterious person controlling the Fire Fierce Bees.

"Gong Qingquan, tell me, what's the matter with those Fire Fierce Bees?"

Yin Lengyue's face was cold as she approached Gong Qingquan, her gaze like two sharp swords seemingly able to penetrate Gong Qingquan's body, sternly questioning him.

Gong Qingquan knew Yin Lengyue's heart was ruthless and decisive in killing, the chill rising from his back under her gaze, he said bitterly: "Yin Hall Master, I don't know what happened either! Those damn Fire Fierce Bees appeared neither early nor late, and appeared right when we were about to succeed, it's truly unbearable!"

Gong Qingquan's heart at this moment, was actually a hundred times more upset than Yin Lengyue.

He had coveted the position of Lingxu Palace Master for years, thinking he would realize his dream today, but didn't expect things to end in this manner.

Now his aspiration for Palace Master is shattered, Lingxu Palace disciples would abhor him, especially Palace Master Li Sanfu with that kind of violent nature who despises evil, will certainly not let this traitor go easily?

In the future, to preserve his life, he can only obediently stay in Soul Summoning Hall, at the mercy of Yin Lengyue.

Yin Lengyue coldly stared at Gong Qingquan for a moment, realizing he wasn't lying, snorted angrily, and said: "Someone is secretly targeting us... Tell me, has Lingxu Palace recently allied with any strong individuals? Especially those capable of controlling Spirit Beasts?"

Gong Qingquan shook his head resolutely and said: "No."

As one of the four Elders of Lingxu Palace, if the Palace had allied with any formidable individuals, it would not escape his notice.

"Then it's peculiar..."

Yin Lengyue muttered to herself: "Who exactly is assisting Lingxu Palace? What is the purpose behind this?"

Gong Qingquan's eyes shifted, he said softly: "Hall Master, I still have some sleeper agents in Lingxu Palace that haven't been exposed. How about... I let them investigate thoroughly?"

Yin Lengyue pondered briefly, then said: "Alright. Be sure to have them get to the bottom of this matter, otherwise I'll be unsettled!"

.....

Not long after the tens of thousands of Soul Summoning Hall disciples retreated, Fang Bai appeared at the entrance of Lingxu Palace.

Walking to the chaotic mountain gate plaza and watching the menial servants busily cleaning, Fang Bai's mouth curved into a meaningful smile.

Chapter 1460: The Lucky Star of Lingxu Palace

Hundreds of menial servant disciples busied themselves, most of them having no interactions with Fang Bai, thus not recognizing him, only realizing from his attire that he was a disciple of the External Courtyard.

"Huang Zhong!"

Fang Bai walked straight to the back of a menial servant disciple and gently patted his shoulder.

The menial servant disciple turned around abruptly, and upon seeing Fang Bai standing before him, his eyes widened, mouth agape, as if he'd seen a ghost.

"What, only a few days and you don't recognize me?"

Fang Bai laughed and asked, looking at the dumbfounded Huang Zhong.

"Fang... Senior Brother Fang, you're not... not dead?"

It took Huang Zhong a while to come back to his senses, and he excitedly exclaimed.

Fang Bai chuckled and said, "If I were dead, could I be standing here talking to you?"

"But..."

Huang Zhong scratched his head, recalling the incident when the Golden Tail Wolf spewed its Golden Core, sweeping across the surroundings, he said, "That day, when I and Senior Sister Sun and the others woke up from unconsciousness, we found you absent and thought you... you had turned to dust under the power of the Golden Core just like those Martial Artists attacking the Green Tail Wolf!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and said, "I'm quite lucky, not so easy to die!"

He paused and continued, "Actually, I woke up earlier than you all that day. Later, while chasing a Spirit Beast, I accidentally entered a cave stocked with many cultivation resources, where I stayed for a few days before coming out. When I went back to find you, you were no longer there, so I thought you might have returned to Lingxu Palace..."

Seeing Fang Bai safe, Huang Zhong was overwhelmed with excitement and wasn't paying much attention to anything else he mentioned. Rubbing his hands together, he excitedly said, "That's great... that's great... Senior Sister Sun, Senior Brother Zheng, Senior Brother Shi will be certainly very happy to know you're well! Senior Brother Fang, wait here, I'll go tell them you've come back!"

With that, he dropped everything in his hands and rushed out like the wind.

The surrounding menial servant disciples, having often heard Huang Zhong talk about Fang Bai, now realized that the young and gentle handsome man before them was Fang Bai. He had joined Lingxu Palace not long ago and possessed an Innate Spiritual Root.

This Fang Bai was destined to become a powerful figure in the upper echelons of Lingxu Palace in the future!

For a while, the gazes directed at Fang Bai were filled with envy, respect, and favor.

Fang Bai watched Huang Zhong's retreating figure, shook his head with a smile, and under the gazes of a few hundred menial servant disciples, he leisurely walked along the mountain path towards the peak where the Palace Master Hall was located.

At this moment inside the Palace Master Hall, Elder Yun Feng, temporarily acting as Palace Master, was discussing matters with the senior members of Lingxu Palace.

Although the disciples from the Soul Summoning Hall had already retreated, Yun Feng and the higher-ups were still uneasy. To prevent them from regrouping and launching another attack, Yun Feng sent

disciples to Flaming Sun City to report the matter to the Palace Master and two Elders. Simultaneously, he ordered tens of thousands of disciples to heighten security as a precaution.

While Yun Feng and the senior members were discussing, a disciple stationed at the foot of the mountain suddenly came in, cupped his fists, and loudly announced, "Reporting to Elder Yun, External Courtyard disciple Fang Bai requests an audience!"

As soon as he spoke, Yun Feng and the others, who were in discussion, paused and turned their gazes towards him, their eyes emitting an intimidating light.

The stationed disciple was startled, thinking he had said something wrong, and stood in place, at a loss.

"What... did you just say?"

One moment Yun Feng was seated in a chair, the next he was in front of the stationed disciple, grabbing his shoulder and loudly asking.

His hands were like iron hooks, and as he grasped the stationed disciple's shoulder, he unconsciously applied some force, causing the disciple to grimace in pain, breaking out in a cold sweat, almost unable to stand. Trembling, he said, "External... External Courtyard disciple Fang... Fang Bai requests an audience..."

Realizing the pain on his face, Yun Feng noticed he had lost his composure, released his grip quickly and asked urgently, "Fang Bai... where is he now?"

The stationed disciple let out a sigh of relief and said, "Waiting at the foot of the mountain!"

Before he finished his sentence, there was a "whoosh", and Yun Feng's figure had disappeared from sight.

"Wasn't it said that Fang Bai had fallen in White Bone Gully?"

"It seems something else must have happened, and Fang Bai luckily escaped!"

"With an Innate Spiritual Root and the ability to refine Spirit Pills... Fang Bai not dying is wonderful news for our Lingxu Palace!"

"If the Palace Master and Elder Sun and Elder Wu learn of this, they'll surely be overjoyed!"

...

Seeing Yun Feng transform into a rainbow flying down the mountain, the stewards in the Palace Master Hall exchanged glances, with visible joy in their eyes.

In merely a few moments, Fang Bai and Yun Feng landed together in front of the Palace Master Hall, and amid Yun Feng's hearty laughter, they walked into the hall together.

The stewards all stood up, smiling as they looked at Fang Bai.

"Greetings to all stewards! Fang Bai pays his respects!"

Fang Bai appeared overwhelmed with the honor, hurriedly cupping his fists in salute.

Unable to hide his joy, Yun Feng walked briskly back to his seat and then smiled at Fang Bai, saying, "Alright, Fang Bai, now you can tell us in detail how you managed to survive that chaotic battle!"

The other stewards also looked at Fang Bai with interest, waiting for him to speak.

Fang Bai already had a plan in mind, so he recounted his experience in White Bone Gully that day, half-truthfully and half-fictitiously.

Fang Bai did not hide his discovery of a large amount of Spiritual Medicine and a Spiritual Spring in the cave but did not mention the cave was the dwelling of the Green Tail Wolf.

As for killing the Green Tail Wolf, Fang Bai did not bring it up.

After finishing, Fang Bai took out a prepared Space Ring, extracting ten thousand Spiritual Medicine plants and part of the Spiritual Spring, to show Yun Feng and the others.

The remaining Spiritual Medicines and the Spiritual Spring were stored in another Space Ring, which Fang Bai kept hidden, completely out of Yun Feng and the others' sight.

"Fang Bai, you truly are a blessing to our Lingxu Palace!"

Looking at the Spiritual Medicines and Spiritual Spring before him, Yun Feng was overjoyed.

The other stewards present were equally excited.

The ten thousand Spiritual Medicine plants Fang Bai presented were nearly ten thousand years old, capable of refining into high-grade Holy Grade Spirit Pills. To Yun Feng and the stewards, this grade of Spirit Pill was exactly what they needed and was usually hard to come by. Yet now, they had ten thousand plants before them. How could they not be both delighted and excited?

Although the quantity of the Spiritual Spring Fang Bai spoke of was small, its effectiveness was outstanding, even more precious than the Spiritual Medicines.

Yun Feng and the stewards present were even contemplating that, in the future, if any talented disciples or potential high-ranking members wished to advance, they could use some of the Spiritual Spring from that cave to increase their chances.

This way, Lingxu Palace would produce countless strong figures, greatly enhancing its overall strength.