

Doctor 1621

Chapter 1621: Extraterrestrial Profound Iron

No one expected that the battle between the Tiger Clan and the Lion Clan would be instantly reversed with the arrival of Fang Bai.

With his first strike, Fang Bai forced the Lion Clan Leader Huang Sheng to retreat. The second strike caused Huang Sheng to bleed from the mouth and nose, and the third strike broke the Spiritual Artifact in Huang Sheng's hand.

These three consecutive strikes were increasingly powerful and fierce, showcasing Fang Bai's immense strength.

Knowing he was no match, the Lion Clan Leader Huang Sheng understood that if the fight continued, he might fall under the Blood Blade of this powerful human martial artist, so he immediately commanded a full retreat after being pushed back a hundred feet.

Upon his order, thousands of Lion Clan strongmen ceased fighting and quickly withdrew from the battlefield.

"Tiger Clan disciples, hear the order, do not pursue the fleeing enemy!"

The Tiger Clan Leader Hu Chong saw thousands of Tiger Clan disciples eager to pursue and immediately shouted.

Hu Chong understood that overall, the Tiger Clan was slightly inferior to the Lion Clan. Even if they pursued and fought, the result would be damaging a thousand enemies at the cost of eight hundred of their own, which was not beneficial.

Furthermore, although conflicts over interests between the Tiger Clan and the Lion Clan were frequent, they had not reached the point of an all-out, irreconcilable struggle. If they really pursued and killed, the enmity between the two clans would truly become irreversible.

Upon hearing the Clan Leader's shout, although many Tiger Clan disciples looked unsatisfied, they immediately stopped and no longer pursued.

After thousands of Lion Clan warriors completely withdrew, Hu Chong left some Tiger Clan disciples to handle the aftermath and walked alongside Hu Wei, Hu Zhuang, and others, returning to the Tiger Clan Territory with Fang Bai.

"The Tiger Clan's successful repulsion of the Lion Clan this time is thanks to the assistance of several allies. On behalf of the nearly ten thousand Tiger Clan disciples, I propose a toast to you all!"

That day, led by Hu Chong, the Tiger Clan's leadership held a grand banquet in the Tiger Clan Territory, warmly entertaining Fang Bai and others to express their gratitude for their assistance.

After the banquet, Fang Bai, along with the Lightning Mink, had a private discussion with the Tiger Clan leadership.

Upon learning that the conflict between the Tiger Clan and the Lion Clan was caused by the Lightning Mink, the Tiger Clan leaders were greatly surprised. Some leaders, recalling the Tiger Clan disciples lost because of this, inevitably showed displeasure, but due to Fang Bai's favor, they refrained from acting out.

"Regarding the losses of the Tiger Clan this time, I will compensate with Spirit Pills and Spiritual Artifacts..."

Fang Bai's gaze swept across the faces of the Tiger Clan leaders, and he said earnestly, "If any of you have Spiritual Medicine, I can help refine it into Spirit Pills; if there are Spiritual Artifacts, I can upgrade them for you."

Hu Chong asked in amazement, "Brother Fang, you know both Alchemy and Artifact Refining?"

Although Fang Bai was at the initial stage of the Soul Severing realm, his three previous strikes repelled the Lion Clan Leader Huang Sheng, who was in the advanced stage, causing Hu Chong to take notice. He realized this young human strongman possessed extraordinary abilities to challenge higher realms, so he dared not underestimate him, addressing Fang Bai as "Brother."

Fang Bai smiled lightly and nodded, "If anyone present has Royal Grade cultivation resources, I can also help refine Royal Grade Spirit Pills and forge Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts."

The mention of "Royal Grade" from Fang Bai instantly sparked excitement on the faces of the Tiger Clan leaders, all turning their eyes to Clan Leader Hu Chong.

Hu Chong, equally excited, asked with a trembling voice, "Brother Fang... are you truly confident in refining Royal Grade Spirit Pills and forging Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts?"

Upon hearing this from Hu Chong, Fang Bai knew the Tiger Clan must have a treasure of Royal Grade cultivation resources, and he smiled, saying, "Of course, I am confident. As long as everyone here trusts me, I will not let you down."

The excitement among the Tiger Clan leaders was palpable, and despite the presence of outsiders like Fang Bai, they were caught up in discussions, temporarily forgetting about the Lightning Mink's mischief that led to their conflict with the Lion Clan.

Including Hu Chong, the Tiger Clan leaders understood the significance of Royal Grade Spirit Pills and Spiritual Artifacts.

If they could obtain Royal Grade Spirit Pills and Spiritual Artifacts, their strength would be comprehensively enhanced, ensuring a solid advantage against the Lion Clan in future conflicts and eliminating concerns over other Beast Clan invasions.

When compared to the interests of the entire Tiger Clan, the earlier losses of a few disciples due to the Lightning Mink's instigation became insignificant to the Tiger Clan leaders.

A moment later, Hu Chong personally invited the Supreme Elder of the Tiger Clan to meet with Fang Bai.

The Supreme Elder of the Tiger Clan, a Soul Severing Perfection expert, appeared old, yet his tiger eyes were bright and spirited, and the pressure he exuded was like a mountain. Except for Fang Bai, everyone else felt somewhat breathless.

"Friend Fang, this meteorite was acquired by an ancestor of our Tiger Clan and is considered the clan's treasure. I cannot discern its grade, but I presume it to be Royal Grade. Could it be used to forge Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts?"

The Tiger Clan Supreme Elder said, taking a palm-sized piece of black metal from his Spatial Ring and holding it in his palm.

The black metal seemed extremely heavy, and when the Tiger Clan Supreme Elder held it in his palm, Fang Bai noticed his arm trembled slightly.

"This Extraterrestrial Profound Iron is indeed Royal Grade. At the very least, it could be crafted into ten Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts!"

Fang Bai nonchalantly took the Extraterrestrial Profound Iron and examined it briefly before speaking.

The Tiger Clan Supreme Elder knew the meteorite weighed over ten thousand pounds. Seeing that despite Fang Bai's cultivation level being inferior, he handled it with ease, the elder was secretly amazed, guessing that the young human strongman must have extraordinary talent.

"To be able to craft ten Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts? That's marvelous!"

Hu Chong was greatly exhilarated upon hearing Fang Bai's words.

This piece of Extraterrestrial Profound Iron had been with the Tiger Clan for a thousand years without finding a suitable Artifact Refiner to create a Spiritual Artifact. Fang Bai's arrival was indeed a fortunate opportunity for the Tiger Clan.

"These Royal Grade Spiritual Medicines were acquired during my adventures years ago. Please, Friend Fang, help me refine several bottles of Royal Grade Spirit Pills."

The Tiger Clan Supreme Elder had Fang Bai put away the Extraterrestrial Profound Iron, then handed over several Royal Grade Spiritual Medicines to him.

The Royal Grade Spiritual Medicines included Fusion Essence Grass for refining Gathering Yuan Pills, Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb for creating Creation Pills, and the Wansui Fruit for Marrow Cleansing Pills.

After these Spiritual Medicines were refined into Spirit Pills, they would provide significant assistance for Martial Artists breaking through realms. If a Martial Artist's cultivation level was on the brink of advancement, consuming Royal Grade Marrow Cleansing Pills, Gathering Yuan Pills, and Creation Pills could lead to an immediate breakthrough to the next minor realm.

Fang Bai disliked delay in handling affairs. After receiving the Extraterrestrial Profound Iron and the Spiritual Medicines, he decided to start refining Spirit Pills and Spiritual Artifacts.

For safety reasons, the Tiger Clan Supreme Elder offered Fang Bai his usual secluded cultivation sanctuary and personally protected him to prevent any disturbances during the refinement of Spirit Pills and Spiritual Artifacts.

Chapter 1622: Taixuan Sect

During Fang Bai's secluded alchemy and artifact refining session, Wu De, Wind Roc, and Lightning Mink had nothing to do. Under the guidance of the Hu Wei and Hu Zhuang brothers, they explored the Tiger Clan Territory, sampling various delicious Spirit Beast meats and drinking a lot of wine brewed from Thousand-Year Spirit Fruits, feeling quite reluctant to leave.

Wu De enjoyed being in lively company, and with Wind Roc, Lightning Mink, and the Hu brothers from the Beast Clan being so straightforward, they quickly became fast friends over several drinking sessions, pledging brotherhood with each other in high spirits.

"The last battle, letting the Lion Clan escape, just thinking about it makes me angry!"

After eating and drinking their fill one time, while chatting about some rivals of the Tiger Clan, Hu Zhuang slapped his thigh with a face full of regret as he spoke.

Hu Wei laughed and said, "The Lion Clan learned their lesson last time, they probably won't dare to provoke our Tiger Clan youths for a while."

Wu De said, "I say, since they are rivals, to prevent future trouble, why not just annihilate them in one fell swoop!"

"I think so too, but..."

Hu Zhuang sighed and said with a displeased face, "Father has already issued a strict order prohibiting our Tiger Clan youths from proactively provoking the Lion Clan, otherwise we will be severely punished! Otherwise... hmm..."

Hu Wei patted Hu Zhuang's shoulder and said, "Forget it. Father said that the Lion Clan has a powerful backing. If we push them too far, our Tiger Clan might suffer in the end!"

Hu Zhuang retorted, "The Lion Clan's backing is merely a human sect, what's there to fear!"

Hu Wei said, "But that human sect has Thunder Tribulation Realm experts sitting guard!"

Hu Zhuang grumbled, "So what about Thunder Tribulation experts? I'm not afraid anyway! This time, Brother Fang has crafted Royal-level Spirit Pills and Spiritual Artifacts for our tribe, which might allow some of our senior members to advance in cultivation, and then we might face that human sect!"

Hu Wei smiled wryly, "You underestimate the power of Thunder Tribulation experts too much."

Lightning Mink's eyes twinkled as he asked, "What's the name of that human sect? Let me hear it."

Hu Wei said, "Taixuan Sect! Both their Supreme Elders are Thunder Tribulation Realm experts!"

Hu Zhuang said, "Marten Brother, you've heard of Taixuan Peak, right? It's the number one Cultivation Holy Land in our Heaven's Net Realm, originally ownerless land where all Martial Artists could cultivate on the peak, but was later occupied by a group of human experts who established a sect there, making Taixuan Peak the headquarters of their sect! Truly hateful!"

Lightning Mink shook his head and said, "I came from the three thousand Minor Worlds, totally unfamiliar with this place, how would I know about Taixuan Peak or Taixuan Sect?"

After a pause, he grinned mischievously and said, "Since Taixuan Sect has Thunder Tribulation experts stronger than Soul Severing experts sitting guard, their sect must have a lot of Spiritual Medicine planted, right?"

Hu Wei, seeing his wicked smile, suddenly realized a possibility, and his eyes widened as he exclaimed, "Marten Brother, you're not planning to steal and spoil Taixuan Sect's herb garden, are you?"

Hu Zhuang, Wind Roc, and Wu De also stared wide-eyed at Lightning Mink.

"Marten Brother, if you really do that, take me with you! Hehe, the stronger the sect, the more thrilling and exhilarating it is to steal their cultivation resources!"

Wu De said excitedly, rubbing his hands.

Though Wind Roc said nothing, his expression revealed that he was interested too.

However, Hu Wei was calmer, frowning as he looked at Lightning Mink, waiting to see what he would say.

Lightning Mink thought for a moment and said, "I'm planning to go to Taixuan Sect, but you all... your strength is a bit weak! Bringing you along would be a burden for me! Besides, you are all good friends of Fang Bai, if anything goes wrong, Fang Bai surely wouldn't be happy!"

Lightning Mink feared nothing worldly, ignoring even the Tiger Clan's Supreme Elder, but he cared a lot about Fang Bai's opinion.

Hearing this, Wu De immediately felt discontented, rolling his eyes and said unhappily, "We're going to steal, not fight, it has nothing to do with strength and power! As long as we stay clever and cautious, nothing will happen! Marten Brother, as friends, take us with you!"

Lightning Mink sighed in resignation, spread his hands, and said, "Alright, I'll listen to you! But remember, once we reach Taixuan Sect, I'll scout ahead, and you follow afterward. If discovered, I'll distract their pursuit while you escape quickly!"

"No problem!"

"Rest assured!"

"Haha, just thinking about stealing Taixuan Sect's cultivation resources is thrilling!"

"If you go, I can only join! But we all have to be careful!"

After Wu De, Wind Roc, and the Hu brothers agreed on this, they each returned to prepare for the trip to Taixuan Sect.

Although Taixuan Sect was tens of thousands of miles away from the Tiger Clan Territory, with Wind Roc acting as their mount, such distance was not far for them.

One person and four beasts set off secretly, and after five days of flying, they finally arrived in the mountainous region near Taixuan Sect.

"There is Taixuan Peak!"

Standing atop a mountain, several miles away, Hu Wei raised his arm to point, showing a gigantic and towering mountain peak piercing the clouds, with snow covering its top, and luxurious palaces and mansions below.

The mountain, from top to bottom, was planted with an uncountable array of Spiritual Medicines, with thick Spiritual Energy enveloping it like a dream, fragrant and illusory, as flocks of birds occasionally circled in the air, resembling an Immortal Realm.

"Indeed a wonderful place. Cultivating on this peak for one day is worth three to five days elsewhere."

Lightning Mink took a deep breath of the Spiritual Energy in this place, looking envious as he spoke.

Wu De, gazing at Taixuan Peak with eyes aglow, murmured to himself, "The Spiritual Energy of this mountain is dense, aside from part of it being emitted by the Spiritual Medicines, there might be a Spirit Stone Vein or other cultivation treasure within the mountain body."

"Old Taoist Wu, are you sure?"

Lightning Mink couldn't help asking.

Lightning Mink had known Wu De since his time in the secular world, aware that this Fat Taoist had an extremely keen sense for Spiritual Energy, easily discovering Spirit Stone Veins or tombs left by powerful figures to steal and claim as his own.

"Taoist Master has never been wrong!"

Wu De declared confidently.

Lightning Mink called out "Great," transforming back to mink form and darting forward rapidly, communicating through sound to Wu De and others, "Wait here. Let me explore first! Without my word, nobody move recklessly, or we're no longer friends!"

"Let's just wait quietly for a bit!"

Watching the direction where Lightning Mink disappeared, Hu Wei said.

Thus, one person and three beasts stood on the mountain peak, gazing toward Taixuan Sect, waiting for Lightning Mink's news.

Two hours later, just as Wu De and others were growing anxious, a silver shadow flashed before their eyes, and Lightning Mink reappeared.

"Wind Roc, you're fast. Quickly return to the Tiger Clan Territory and tell your master that there are two Little Lovers he knows from the secular world here at Taixuan Sect. Tell him to hurry over, or they'll be gone!"

Lightning Mink said to Wind Roc with a strange expression.

Chapter 1623: Wu De and the Lightning Mink's Wicked Grins

The Lightning Mink and Fang Bai met in the secular world and knew how important those confidantes around Fang Bai were to him.

If Fang Bai learned of what happened to those two confidantes at the Taixuan Sect, he would definitely be furious and would want to destroy the Taixuan Sect by any means.

The Lightning Mink thought it was fortunate that it came just in time, otherwise, in a few days, the two women's situation might become even worse, and by then, Fang Bai might regret it for the rest of his life.

The Wind Roc, knowing the relationship between the Lightning Mink and Fang Bai, and hearing that this matter was closely related to its master's confidantes, immediately returned to its true form, spread its wings, and flew towards the Tiger Clan Territory at the fastest speed.

"Little Mink, who are those little lovers of Fang Bai?"

Seeing the Wind Roc leave, Wu De couldn't help but ask.

The Lightning Mink replied with a mischievous smile, "It's that pair of sisters."

Wu De uttered an "Oh" and said, "Is it the Dongfang Sisters?"

The Lightning Mink shook its head and said, "No, it's another pair!"

Wu De chuckled, "Then it's the Linghu Sisters... That Fang Bai guy, with two pairs of sister blossoms around him, I really don't know how he handles it all!"

The Lightning Mink rolled its eyes and said, "Why bother with so many things? If you have the skills, you could do it too!"

Wu De snorted, "I, the Taoist Master, am focused on cultivation with no distractions, where would I find the time for romantic affairs with women? Besides, rouge and powder are nothing but bones and skeletons in my eyes!"

The Lightning Mink snickered, "Fang Bai is involved with so many women, and it doesn't seem to affect his cultivation! Also, you're a big man but not interested in women, is there something wrong with your body?"

Wu De, like a cat whose tail was stepped on, jumped up high and spat, "Nonsense! I, the Taoist Master, am perfectly healthy and could handle ten women at night!"

After a pause, he added, "That Fang Bai kid has extraordinary talent, and a special physique, ordinary martial artists can't compare. Him being entangled with so many women doesn't affect his cultivation, doesn't mean other martial artists can do the same..."

The Lightning Mink said, "Are you implying that you're just an ordinary martial artist too?"

Wu De patted his chest and said, "I, the Taoist Master, have Dual Attribute Innate Spiritual Roots, a dragon and phoenix among people, how can I be compared with ordinary martial artists?"

The Lightning Mink glanced at him disdainfully and said, "Just you, with the Innate Spiritual Roots, a dragon and phoenix among people, and yet still at the Nascent Soul Realm... compared to me, Master Mink, you're far behind!"

Wu De jumped up again, glaring, "Don't be too smug! I, the Taoist Master, just had poor opportunities in the past, that's why you got ahead! Just wait, in no more than two or three years, my cultivation level will surpass yours!"

The Lightning Mink sneered, "Then Master Mink will wait and see!"

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The man and the mink stood on the mountaintop, bickering for half a day before stopping.

As night fell, the Lightning Mink said to Wu De, "I don't know where the Taixuan Sect abducted the Linghu Sisters from, but they plan to use them as bargaining chips in five days to give them to an Elder from the Wuya Sect as Martial Dao Companions, to help him break through to the Soul Severing Realm and advance to the Thunder Tribulation Realm..."

The Lightning Mink told Wu De in detail what it had seen and heard inside the Taixuan Sect before, ending with a fearful tone, "The Supreme Elder of the Taixuan Sect is a Thunder Tribulation Layer One expert, that old guy is not to be underestimated! If I hadn't been born with the ability to conceal my aura and move quickly, I might have been discovered by him."

Wu De frowned and thought for a moment, then said worriedly to the Lightning Mink, "By the time Wind Roc delivers the message to Fang Bai and he makes it here, it will probably be more than five days! Are we just going to watch as the Taixuan Sect forces the Linghu Sisters to become Martial Dao Companions with that Elder from the Wuya Sect?"

The Lightning Mink said, "Of course not! We're friends with Fang Bai, how can we watch his women suffer?"

Wu De said, "But with the two of us, even if we join forces, we can't stop them!"

The Lightning Mink said, "You're so dumb! If we can't do it openly, we'll do it covertly!"

Saying this, it whispered into Wu De's ear.

Wu De's eyes lit up, and he finally patted the Lightning Mink's shoulder, laughing, "You're such a cunning fellow! Alright, that's what we'll do! We won't stop until we cause chaos in the Taixuan Sect!"

The man and the beast, both with mischievous smiles, took advantage of the thick night to leap from the mountaintop and began to act separately.

Early the next morning, nearly all the disciples of the Taixuan Sect received some very bad news:

The Taixuan Sect, known for its tight defenses, had several ancient herb gardens that had existed for millennia, and overnight, over half of the highest-grade King Grade Superior Spiritual Medicines had been secretly harvested by someone, and the Spiritual Medicines with lower ages had been destroyed beyond measure.

Only the two herb gardens near the Supreme Elder's and Sect Master's halls remained unharmed.

Many Taixuan Sect disciples heard that their Sect Master, Duan Yi, upon learning of the severe damage to the herb gardens, threw a fit and smashed many things in the Sect Master Hall, then dispatched many high-level officials to the scene of the theft and destruction to strive to find any clues and catch the "culprit" who destroyed the herb gardens.

Duan Yi suspected that it might be the work of an "insider" within the sect.

Duan Yi felt that with the presence of the Thunder Tribulation Layer One Supreme Elder, Bao Zhenhai, it was very unlikely that outsiders would risk forming a deadly enmity with the Taixuan Sect by infiltrating it to conduct extensive theft and destruction of the herb gardens.

Moreover, the Taixuan Sect had many disciples and was well-informed, with spies widely distributed across the Three Thousand Great Worlds; if they poured all their resources into investigating, they would eventually be able to find out who the "culprit" was and then issue a Bounty Order to hunt them down, leaving them nowhere to hide.

From this perspective, the likelihood of an outsider committing the "crime" was not high.

Of course, this possibility could not be ruled out entirely.

The high-level officials sent out to find leads on the "culprit" soon reported back with results.

They believed that the theft and destruction of the sect's herb gardens were not committed by a human Martial Artist, but by a Spirit Beast, and most likely it was a Spirit Beast that had reached the Soul Severing Realm.

"Damn beast!"

Upon receiving the report, Duan Yi was so angry he almost spat blood.

If a human Martial Artist had done this, he could have issued a Bounty Order in his capacity as Sect Master to have them hunted down, but since it was a Spirit Beast, he felt helpless and at a loss for what to do.

Soul Severing experts' Spirit Beasts usually lived deep in the mountains.

And in the deep mountains, there were often many powerful Spirit Beasts, each with their own territory, and if human Martial Artists ventured in, they would face a mad assault.

Near the Taixuan Sect, there was said to be an ancient forest, dating back to the Desolate Ancient Era, where it was said many Soul Severing and even stronger Spirit Beasts lived, and not even the likes of Wuya Sect, which is a sect one level stronger, dared to enter that forest lightly.

If the Spirit Beast that destroyed the Taixuan Sect's herb gardens lived in that ancient forest, the Taixuan Sect could only consider themselves unlucky.

Chapter 1624: Theft and Destruction

The Taixuan Sect encountered more misfortunes that day than just the destruction of their herb garden.

As evening approached, the Sect Master Duan Yi's foul mood had barely improved when yet another piece of bad news reached his ear just as he was about to return to the Sect Master Hall for a brief respite.

"Report to the Sect Master, we have lost a large number of Spirit Stones from the Essence Stone Vein near the primeval forest..."

The disciple who came to report this news was well aware of the Sect Master's foul mood and spoke cautiously, barely daring to breathe.

The Spirit Stone Vein near the primeval forest had been discovered by a Taixuan Sect disciple a thousand years ago by chance. It housed a huge reserve, mostly consisting of King Grade Spirit Stones, with a small number of Royal Grade lower-grade Spirit Stones. It was considered a heavily guarded ground by the sect, monitored day and night by two Elders and four Stewards.

Although there were occasional thefts by restless disciples since its extraction began, these incidents were far from being described as "large-scale."

Therefore, upon hearing the reporting disciple mention "lost a large number of Spirit Stones," Duan Yi instinctively felt something was off, his eyelids twitching rapidly, he raised an eyebrow and asked in a deep voice, "What grades of Spirit Stones were lost, and approximately how many?"

"All... all were Royal Grade Spirit Stones..."

The reporting disciple, not daring to hide anything, replied heavily, "The number is about... a million pieces..."

Duan Yi initially froze, then his breathing became rapid and heavy.

The Royal Grade Spirit Stone reserve of that stone vein was only about ten million pieces, and now to have lost a million pieces was naturally heart-wrenching for Duan Yi!

Even the Supreme Elder of Taixuan Sect, Bao Zhenhai, only required around one hundred thousand Royal Grade Spirit Stones a year for cultivation.

One million Royal Grade Spirit Stones matched what Bao Zhenhai, a Thunder Tribulation stage expert, would need for ten years of arduous cultivation.

Duan Yi, eyes red, strode up to the reporting disciple, grabbed the front of his robe, and hissed in a low voice, "The extraction entrance of the Essence Stone Vein is guarded by two Elders and four Stewards, how can Spirit Stones go missing?"

The reporting disciple, trembling with terror, replied, "Someone... someone opened a hole from another place, infiltrated the Essence Stone Vein, and stole..."

Duan Yi froze again, immediately querying, "Have you found out who did it?"

The reporting disciple shook his head, "We don't know who did it, but it's speculated to be a Nascent Soul Realm expert..."

Duan Yi released his grip on the disciple's robe, muttering to himself, "A mere Nascent Soul Realm expert could steal a million Royal Grade Essence Stones... the people guarding the Essence Stone Vein are a bunch of good-for-nothings! A bunch of good-for-nothings!"

After venting in the Sect Master Hall, Duan Yi, accompanied by the reporting disciple, personally visited the Essence Stone Vein, severely scolded those disciples guarding it, and instructed them to strengthen their defenses before leaving resentfully.

First, a vast area of Spiritual Medicine was stolen and destroyed, then a large number of Royal Grade Spirit Stones were pilfered. These two incidents drove the entire Taixuan Sect into a state of panic, leaving the faces of the sect's higher-ups shadowed with gloom.

Even though the defenses tightened significantly afterward, nobody expected that the same two incidents would recur late into the next night.

The flower garden was significantly stolen and damaged, while nearly fifty thousand Royal Grade Essence Stones were stolen.

Although the loss this time wasn't as large as the previous one, it still infuriated Taixuan Sect's Sect Master Duan Yi, even more so than the first time.

If the first occurrence could be considered an accident, then the second was undoubtedly a form of contempt, a provocation, and a slap in the face.

"The ones stealing our cultivation resources are a Soul Severing Realm Spirit Beast and a Nascent Soul Realm human Martial Artist. From the traces they left at the scene, it appears they haven't gone far! Mobilize all Taixuan Sect elite disciples and spread them within a radius of ten thousand miles, search carefully! Even if you have to dig three feet into the ground, find out who did it! Once found out, capture or slay them, it doesn't matter which!"

Immediately, nearly twenty thousand elite disciples of the Taixuan Sect were deployed, conducting a grid search within the vast radius.

Due to these occurrences, the Taixuan Sect had to postpone the plan initially scheduled for two or three days later, where they intended to present two captured women to the Wuya Sect.

For these two women, who happened to possess both beauty and Innate Spiritual Roots, Duan Yi initially had a desire, a longing to claim them as his own. But upon deliberation, he decided to bite the bullet and give them up.

In recent years, Duan Yi had been stuck at Soul Severing Perfection with no signs of advancing to become a Thunder Tribulation expert, so after much contemplation, he decided to gift these two women to Wuya Sect.

It's rumored that the Supreme Elder of Wuya Sect, who possessed a Thunder Tribulation second-layer cultivation level, favored young and beautiful women, especially those with a Primordial Yin Physique. If it includes women with an Innate Spiritual Root, it would certainly please the Wuya Sect's Supreme Elder immensely.

By then, Duan Yi felt he could propose some not-so-excessive terms, achieving a mutual benefit exchange with the Wuya Sect's Supreme Elder.

If he could advance to the Thunder Tribulation stage, it would be ideal.

If not, achieving a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation would still be a significant gain.

However, the string of disastrous events completely disrupted Duan Yi's plan.

To prevent any mishaps, Duan Yi temporarily placed those two women in his Sect Master Hall, personally overseeing their safety.

While the Taixuan Sect disciples were vexed over the stolen and destroyed Spiritual Medicine and the pilfered Spirit Stones, Wu De and the Lightning Mink met again, hiding in a valley dense with vegetation, taking refuge in a small cave within the valley.

Both Wu De and the Lightning Mink had pestered Fang Bai persistently to learn some secret techniques, including the art of setting up formations.

After crawling into the cave, for safety, they set up several Concealment Formations one after another at the cave entrance, masking the presence of the human and the beast, so much so that several waves of Taixuan Sect disciples searching for the "culprits" passed by their hiding spot without noticing anything amiss.

"Old Taoist Wu, share some Royal Grade Spirit Stones with me!"

"Exchange them for your Spiritual Medicine!"

"Can't you be less stingy?"

"What's wrong with being stingy? Exchange it if you want, or don't!"

"Fine, I'll exchange! I'll give ten Superior King Grade Spiritual Medicines for one of your lower-grade Royal Grade Spirit Stones, how about it?"

"Dream on! Twenty for one is more like it!"

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Wu De and the Lightning Mink spent several days hiding in the cave, during which they argued incessantly over the exchange of cultivation resources, hardly stopping.

After the Taixuan Sect disciples ceased their searches near Taixuan Peak on the third day, expanding the search area wider, Wu De and the Lightning Mink found their opportunity and snuck out once more.

Chapter 1625: Beast Tide Assault

"Little Mink, can you stir up some more trouble for the Taixuan Sect, and then rescue the Linghu Sisters amidst the chaos?"

Wu De, with his arm around the shoulder of the human-shaped Lightning Mink, coaxed with a chuckle, "You know Fang Bai's character: you do him one favor, and he'll repay you tenfold. If you can safely rescue his two little lovers, he'll surely be grateful to you beyond measure and shower you with benefits!"

The Lightning Mink had followed Fang Bai for some time and knew that Fang Bai was mysterious and unfathomable, possessing many unparalleled secret techniques. If it could truly help him rescue the Linghu Sisters, there was a chance Fang Bai might teach it a few more skills. Upon hearing Wu De's suggestion, the Lightning Mink couldn't help but brighten its gaze.

Of all the secret techniques the Lightning Mink learned from Fang Bai, it was most adept not at formations, but at the Beast Taming Technique.

Fang Bai had once imparted the Beast Taming Scripture to the Lightning Mink. As a spirit beast, the Lightning Mink understood the habits of spirit beasts better than Fang Bai, and thus, after learning the Beast Taming Scripture, it could easily and freely control spirit beasts.

The Taixuan Sect had a Thunder Tribulation Realm expert stationed there, making it impossible to rescue the Linghu Sisters by force. Therefore, the Lightning Mink could only rely on the power of the spirit beasts to create turmoil in the Taixuan Sect.

Thus, in the dead of night, roars of spirit beasts echoed from the primordial forest near the Taixuan Sect. Thousands upon thousands of spirit beasts, as if gone mad, charged out of the primitive forest, racing towards the Taixuan Sect.

The spirit beasts moved with incredible speed. Before the disciples of the Taixuan Sect could organize an effective defense, thousands of spirit beasts had already broken through the sect's mountain gate, storming into the grounds and wreaking havoc.

Among the nearly ten thousand spirit beasts, some flew in the sky, while others ran on the ground. Over a third of the spirit beasts possessed strength comparable to human Soul Severing Realm experts.

The dark swarm of spirit beasts poured in like a tide; they seemed crazed but moved in an orderly fashion. Some went to destroy the herb gardens, while others attacked the disciples of the Taixuan Sect.

The attack power and destructive force of the spirit beasts were extremely formidable. Their invasion plunged the entire Taixuan Sect into chaos, with screams of agony resounding incessantly in the air.

Many Taixuan Sect disciples, seeing the sudden appearance of large numbers of spirit beasts before them, could not understand what was happening and had no choice but to hastily resist.

However, the vast majority of the Taixuan Sect disciples were below the Soul Severing Realm, no match for the spirit beasts.

Within just a few short breaths of the spirit beasts' entry, hundreds of Taixuan Sect disciples were either dead or injured, causing rivers of blood to flow.

The Taixuan Sect Master Duan Yi, who was in secluded cultivation, was startled awake the moment the spirit beasts broke in. He rushed out of the great hall, suspending himself in mid-air, sweeping his gaze, which flashed like brilliant lightning, across the scene below. He witnessed the increasingly tragic fate of more Taixuan Sect disciples falling under the frenzied attack of the spirit beasts.

The Taixuan Sect's four elders and eight stewards also rushed out from their respective halls to stand by Duan Yi's side.

"These beasts usually stay in the primordial forest, not interfering with us. Why have they gone mad and launched an attack on us today?"

One of the Taixuan Sect elders, looking puzzled, spoke to Duan Yi.

Duan Yi, with ears perked up, listened carefully and then frowned as he addressed the senior members of the Taixuan Sect present, "Have you heard the howling? These maddened spirit beasts are being controlled by it."

With his words, the senior members of the Taixuan Sect present all turned their ears to listen intently, and sure enough, they vaguely heard urgent, sharp howling coming from the distant mountain ranges.

"I'll go see who dares not show themselves openly but does such despicable things in the dark!"

With these words, a Taixuan Sect elder summoned his spiritual artifact, transformed into a stream of light, and flew towards the source of the howling.

"To be safe, I'll go too!"

Another elder followed suit.

Watching as more disciples of the sect fell into pools of blood, Duan Yi suppressed the fury in his chest and said in a deep voice, "The two elders and eight stewards, lead the direct disciples and core disciples to assist various disciples in killing and driving away the spirit beasts. I'll stay here to coordinate and command..."

The two elders and eight stewards on site took their leave one after another, leaving Duan Yi alone to continue planning the response.

Seconds later, just as the Taixuan Sect was thrown into utter chaos, a handsome young man wearing the robes of an external courtyard disciple of the Taixuan Sect quietly infiltrated the sect, cautiously approaching the Sect Master Hall.

That handsome young man was, of course, the Lightning Mink. It had controlled the spirit beasts with its howling from the mountains and left before the two Taixuan Sect elders arrived. Taking advantage of the night and the chaos, and relying on its incredibly fast movement technique, it stealthily entered the Taixuan Sect, killed an external courtyard disciple of the sect, and donned his clothing.

"That old guy is a Soul Severing Perfection expert, I can't handle him. This is tricky!"

With a hundred yards left to the Sect Master Hall, the Lightning Mink stopped, not daring to go further, fearing that Duan Yi might see through its disguise.

Fortunately, Duan Yi was preoccupied with other matters and had no time to pay attention to this disciple wearing the external courtyard's garb.

"They are inside the great hall, but there's no chance to make a move!"

Having sensed the presence of the Linghu Sisters inside the Sect Master Hall, the Lightning Mink circled around the hall, not daring to force its way inside, scratching its ears and cheeks in anxiety.

All around the Sect Master Hall, the Taixuan Sect disciples were giving their all to defend against the spirit beasts, except for the Lightning Mink, which had no spirit beasts approaching it. Over time, Duan Yi, floating in the air, finally sensed something was off.

Even though the Lightning Mink could conceal its own aura, Duan Yi focused his gaze, carefully sensing, and still detected a faint trace of spirit beast aura from it.

"A spirit beast rivaling a human Soul Severing Realm expert... What's it doing here? Judging by its sneaky demeanor, could it be after the two women in the hall? Is this unexpected beast tide related to it?"

Locking his gaze on the Lightning Mink, Duan Yi swiftly decided to first capture this infiltrating transformed spirit beast and then assess the situation.

"Not good!"

The Lightning Mink, sensitive and alert, realized that Duan Yi had locked onto it and sensed impending danger. Refusing to linger, it immediately transformed into its beast form and dashed into the area with the most spirit beasts nearby.

"Run!"

Controlling the dozens of spirit beasts around it, the Lightning Mink led them all in a charge towards the mountain gate of the Taixuan Sect.

"Beast, where do you think you're going!"

Seeing the Lightning Mink attempting to flee, Duan Yi became even more certain that this beast tide was the doing of this spirit beast and was determined to capture it to get to the bottom of it.

The Lightning Mink fled on the ground, while Duan Yi pursued it from the air, and in the blink of an eye they were at the mountain gate of the Taixuan Sect.

At the mountain gate, the battle between the spirit beasts and the Taixuan Sect disciples was the fiercest, with the greatest number of participants. The plaza outside the mountain gate, spanning several miles in radius, was teeming with thousands of spirit beasts and thousands of Taixuan Sect disciples.

The Lightning Mink, moving like lightning, trailed a streak of silver light as it plunged into the midst of the thousand spirit beasts.

Chapter 1626: First-Level Heavenly Tribulation Expert

Compared to other Spirit Beasts, the Lightning Mink is considered "small" in size, only as large as several adult palms. Thus, once it burrowed into the midst of thousands of large Spirit Beasts, Duan Yi found it difficult to locate again.

Besides, there were too many Spirit Beasts below with mixed auras, and although Duan Yi in the air could sense the Lightning Mink's aura, locking onto it was exceptionally challenging.

Frustrated and furious, Duan Yi swung the Spirit Artifact in his hand, launching attacks towards the thousand Spirit Beasts below, hoping to scare them away.

Even though many Spirit Beasts surrounded the Lightning Mink and were quite formidable, Duan Yi was a Soul Severing Perfection expert, holding an overwhelming advantage over them. His Spiritual Artifact continuously chopped down, causing significant casualties among the Spirit Beasts.

The Lightning Mink weaved through the thousand Spirit Beasts, narrowly avoiding the blade lights descending from Duan Yi. It realized that it couldn't keep going on like this, as the number of nearby Spirit Beasts dwindled, and eventually, it would be exposed to Duan Yi's blade.

By then, it would truly be in danger.

"Chirp!"

The Lightning Mink let out a long cry, summoning dozens of Soul Severing Realm birds to attack Duan Yi in the air, buying time for its escape.

Although those dozens of Soul Severing Realm birds were only at the initial stage of Soul Severing and collectively no match for Duan Yi, their reckless and fierce attacks still troubled him greatly.

Seeing the Lightning Mink transform into a silver streak fleeing far away, while he was entangled by the dozens of Soul Severing Realm birds, Duan Yi grew anxious and also let out a clear whistle.

Upon hearing this whistle, in just a few breaths, a streak of light emerged from the direction of Taixuan Sect's rear mountain, swiftly flying towards them, arriving in the blink of an eye.

"What does the Sect Master summon me for?"

The streak of light halted not far from Duan Yi, revealing an emaciated old man with white hair and beard.

At first glance, the emaciated old man seemed like an ordinary elder, but upon closer inspection, a cunning electrical light flickered in his pupils.

Anyone who had advanced into the Thunder Tribulation Realm could tell that this emaciated old man was a first-stage Thunder Tribulation expert.

The emaciated old man watched Duan Yi battling the dozens of birds, knowing he was in no mortal danger, so he did not offer assistance.

“Please ask the Supreme Elder to capture that beast!”

Without time to explain, Duan Yi urgently pointed to the silver light that was about to disappear and said.

The Supreme Elder, named Bao Zhenhai, was over four hundred years old and spent most of his time in seclusion in a valley at the rear mountain, rarely involving himself in sect affairs, truly a Sea-Calming Divine Needle of the Taixuan Sect.

Having been summoned by Duan Yi’s whistle, Bao Zhenhai knew something major had happened in the sect that was difficult to handle. He left his Cultivation State, transforming into a streak of light to arrive.

Upon hearing Duan Yi’s words, Bao Zhenhai glanced in the direction the Lightning Mink was fleeing, made a surprised sound, a strange look flashed through his eyes, then he sped off like lightning after it.

A first-stage Thunder Tribulation expert is several times more powerful than a Soul Severing Perfection expert, and their speed is something a Soul Severing Perfection expert can’t hope to match. Though the Lightning Mink was fleeing quickly, it still couldn’t outpace Bao Zhenhai, a first-stage Thunder Tribulation expert.

In just over ten breaths, the distance between man and beast shrank from nearly a thousand feet to a hundred feet.

The Lightning Mink grew anxious, knowing it was too late to summon Spirit Beasts with the Beast Taming Scripture and that its only hope was to quickly escape into the primitive forest ahead to lose its pursuer.

The Lightning Mink understood that the human elder chasing behind was vastly more powerful than itself. If caught, it feared certain death.

“I should have known Taixuan Sect had such a formidable expert. I wouldn’t have let Old Taoist Wu persuade me to rescue the Linghu sisters. Alas, if I fall here, it would be a tragic end for Master Mink!”

The Lightning Mink thought as it fled.

Feeling the pressure descend around it, the Lightning Mink suddenly felt as if trapped in a marsh, its escape speed greatly impacted, slowing more and more.

“I can’t escape! It’s over!”

In despair, the Lightning Mink stopped fleeing, transformed into human form, and turned to face Bao Zhenhai, who hovered overhead.

“I quite like you, little mink. If you are willing to submit to me and follow me from now on, I’ll spare your life. What do you say?”

Bao Zhenhai knew that the rare Lightning Mink before him appeared youthful and had already reached the Soul Severing realm. As it aged, it would surely grow stronger, a great asset if he could tame it and keep it by his side.

The Lightning Mink spat, rolling its eyes and said, “Pah! Who do you think you are? Even if I die, Master Mink wouldn’t follow you!”

Bao Zhenhai did not get angry, smiling as he stroked his beard, “I hold a Thunder Tribulation realm cultivation; following me is no injustice! One day when I advance in cultivation, I can guide you further! How about it? Tempted?”

“Not tempted! Not tempted at all!”

The Lightning Mink thought, even though you are a first-stage Thunder Tribulation expert, you've likely reached your limits in cultivation. Following you is not as promising as following Fang Bai, whose potential is boundless.

Bao Zhenhai's face darkened, and he snorted, "You little mink, I intend to spare your life. Don't refuse kindness for punishment! I'll give you ten breaths to decide. Agree, and live. Refuse, and I'll kill you with a palm strike!"

The Lightning Mink stuck out its chest and shouted, "No need to consider! Master Mink would rather die than agree!"

"Then die it is!"

Bao Zhenhai was furious, swinging a palm strike down.

A first-stage Thunder Tribulation expert, his move was accompanied by thunder and flashing electric light, an astounding force.

The Lightning Mink looked up at the Spiritual Qi Big Palm covering ten feet around rapidly pressing down, feeling as if the space around had solidified, a shiver creeping through its body.

It knew this palm's power was too strong and it couldn't escape, letting out an unwilling howl to the sky.

Strangely, the Spiritual Qi Big Palm paused several feet above its head, trembled intensely, then vanished.

The pressure on the Lightning Mink also dissipated.

"What's going on?"

The Lightning Mink exclaimed, glancing upward, to see Bao Zhenhai's gaze fixed on a distant mountaintop, his face full of disbelief.

The Lightning Mink eagerly transformed back into its beast form and seized the moment when Bao Zhenhai's attention shifted, dashing forward a thousand feet to vanish into the depths of the primitive forest, finally letting out a long sigh of relief.

This area was home to many Spirit Beasts, and with the dense forest, Bao Zhenhai, wanting to attack him again, would face the retaliation of many Spirit Beasts, likely making him hesitate to act rashly.

The Lightning Mink climbed a towering ancient tree tens of feet tall, following Bao Zhenhai's gaze to a distant mountaintop where a white-robed man stood.

The white-robed man had red lips, white teeth, an elegant and graceful demeanor, surrounded by spiritual energy, holding a longbow, maintaining a bow-drawing posture. Who else could it be but Fang Bai?

Chapter 1627: Battle Against the Heavenly Tribulation

At the moment of Lightning Mink's peril, Fang Bai arrived just in time, wielded the Houyi Bow, and shot an arrow with all his might, shattering Bao Zhenhai's Spirit Qi Big Palm, rescuing Lightning Mink.

Having narrowly escaped death, Lightning Mink broke into a cold sweat, secretly feeling fortunate, then soared into the sky, drawing a dazzling silver streak across the heavens, and landed on Fang Bai's shoulder.

"Fang Bai, this old guy is too strong, be careful!"

Lightning Mink stood on Fang Bai's shoulder, looking at Bao Zhenhai standing in midair in the distance, and said with lingering fear.

Fang Bai nodded, put away the Houyi Bow, summoned the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, and with a grave expression, scrutinized Bao Zhenhai, looking as if facing a formidable enemy.

With Fang Bai's current cultivation level at the initial stage of the Soul Severing Realm, he could still battle a Soul Severing Perfection expert, but facing Bao Zhenhai, a Thunder Tribulation Expert, he was overwhelmed and unable to contend.

However, upon learning that the Linghu sisters were in dire straits, Fang Bai, knowing he couldn't win, still had to fight.

"Little Mink, in a while I'll hold off that old guy, and you use the Beast Taming Scripture to control more spirit beasts from the primitive forest to attack the Taixuan Sect, striving to rescue the Linghu sisters amidst the chaos! If this succeeds, I have a fortuitous opportunity for you!"

Fang Bai quickly communicated to Lightning Mink.

Throughout the Taixuan Sect, Lightning Mink only feared Bao Zhenhai. If Bao Zhenhai could be held off by Fang Bai, it was confident in rescuing the Linghu sisters amidst the chaos. When it heard that Fang Bai had a fortuitous opportunity to offer, its eyes brightened immediately, and it responded to Fang Bai, saying: "Alright, it's a deal!"

After saying this, its figure transformed into a silver streak, circling far around Bao Zhenhai, and flew towards the Taixuan Sect.

"Beast, where are you going!"

Bao Zhenhai turned sideways, extending his right arm forward, and a giant Spirit Qi hand with spread fingers broke through the clouds, rapidly reaching for Lightning Mink.

Fang Bai shifted his figure, blocking in front of the Spirit Qi hand, and instantly slashed the three moves of the mad blade.

Each slash of Fang Bai's continuous three strikes was executed with all his might, barely managing to block that Spirit Qi hand after slashing onto it.

Bao Zhenhai exclaimed in surprise, evidently not expecting the power of Fang Bai's three slashes to be so formidable, and as he watched Lightning Mink's figure quickly disappear into the distance, he snorted softly and stopped pursuing, his gaze landing on Fang Bai, and said in a deep voice: "A mere initial stage Soul Severing kid, yet you can withstand my two consecutive attacks... Kid, you're not simple!"

Fang Bai grinned, moved a little closer to Bao Zhenhai, and kept his eyes fixed on him, preventing him from returning to the Taixuan Sect.

Bao Zhenhai saw through Fang Bai's intention, sneered, and said: "If I want to go back, you can't stop me!"

Fang Bai replied: "If I don't try, how would I know?"

Bao Zhenhai's gaze sharpened, and he said coldly: "Kid, arrogance never ends well!"

Fang Bai chuckled, "If I'm not arrogant, would you spare me?"

Bao Zhenhai stroked his beard and said: "Letting you go isn't impossible, but... you have to join my Taixuan Sect and become my direct disciple of Bao Zhenhai!"

Seeing Fang Bai's young age yet possessing such formidable strength, he couldn't help but appreciate this cultivation talent.

Ever since the moment Fang Bai learned that the Linghu sisters were kidnapped by the Taixuan Sect, he harbored nothing but malice towards them, swearing not to stop until he destroyed the sect, so how could he possibly join the Taixuan Sect?

"If you want me to join the Taixuan Sect, you'll have to agree to two conditions of mine."

Fang Bai said seriously.

Bao Zhenhai raised an eyebrow, feeling a surge of anger, thinking to himself that he, Bao Zhenhai, a dignified Thunder Tribulation expert, invited him to join the Taixuan Sect. Not only was he not grateful, but he even dared to make conditions, truly not knowing what's good for him.

"Let's hear it."

Bao Zhenhai managed to suppress his anger and said.

Fang Bai extended one finger, saying: "First, your Taixuan Sect captured my two women, release them immediately, and ensure they are unharmed."

"Impossible!"

Bao Zhenhai was aware of the Linghu sisters' capture and knew that Sect Master Duan Yi intended to offer the two women to the Supreme Elder of the Wuya Sect in exchange for a royal-grade spirit pill to assist in advancing to the Thunder Tribulation Realm. This matter concerned the rise and fall of the Taixuan Sect, so how could Bao Zhenhai possibly agree to Fang Bai's terms?

Fang Bai smirked, apparently expecting Bao Zhenhai's refusal, and continued: "Second, the Sect Master of the Taixuan Sect must apologize to my two women and provide some cultivation resources as compensation for their mental distress. If you can do these two things, why wouldn't I join the Taixuan Sect?"

At this point, Bao Zhenhai realized that Fang Bai had no real intention of joining the Taixuan Sect and was merely toying with him, which enraged him. Pointing at Fang Bai, he said: "Since you wish to die, I shall fulfill your desire!"

Spirit Qi surged around him, and his battle intent boiled like a tide, exerting immense pressure towards Fang Bai, making Fang Bai feel suffocated and forcing him to form a Defense Qi Shield to resist.

"Give me your life!"

Bao Zhenhai threw a fierce punch, with the giant Spirit Qi fist tearing through the air like a meteor from outer space, roaring towards Fang Bai. As it passed through space, waves of undulating ripples appeared, demonstrating its terrifying might.

This punch came too fast, and its force covered too wide a range, making it impossible for Fang Bai to evade. He could only take a deep breath and launch three consecutive Meteor Shower Fists.

The Meteor Shower Fist, a golden system attack punch, could become unstoppable and destructible when its power reached the pinnacle of this fist technique, and although Fang Bai's cultivation level was not high at this moment, the combined power of the three punches still packed a significant punch.

"Boom!"

The Spirit Qi fists from both sides collided in mid-air, with a thunderous roar, and the violent shockwaves that erupted rolled back like tidal waves, aggressively spreading in all directions.

When the shockwave surged past Bao Zhenhai, his clothes fluttered lightly, but his figure remained unmoved.

Fang Bai, however, was sent rolling back like a fallen leaf in the wind for dozens of yards before barely steadying himself.

"Thunder Tribulation expert, your power is too overwhelmingly strong! If I continue fighting like this, I surely won't last a hundred breaths!"

Fang Bai wiped a trickle of blood from the corner of his mouth, and a deep sense of powerlessness surged in his heart.

"Good kid! Try taking another punch from me!"

Bao Zhenhai was amazed that Fang Bai managed to take another punch from him.

That punch had contained seventy percent of his strength, enough to severely injure even a Soul Severing Perfection expert, yet Fang Bai, with only an initial stage Soul Severing cultivation, suffered only minor injuries.

"This boy's physical body is so formidable, even spirit beasts of the same grade are far inferior!"

Bao Zhenhai thought.

Before Bao Zhenhai could launch another attack, Fang Bai shifted his gaze towards the depths of the primitive forest, spreading his Divine Sense and let out a long whistle.

Bao Zhenhai paused, then immediately heard the cries of flying beasts and the roars of fierce beasts. Turning his head, he saw the depths of the primitive forest, dozens of miles away, with trees swaying and countless flying beasts and fierce beasts charging towards here.

"This boy can actually control so many Soul Severing Realm spirit beasts!"

Seeing the surging flood of flying beasts and fierce beasts, all of which were in the Soul Severing Realm, Bao Zhenhai's pupils involuntarily narrowed.

Chapter 1628: Return After Departure

Under normal circumstances, it's extremely difficult for a human Martial Artist to control Spirit Beasts beyond their own cultivation level.

And attempting to control multiple Spirit Beasts beyond one's cultivation level is even more challenging.

Yet, what Bao Zhenhai saw before him were Spirit Beasts controlled by Fang Bai, numbering not only in the hundreds, but ranging from the Soul Severing initial rank to high rank.

Hundreds of Soul Severing Realm Spirit Beasts, individually they are far from being Bao Zhenhai's opponent, but the combined force of hundreds of Soul Severing Realm Spirit Beasts made Bao Zhenhai's hair stand on end.

Hundreds of flying Spirit Beasts arrived in a blink of an eye, surrounding Bao Zhenhai from the air and the ground.

"Boy, do you think that this is enough to stump me?"

Bao Zhenhai swung his fist directly, trying to smash through the few birds blocking his way to continue attacking Fang Bai.

These few birds, equivalent to human Soul Severing initial rank, were no match for him and were sent flying with a punch, gravely injured and plummeting.

Bao Zhenhai's actions, however, angered the other birds, and dozens emitted sharp cries, attacking him from all directions simultaneously.

Bao Zhenhai could handle ten or eight Soul Severing flying creatures by himself, but when dozens launched desperate attacks, it was quite a headache.

Of course, if he exerted all his strength, those dozens of birds still couldn't do anything to him, but the spiritual energy consumption was enormous, not worth the effort.

Seeing the overwhelming birds above, Bao Zhenhai, helpless, had to resort to Spirit Qi Protection and descend to the ground.

However, the beasts on the ground seemed even more ferocious than the flying ones, and as soon as Bao Zhenhai landed, he was trapped in a relentless attack from hundreds of Fierce Beasts.

At this moment, Fang Bai's whistle changed, from urgent and sharp to gentle, and the frequency of attacks by the flying birds and fierce beasts decreased.

Hundreds of flying birds and fierce beasts in the sky and ground, under Fang Bai's control, formed a massive encirclement, as if forming a Formation, firmly trapping Bao Zhenhai.

Bao Zhenhai lunged left and right, unable to break through, losing much spiritual energy in the process, causing him to yell out angrily.

Fang Bai, seeing Bao Zhenhai unable to escape for the moment, let out a cold smile, turning his direction and chased towards where the Lightning Mink had vanished.

On the way to the Taixuan Sect, Fang Bai deliberately left his scent in a valley and quickly set up a Great Killing Formation. As soon as Bao Zhenhai arrived, the Formation would automatically activate, trapping him for another period.

With this time, Fang Bai felt more confident about rescuing the Linghu sisters.

Fang Bai arrived at the Taixuan Sect as the Lightning Mink stood on a nearby peak, controlling more Spirit Beasts to invade the Taixuan Sect, causing chaos everywhere.

"Fang Bai, you're here? What about that old fellow?"

Lightning Mink was surprised and delighted to see Fang Bai.

Fang Bai said, "That old fellow is trapped by my Formation; it'll take one or two hours before he can return."

Lightning Mink laughed and praised, "That was a Thunder Tribulation Realm expert, yet you can trap him? That's incredible!"

Fang Bai asked, "Where are the Linghu sisters now? Quickly take me there!"

Lightning Mink pulled out a Taixuan Sect disciple's robe from the Space Ring and tossed it to Fang Bai, saying, "Put on the Taixuan Sect disciple robe; no one will obstruct us on the way, and we can find your two Little Lovers in the shortest time."

Fang Bai knew this was true; for a powerful Sect like Taixuan, the disciples have formidable strength. If he were to charge in directly, he'd face heavy resistance. Disguised in a Taixuan Sect disciple robe, he could blend in.

Fang Bai quickly donned the Taixuan Sect disciple robe and, accompanied by the similarly disguised Lightning Mink, flew towards the Sect Master Hall of the Taixuan Sect.

At this moment, the sect master, Duan Yi, was standing atop the Sect Master Hall, commanding Taixuan Sect disciples in battle against more and more Spirit Beasts.

"It's you again, you beast!"

Duan Yi was already familiar with the Lightning Mink's aura, sensing his return, locking onto his position.

"That's right, Master Mink is back!"

Lightning Mink laughed triumphantly at Duan Yi and said, "Old man, didn't expect that, did you? Haha, I'll tell you, your Supreme Elder has been taken down by us!"

Duan Yi's heart skipped a beat, understanding that the Lightning Mink was likely bluffing, he coldly replied, "With you, a mere Soul Severing initial rank mongrel, capable of taking down our Supreme Elder? Ridiculous!"

Lightning Mink intended to scare him but didn't succeed. He rolled his eyes and added, "Don't believe it? Then consider why your Supreme Elder chased me, yet I'm back here while he's still missing?"

Duan Yi hesitated, pondering that the Lightning Mink's words made sense. The sect's Supreme Elder, with unmatched flying speed, should surpass the mink's, yet the mink is here, and where is the elder?

Could things truly be as the Lightning Mink claims, that the sect's Supreme Elder encountered trouble?

Seeing the Lightning Mink's confident posture made Duan Yi uneasy, but he maintained composure, saying, "The Supreme Elder's delay means he is occupied; you mongrel are just alarming us with empty threats! I will kill you!"

He hadn't finished speaking before swinging his Spiritual Artifact, unleashing a blade light.

Blade light, akin to lightning, slashed at the Lightning Mink within seconds.

Fang Bai stepped forward, blocking in front of the Lightning Mink, and likewise swung his blade, unleashing a blade light.

"Boom!"

The two blade lights collided, energy waves scattering, and both blade lights vanished.

In this exchange, they were evenly matched.

Fang Bai's face remained calm, but Duan Yi gasped, astonished at the unexpected strength of this young Martial Artist.

"Who are you?"

Duan Yi sheathed his blade, observing Fang Bai, frowning as he questioned.

Fang Bai did not answer, fixating on the Sect Master Hall beneath Duan Yi and noticed its Formation was isolating inside and outside, where the Linghu sisters were, their strength sealed, unable to move or hear the outside commotion.

Knowing the Linghu sisters were unharmed, Fang Bai relaxed, turning his gaze back to Duan Yi, coldly saying, "Dare to capture my woman, old man, you're dead!"

Fang Bai swung his blade, executing three frenzied slashes, each containing enormous power, causing the void to quiver as if about to be torn apart.

Fang Bai's three consecutive slashes could be easily countered by Bao Zhenhai, but that didn't mean Duan Yi could too.

Though Duan Yi's cultivation was Soul Severing Perfection, close to Bao Zhenhai's realm, this small gap translated to a disparity in strength between the two.

Thus, for Duan Yi, Fang Bai's three slashes weren't easy to counter.

Duan Yi recognized the formidable power of Fang Bai's attacks, eyes ablaze, retaliating with all his might.

Chapter 1629: Long Time No See, Ladies

As Fang Bai and Duan Yi were engaged in a fierce battle, the Lightning Mink moved like a bolt of electricity, breaking through the defensive array set up around the Sect Master Hall by Duan Yi, and crashed open the hall's main door, charging inside.

Seeing this, Duan Yi was greatly alarmed, wanting to stop the Lightning Mink, but Fang Bai's relentless offensive left him no room to disengage.

"Who is it?"

After the Lightning Mink entered the Sect Master Hall, an indignant shout rang out from a side chamber.

The Lightning Mink was very familiar with the confidante by Fang Bai's side when in the Secular World, and upon hearing this voice, it knew who it was.

"Sister Baimei, it's me!"

The Lightning Mink appeared in the side chamber, grinning.

On a large bed in the side chamber, two charming women were curled up, glaring angrily at the Lightning Mink.

One woman wore a black dress, her eyebrows and eyes like the spring mountains and autumn waters, possessing an innate allure; The other wore a white dress, her expression casual, with a celestial beauty, like a fairy descending to the mortal world.

The voice just heard was from the naturally enchanting black-dressed woman, who else but Linghu Baimei?

And the white-clad woman was naturally Linghu Baimei's sister, Linghu Qianjiao.

The Linghu sisters seemed to have their Qi Sea sealed, unable to move except for their mouths and eyes.

"Little Mink?"

Seeing the Lightning Mink, the Linghu sisters exclaimed in surprise, their eyes showing delight.

"Sisters, long time no see!"

The Lightning Mink jumped onto the bed, nuzzling affectionately beside the Linghu sisters.

"Little Mink, how come you're here?"

Linghu Qianjiao asked curiously.

Linghu Baimei interjected, "With Little Mink's habits, it must be here to swipe some of the Taixuan Sect's cultivation resources."

The Lightning Mink laughed, "Sister Baimei knows me well! That's right, I'm here to swipe Taixuan Sect's cultivation resources!"

Linghu Baimei said, "Then how did you get into the Sect Master Hall?"

The Lightning Mink replied, "I sensed your presence and came specifically to rescue you!"

Linghu Qianjiao frowned, "The Taixuan Sect's Sect Master Hall has very formidable array defenses around, how did you manage to get in?"

The Lightning Mink boasted proudly, "My cultivation level is now at the Soul Severing Realm, and I know a bit about arrays, so getting in was a breeze!"

"Wow, you reached the Soul Severing Realm, you're amazing!"

"Fang Bai used to say you have Divine Beast blood flowing in you, a descendant of the Divine Beast, with extraordinary talent. Looks like it's true!"

The Linghu sisters looked at the Lightning Mink in front of them, faces showing admiration and envy.

Hearing "Divine Beast descendant," the Lightning Mink was even more pleased, smiling ear to ear yet pretended to be modest, "Not sure if what Fang Bai said is true, maybe he's just trying to cheer me up!"

Linghu Qianjiao asked worriedly, "Little Mink, did you come alone to rescue us?"

Since the Lightning Mink hadn't casually broken the array upon entering the Sect Master Hall, the hall remained sealed by the array, so even though the fighting outside was fierce, the Linghu sisters inside couldn't hear it, thus Linghu Qianjiao thought the Lightning Mink came alone, hence her question.

The Lightning Mink shook its head, "Taixuan Sect has Thunder Tribulation experts stationed here, I wouldn't dare come alone. I came with Old Taoist Wu and Fang Bai."

Upon hearing "Fang Bai," the Linghu sisters both trembled.

"Brother Fang is here?"

"Where is he?"

The sisters asked excitedly in unison.

Ever since they met Fang Bai, whether in the Secular World or the Minor World, they regarded Fang Bai as their anchor, and upon arriving at the Great World, they were forcibly taken by a sect as disciples, later seeking a chance to escape together, but were pursued by the sect.

While fleeing pursuit, they also sought news of Fang Bai, living in constant anxiety, worried about being caught by their previous sect and unable to find Fang Bai's whereabouts.

While near the Taixuan Sect, the sisters encountered a Taixuan Sect Elder returning from training. Seeing the sisters with Innate Spiritual Roots and Primordial Yin Physique, and extremely beautiful, he forcibly brought them to offer to Sect Leader Duan Yi.

Taixuan Sect's Sect Leader Duan Yi had been stuck at the Soul Severing Perfection Realm for decades, unable to advance to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, due to both his own talent issues and lack of necessary Spirit Pills and Spiritual Medicine assistance.

The Primordial Yin Physique with Innate Spiritual Roots was an excellent "Spiritual Medicine," and if he could form a Martial Dao companionship with the sisters, cultivating together, Duan Yi would have a hope to advance further in strength.

Just a few days ago, a Wuya Sect envoy visited, inviting Taixuan Sect's Sect Leader Duan Yi to attend the Wuya Sect Supreme Elder's 500th birthday banquet.

The Wuya Sect's Supreme Elder was a Thunder Tribulation Level 2 expert, the Sect Master was a Level 1 expert, and their elders, stewards, personal transmission disciples, and core disciples were all Soul Severing experts, overall stronger than Taixuan Sect, and Taixuan Sect always regarded Wuya Sect as superior.

Since it was a banquet, guests needed to offer gifts.

After the Wuya Sect envoy left, Duan Yi mulled over what gift to present, then suddenly thought of offering the two beautiful women with Innate Spiritual Roots to the Wuya Sect Supreme Elder, who had been at the Thunder Tribulation Level 2 for years and had a fondness for beautiful women, as a gift to please him.

Though giving away the women he'd obtained pained him, Duan Yi thought that if he succeeded, it would have a dual benefit, enhancing relations between the two sects and he could seek Spirit Pills or cultivation guidance from the Wuya Sect Supreme Elder.

This would benefit both Taixuan Sect and himself.

So Duan Yi kept the two women in his Sect Master Hall, guarded closely, planning to set out with them in a few days to present them to Wuya Sect.

But he didn't expect such chaos to occur in the sect before his departure.

After the Linghu sisters were captured, knowing Duan Yi wanted to form a Martial Dao companionship with them, they refused resolutely, and when Duan Yi suggested forming one with the Wuya Sect Supreme Elder, they resisted fiercely again.

Were they weaker-willed women, they'd be crying, but the Linghu sisters were stubborn and unyielding by nature, they wouldn't submit to anything against their wishes.

The sisters had even secretly decided, if Duan Yi really sent them to the Wuya Sect Supreme Elder, they would rather die than be humiliated.

Yet they regretted perhaps never seeing Fang Bai again.

The Lightning Mink's sudden appearance thrilled the Linghu sisters, then upon hearing Fang Bai was at Taixuan Sect, they were so excited they almost cried.

"Fang Bai is just outside, fighting the Taixuan Sect's Sect Leader!"

The Lightning Mink said, pointing outside the hall.

Chapter 1630: The Ancient Cauldron Resists the Lotus Platform

Above the hall, Fang Bai and the Sect Master of Taixuan Sect, Duan Yi, were engaged in an intense battle.

Although Duan Yi's cultivation level was significantly higher, Fang Bai possessed the ability to challenge beyond his rank, and the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his hand was stronger, making the battle evenly matched for the moment.

"This guy's cultivation is only at the initial stage of Soul Severing, yet he can fight me to a standstill—truly a monstrous talent!"

Duan Yi grew more alarmed the longer they fought, thinking that if he couldn't eliminate this young man after this battle, then given time, when he becomes even stronger, he'll inevitably become a major threat to the Taixuan Sect.

Thinking of this, killing intent blossomed within Duan Yi, and his moves became more ruthless.

He wanted to kill Fang Bai, but didn't Fang Bai also want to kill him?

"Anyone who touches my woman is my mortal enemy!"

Such was the thought in Fang Bai's mind.

Both wanted to take each other down, so their attacks grew even more vicious.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

Spiritual energy and spiritual artifacts continuously collided in the air, and the space, under the constant bombardment of powerful shockwaves, rippled like water, seeming ready to collapse at any moment.

As their battle reached a fever pitch, a silver beam suddenly shot out from below in the Sect Master Hall.

The silver light broke through the formation set up outside the hall and fled towards the distant primordial forest.

The silver beam was none other than the Lightning Mink, unable to break the seal on Linghu sisters' Qi Sea to set them free, he decided to transform into human form, carry the Linghu sisters to safety first, and then hand them over to Fang Bai—thus earning credit and seeking reward from Fang Bai.

Seeing the Lightning Mink attempting to escape with the two women, Duan Yi became anxious, abandoning Fang Bai to chase after the Lightning Mink.

"Don't rush! We're not finished yet!"

In a loud shout, Fang Bai stepped in front of Duan Yi, blocking his path, swinging his blade to release a blood-red blade light several meters long.

"You little thief! I will kill you!"

Duan Yi was infuriated, his anger leading him to swiftly form a hand sign before his chest and then lightly tap between his brows.

Gold light burst forth from between his brows, and a Lotus Platform emitting golden light flew out from there, instantly enlarging dozens of times, aiming to smash down onto Fang Bai's head.

The human body has three elixir fields: the upper elixir field between the brows, the middle elixir field in the center of the chest, and the lower elixir field below the navel.

The lower elixir field is also what martial artists refer to as the Qi Sea.

Once martial artists reach a certain realm, they can use special techniques to place a spiritual artifact within the upper elixir field.

After Fang Bai's cultivation level further breaks through, he can do the same.

"It's actually a Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact!"

Fang Bai looked up at the Lotus Platform, his heart shook.

Though the grade of the Lotus Platform was inferior to Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, Fang Bai's cultivation level was not enough to fully unleash the blade's power, whereas the Lotus Platform in Duan Yi's hands showed its full might, making it difficult for Fang Bai to contend.

The Lotus Platform was the Taixuan Sect's one and only Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, a treasure protecting the sect, passed down since the sect's founding, only summoned by the sect master when facing formidable opponents.

Duan Yi was driven to desperation, which led him to summon the Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, preparing to kill Fang Bai before chasing the Lightning Mink to reclaim the two women.

The golden Lotus Platform emitted tens of thousands of rays of light, descending with immense pressure exceeding ten thousand pounds, causing the rooms and halls below to collapse and shatter under such pressure.

Fang Bai, standing below the Lotus Platform, looked upwards, his clothing wave, black hair flying, his brows furrowed, seemingly intimidated by the Lotus Platform's power.

"Die!"

Duan Yi shouted, his eyes shooting fierce light, and the Lotus Platform descended even faster, reaching above Fang Bai's head in an instant.

At that moment, an aura reminiscent of ancient times radiated from Fang Bai's body.

"Is that... an ancient cauldron?"

Seeing the ancient and unadorned Great Cauldron held high above Fang Bai's head, Duan Yi's eyes revealed shock.

The Great Cauldron seemed to be made of bronze, its surface coated in patina, appearing unremarkable, yet Duan Yi dared not underestimate it.

Because it was precisely the bronze ancient cauldron that bore the brunt of the descending Lotus Platform, resisting its pressure so that no matter how Duan Yi maneuvered it, the Lotus Platform couldn't descend any further.

Fang Bai summoned the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron to抵抗 the Lotus Platform, feeling a strain and realizing he couldn't hold on for much longer, so he took advantage of Duan Yi's shock to secede from under the Lotus Platform's coverage.

"I'm taking my woman, if you insist on blocking me, I will fight you to the death!"

Holding the ancient cauldron aloft, Fang Bai declared fiercely to Duan Yi.

He radiated an awe-inspiring presence, intimidating Duan Yi, making him hesitant to act rashly.

Duan Yi knew that if Fang Bai was truly desperate, he might not emerge unscathed, and it might even affect many disciples of the Taixuan Sect.

However, he was unwilling to simply watch Fang Bai take those two women away.

If a human martial artist at the initial stage of Soul Severing and a spirit beast at an equivalent level of power were to take people out from the Taixuan Sect's Sect Master Hall, the sect would lose face, and he himself would be ridiculed throughout the land.

Just as Duan Yi grappled with his choices, a silver beam flew back from the distant sky and landed beside Fang Bai—it was the Lightning Mink in human form.

Lightning Mink held Linghu sisters by the hand, yet at this moment, Linghu Baimei was covered in blood, her face pale, vitality weak, looking on the verge of death.

Linghu Qianjiao on the other side clenched her silver teeth, her eyes red, filled with grief and anger.

A black beam followed closely, landing not far behind Lightning Mink, it was Taixuan Sect's Supreme Elder Bao Zhenhai.

Bao Zhenhai wore a sinister smile, forming a pincer attack on Fang Bai, Lightning Mink, and the Linghu sisters from both sides alongside Duan Yi.

"Fang Bai, we encountered Taixuan Sect's Supreme Elder halfway and nearly died by his hands! I unleashed my latent potential to accelerate our flight, just barely escaping back here, but Sister Baimei took a hit for us from Bao Zhenhai, severely injured, her internal organs shattered, she's nearing death."

Lightning Mink landed beside Fang Bai, eyes reddened, furious as he spoke.

Having rescued the two women yet failed to protect them well, he felt inevitable guilt, worried Fang Bai might redirect his anger towards him.

Lightning Mink, though fond of mischief, valued his bond with Fang Bai, otherwise he wouldn't have risked harming his own cultivation level to unleash latent potential, flying back here with the two women.

Fang Bai sensed the aura on Lightning Mink had indeed grown much stronger, confirming his words.

Given Lightning Mink's cultivation level, without activating latent potential, he couldn't have escaped Bao Zhenhai's pursuit back to this place.

Moreover, Fang Bai initially anticipated ample time to rescue the Linghu sisters by confining Bao Zhenhai with numerous spirit beasts, but hadn't expected Bao Zhenhai to break free from the spirit beasts' siege so quickly, blocking Lightning Mink and the Linghu sisters' escape path, forcing Lightning Mink to bring them back.