

Doctor 1641

Chapter 1641: Misjudged

The white-clad man's clothes were as white as snow, his lips red, and teeth white, as young and handsome as Ghost Hand, yet his calm and aloof demeanor was far beyond Ghost Hand's reach.

"Do you... know Brother Ghost Hand?"

Lin Rou shrank back a little, looking at the man squatting in front of her, unsure if he was a friend or foe of Ghost Hand, with confusion and trepidation written on her face.

"Me? Haha... of course, I know him."

The white-clad man, hearing the girl affectionately call Ghost Hand 'brother,' couldn't help but smile slightly, revealing a trace of amusement.

His smile was like a ray of sunshine shining into Lin Rou's heart, making her feel a warmth all over, as if her injuries were suddenly far less painful.

"Are you a friend of Brother Ghost Hand?"

Lin Rou thought that someone with such a sunny smile couldn't be a bad person and guessed he was Ghost Hand's friend.

Fang Bai nodded with a laugh and said, "My name is Fang Bai, and I've known Ghost Hand for many years. May I ask for the young lady's name?"

Lin Rou blushed slightly and said softly, "I... I'm Lin Rou..."

Fang Bai said, "Miss Lin, do you know where Ghost Hand is now?"

"He went..."

Before Lin Rou could finish her sentence, her gaze suddenly looked past Fang Bai's shoulder, seeing a Wuya Sect disciple rushing over with hand like an eagle's claw, reaching towards Fang Bai's shoulder. She couldn't help but exclaim, "Ah, be careful!"

Fang Bai's expression didn't change, nor did his body move, allowing the Wuya Sect disciple to grab his shoulder.

"Kid, get out of my way!"

That Wuya Sect disciple, an Inner Court disciple with Nascent Soul Perfection cultivation level, noticed that when Fang Bai was talking to Lin Rou, his senior brother Ji Bin's expression was a bit gloomy, so he planned to teach Fang Bai a lesson to please his senior brother Ji Bin.

His hand fell on Fang Bai's shoulder, secretly exerting force, intending to lift Fang Bai and throw him aside, but unexpectedly Fang Bai remained unmoved, as if rooted to the ground.

Seeing this sight, including Ji Bin, several Wuya Sect disciples all let out a "hmm," their gazes towards Fang Bai showing a different hue.

The grasp of that Wuya Sect Inner Court disciple, capable of lifting objects weighing over ten thousand pounds, yet Fang Bai could withstand his strength and remain motionless, with an unchanged expression, suggested his strength was at least equal, if not superior.

The Wuya Sect Inner Court disciple felt embarrassed in front of his peers, his face flushed red, let out a "hey," and used his other hand to grab Fang Bai's left shoulder, then exerted upward force with both hands, shouting, "Get out of the way!"

In his shout, spiritual energy surged around him, clearly putting forth his full strength.

"Whoosh!"

The sound of the wind roared as a figure suddenly flew out, slamming into a building across the street at high speed.

"Boom!"

With a loud crash, the building collapsed, dust billowing as that figure was engulfed within, buried under rubble, silent.

"Haha, I knew it..."

A Wuya Sect disciple laughed loudly, about to mock Fang Bai, but was abruptly halted halfway through.

Because he discovered Fang Bai, whom he intended to ridicule, still squatted on the spot, while the same sect member who tried to lift and throw Fang Bai was nowhere to be seen.

Clearly, the figure that flew far away and slammed into the building across the street was his fellow sect member.

For a moment, everyone present, including Ji Bin, was left dumbfounded, expressions filled with disbelief.

From a distance on the street, many observing martial artists also couldn't help but click their tongues in amazement.

However, in this conflict, no martial artist there favored Fang Bai, all predicting that his provocation of the Wuya Sect disciples would inevitably end in tragedy.

After all, although Wushuang City was not Wuya Sect's territory, the powerful figures of the City Lord Mansion have always followed Wuya Sect's lead, considering them allies.

Moreover, Wuya Sect was not far from Wushuang City. If the Wuya Sect disciples called for reinforcements, a large number of them would arrive within a day.

"I misjudged! That kid's cultivation level is actually the same as mine, Soul Severing initial stage!"

Ji Bin had just glanced casually, seeing Fang Bai's young age, dismissing him, but upon a closer inspection at this moment, he finally sensed from the martial artist aura emanating from Fang Bai his true cultivation level.

Nascent Soul Perfection challenging Soul Severing initial stage, it's no wonder his fellow junior disciple wasn't the kid's match.

However, the kid is so daring; to dare provoke Wuya Sect disciples in Wushuang City, it's like courting death!

"Miss Lin, you still haven't answered me where Ghost Hand went..."

Fang Bai, having blasted away the Wuya Sect disciple grabbing his shoulder, didn't even glance at Ji Bin and the others, and continued speaking to Lin Rou.

Lin Rou, having just witnessed how Fang Bai only slightly trembled his shoulders to send the Wuya Sect Inner Court disciple flying, was shocked, her small mouth slightly open. Hearing Fang Bai's voice, she finally snapped out of her stupor.

"He... he went with the Falcon Group members to the primordial forest outside the city to hunt a high-rank Nascent Soul Fire Cloud Leopard to heal me..."

Lin Rou spoke in a low voice, quickly stealing a glance at Fang Bai, seeing his smiling, gentle, seemingly harmless demeanor, yet never expected his strength to be so formidable.

"He must be a Soul Severing Realm expert?"

Lin Rou thought, feeling happy for Ghost Hand to have such a friend.

Fang Bai let out an "oh," and then asked, "How is Ghost Hand's cultivation level now?"

"Brother Ghost Hand is very powerful! When he joined the Falcon Group two years ago, his cultivation level was the same as mine, only at Golden Core initial stage, but now he's reached Golden Core high stage..."

Hearing Fang Bai's inquiry about Ghost Hand, Lin Rou's spirit lifted slightly, with a bit of shine in her eyes, saying, "Zhan Fei... oh, right, Zhan Fei is our Falcon Group captain, and currently the only Nascent Soul expert in the group. He said Brother Ghost Hand is exceptionally talented, with extraordinary aptitude. In a few years, he will be able to transform Dan Yuan into a Nascent Soul, becoming a Nascent Soul expert like him. His future achievements in the Martial Dao will surpass his..."

When Lin Rou mentioned the "Martial Dao," she thought of her injuries and was immediately filled with despair, her eyes rimmed red once more.

"Golden Core high stage? Hmm... not bad, but compared to Qian Jiao and others, it's a bit behind..."

Fang Bai murmured to himself.

"Miss Lin, could you extend your hand?"

Fang Bai suddenly asked Lin Rou.

He had long seen that Lin Rou was severely injured, with significant damage to her Dantian, and if not treated promptly, her life could be at risk.

Since this girl knew Ghost Hand and affectionately called him "Brother Ghost Hand," her relationship with Ghost Hand must be deep, thus Fang Bai felt inclined to save her.

Lin Rou slightly frowned, not understanding why Fang Bai asked her to extend her hand.

Seeing her grow wary, Fang Bai couldn't help but laugh and said, "I'm an Alchemist, and I want to see how bad your injuries are."

"Y-you're really an Alchemist?"

Lin Rou looked at Fang Bai dazedly and asked incredulously.

Chapter 1642: You're Not Worthy!

Lin Rou had seen many Alchemists before, but they were almost all elderly men with white hair and beards, at least over the age of fifty. How had she ever seen one as young as Fang Bai?

Even if Fang Bai was really an Alchemist, he was probably of a very low rank, right?

"What, you don't believe me?"

Fang Bai asked with a smile.

Lin Rou blushed and said, "It's not that I don't believe you. It's just... it's just that..."

Fang Bai took out a Spirit Pill, handed it to her, and said, "If you trust me, swallow this Spirit Pill, and your injury will heal in a few days."

There was no joy or happiness on Lin Rou's face as she said gloomily, "So what if my injury heals? My Martial Dao path can't continue..."

Fang Bai was taken aback and said, "Who said your Martial Dao path can't continue?"

Lin Rou said, "I just heard from Ms. Li's words that this is the case... In the future, I'll just be a helpless cripple..."

When she mentioned “Ms. Li”, something suddenly occurred to her, and she quickly said to Fang Bai, “Brother Fang... please go check on Ms. Li! She was just knocked down by a Wuya Sect disciple...”

Before she finished speaking, Fang Bai had already helped her up and whisked her to the courtyard wall where Ms. Li was knocked down.

Fang Bai waved his hand gently, clearing the rubble in front of him, revealing Ms. Li’s figure.

“Thank goodness, though the injuries are serious, she will not die.”

Ms. Li was covered in blood, her internal organs shattered, but she still had a thread of life force. To others, she seemed doomed, but to Fang Bai, as long as there was a breath left, he could save her.

However, Ms. Li’s injuries were indeed severe, and her natural aptitude was mediocre. Healing her injuries wasn’t difficult, but restoring her strength to its original state could take three to five months.

Fang Bai placed a Spirit Pill in Ms. Li’s mouth, then passed a wisp of Wood Spirit Qi into her before handing the earlier Spirit Pill to Lin Rou, saying solemnly, “Trust me and take it!”

Lin Rou thought that if Fang Bai wanted to harm her, with his Soul Severing beginner-level strength, he could kill her with a single blow. Why bother with the trouble of a Spirit Pill?

He was friends with Ghost Hand, probably because of Ghost Hand’s brother’s sake, he genuinely wanted to save her, right?

Thinking of this, Lin Rou gritted her teeth, took the Spirit Pill that Fang Bai handed over, and swallowed it with her eyes closed.

The Spirit Pill immediately dissolved upon entering her mouth, spreading a fragrant scent between her lips and teeth, then transformed into strands of spiritual energy that surged through her body.

Fang Bai didn't bother to say more, grabbing Lin Rou's hand and swiftly passing a wisp of Wood Spirit Qi into her.

Although the Wood Spirit Qi Fang Bai passed into Ms. Li and Lin Rou were the same, there was still a difference.

Relatively speaking, Lin Rou's talent and aptitude were much stronger than Ms. Li's, and her ability to withstand the impact of spiritual energy was also considerably higher, so Fang Bai gave Lin Rou Wood Spirit Qi of much higher purity than what he gave Ms. Li.

Fang Bai's Wood Spirit Qi had a wonderful effect on stimulating a Martial Artist's vitality. He planned to assist the healing with Water Spirit Qi and Spirit Pills later, so that both of their injuries would heal completely.

As soon as the spiritual energy from the Spirit Pill and the Wood Spirit Qi passed into Lin Rou's body, she felt filled with energy all of a sudden, as if she had been granted new life.

"Go!"

Fang Bai said softly, with a gentle wave of his hand, Lin Rou and Ms. Li's bodies were lifted by a gentle force, sent flying into the courtyard, landing dozens of feet away from Fang Bai.

Initially, Fang Bai intended to send both of them into the Five Elements Space Ring, but after thinking it through, decided against it. At this moment, under the watchful eyes of many, if he used the Five Elements Space Ring, it would certainly draw the intense attention of millions of Martial Artists in Wushuang City.

After all, a treasure like the Five Elements Space Ring, which could contain life, was undoubtedly a supreme treasure, one that any Martial Artist would drool over and go crazy for.

Fang Bai was presently only at Soul Severing cultivation level; despite his best efforts, he could only contend with a Thunder Tribulation Level One expert. However, in this Wushuang City with millions of Martial Artists, there was more than one Thunder Tribulation expert. If targeted by them, there would be no good outcome.

Therefore, Fang Bai temporarily placed Lin Rou and Ms. Li in a relatively safe area and decided to deal with Ji Bin and the Wuya Sect disciples first, before deciding if he would take Lin Rou and Ms. Li to find Ghost Hand and others, depending on the situation.

“Dare to offend the people of Wuya Sect... kid, do you dare to state your name?”

Ji Bin knew that Fang Bai’s cultivation level was equal to his own, so he didn’t dare to act rashly, but his junior brother beside him pointed fiercely at Fang Bai’s back and said sharply.

Fang Bai turned around slowly, his gaze landing on the Wuya Sect disciple who spoke, sneering and saying word by word, “You want to know my name? You don’t deserve it!”

The Wuya Sect disciple had the same cultivation level as his fellow disciple who was severely injured by Fang Bai earlier, so when Fang Bai said “you don’t deserve it”, although he was furious, he didn’t dare continue provoking. His face flushed red, and he turned his gaze to his senior brother Ji Bin, hoping that Senior Brother Ji could stand up for him.

Ji Bin took a deep breath, forcibly suppressing the anger in his chest, stepped forward, stared coldly at Fang Bai, and said in a deep voice, “He doesn’t deserve it, but what about me?”

“You?”

Fang Bai’s eyes shifted to Ji Bin, looked him up and down, sneered and shook his head, “Don’t think that being a Soul Severing expert makes you special. He doesn’t deserve it, and neither do you! Get an Elder to speak to me, and that might be closer!”

The Elders of Wuya Sect were at Soul Severing Perfection in cultivation level, and even then, they could barely qualify to speak to Fang Bai.

Ji Bin was furious.

In the Wuya Sect, he was one of the sect's top ten Core Disciples, valued by the higher-ups and a key target for cultivation.

In Wushuang City, many Martial Artists looked at him with respect and reverence, offering flattery and smiles. When had he ever been belittled like this?

"You are not my match, go back!"

Fang Bai saw the spiritual energy surging around Ji Bin, killing intent emerging, and sneered as he silently released a wisp of pressure.

Enveloped in Fang Bai's pressure, Ji Bin instantly felt like he was facing his sect's Elders; his pupils contracted, showing a look of horror.

"Thank... thank you for your mercy, Senior..."

Facing such a strong practitioner, how could Ji Bin dare to be strong-headed? Trembling, he said, bowing and saluting Fang Bai, then prepared to turn around and leave.

"Stop!"

Fang Bai's voice came.

"What orders do you have, Senior?"

Ji Bin broke into a cold sweat, turned to look at Fang Bai with fear.

He understood well that if Fang Bai took action, none of them could escape.

"Is the Sect Master of Taixuan Sect, Bao Zhenhai, in your sect?"

Fang Bai asked indifferently.

Ji Bin didn't expect Fang Bai to ask this question and immediately replied, "He... he is in our sect!"

Fang Bai nodded, "Good! Tell Bao Zhenhai when you return, I will soon come to take his life! Also, inform your Sect Master, if Wuya Sect shelters Bao Zhenhai, don't blame me for being rude!"

Chapter 1643: Wushuang City Lord

"Is he threatening the Wuya Sect?"

Ji Bin stared blankly at Fang Bai, feeling that the world was getting a bit chaotic.

The Wuya Sect has two Thunder Tribulation Experts stationed, making it an elite sect in the Heaven's Net Realm. Throughout history, it was always the Wuya Sect threatening others. Who would dare threaten the Wuya Sect?

Even if this young man's strength is powerful enough to rival an Elder of our sect, he is ultimately just one person. How could he dare to challenge the Wuya Sect, which has tens of thousands of disciples, including dozens of Soul Severing Experts?

Who gave him the courage to do so?

"If he dares attack the Wuya Sect, good! When our Sect Master acts, he can slap him to death in one move! Let's see how arrogant he is then!"

For a moment, Ji Bin felt a sense of schadenfreude, as if wanting Fang Bai to go to the Wuya Sect right now.

"I will be sure to convey your message, senior!"

On the surface, Ji Bin put on a demeanor of awe, speaking respectfully.

"Be gone!"

Fang Bai waved his hand as if swatting flies, and Ji Bin, along with several other Wuya Sect disciples, carried off their injured comrade and hastily left the scene.

Martial Artists observing from afar also dispersed, but before leaving, they all cast Fang Bai looks filled with sympathy and pity.

The current Wuya Sect Master, Gui Zhengrong, is infamous for his unforgiving nature. Now that his disciples have been humiliated, how could Gui Zhengrong simply let this go?

Also, within the City Lord Mansion that manages Wushuang City, there isn't a single easy-going person. If word of Fang Bai's conflict with the Wuya Sect disciples reaches them, Fang Bai might not even make it out of Wushuang City.

After all, the City's mansion also has a Thunder Tribulation Expert of the first layer, against whom Fang Bai is powerless.

So, in the eyes of those Martial Artists, Fang Bai, who provoked the Wuya Sect, is as good as dead.

However, prior to arriving in Wushuang City, Fang Bai had already learned about the city's dealings, knowing that the City's strongmen and the Wuya Sect were long in cahoots.

Despite this, after driving off Ji Bin and the others, Fang Bai appeared nonchalant and unconcerned.

In Fang Bai's eyes, there are no eternal allies, only eternal interests.

According to the information he gathered, the alliance between Wushuang City's City Lord Mansion and the Wuya Sect is far less solid than it appears.

Lu Xiongfei, the City Lord of Wushuang, is a man of ambition, unwilling to stay subservient to the Wuya Sect. He's always contemplating a comeback but lacks the sufficient strength and suitable timing.

Fang Bai firmly believes that as long as he can offer enough benefits and strength to counter the Wuya Sect, he can make the city's strong forces stand by his side and turn against the Wuya Sect.

Watching Ji Bin and the others disappear around the corner, Fang Bai walked into a courtyard, placing Lin Rou and Ms. Li on a bed within the house, then setting up a small defensive formation around the residence, before heading alone towards the City Lord Mansion of Wushuang City.

At this moment in the main hall of the City Lord Mansion, Lu Xiongfei sat at the upper seat, listening to a trusted subordinate report the recent incident between Ji Bin and Fang Bai, tapping his fingers rhythmically against the armrests of the stone chair.

"In my Wushuang City, causing such chaos... The Wuya Sect disciples are becoming more impudent!"

After hearing the report, Lu Xiongfei slammed his hand heavily on the armrest, his expression sour, "Humph, this Wushuang City is my territory, not their Wuya Sect's domain!"

The trusted subordinate glanced cautiously at Lu Xiongfei, bowing his head and saying, "City Lord, under the eaves, we must bow our heads. Our current strength is far from being able to contend with the Wuya Sect, so we must endure indignities..."

Lu Xiongfei's expression showed a hint of humiliation. He let out a long sigh before regaining his composure, lamenting, "What do you suggest we do about this affair?"

The subordinate's eyes darted briefly before he said, "We can't ignore this matter. If the Wuya Sect holds us accountable, we'll be in trouble!"

After a pause, he continued, "I suggest having Vice City Lord Xue take some men, capture the Martial Artist who injured the Wuya Sect disciple, and then send him to the Wuya Sect to await their judgment."

Lu Xiongfei's eyes flickered as he pondered for a moment, then nodded, "Alright, then do as you suggest."

Just then, a disciple on guard reported from outside the hall: "City Lord, there's a Martial Artist named Fang Bai at the mansion gates, claiming he's come to see the City Lord for an important matter!"

"Tell him I'm in seclusion, I will not see him!"

Lu Xiongfei thought it might be another Martial Artist challenging his position as City Lord and appeared displeased, huffing coldly.

Across the Three Thousand Great Worlds, the city lords are all self-nominated Martial Artists who prove their worth through competition, with the strongest taking the position for five years.

After the five-year term, any other Martial Artist can challenge the incumbent city lord within three months. The victor replaces them as city lord if no one succeeds, the incumbent continues their tenure.

Lu Xiongfei has served as the city lord of Wushuang City for over thirty years and is now at another five-year term's end. During this period, occasional challengers have come to claim his title.

Though Lu Xiongfei found it troublesome, he was bound by the rules to accept the challenges.

This past three months, Lu Xiongfei has defeated many strong contenders. With only two days left in the three-month challenge period, he's claiming to be in seclusion to refuse further challenges.

Wushuang City has an unwritten rule: the incumbent city lord may choose to rest and not battle during the last three days of the challenge period.

"City Lord, Fang Bai said that the matter he wishes to discuss not only closely concerns the Wuya Sect but also significantly impacts your future and fortune. You'll regret it for life if you do not see him."

Added the reporting disciple.

Upon hearing the words "Wuya Sect," a sharp glint flashed in Lu Xiongfei's eyes. He glanced at the trusted subordinate in the hall, asking, "Do you think I should see him or not?"

The subordinate replied, "Given that he dares speak so, he might have a reason. There's no harm in seeing him!"

Lu Xiongfei seemed to value this subordinate, so hearing this, he said, "Alright then. Go bring him to me! I want to see what kind of man he is!"

The subordinate acknowledged and bowed out of the hall.

Outside the City Lord Mansion, Fang Bai stood leisurely. He raised his head slightly, admiring the imposing and majestic mansion, thinking about how much Spirit Stone it must have cost to construct this City Lord Mansion, and how extravagant it was.

While taking in the grandeur of the City Lord Mansion, a swift flash caught Fang Bai's attention, and an elderly man of short stature appeared before him, smiling cheerfully.

The short elderly man, donned in a cyan robe, had half-black half-white hair and a beard, murky eyes, and a slightly hunched back. Though he seemed aged and feeble, Fang Bai wasn't fooled by the appearance and saw at once that this man's cultivation level exceeded even a Soul Severing Perfection Expert by a slight margin, reaching a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Realm.

Chapter 1644: Visiting the City Lord Mansion

Fang Bai was observing the short elder, and the latter was observing him as well.

"I am Zhong Guiyi. May I ask how to address you, young brother?"

Upon realizing that although Fang Bai only had the cultivation level of Soul Severing initial stage, he was exuding the pressure of a Soul Severing Perfection expert, Zhong Guiyi immediately put away his smile, his expression turning serious as he clasped his fists and asked.

Zhong Guiyi had traveled through the three thousand great worlds and had seen countless talented martial artists. With such extraordinary insight, he knew that Fang Bai, being so young yet already a Soul Severing expert with the ability to challenge those above his level, was undoubtedly a rare martial dao genius.

And such a martial dao genius had limitless potential. Befriending him would only be beneficial, not harmful.

Zhong Guiyi had a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation cultivation level, yet he referred to Fang Bai as "young brother," clearly intending to befriend him.

Fang Bai had always been someone who reciprocated kindness proportionately. Seeing the situation, he smiled slightly, cupped his hands, and returned the greeting, "I am Fang Bai."

Zhong Guiyi nodded, stepped aside, and gestured, "Brother Fang, please come inside."

"After you, Brother Zhong."

The elder and the young man walked side by side, chatting and laughing as if they were old friends who hadn't seen each other for years, as they entered the main hall of the City Lord Mansion.

Lu Xiongfei was somewhat stunned upon seeing this, wondering if this young man was actually Zhong Guiyi's friend.

"Brother Fang, this is City Lord Lu of Wushuang City. City Lord Lu, this is Brother Fang Bai. Although Brother Fang is merely at the Soul Severing initial stage, he can contend with Soul Severing Perfection experts, making him a martial dao genius with limitless potential!"

After entering the main hall, Zhong Guiyi took the initiative to introduce Fang Bai and Lu Xiongfei to each other, specifically highlighting Fang Bai's status as a martial dao genius to draw Lu Xiongfei's attention.

Hearing Zhong Guiyi's words, Lu Xiongfei indeed viewed Fang Bai in a new light. After examining him a few times, he showed a look of surprise, then said with a cheerful smile, "Friend Fang, please have a seat."

After all, he was a Thunder Tribulation expert, so calling Fang Bai "friend" was already quite a rare courtesy.

Fang Bai was not polite either. After expressing his thanks, he sat down with Zhong Guiyi, one on each side.

"The disciple on duty reported that Friend Fang has something to discuss with me. I wonder what it might be?"

Lu Xiongfei was not one to beat around the bush or waste time, so he asked directly.

Fang Bai did not answer directly but instead glanced at Zhong Guiyi and said with a smile, "Brother Zhong is an Elder of the Wuya Sect. How is it that he is at the City Lord Mansion of Wushuang City?"

Upon hearing this, both Zhong Guiyi and Lu Xiongfei were shocked.

Zhong Guiyi lived a reclusive life, and very few people in Wushuang City knew his true identity. How did Fang Bai come to know?

A glint of light flashed in Lu Xiongfei's eyes as he smiled and said, "The Wuya Sect has always been on good terms with my Wushuang City. Brother Zhong coming to visit is a common occurrence."

Fang Bai also smiled and said, "However, as far as I know, the higher-ups of the Wuya Sect are quite wary of Wushuang City. Brother Zhong, being one of the high-ranking members, why would he come here so easily? And yet, the relationship between you two seems excellent... How should this be explained?"

As the saying goes, know yourself and your enemy, and you will be invincible.

Since Fang Bai was preparing to kill Bao Zhenhai hiding in the Wuya Sect, he needed to understand the situation related to the Wuya Sect. Therefore, before entering Wushuang City, he specifically investigated details about the Wuya Sect, learning many secret matters.

Fang Bai was powerful and adept at the Soul Capturing Heart Refining Technique, so finding out certain things was not too difficult.

From the confidants of Zhong Guiyi within the Wuya Sect, Fang Bai unexpectedly learned that Zhong Guiyi had secretly been in contact with City Lord Lu Xiongfei of Wushuang City for many years.

Zhong Guiyi's goal was to kill Sect Master Gui Zhengrong, while Lu Xiongfei wanted to break free from the control of the Wuya Sect. The two found their interests aligned and had been secretly plotting for years, just waiting for the right opportunity to act.

Zhong Guiyi and Lu Xiongfei had thought their plans were extremely secretive, known only to a few confidants, yet they had not expected Fang Bai to seemingly know about their relationship.

"Friend Fang, why have you come today? What is your purpose?"

Lu Xiongfei's eyes shot with gleams, his heart filled with killing intent, clearly somewhat angered.

If the plot between Lu Xiongfei and Zhong Guiyi were to leak, it might invite severe retaliation from the Wuya Sect, and at that point, the two might only be able to flee to the ends of the earth to avoid the Wuya Sect's pursuit.

Hence, if Fang Bai could not provide a reasonable explanation today, Lu Xiongfei would certainly not allow him to leave the City Lord Mansion.

Zhong Guiyi was equally on high alert, his previously murky eyes now bright as lightning, intimidating to behold.

He and Lu Xiongfei thought the same. If Fang Bai could not provide a justified reason, he would join forces with Lu Xiongfei to eliminate him, nipping any potential danger in the bud.

For a moment, the hall was filled with a killing aura, layers of pressure firmly locking onto Fang Bai.

"Don't get excited, I am here to discuss cooperation, not to harm you."

Facing the fierce-looking, murderous Zhong Guiyi and Lu Xiongfei, Fang Bai smiled calmly and said, "If I truly intended to harm you, I would have already informed the Wuya Sect about this matter. Why would I be foolish enough to come here and deliver myself to death?"

"What kind of cooperation?"

Although Lu Xiongfei felt that Fang Bai's words made sense, he still did not let down his guard.

"I have an enemy in the Wuya Sect, and I plan to kill him, but the Wuya Sect seems intent on protecting him, which makes it difficult."

Fang Bai's gaze swept across Lu Xiongfei and Zhong Guiyi's faces, solemnly saying, "Therefore, I require your assistance."

Zhong Guiyi fixed his gaze on Fang Bai's face for a moment before asking in a deep voice, "What is the name of your enemy?"

Fang Bai replied, "Bao Zhenhai."

Zhong Guiyi raised his eyebrows, surprised, "How did you become enemies with Bao Zhenhai, the Supreme Elder of the Taixuan Sect?"

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Because the Taixuan Sect provoked me, so I joined forces with the Tiger Clan to destroy it. Unfortunately, one of the high-ranking members, Bao Zhenhai, managed to escape. I cannot feel at ease until this threat is eliminated."

Upon these words, both Zhong Guiyi and Lu Xiongfei were filled with shock, looking at him with disbelief.

The destruction of the Taixuan Sect had already spread, with several versions being circulated. The most credible one was that the Tiger Clan, with its full force, joined with some human experts to destroy the Taixuan Sect. However, the identities of those human experts were unknown.

Unexpectedly, the Fang Bai in front of them claimed to be the human expert who allied with the Tiger Clan.

However, the overall strength of the Taixuan Sect was formidable, and its Supreme Elder Bao Zhenhai was a Thunder Tribulation expert, while the strongest in the Tiger Clan only had Soul Severing Perfection cultivation. How could Fang Bai and the Tiger Clan together destroy the Taixuan Sect?

Knowing that Zhong Guiyi and Lu Xiongfei still harbored some doubt about his words, Fang Bai continued, "If we speak of true strength, I am naturally not a match for Bao Zhenhai, but I have other means which allowed me to entangle Bao Zhenhai. The Tiger Clan experts then seized the opportunity to eliminate the other disciples of the Taixuan Sect. In the end, Bao Zhenhai found himself unable to continue alone and had to flee..."

Chapter 1645: Fabrication

Two hours later, Fang Bai left the City Lord Mansion.

When leaving, a faint smile adorned Fang Bai's face.

This indicated that Fang Bai's visit to the Wushuang City Lord Mansion was quite successful.

Earlier at the City Lord Mansion, Fang Bai demonstrated some miraculous secret techniques, thereby proving his ability to hold off Gui Jiuding.

Gui Jiuding was a strong expert of the second level of the Heavenly Tribulation and the sole remaining Supreme Elder of the Wuya Sect.

Lu Xiongfei and Zhong Guiyi's only fear in dealing with the Wuya Sect was Gui Jiuding.

Upon witnessing Fang Bai's extraordinary abilities, Lu Xiongfei and Zhong Guiyi were ecstatic and almost without hesitation agreed to cooperate with Fang Bai.

They did not expect Fang Bai to kill Gui Jiuding. As long as Fang Bai could stall Gui Jiuding during the intense battle, giving them enough time to deal with the other disciples of Wuya Sect, it would suffice.

Lu Xiongfei and Zhong Guiyi's initial motive for attacking the Wuya Sect was to break free from its control and to kill the Wuya Sect Master; they never intended to annihilate the Wuya Sect.

After all, the Wuya Sect, with a foundation of thousands of years and numerous strong warriors, was like a forest of strength. To destroy it would be as difficult as a snake swallowing an elephant.

However, Fang Bai's appearance offered them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and fueled their wild ambitions.

After a secret discussion in the City Lord Hall, the three of them devised a thorough plan and then took action separately.

Zhong Guiyi returned to Wuya Sect to secretly gather the confidants he had cultivated over the years, planning to coordinate from within and without when chaos erupted in Wuya Sect.

Lu Xiongfei, on the other hand, gathered and contacted various powerful individuals from Wushuang City and its surrounding areas who were oppressed by the Wuya Sect, preparing for action.

At that time, the various powers, led by Lu Xiongfei, would become the main force in attacking the Wuya Sect.

Fang Bai, too, had his tasks. After leaving the City Lord Mansion, he headed straight out of Wushuang City towards the vicinity of Wuya Sect to set everything up in advance.

Some perceptive martial artists noticed the indescribably eerie atmosphere prevailing in Wushuang City recently, sensing that something might happen, thus acting with utmost caution.

Meanwhile, both within the City Lord Mansion of Wushuang City and the Wuya Sect hundreds of miles away, undercurrents surged. Numerous martial artists, harboring their own thoughts, silently prepared for everything.

As night reached its peak, the moon was bright and the stars were sparse.

Bao Zhenhai sat cross-legged in a small courtyard located halfway up Reception Peak in the Wuya Sect, looking up at the sky with a face that reflected varying emotions.

After the destruction of Taixuan Sect, Bao Zhenhai fled all the way to the Wuya Sect, intending to seek their assistance in avenging the Tiger Clan and its accomplices. Yet, for some unknown reason, Wuya Sect had been delaying, unwilling to make a move.

Though Bao Zhenhai was an expert of the first level of the Heavenly Tribulation, he could not clap alone. Furthermore, his previous encounter with Fang Bai left him wary, afraid to return to the Tiger Clan Territory alone, for fear of another ambush.

In sheer helplessness, Bao Zhenhai could only continue waiting in the Wuya Sect.

Bao Zhenhai never expected that he would now find himself like a stray dog, to the point of having to seek shelter and protection from others.

At noon today, Ji Bin and several Wuya Sect disciples, who had returned from Wushuang City, brought back unsettling news for Bao Zhenhai: Fang Bai had already arrived in Wushuang City, declared his intent to kill him, and even threatened Wuya Sect to hand him over.

Although Bao Zhenhai was confident that the Wuya Sect would not hand him over, he still felt a twinge of fear. He became particularly sensitive, always feeling that some Wuya Sect disciples gazed at him with unfriendly eyes.

“Judging by the Wuya Sect’s senior leaders, it seems they don’t intend to go to war with the Tiger Clan. If so, what’s the point of staying here? Better to leave on another day! The grudge of annihilated sect, I can only slowly avenge!”

Bao Zhenhai lamented, sighing aloud.

At this moment, a figure silently appeared, entering the courtyard where Bao Zhenhai was.

“Elder Zhong?”

Bao Zhenhai squinted to see that it was Zhong Guiyi, one of the four Great Elders of the Wuya Sect, and he stood up with a tinge of joy on his face.

Bao Zhenhai was well acquainted with many of the Wuya Sect’s powerful figures, particularly having a close relationship with Zhong Guiyi.

When Bao Zhenhai first came to the Wuya Sect seeking help, Zhong Guiyi strongly advocated for justice on his behalf. However, without a word from the Supreme Elder or the Sect Master, he was powerless.

Now, Zhong Guiyi’s sudden visit made Bao Zhenhai wonder if the Wuya Sect’s senior leaders had changed their minds and decided to stand up for him, with Zhong Guiyi coming to convey this message.

“Elder Zhong, are you here with good news?”

Bao Zhenhai eagerly approached and asked.

“Good news?”

Zhong Guiyi’s expression stiffened, and he forced a laugh, saying, “What good news?”

“Isn’t Elder Zhong here because your Sect Master has agreed to help me fight the Tiger Clan?”

Seeing Zhong Guiyi's expression, Bao Zhenhai's heart sank.

Zhong Guiyi waved his hand to set up a layer of Qi Shield around them, preventing outsiders from overhearing their conversation, then shook his head with a wry smile and said, "Brother Bao, there is no good news, only bad news!"

Bao Zhenhai's heart skipped a beat, then seemed to understand something and said angrily, "Could it be that your sect is planning to hand me over to Fang Bai? How could a grand sect with a second-level Heavenly Tribulation expert in charge fear the threats of a mere soul severing cultivation martial artist?"

Zhong Guiyi lightly coughed and lowered his voice, "Brother Bao, we've known each other for years, closer than brothers. I'm here, risking a lot, to advise you: leave the Wuya Sect immediately! The sooner, the better!"

Bao Zhenhai was shocked, exclaiming, "So, my guess just now was true?"

"Not handing you to Fang Bai. But to the Tiger Clan."

Zhong Guiyi shook his head and sighed, "The Sect Master has already decided. At dawn tomorrow, our Supreme Elder will capture you and hand you over to the Tiger Clan. Upon receiving this news, I came over to inform you immediately. Any later, and I fear you'll have difficulty leaving."

After a pause, he continued, "And do you know why our Sect Master has been hesitant to help you with revenge? Because the Tiger Clan sent an envoy with a massive tribute of cultivation resources, buying our sect's recognition of them, to which our Sect Master agreed..."

"The Tiger Clan is mean and shameless! Your sect is no different from them!"

With rage simmering in Bao Zhenhai's chest, he clenched his fists, emitting cracking sounds, wishing to storm into the Wuya Sect's Sect Master Hall to confront Gui Zhengrong.

He initially thought the worst would be the Wuya Sect refusing to help him fight the Tiger Clan, never imagining they would plan to act against him to curry favor with the Tiger Clan, completely exceeding his expectations.

Little did Bao Zhenhai know, Zhong Guiyi's words were entirely fabricated.

While the Wuya Sect accepted the Tiger Clan's "tribute" and decided not to stand up for Bao Zhenhai, they had no intentions of capturing him. Instead, they wanted to invite Bao Zhenhai to join their sect as an honorary elder.

But in his anger, Bao Zhenhai was not inclined to think any further. Coupled with the Wuya Sect's indecisive stance on his revenge, he believed Zhong Guiyi's words.

Chapter 1646: Battle of the Heavenly Tribulation

In order to save his life, Bao Zhenhai left Wuya Sect overnight.

When he left, he was filled with infinite hatred.

In the entire Wuya Sect, except for Zhong Guiyi, everyone was considered an enemy by him.

He secretly vowed in his heart that when one day his strength surpassed that of the Supreme Elder of Wuya Sect, he would return to wreak havoc, first destroying the Tiger Clan, then Wuya Sect.

Unfortunately, this wish of Bao Zhenhai may never come true.

Because a thousand miles away from Wuya Sect, he was intercepted by four experts who quickly surrounded Bao Zhenhai in a triangular formation.

Among them, Bao Zhenhai recognized three of them, and they were indeed City Lord Lu Xiongfei of Wushuang City, and the deputy city lords Xue Tianyi and Xue Tianchang.

Lu Xiongfei needed no introduction, like Bao Zhenhai, he was a Thunder Tribulation expert.

Xue Tianyi and Xue Tianchang, a pair of twin siblings, had Soul Severing Perfection cultivation levels. It was said that their hearts were connected, complementing each other perfectly, such that when they teamed up, they equaled half-step Thunder Tribulation experts.

And the other person, even if turned to ashes, was indeed Fang Bai.

"City Lord Lu, what is the meaning of this?"

Bao Zhenhai forcibly suppressed the shock in his heart and asked calmly.

Although Fang Bai was powerful, if Bao Zhenhai fought with all his might, he was confident he could win.

However, it now seemed that Lu Xiongfei, Xue Tianyi, and Xue Tianchang were evidently in league with Fang Bai, with four against one, Bao Zhenhai had no chance of victory.

Nonetheless, Bao Zhenhai was not extremely fearful, confident that with his cultivation level, even if besieged by the four, he could escape.

Lu Xiongfei said expressionlessly, "Bao Zhenhai, we've been waiting for you here for a long time. We have no other intentions, just want to borrow your head."

Bao Zhenhai's pupils contracted, his eyes gleaming coldly, he said harshly, "City Lord Lu, do we have any grievances?"

Lu Xiongfei said, "No, we don't."

Bao Zhenhai said, "Then why are you..."

"But Brother Fang has a grudge against you."

Before Bao Zhenhai finished speaking, Lu Xiongfei interrupted him and said, "And I have a deep friendship with Brother Fang, so when he invited me to assist, I came."

As he spoke, he turned his gaze to Fang Bai, smilingly and said, "Brother Fang, do we capture Bao Zhenhai alive or kill him directly?"

Bao Zhenhai knew that once the four attacked together, it would be troublesome for him to escape, so before Fang Bai spoke, he struck first.

"Get away!"

Bao Zhenhai shouted, and slapped towards Xue Tianyi and Xue Tianchang, the weakest among them, attempting to break through their blockade and escape.

Xue Tianyi and Xue Tianchang were well-prepared, and simultaneously brandished their Spiritual Artifacts, using attack as defense.

The two had once had an opportunity to acquire a wondrous formation for joint attacks, and now their combined strike was formidable.

"Boom!"

In the void, there was a shock, the Xue siblings, although being pushed back over ten feet, were not injured, and immediately rushed forward again, blocking Bao Zhenhai's path.

Bao Zhenhai hadn't expected the siblings to react so quickly, and was about to strike again when suddenly a surge of turbulence approached from behind, accompanied by rolling thunder.

The rolling thunder was a unique sign when Thunder Tribulation experts take action, hence Bao Zhenhai knew that Lu Xiongfei had started his move.

Bao Zhenhai could belittle Fang Bai, disregard the Xue siblings, but he dared not underestimate Lu Xiongfei.

After all, Lu Xiongfei had been famous for a long time, with cultivation equal to his, even in a one-on-one duel, Bao Zhenhai had to focus his mind and exert all his power.

Thus, Bao Zhenhai turned around, seeing a large fist of Spiritual Energy approaching, the air pressure pressing down like a mountain, his eyes sharp, he shouted loudly, and threw a punch.

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

...

Lu Xiongfei and Bao Zhenhai, these two Thunder Tribulation experts, struck as swiftly as lightning, and once they engaged, they attacked at an unbelievable speed, the void continuously echoing the intense sounds of Spiritual Energy clashing.

The Xue siblings only felt their ears buzzing and their heads spinning, forcing them to retreat dozens of feet.

As for Fang Bai, he stood in place mid-air, leisurely watching the two in fierce combat, waves of Spiritual Energy swept past him, slightly making his clothes flutter, yet his expression remained unchanged.

"City Lord Lu said this young man is remarkable, and it's indeed true!"

The Xue siblings originally somewhat looked down upon Fang Bai, who had only initial Soul Severing cultivation, but now realized this person's combat power was slightly stronger than their own.

Bao Zhenhai had once fought Fang Bai, knowing this young man not only excelled in Beast Taming Art but also had a robust physique, never seen before, and moreover contained extremely powerful Strange Fire within him, he couldn't help but devote a portion of his attention to Fang Bai, guarding against his surprise attack.

However, during an exchange of blows between experts, there's no room for distractions. In no time, he was overwhelmed by Lu Xiongfei, falling into a disadvantage.

Glancing out of the corner of his eye at Fang Bai, seeing the corners of his mouth slightly curved, with a mocking smile, Bao Zhenhai couldn't help but feel agitated.

"Attack!"

In a moment of anxiety and anger, Bao Zhenhai shouted fiercely, his fingers rapidly transforming in front of his chest, forming various hand seals.

Between his eyebrows, rays of light emitted, and a stone seal the size of a fist suddenly flew out, hovering above his head, releasing strands of pressure.

This stone seal was Bao Zhenhai's personal Spiritual Artifact, the Mountain Suppressing Seal, a Superior King Grade Spiritual Artifact, its power only slightly less than Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts, an extremely formidable attack weapon.

With Bao Zhenhai's shout, the Mountain Suppressing Seal rapidly expanded dozens of times like a millstone, smashing towards Lu Xiongfei.

As a Thunder Tribulation expert, Lu Xiongfei naturally also had a personal Spiritual Artifact.

Originally, Lu Xiongfei's Spiritual Artifact, the Fire Cloud Spear, was only a Superior King Grade Spiritual Artifact, its power comparable to Bao Zhenhai's Mountain Suppressing Seal, but after Fang Bai's refinement, it ascended into a Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, greatly increasing its power.

The Fire Cloud Spear dragged a long tail of flames, producing a whistling sound like a soaring rocket, piercing towards Bao Zhenhai's incoming Mountain Suppressing Seal.

The tip of the Fire Cloud Spear struck the Mountain Suppressing Seal, emitting a metallic clang of "clang", then each rebounded.

At this moment, the void seemed to dim slightly, then an overwhelming wave of shock began to spread across the space in all directions.

The Xue siblings could not withstand this strong impact force, retreating once again.

Fang Bai's hair waved and his clothes fluttered, yet his figure remained unmoving.

And the two combatants themselves, each retreated dozens of feet, then controlled their Spiritual Artifacts with their Divine Sense to attack each other.

At this time, within a radius of dozens of feet centered around Bao Zhenhai and Lu Xiongfei became a vacuum region, with immense pressure, making it impossible for the Xue siblings to intervene. They could only remain alert from afar, preventing Bao Zhenhai from suddenly escaping.

Fang Bai knew that the two were equally matched, even if they battled across the night, it might not result in a clear winner. So, he took a deep breath, grasped the void with his left hand, and the Houyi Bow, wisps of flames billowing, appeared in his hand.

Chapter 1647: Dragging You All to Die with Me!

The Houyi Bow is a Fire System Divine Artifact. Upon summoning it, Fang Bai infused it with both the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire and the Nether Spirit Fire, instantly causing heat waves to sweep in all directions.

Bao Zhenhai, Lu Xiongfei, and the Xue siblings all felt as though they were standing inside a sea of flames, an unbearable heat engulfing their bodies.

Seeing Bao Zhenhai being pushed back dozens of meters, Fang Bai exerted his arms, swiftly pulling the bow and nocking an arrow.

"Whoosh!"

With a shrill whistle cutting through the air, an arrow wrapped in blazing flames seemed to pierce through the void. One moment it was strung on Fang Bai's bow, the next, it shot straight towards Bao Zhenhai.

Bao Zhenhai had been distractedly keeping an eye on Fang Bai, precisely to guard against a surprise attack from him.

However, Fang Bai's movements from summoning the Houyi Bow to pulling the bow and shooting the arrow were smooth and seamless, completing in a flash of lightning, so it wasn't until the arrow arrived in front of Bao Zhenhai that he reacted.

That arrow from Fang Bai felt like the reaper's scythe swinging in, filling Bao Zhenhai with an intense sense of mortal danger.

Terrified, Bao Zhenhai's body hair stood on end, and he instinctively flew backward with all his might, trying to evade the arrow.

Bao Zhenhai was retreating fast, but that arrow from Fang Bai was faster and stuck to him like a shadow, getting closer and closer.

The arrow carried with it an intense heat capable of melting steel instantly, and Bao Zhenhai could already feel burning pain on his skin.

Bao Zhenhai understood that, though strong and physically resilient, he could not withstand this arrow. If it struck him, he would surely be injured.

However, a Thunder Tribulation Expert being forced to retreat continuously by a mere initial-stage Martial Artist of Soul Severing, if this news spread, it would undoubtedly damage his reputation greatly!

Bao Zhenhai felt humiliated and so decided to counterattack.

"Get out of my way!"

Furious due to the humiliation, Bao Zhenhai summoned the Mountain Suppressing Seal, hurling it with all his strength at the arrow speeding towards him.

The arrow from Fang Bai's Houyi Bow, although condensed from Fire Spiritual Energy and infused with a trace of his essence blood, was a virtual arrow rather than a real one, yet it was shot by an only partially awakened Divine Artifact, and its power was indeed not to be underestimated.

"Clang!"

With the sound of metal clashing, the flame arrow shot by the Houyi Bow vanished but its tremendous impact force knocked the Mountain Suppressing Seal flying dozens of meters away, causing a fine crack to appear.

Bao Zhenhai felt a slight pain in his chest, and a trickle of blood seeped from the corner of his mouth, knowing his Spiritual Artifact was damaged, and he was amazed and frightened.

He could never have imagined that an arrow shot by Fang Bai concentrated with Fire Spiritual Energy would possess such tremendous power!

In usual circumstances, Bao Zhenhai would certainly have harbored a covetous desire for Fang Bai's Spiritual Artifact, wanting to take it for himself.

But at this moment, surrounded by four strong adversaries, he was more concerned about whether he could survive, leaving him no mind for any other matters.

When Fang Bai launched his attack, Lu Xiongfei was not idle by his side either.

The moment Fang Bai's arrow aimed at Bao Zhenhai, he knew Bao Zhenhai was bound to suffer, so he thrust his Fire Cloud Spear with full force, almost arriving together with the arrow.

Bao Zhenhai, having expended all his strength to counter Fang Bai's arrow, even summoning the Mountain Suppressing Seal, was weakened and unable to resist Lu Xiongfei's spear, who had a similar cultivation level.

"Puff!"

With a muffled sound, the sharp and fierce Fire Cloud Spear pierced through Bao Zhenhai's left shoulder, bringing forth a splash of fresh blood.

Bao Zhenhai grunted softly, his form being knocked back a dozen meters by the strong penetrating force, before barely managing to stabilize himself.

For a Thunder Tribulation Expert like Bao Zhenhai, this kind of injury from a Spiritual Artifact wasn't considered a serious wound, and would heal in no time.

However, at this crucial juncture of a great battle, losing the use of his left arm temporarily reduced his combat effectiveness by at least twenty percent, which was enough to be fatal.

Fang Bai and Lu Xiongfei exchanged a glance, attacking even more fiercely and rapidly, following the principle of "striking when he's down."

Their cooperation with one spear and one arrow was extremely tacit, and each attack inflicted some damage on Bao Zhenhai.

Although furious and frustrated, Bao Zhenhai was helpless; he was tightly entangled by Fang Bai and Lu Xiongfei, with Xue Tianyi and Xue Tianchang blocking on the side, leaving no escape. He could only grit his teeth and fight desperately.

In this way, fighting one against two, his Spiritual Energy was rapidly consumed.

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

Fang Bai shot out another series of three arrows.

These three arrows instantly drained half of his Spiritual Energy, and the glimmer in his eyes dimmed considerably.

"Die!"

Lu Xiongfei also followed up with a series of three spear thrusts right after Fang Bai.

Both of them intended to end Bao Zhenhai with this series of attacks.

Bao Zhenhai's pupils contracted suddenly, showing a look of sheer terror, knowing that even if he didn't die from this, he would be severely wounded.

His Spiritual Energy was already largely depleted, and if heavily injured again, he would be in grave danger; at that time, even a casual move from the Xue siblings could easily end him.

"You want my life, then I'll drag you down with me!"

Bao Zhenhai, knowing he was doomed, resolved to go down fighting, his eyes instantly bloodshot, his body inflating rapidly like a balloon, visible to the naked eye, a terrifying aura spreading everywhere.

"The old guy's gone mad! Retreat!"

Seeing Bao Zhenhai about to Self-Detonate, Lu Xiongfei was shocked, caring nothing for the Fire Cloud Spear he had thrust out, his figure retreating like lightning, pulling back a hundred meters in the blink of an eye.

The explosive force produced by a Thunder Tribulation Expert's Self-Detonation is more terrible than a full-force strike from a two-tier Thunder Tribulation Expert. If he couldn't retreat in time, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Yet Lu Xiongfei knew that no matter how fast he was, he couldn't outrun the fierce shockwave generated by Bao Zhenhai's Self-Detonation, so while retreating, he formed a Qi Shield around himself for protection.

As for the safety of Fang Bai and the Xue siblings, he could no longer concern himself.

The Xue siblings and Fang Bai also retreated almost simultaneously, employing every means possible for self-preservation.

"Boom!"

When Fang Bai's series of three arrows and Lu Xiongfei's series of three spears were still several meters away from Bao Zhenhai, his body reached its limit of inflation and then exploded.

With a sound that shook the heavens and the earth, the surrounding atmosphere seemed to dim for a moment, then a ring-shaped shockwave, with the sound of the explosion, expanded outward at an incredible speed.

The arrows condensed by Fang Bai's Fire Spiritual Energy and Lu Xiongfei's Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, the Fire Cloud Spear, in the impact of that shockwave, vanished into nothingness, while the spear, like a leaf in the wind, tumbled and rolled, falling hundreds of meters away.

If not for the fact that the Fire Cloud Spear had been refined by Fang Bai into a Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, it would certainly have been damaged by that intense shockwave, thus injuring Lu Xiongfei.

At the moment the shockwave reached him, Fang Bai hid inside the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron for shelter.

The Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, immensely sturdy, had never sustained damage in any of the numerous battles Fang Bai had experienced, being truly his foremost artifact for dealing with formidable foes.

Chapter 1648: Can Fang Bai Really Do It?

The Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron rolled a few times with the shockwave before it remained firmly still.

Inside the cauldron, Fang Bai heard a “buzzing” sound, knowing it was the vibration sound produced by the shockwave striking the cauldron.

After more than ten breaths, when everything calmed down, Fang Bai leaped out from the cauldron and then stored the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron into the Five Elements Space Ring.

He looked around and saw that Bao Zhenhai, who had self-detonated, had already turned into a mist of blood, dissipating between heaven and earth.

When his Divine Sense diffused, he saw Lu Xiongfei sitting cross-legged on the ground hundreds of feet away, bleeding from the nose and mouth, his clothes in disarray and looking distressed, having swallowed a Spirit Pill and now closed-eyed healing.

The Xue siblings were even worse off, both pushed thousands of feet by the shockwave’s force, covered in injuries, as if they were blood people. If not for their distance from Bao Zhenhai, they might have fallen.

In this battle, Fang Bai had also consumed quite a bit of spiritual energy. Thinking that a more intense battle might soon follow, he chose not to disturb Lu Xiongfei and the others, finding a secluded place to start cultivating in solitude.

A few hours later, Fang Bai’s spiritual energy was restored, returning to peak state.

At this time, Lu Xiongfei and the Xue siblings were still recuperating, and it was unknown when they would completely recover.

Fang Bai glanced at the sky, noting that there were only five or six hours left before the agreed internal-external collaboration time with Wuya Sect's Elder Zhong Guiyi. If things get delayed further, they wouldn't attack on time, and it would be troublesome if plans changed.

Fang Bai sighed, flying to Lu Xiongfei's side, seeing Lu Xiongfei suddenly open his eyes, he said solemnly: "City Lord Lu, the water spirit energy in my body has quite a miraculous effect on healing wounds, could lend you a hand..."

He stopped speaking, quietly observing Lu Xiongfei, wondering if the other party would accept his help.

"If we delay further, Zhong Guiyi might not be able to wait. Brother Fang, if you have a way to help us recover quickly, it would be great!"

Lu Xiongfei said eagerly.

Originally, Lu Xiongfei was a bit wary of Fang Bai, but then he thought if Fang Bai wanted to harm the three of them, he could unleash a full-strength attack at this moment, why need other means?

With this thinking, Lu Xiongfei had no scruples.

Fang Bai nodded, walked behind Lu Xiongfei, and lightly tapped his body with his finger, infusing a strand of pure water spirit energy into his body.

Then Fang Bai repeated the process, infusing water spirit energy into the Xue siblings.

Fang Bai's water spirit energy had a miraculous healing effect, originally the injuries of Lu Xiongfei and the Xue siblings would require several hours to heal, and the spiritual energy would take as long to recover, thanks to Fang Bai's assistance, it only took half an hour to return to the original state.

“Brother Fang, thank you.”

“Thank you.”

Lu Xiongfei and the Xue siblings exited the healing state, stepping forward to thank Fang Bai, marveling at the miraculous wood spirit energy he possessed, and raised their opinion of Fang Bai as a person.

Fang Bai waved his hand, saying: “Let’s head quickly to Wuya Sect! If we delay further, Zhong Guiyi may become impatient waiting!”

“Let’s go!”

The four did not hesitate any longer, each driving their spiritual artifact, flying skyward towards the direction of Wuya Sect.

They were a mere thousand miles away from Wuya Sect and quickly flew over a large valley nearby.

This valley was three hundred miles from Wuya Sect, outside the range of the Wuya Sect’s high-level Divine Sense, making it secretive and safe.

After Lu Xiongfei landed, he emitted a low beast-like howl, and in an instant, countless martial artists from all directions in the mountains quickly gathered into the valley.

Seeing Lu Xiongfei return unharmed, these martial artists all had expressions of nervous excitement, and someone couldn’t help but ask: “City Lord, when do we take action? The brothers are all getting impatient!”

The speaker was some of Lu Xiongfei’s subordinates from the City Lord Mansion.

“Indeed, City Lord Lu, we have been eagerly waiting for the chance to divide Wuya Sect’s cultivation resources!”

This time, it was a representative from the martial artists of Wushuang City speaking.

Within Wushuang City gathered millions of martial artists, many of whom were in the Soul Severing Realm and above, with Nascent Soul Realm experts countless. Many Nascent Soul and Soul Severing experts had been deceived and oppressed by Wuya Sect before, harboring deep-seated hatred towards it.

Lu Xiongfei, in this instance, secretly liaised with those Nascent Soul and Soul Severing experts. Once Wuya Sect was eliminated, they schemed to divide Wuya Sect's cultivation resources according to their contribution.

Though there were over ten thousand experts participating in the take-down of Wuya Sect, the stored cultivation resources Wuya Sect accumulated over the years were not trivial? Coupled with vast medicinal fields available for harvesting, everyone could have a share.

"Everyone, don't be anxious! Follow the plan! When the beast tide arises, let the spirit beasts cause a ruckus first, then we will attack them when they're weary, and proceed to invade Wuya Sect!"

After saying this, Lu Xiongfei cast a glance at Fang Bai, and the gaze of the other martial artists also fell on Fang Bai.

They all knew that this move to eliminate Wuya Sect was a dangerous and insane action, and whether it would succeed or not, Fang Bai was the most important link in it.

Fang Bai flew up, glanced toward the distant primeval forest, and said: "I will go drive away the spirit beasts, you all prepare! When the battle commences, I hope everyone will fight valiantly, giving it their all to kill the enemy!"

Once he finished speaking, his figure transformed into a stream of light, flying toward the primeval forest.

"City Lord Lu, can that Fang Bai really accomplish it?"

Asked a Soul Severing High Rank expert from Wushuang City.

The expert wasn't doubting Fang Bai, but Fang Bai was indeed too young, hard to believe.

Had it not been for Lu Xiongfei's more than a hundred years of reputable assurance, he wouldn't have come to participate; after all, life is precious, and without absolute certainty, he wouldn't risk collaborating with Wushuang City.

Lu Xiongfei gazed in Fang Bai's departure direction, sighing: "If he can't accomplish it, then including myself, there's no one here who can! Do you know, when we went to slay Taixuan Sect's Supreme Elder Bao Zhenhai before, both myself and the two Deputy City Lords suffered severe injuries, yet he remained unscathed..."

He paused here, seeing the disbelieving expression of the Soul Severing High Rank expert, he smiled and added: "Listen to me, regarding Fang Bai, it's best to show great respect, being friends with him is ideal, but never become his enemy, otherwise you will regret for life!"

"I see that Fang Bai's cultivation level is only at the initial stage of Soul Severing, could he be a Martial Dao Genius with the ability to challenge across levels?"

Another strong expert from Wushuang City inquired.

Seeing that it was also a Soul Severing High Rank who asked, Lu Xiongfei said: "Correct! Fang Bai indeed possesses the capability to challenge a higher level! Let me tell you, if I were to engage in a one-on-one battle with Fang Bai, our odds of winning would be fifty-fifty!"

His words left the surrounding ten thousand martial artists in shock.

Being the City Lord of Wushuang City, possessing the first layer of the Heavenly Tribulation cultivation, having faced innumerable challenges, Lu Xiongfei's strength was obvious to all, and for Fang Bai to stand comparable with him, just how formidable was he?

Chapter 1649: The Great Battle Rekindled

In the early hours of the morning, just as the sky was about to brighten but had not yet, the disciples guarding the gate of the Wuya Sect noticed in a daze a long, wave-like line suddenly appearing on the distant horizon.

That line surged and fluctuated continuously, drawing ever closer to the Wuya Sect.

Simultaneously, a mass of oppressive dark clouds also pressed down from the sky, making the world even darker, creating an almost suffocating feeling.

“Spirit Beasts! They’re Spirit Beasts!”

“How could so many Spirit Beasts appear out of nowhere?”

“Has a beast tide occurred?”

“Quickly...sound the alarm!”

...

Upon realizing that the undulating line on the horizon and the vast darkness in the sky were an innumerable swarm of ferocious flying beasts, the disciples of the Wuya Sect guarding the gate were terrified.

Subsequently, sharp cries resounded, and the alarm of an enemy attack echoed throughout the Wuya Sect.

The Spirit Beasts arrived swiftly, and within dozens of breaths after the alarm was raised by the disciples of the Wuya Sect, thousands upon thousands of Spirit Beasts with blood-red eyes reached the gate of the Wuya Sect, launching a frenzied and fierce assault on the few hundred disciples who had gathered there following the alarm.

The menial servant disciples and External Courtyard disciples of the Wuya Sect mostly resided in the outer mountains, so when the alarm sounded, they were the first to arrive at the gate and form the core of the first line of defense.

However, the menial servant disciples and External Courtyard disciples, despite being Nascent Soul Martial Artists, were far inferior in strength and numbers to the surging ferocious birds and beasts.

Hence, the first wave of impact from those ferocious birds and beasts swiftly breached the defensive line they formed, resulting in countless deaths and injuries.

The flying and ferocious beasts that breached the gate, under the control of sharp and urgent strange howls, launched another assault from both the air and the ground towards the residences of the Wuya Sect disciples.

Those flying and ferocious beasts encompassed the five elements of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth, with the fire-based spiritual beasts being the most destructive.

The fire-based spiritual beasts continuously spewed raging flames, igniting the buildings within the Wuya Sect, reducing them to ruins.

Some of the weaker Wuya Sect disciples were also engulfed in the flames spewed by the fire-based spiritual beasts, screaming in agony as numerous casualties occurred.

The flying and ferocious beasts surged like a rainbow, instantly breaking through several miles within the Wuya Sect gate, clashing with the Inner Court disciples who formed the second line of defense.

As more and more flying and ferocious beasts flooded in, the entire Wuya Sect quickly descended into chaos, with the sounds of battle cries and heart-wrenching screams filling the air.

The high-ranking members of the Wuya Sect, having been startled awake, stood on their respective mountain peaks, gazed for a moment, and then gathered at the Wuya Sect Master Hall.

“This beast tide seems to be manipulated by someone!”

Wuya Sect Master Gui Zhengrong stood at the peak, hands behind his back, looking at the chaos below caused by the flying and ferocious beasts, his expression dark and terrifying.

“Indeed, that strange howl comes from the distant mountains, most likely someone is secretly controlling these flying and ferocious beasts to invade our territory.”

Standing behind Gui Zhengrong, Wuya Sect Elder Zhong Guiyi had a flicker of light in his eyes as he spoke in a deep voice, but deep within his eyes, a hint of joy flashed briefly.

“Who dares to be so bold as to challenge the might of our Wuya Sect!”

“That person must be tired of living!”

“Sect Master, please allow me to investigate!”

“I’ll go!”

...

Several elders behind Gui Zhengrong looked indignant, all fervently volunteering for battle.

Since the founding of the Wuya Sect, at least two Thunder Tribulation Experts had always guarded it; their strength was such that none within a span of a hundred thousand miles dared challenge its authority. Unexpectedly, this time, they were targeted. The one behind it was indeed audacious.

Gui Zhengrong pondered briefly, then turned back and said, “Then I ask Elders Zhong and Liu to go together to investigate. If anything seems amiss, you may call for reinforcements with a howl!”

The reason for sending two elders together was to ensure they could support each other in case of any unforeseen events.

Elder Zhong and Elder Liu accepted the order, summoned their Spiritual Artifacts, and flew towards the distant mountains from where the strange howling originated.

“Elders Zhou and Sun will remain on standby, while the remaining stewards can assist the disciples in resisting the Spirit Beast attacks! Hmph, I want to see who is daring to oppose our Wuya Sect this time!”

With spiritual energy surging around him and killing qi rising within him, Gui Zhengrong issued commands to the high-ranking members behind him.

Thus, the eight stewards of the Wuya Sect took their orders and left, while the remaining Elders Zhou and Sun stood on either side behind Gui Zhengrong, their eyes sweeping like eagles over the areas below. If they saw any place struggling or suffering heavy casualties, they would be ready to step in for rescue.

Although there were only about ten thousand flying and ferocious beasts, the Wuya Sect disciples numbered in the tens of thousands. However, those Spirit Beasts recklessly charged without regard for their lives, attacking with their full might without reservation. As a result, their momentum seemed unstoppable, plunging the entire Wuya Sect into chaos in a short period.

But soon, under the leadership of the eight stewards, the Wuya Sect disciples stabilized their formation, turning the tide from the initial retreat and defeat to successfully halting the Spirit Beasts’ further advance, preventing them from invading and destroying the core regions of the Wuya Sect.

As such, the tens of thousands of Wuya Sect disciples and nearly ten thousand Spirit Beasts became locked in a fierce battle.

Although the Wuya Sect disciples soon managed to reverse the situation and gain the upper hand, under the near-crazed assault of the Spirit Beasts, their casualties remained heavy, making it impossible to annihilate the Spirit Beasts in the short term.

Elder Zhong Guiyi and Elder Liu Chengfeng of the Wuya Sect left the sect and swiftly flew towards the distant mountains from where the howling originated.

After flying several tens of miles, a gleam flickered in Elder Zhong Guiyi's eyes as he deliberately slowed his pace, lagging several yards behind Liu Chengfeng.

"Elder Zhong, we must speed up! The longer we take here, the greater the casualties the Wuya Sect disciples face over there!"

Liu Chengfeng, seeing Elder Zhong Guiyi suddenly slow down, hurriedly urged in confusion.

Elder Zhong Guiyi let out an "Oh," then smiled, "I'm speeding up! I'm speeding up!"

As he spoke, he formed a hand seal in front of his chest, and as a glow shimmered from his brow, an iron mace, as thick as a forearm, flew out with immense power, hurtling towards Liu Chengfeng's back in front of him.

Liu Chengfeng never expected that Zhong Guiyi, with whom he had worked together for decades and shared the position of elder in the Wuya Sect, would suddenly turn against him.

The distance between them was only several yards, far too close. When Liu Chengfeng sensed the killing intent enveloping him, the breath of death approaching, it was already too late to turn and defend.

"Boom!"

With a dull thud, the iron mace struck Liu Chengfeng squarely on the back.

Liu Chengfeng, relying on a hastily gathered shield of spiritual energy on his back and his strong physique, managed to mitigate part of the iron mace's impact. However, the majority of the force from the mace surged through his back into his body, damaging most of his meridians and blood vessels.

"Pfft!"

Liu Chengfeng's eyes bulged, and a mouthful of fresh blood burst out as he was sent tumbling forward several yards, eventually crashing to the ground from mid-air.

While he narrowly avoided immediate death, the severe injury was enough to seal Liu Chengfeng's fate.

Chapter 1650: Second Stage Heavenly Tribulation—Gui Jiuding

“Why?”

Liu Chengfeng, who had fallen to the ground, wiped the bloodstains from the corner of his mouth. With a face full of confusion and endless hatred, he looked at Zhong Guiyi, who had landed in front of him, and hoarsely asked, “Elder Zhong, why do you do this?”

“Why? Because you belong to the Wuya Sect! Because you are wholeheartedly loyal to Gui Zhengrong! Therefore, you... and those Wuya Sect disciples loyal to Gui Zhengrong must die!”

Zhong Guiyi laughed wildly up to the sky, tears mingling with his laughter.

“Eighty years ago, my father, who was originally a loose cultivator, happened to acquire some rare cultivation resources by chance and was brutally killed by Gui Zhengrong, who learned of it. For revenge, I swallowed my pride and joined the Wuya Sect soon after. Over these eighty years, I have bided my time, nurtured confidants, diligently practiced cultivation techniques, and sought opportunities for revenge. And today is the day of my revenge...”

Zhong Guiyi shouted loudly, each word almost roared out, seemingly venting the long-held resentment in his heart.

Seeing him in a state of madness, Liu Chengfeng was afraid and stammered, “Elder Zhong, it was Gui Zhengrong who killed your father, what does it have to do with me? Spare me, and I will immediately leave the Wuya Sect and join you in fighting Gui Zhengrong!”

Zhong Guiyi raised his hand, pointed at him, and laughed, “You old thief, you’re no good person either! Throughout these years, you have done countless despicable and vile things; you know best in your heart! As for me, Zhong Guiyi, I haven’t killed a single innocent person in the Wuya Sect! Those I killed all deserved it!”

Without saying another word, he stepped forward a few paces, and his iron mace crashed down. Liu Chengfeng groaned, his skull shattered, life instantly extinguished, falling on the spot.

“Next, it’s Gui Jiuding’s turn! He is the Supreme Elder of the Wuya Sect, a formidable Thunder Tribulation Expert! I only hope that Fang Bai can hold off Gui Jiuding for a few hours. By then, the Wuya Sect will undergo a complete transformation, the overall situation settled, and even Gui Jiuding alone will be powerless to reverse it!”

Zhong Guiyi wiped the tears from his face, turned his head towards the direction of the Wuya Sect, eyes filled with expectation and fervor.

He gritted his teeth and backhanded his mace, striking his own left shoulder. Blood gushed from his left shoulder, dyeing half his clothes red.

Ignoring the pain, he controlled his spiritual artifact and flew towards the Wuya Sect.

“How did Elder Zhong suffer such severe wounds? What about Elder Liu?”

When Zhong Guiyi returned to the Wuya Sect and appeared before Gui Zhengrong, Gui Zhengrong couldn’t help showing a face of shock.

Zhong Guiyi gave a bitter smile and, panting, said, “Sect Master, Elder Liu and I encountered a Thunder Tribulation Expert on our journey...”

Gui Zhengrong exclaimed in surprise, “Is it possible that the one controlling spirit beasts is a Thunder Tribulation Expert?”

Zhong Guiyi said, “Exactly! That person is a Thunder Tribulation First Stage Expert, seemingly slightly stronger than the Sect Master... Knowing we were outmatched, Elder Liu and I tried to flee back for help. As a result... Elder Liu was a step too slow and was cut down by the opponent... I almost lost my life too and barely escaped back...”

With a formidable enemy approaching and one of the sect's four elders fallen and another heavily injured, the sect's strength greatly diminished, leaving Gui Zhengrong increasingly worried, his expression extremely grim.

"Do you know the identity of the opponent?"

Gui Zhengrong asked, clenching his fists.

Zhong Guiyi shook his head and said, "The opponent looks very young, seemingly a loose cultivator... He repeatedly claimed to have a great enmity with my Wuya Sect, coming this time solely for revenge. He even said he would control the birds and beasts of the nearby primeval forests and mountains to continuously attack, ensuring the Wuya Sect knows no peace ever!"

"Does he think that he alone can cause endless misery for the Wuya Sect? What arrogance!"

Gui Zhengrong laughed instead of showing anger, but his heart was faintly uneasy, thinking that if the opponent continuously controlled spirit beasts to attack, it would indeed be troubling for the Wuya Sect.

"The opponent might not be alone; perhaps there are other ambushes nearby. Sect Master, I think we should have the Supreme Elder personally go against the person controlling spirit beasts; this would be sure enough to succeed. As long as we kill that person, the spirit beasts here at our sect would naturally retreat, thereby securing a decisive victory!"

Zhong Guiyi suggested.

Gui Zhengrong found it reasonable, thinking that since the opponent is slightly stronger than himself and possibly has other allies, going personally would be useless, better to let the Supreme Elder take the trip.

The Supreme Elder Gui Jiuding, years ago, had already advanced to a Thunder Tribulation Second Stage Expert. Even fighting three or five Thunder Tribulation First Stage Experts simultaneously, he would stand a chance. Inviting him to act would leave no worries.

“Alright! I will invite the Supreme Elder to emerge! Elder Zhong, your injuries are severe, take some rest first; afterward, you’ll need to lead the way for the Supreme Elder!”

Zhong Guiyi shook his head and said, “My injuries are of no concern. I urge the Sect Master to quickly invite the Supreme Elder; I’ll lead him immediately! If we wait until the opponent controls the next wave of beasts to attack, who knows how many of our sect’s disciples will be injured or killed!”

Gui Zhengrong nodded, immediately turning around, howling towards the direction of the back mountain.

In just a few moments, a blue figure flew from the back mountain into the sky. The blue figure, with hair white as snow flowing in the wind, was a slightly gaunt middle-aged man.

There was no aura fluctuation from that middle-aged man, appearing like an ordinary person, but all the Wuya Sect disciples present knew how terrifying his strength was.

“Greetings to the Supreme Elder!”

As the middle-aged man appeared, all the Wuya Sect disciples, including Gui Zhengrong, bowed deeply, including the heavily injured Zhong Guiyi.

The middle-aged man was none other than the Wuya Sect’s sole Supreme Elder, Gui Jiuding. Though he appeared to be only forty or fifty years old, his actual age had exceeded two hundred.

A two-hundred-year-old Thunder Tribulation Second Stage Expert is very rare in the Three Thousand Worlds, which shows Gui Jiuding’s extraordinary aptitude and exceptional talent.

“Since the founding of the Wuya Sect, few have dared to intrude. How has such chaos arisen? Zhengrong, you have disappointed me a bit!”

Gui Jiuding’s voice floated ethereal from the sky. Though not loud, it imposed great pressure, and some younger Wuya Sect disciples didn’t dare to breathe heavily.

Though Gui Zhengrong was a dignified sect master and a Thunder Tribulation First Stage Expert, he behaved humbly before Gui Jiuding, not daring to show any dissatisfaction, and replied, "It is the disciple's incompetence!"

After a pause, he repeated Zhong Guiyi's previous words, adding, "This beast tide is all due to the control of a powerful enemy. Please, Supreme Elder, take action to eliminate it! The rest of us will remain here to fend off the spirit beasts."

Gui Jiuding glanced towards the distant mountains, released his Divine Sense to probe momentarily, and then, with a cold expression, said, "A measly Thunder Tribulation First Stage, I can obliterate it with a flip of my hand! Elder Zhong, stay here to recover; I can go alone!"

Having spoken, he wore a proud expression, took off into flight, following the aura Zhong Guiyi left earlier and the calls of the spirit beasts, sweeping towards the distant mountains.

His movement technique was astonishingly fast, and within a hundred breaths, he was already a hundred Baili away, suddenly sensing a Martial Artist Aura below. When he looked down, he saw a young man in spotless white standing proudly in a giant valley below, looking up at him.