

Doctor 1701

Chapter 1701: Mingyue

Several hours later, the sky had turned dark.

“Crack!”

“Rumble!”

At this moment, bolts of lightning as thick as fingers suddenly descended from the cloud of tribulation swirling atop Black Tortoise Peak, illuminating the entire world with their dazzling light.

A young woman sitting cross-legged on the summit had a solemn expression, her demeanor serious, with both hands resting on her knees, surrounded by a thick layer of Water Spirit Qi, enduring the bolts of lightning crashing down from the sky.

These lightning bolts could split steel and shatter rocks, terrifying in power. The young woman gritted her silver teeth and resisted them, while the Spirit Qi Shield around her was repeatedly nearly shattered by the heavenly tribulation, yet she forced it to condense again to protect her body.

At times, strands of lightning penetrated through the Spirit Qi Shield, striking directly at her body. Fortunately, she bore an Innate Spiritual Root, possessing a formidable physical body, so she was not killed by the lightning, but was still left in a sorry state, covered in blood, with her skin torn and flesh lacerated.

Thankfully, the young woman possessed an Innate Water Spirit Root, granting her body powerful self-healing abilities. The injuries she sustained would heal in no time, visibly mending before one’s eyes.

After arduously passing through two hours, the lightning above her disappeared, the tribulation clouds dispersed, and the young woman had successfully passed the heavenly tribulation.

“What a close call! But finally, I have safely passed the tribulation and officially advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm!”

The young woman, with a slightly whimsical nature, became exceptionally excited after passing the lightning tribulation, jumping up and down on the peak, laughing and frolicking by herself.

A moment later, the young woman used her Water Spirit Qi to condense water and cleanse her body.

At this moment, she stood on the peak, bare in the cold wind without a stitch of clothing.

Her skin was as fair and smooth as suet jade, flawless and pristine.

Her silky long hair cascaded past her waist, erratically flying in the wind like a black elf.

Her eyes, with a clear distinction between black and white, sparkled like stars and moonlight, and her cheeks flushed with a faint blush due to excitement, her tender and rosy little mouth opened wide, cheering for her success.

After a long while, she donned a black dress, admired her slender and graceful figure narcissistically, smiled in satisfaction, and then descended the mountain peak.

“Congratulations on advancing, Junior Sister Mingyue.”

“Junior Sister Mingyue is now a Thunder Tribulation Expert!”

“In just a few short years since arriving at Black Tortoise Island, you have advanced from the Foundation Establishment Realm to the Thunder Tribulation Realm. Junior Sister Mingyue is truly the greatest genius in the history of our Black Tortoise Sect!”

“It’s said there are many remarkable women on the Eastern Desolate Continent, but compared to Junior Sister Mingyue, they all pale in comparison!”

“In my heart, Junior Sister Mingyue is the best!”

...

When the young woman descended to the foot of Black Tortoise Peak, several disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect, who had been guarding her, were overjoyed and rushed forward to congratulate her.

Hearing the waves of compliments, the young woman, unfazed, cheerfully cupped her hands and said, "Thank you, senior brothers, for your diligent protection. Mingyue is deeply grateful."

"Junior Sister Mingyue is too kind!"

"We are more than willing to protect Junior Sister Mingyue!"

"We are fellow disciples, meant to help each other. No need to mention 'thanks' again!"

"Exactly, if Junior Sister Mingyue keeps being so polite, we'll get angry!"

...

The young woman named "Mingyue" smiled sweetly, her eyes turning as she said to her senior brothers, "You all treat Mingyue so well, Mingyue feels overwhelmed! How about this, once I meet the Supreme Elder, I'll ask for some Spirit Pills and give each of you a bottle. What do you think?"

Among the senior brothers around Mingyue, some admired and secretly loved her, trying to be attentive, while others flattered her deliberately because she was the Supreme Elder's direct disciple, hoping to gain some benefits.

Therefore, upon hearing Mingyue's words, those who flattered her couldn't help but feel overjoyed.

It's known that Xuanling Venerable, the Supreme Elder of Black Tortoise Sect, is not only a Thunder Tribulation expert of the fifth level but also an Alchemist capable of refining medium Royal Grade Spirit Pills, highly revered and unmatched in status in the vast Black Sea covering tens of thousands of miles.

And this Junior Sister Mingyue before them, fell from the sky a few years ago onto Black Tortoise Island, was noticed by the Supreme Elder due to her Innate Water Spirit Root, became a direct disciple, and was greatly favored, making her the most unique presence among the tens of thousands of disciples in the Black Tortoise Sect.

Nobody expected that since Mingyue joined the Black Tortoise Sect, her cultivation level soared at an unimaginable pace, and now she successfully passed the lightning tribulation, becoming the youngest Thunder Tribulation expert in the history of the Black Tortoise Sect.

This achievement was certainly credited to the teachings of the Supreme Elder and the sect's abundant cultivation resources, but it mostly relied on Mingyue herself.

The leaders of Black Tortoise Sect all believed that Mingyue, having descended from the heavens, was a treasure bestowed upon their sect by the heavens, which led them to cherish and care for her even more, elevating Mingyue's status within the sect to an almost transcendent level.

Mingyue is only in her twenties this year, and she appears even younger. Such a young and beautiful female martial artist, who is highly valued by the sect's leadership, naturally becomes the object of admiration and secret love among many disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect.

But Mingyue's whimsical nature caused some sons of the Black Tortoise Sect considerable headaches, especially those disciples who expressed their feelings hoping to become Martial Dao partners with her, facing much trouble from her.

Due to the Supreme Elder's protection, those troubled disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect could only endure silently.

Thus, among those who suffered her troubles, Mingyue was dubbed the "Little Witch."

Yet, in the eyes of other admirers and lovers, Mingyue remained an exquisite fairy-like figure.

After exchanging a few words with her senior brothers, Mingyue left together with them, disappearing into the night.

As for Fang Bai, who was quietly meditating not far away, no one paid attention to his presence.

“I never expected that this girl Mingyue would be on Black Tortoise Island. Hmm, her cultivation level is now even stronger than mine, perhaps she discovered the secrets I left on the summit of Black Tortoise Peak back then?”

Once Mingyue and her group had gone far, Fang Bai finally opened his eyes, looking in the direction she left, a smile appearing at the corner of his lips.

The Mingyue in question is naturally Baili Mingyue, the girl Fang Bai knew in the secular world, who bore the title of “Campus Witch.”

Fang Bai initially journeyed to the Eastern Desolate Continent sensing the presence of the sisters Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua, but unexpectedly encountered Baili Mingyue while passing over this island, which was a delightful surprise.

However, Fang Bai did not know who was now ruling Black Tortoise Island, and many experts coveting his Blood-Drinking Mad Blade were watching him, so he had to be cautious everywhere. Therefore, he did not rush to reveal himself to Baili Mingyue.

Chapter 1702: Secrets of the Summit

Not long after Baili Mingyue and the others left, Fang Bai leapt up to the summit of Black Tortoise Peak under the cover of night.

The peak of Black Tortoise Peak rises nearly ten thousand meters above sea level. Standing at the summit, Fang Bai could see the entirety of Black Tortoise Island.

Fang Bai focused his gaze in the direction where Baili Mingyue and the others had left, and faintly, he could see Baili Mingyue’s graceful silhouette.

At this moment, Baili Mingyue had already walked dozens of miles away. Perhaps suddenly sensing something, she turned her head to glance at Black Tortoise Peak, her eyes capturing the figure standing atop the summit.

“Who is that person?”

Baili Mingyue’s heart was slightly stirred.

With her temperament, if it were any other time, she might have returned to the summit of Black Tortoise Peak to take a look.

But at this moment, having just advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, her heart was filled with joy, eager to share the news with her master, and so she didn’t pay much mind to the figure on the peak, quickly heading off amid the compliments of several senior brothers.

“Little girl, we’ll meet again later.”

Fang Bai smiled faintly and turned to walk towards a protruding stone on the summit.

The summit of Black Tortoise Peak was quite expansive, spanning over a hundred meters in each direction. It was originally covered with thick, solid ice and snow, but during Baili Mingyue’s crossing of the Heavenly Tribulation, the lightning had swept the ice and snow away, revealing the hard mountain underneath.

The protruding stone, more than a person’s height, stood on the eastern side of the summit and was left unharmed during the recent lightning assault.

Fang Bai stood to the west of the stone, his gaze falling on a pair of palm prints above it.

The palm prints were over an inch deep, left by someone unknown from years past, but upon closer inspection, they seemed to have been there for quite some time.

From the palm prints, Fang Bai sensed a lingering familiar aura.

That aura belonged to Baili Mingyue, indicating that she had interacted with the palm prints not long ago.

“I never thought that this secret I left behind tens of thousands of years ago would be discovered by Mingyue, no wonder her cultivation progressed so quickly... Ha, it’s her fortune!”

Fang Bai smiled to himself.

He extended his palms, aligning them with the palm prints on the stone.

The palm prints were the “key” to activating a formation left by Fang Bai tens of thousands of years ago.

With his palms aligned with the prints, Fang Bai channeled the Water Element Art and infused a wisp of Water Spirit Qi into the palm prints.

Suddenly, the central area of the summit, about ten meters square, began to stir. Brilliant light flashed, revealing intricate array patterns and complex runes.

These patterns and runes intertwined, forming a uniquely intricate formation disk.

Fang Bai had set up this formation disk in a past life. Only martial artists who practiced Water System Techniques could use it.

To activate this formation disk, one had to be a martial artist with an Innate Water Spirit Root and infuse a wisp of pure Water Spirit Qi into the palm prints on the stone.

Baili Mingyue happened to meet these conditions.

Not long after arriving at Black Tortoise Island, Baili Mingyue discovered the palm prints while playing on Black Tortoise Peak and, by a stroke of luck, activated them.

The formation disk set by Fang Bai had absorbed massive amounts of pure Water Spirit Qi from the world over tens of thousands of years. This pure Water Spirit Qi remained and was extremely beneficial for martial artists of the Water System.

Since then, Baili Mingyue frequently trained within the formation disk, her cultivation level advancing at a staggering pace, finally reaching the Thunder Tribulation Realm today.

This formation disk was regarded by Baili Mingyue as her personal secret, never mentioned to anyone, including her master.

At this moment, having reactivated the formation disk, Fang Bai discovered that the pure Water Spirit Qi stored within was almost exhausted, clearly used up by Baili Mingyue during her training over the years, accounting for her rapid progress in cultivation.

Fang Bai had intended to find this formation disk at the summit of Black Tortoise Peak to train for a few days before heading to the Eastern Desolate Continent by sea. However, to his surprise, it had been discovered and used by Baili Mingyue.

Thinking of Baili Mingyue's excitement upon advancing to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, Fang Bai couldn't help but chuckle.

Now that the formation disk held little pure spirit energy, it wasn't much use to Fang Bai for training. After inspecting it, he shut it down, thinking that in a few thousand or tens of thousands of years, the formation disk would gather a large amount of pure Water Spirit Qi again, offering a fortuitous opportunity for another destined individual.

After standing on Black Tortoise Peak for a moment, Fang Bai then descended and left the peak.

"Those two old guys, they never give up!"

At the base of Black Tortoise Peak, Fang Bai sensed the lingering presences of He Polang and Hai Dongsheng, knowing they had not moved far from him.

Even though he was targeted by two powerful third-level Thunder Tribulation realm experts, Fang Bai had no fear. He knew that both He Polang and Hai Dongsheng were wary of each other and maintained a balance, making neither take the initiative to attack him.

After descending from Black Tortoise Peak, Fang Bai strolled slowly on the island, encountering many other experts who were traveling on the same sea vessel.

Among these experts, some coveted Fang Bai's Blood Blade, their eyes alight upon seeing him. However, as Black Tortoise Sect disciples frequently patrolled the island at night, no expert dared make a move against Fang Bai.

All around Black Tortoise Island, Fire Spirit Stones were embedded, their dazzling light used for illumination, giving the entire island a nocturnal brightness like a sleepless island.

Fang Bai walked and stopped intermittently, unconsciously arriving at the Martial Artists Trading Market on Black Tortoise Island.

Even deep into the night, the trading market remained bustling. The primary goal of the experts disembarking from the two sea vessels was to trade cultivation resources with Black Tortoise Sect disciples.

Though Black Tortoise Island was isolated in the sea, Black Tortoise Sect disciples often journeyed to the four continents of the Eastern, Western, Southern, and Northern Desolate, bringing back a variety of cultivation resources.

These resources were all extraordinary, some capable of enhancing a martial artist's physical strength, others of healing damaged meridians and limbs, and some of increasing the chances of advancing realms... Ultimately, many of these resources were rare treasures seldom seen in ordinary times.

The passengers aboard each sea vessel passing by Black Tortoise Island came from all over, bringing with them rare cultivation resources, perfect for exchanging with the disciples on the island according to their needs.

When Fang Bai entered the trading market, many experts had already picked the resources they required and were engaging in intense bargaining.

Fang Bai wandered casually through the market, sensing the aura of various cultivation resources, checking if there was anything he needed.

Chapter 1703: Hey, Mister!

In an inconspicuous corner of the Martial Artists Trading Market, a middle-aged man in black animal clothing sat on the ground, with only a few cultivation resources placed in front of him.

Compared to other strong individuals who had dozens or even hundreds of cultivation resources piled before them, the middle-aged man's setup seemed somewhat shabby, and consequently, he was mostly ignored.

Even though the middle-aged man was sitting, he was taller than many Martial Artists when they were standing, clearly indicating a very large physique.

The middle-aged man had thick hair and beard, tiger-like eyes, and a wide mouth, looking imposing and majestic, like a mighty lion.

The middle-aged man was one of the disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect, with a cultivation level at the first level of the Thunder Tribulation, and from the Martial Artist Aura emanating from him, it was clear he was a strong practitioner of Water System Techniques.

As Fang Bai passed by the middle-aged man, his heart stirred slightly, and he squatted down, pointing at a fist-sized black object and casually asked, "Brother, what is this thing?"

The middle-aged man glanced at him and shook his head, "I don't know. I obtained this item during my training in the Northern Desolate Extreme Lands. Although the Spiritual Energy it emits is faint, I feel it might be a treasure, so I brought it back."

Fang Bai picked up the black object, played with it for a while, and asked with a smile, "How do you want to trade this item?"

The middle-aged man, noticing Fang Bai was only at the Half-Step Thunder Tribulation, harbored some disdain, and said, "Are you sincerely interested in this?"

Fang Bai nodded, "Of course!"

The middle-aged man said, "Good! Ten thousand Royal Grade Water Spirit Stones, ten bottles of Royal Grade Water Spirit Pills, or fifty Royal Grade water attribute Spiritual Medicines, you can exchange any one of these for it!"

Fang Bai asked, "The Royal Grade cultivation resources are divided into superior, medium, and inferior grades, which one are you asking for?"

The middle-aged man snorted with a bit of annoyance, "Naturally, the inferior grade! Can you, a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation, afford medium or superior Royal Grade cultivation resources? Even I can't!"

Fang Bai gave an "Oh," and smiled, "That's a reasonable price! I'll give you ten thousand Royal Grade Water Spirit Stones then!"

He was just about to transfer the ten thousand Water Spirit Stones from his Space Ring to the middle-aged man when he heard a sweet voice behind him, "Hey, mister, can I have a look at the thing in your hand?"

Without turning around, Fang Bai already knew who was speaking. Thinking about her mischievous character, he couldn't help but smile slightly.

"Mister, I'm talking to you!"

A pretty girl in a black dress squatted beside Fang Bai. When Fang Bai slowly turned his face towards her, his gaze was warm and his smile was gentle, which gave off a calming force, making her slightly dazed.

“I can let you have a look, but I’ve already agreed on a price with this brother here, you can’t just cut in!”

Fang Bai said with a smile to the girl in the black dress.

At this moment, the middle-aged man across had already stood up, showing a flattering smile, and said, “Junior Sister Mingyue, how come you have time to come here?”

The girl in the black dress was none other than Baili Mingyue, who had recently advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm at the Black Tortoise Peak Summit. After reporting her success to her master, she heard that two sea ships had just arrived on the island, so she came to see if she could find cultivation resources for herself.

Baili Mingyue, possessing an Innate Water Spirit Root, had a sensitivity to water attribute cultivation resources far beyond others. When she passed by Fang Bai, she saw the black object he was playing with and immediately recognized it as a rare water attribute treasure, bringing joy to her heart.

However, since the treasure had already fallen into Fang Bai’s hands, although known for her “Little Witch” moniker, she was not one to act unreasonable. Even though she was anxious inside, she refrained from snatching it and decided to buy it from Fang Bai with a higher price.

When asked by the middle-aged man, Baili Mingyue smiled lightly and said, “Hello, Senior Brother Gu! I came here just for fun! By the way, where did you get this thing? I haven’t seen it before!”

Senior Brother Gu replied, “I brought it back from my last training session. If Junior Sister Mingyue likes it, I will give it to you.”

“I do like it, but...”

Baili Mingyue glanced at Fang Bai and said, "Since this mister has already agreed on a price with you, to give it to me now seems not quite right?"

Senior Brother Gu waved his hand and said, "There's nothing wrong! As long as the deal isn't done, it's still mine. If I say I'll give it to you, I'll give it to you, just like that!"

If it were someone else, Baili Mingyue might have agreed, but she had a good first impression of Fang Bai and didn't want to deprive him of his purchase. So she said to Fang Bai, "Mister, how about this? What was the price you agreed with Senior Brother Gu? I'll double it for you, will you sell it to me?"

Fang Bai shook his head, "No."

"Mister, I really like this thing, please sell it to me, would you? If not... how about I triple the price?"

Despite Fang Bai's refusal, Baili Mingyue surprisingly didn't get upset but pleaded softly.

Gu Lie silently sweated for Fang Bai, thinking to himself that he really didn't know what was good for him. His junior sister was already giving him face by wanting to buy it from him. If he truly angered her, he would regret it for a lifetime.

"Mister, I want to know, why are you unwilling to sell it to me? Though it's a good thing, it's not priceless!"

Baili Mingyue repeatedly raised the price, but Fang Bai still shook his head in refusal, which made her both frustrated and disappointed, causing her to ask.

Baili Mingyue herself found it strange that her temper would turn so good in front of Fang Bai and couldn't muster any anger or hatred.

Not only was she surprised, but even Gu Lie, across, was incredulous, wondering when his junior sister Mingyue became so patient?

In a normal scenario, wouldn't his junior sister throw a tantrum and come up with all kinds of ways to deal with this guy?

As for whether his junior sister took a liking to him, it seemed unlikely, considering Fang Bai was about the same age and not particularly handsome, and only at Half-Step Thunder Tribulation cultivation...

How could his junior sister take interest in a man like that?

Fang Bai sighed and said to Baili Mingyue, "I won't hide it from you, I bought this to forge a Spiritual Artifact, then gift it to my Martial Dao companion!"

Baili Mingyue blinked her eyes and said, "Your Martial Dao companion must be very beautiful, right, mister?"

Fang Bai laughed, "Correct. She's as young and beautiful as you, almost like a twin sister to you! She also has a bit of a cunning side, enjoys being a little coquettish and throwing small tantrums..."

"Mister, your Martial Dao companion sounds a lot like me!"

Baili Mingyue's eyes shone brighter and she asked, "So, mister... is your Martial Dao companion on this island? I really want to meet her."

Fang Bai blinked and smiled, "She's on this island, and you'll see her very soon!"

Chapter 1704: Water Ice Crystal

Baili Mingyue couldn't understand why she felt a bit sour in her heart when she heard the middle-aged man in front of her say he had a Martial Dao partner.

This feeling made her feel very strange.

"The person I like is Fang Bai, this uncle just resembles Fang Bai in some ways, that's why I have a good impression of him... That's right, it's just like that!"

Baili Mingyue said to herself in her heart.

“Uncle, can’t you really sell this to me?”

Determined that the black object was useful for her cultivation, Baili Mingyue continued to try hard.

Fang Bai was about to answer when he suddenly saw a disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect quickly approaching.

The person arrived at Baili Mingyue’s side and said urgently, “Junior Sister Mingyue, the Sect Master has something urgent to see you about!”

Baili Mingyue turned her head to look at the person and frowned, “Senior Brother Zhang, what’s the matter?”

Senior Brother Zhang shook his head and said, “I don’t know, but it’s something very urgent! The Sect Master said not to delay and to see him immediately!”

Baili Mingyue replied “Oh” and stood up to say to Fang Bai, “Uncle, I have to go now. If you change your mind, come find me at the Black Tortoise Sect... My name is Baili Mingyue! Don’t worry, I won’t let you suffer a loss!”

As she spoke, she gave Fang Bai a deep look and left quickly with Senior Brother Zhang.

When Baili Mingyue was far away, Gu Lie stomped his foot and said angrily to Fang Bai, “You caused me a lot of trouble! Give me back that thing, I won’t sell it to you anymore, I’ll send it to Junior Sister Mingyue instead!”

Fang Bai calmly put away the black object and smiled, “A deal is a deal, no backing out!”

Gu Lie said angrily, “If you don’t return it to me, don’t blame me for being rude!”

Fang Bai pointed in the direction Baili Mingyue left, "You dare be rude to me, I'll tell Junior Sister Mingyue!"

"You..."

Although Gu Lie was extremely angry, he could see that Junior Sister Mingyue seemed to have some fondness for this Fang Bai, so he really didn't dare do anything to Fang Bai, fearing the wrath of his junior sister and the trouble it would bring him.

Fang Bai jovially handed over ten thousand Royal Grade Spirit Stones to the unwilling Gu Lie and left at his leisure.

What Fang Bai obtained from Gu Lie was actually a piece of Water Ice Crystal.

The Water Ice Crystal is the main material for crafting water-attribute Spiritual Artifacts, and the quality of the crystal determines the rank of the crafted artifact.

The piece of Water Ice Crystal Fang Bai obtained was of Royal Grade High Rank, capable of crafting a Superior Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact.

The reason the Water Ice Crystal only emitted a faint spiritual energy was because it was wrapped in a special substance that blocked the spiritual energy from leaking out, making it unrecognizable as a treasure to ordinary martial artists.

Only those with an Innate Water Spirit Root and a keen sense for Water Spirit Qi, like Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue, could detect it.

Fang Bai planned to use this Water Ice Crystal to craft a Superior Royal Grade Water Spiritual Artifact for Baili Mingyue to enhance her combat strength.

The Superior Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact possesses power only slightly inferior to that of an Immortal Artifact. If Baili Mingyue could obtain it, her combat strength would increase dramatically, allowing her to contend with experts of second-tier Heavenly Tribulation.

Fang Bai once again returned to the Black Tortoise Peak Summit, where he set up a Concealment Formation, and within this formation, he summoned the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire and began refining the Water Ice Crystal using the supreme fire power of the spirit fire.

Meanwhile, a few dozen miles away in a dense forest and on a mountaintop, two experts of third-tier Heavenly Tribulation, eyes sharp as wolves, were silently observing Fang Bai atop the Black Tortoise Peak, each plotting how to seize Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade.

As the morning sun rose, Fang Bai successfully crafted the Spiritual Artifact, stored it in the Five Elements Space Ring, and leapt down the mountain towards a cluster of palaces where the disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect resided.

That cluster of palaces was a gathering place for the disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect. Fang Bai intended to find Baili Mingyue there and ask her out to meet, passing the Spiritual Artifact to her in the process.

The artifact Fang Bai crafted was a Willow Leaf Saber; its blade was thin and light as a wing, incredibly sharp, with a delicate and graceful appearance, thinking Baili Mingyue would surely like it.

The sprawling palaces where Black Tortoise Sect disciples resided were separated from the outside by tall, thick courtyard walls. To enter, one either had to fly over the walls or take the southern gate.

Under normal circumstances, flying over the courtyard walls would be considered a hostile act, leading to interception or even attack.

Therefore, Fang Bai opted to enter through the southern gate.

"This is the dwelling place for Black Tortoise Sect disciples, no trespassers allowed!"

As Fang Bai approached the southern gate, he was stopped by four Black Tortoise Sect disciples on duty there.

The four disciples, each a first-tier Heavenly Tribulation expert, were assigned the lowly role of gatekeepers, illustrating the sheer strength of the Black Tortoise Sect.

Fang Bai smiled and cupped his hands in salute, "I am a friend of your sect's disciple Baili Mingyue. Would you kindly inform her that Fang Bai has something to discuss with her?"

The four disciples exchanged glances, each showing a peculiar expression. One of them looked Fang Bai up and down and said with a hostile tone, "You're a friend of Junior Sister Mingyue? I've never heard that before! Junior Sister Mingyue has never mentioned you!"

Another disciple, full of hostility, said, "Last night I heard Senior Brother Gu Lie mention that Junior Sister Mingyue seemed to favor an outsider. Could that person be you?"

The other two Black Tortoise Sect disciples, though silent, also looked at Fang Bai with unfriendly faces.

These four were admirers secretly in love with Baili Mingyue, yet received no attention from her. Last night, they learned from Senior Brother Gu Lie that Junior Sister Mingyue showed favor towards a middle-aged man in white, stirring jealousy and resentment in them.

Seeing the man described by Senior Brother Gu Lie standing before them, they felt envious and spoke with some heat.

Fang Bai, uninterested in dealing with them, shouted loudly, "Baili Mingyue, do you still want that Water Ice Crystal from last night?"

His voice carried across several miles, echoing over the large cluster of palaces, and every Black Tortoise Sect disciple residing there heard it clearly.

"Daring to make a racket here, if you disturb the higher-ups of our sect, you're doomed! Get lost! Get lost!"

The four disciples on duty couldn't believe Fang Bai would suddenly shout, and their faces turned ugly as they summoned their Spiritual Artifacts, preparing to forcibly expel Fang Bai.

"Stop!"

Just then, Baili Mingyue, light as a swallow, flew out from the palaces and appeared in front of Fang Bai.

"Uncle, it's you!"

Seeing Fang Bai, Baili Mingyue beamed and asked, "Did you say that thing is a Water Ice Crystal? Haha, actually, I figured it out last night too. Uncle, have you decided to sell that Water Ice Crystal to me?"

Not waiting for Fang Bai to respond, she continued, "By the way, what grade is that Water Ice Crystal? If it's high grade, I'll compensate you with more cultivation resources. In any case, I won't let you suffer any loss!"

Fang Bai sighed and said, "Unfortunately, that Water Ice Crystal is already gone."

Chapter 1705: I Just Love Seeing You Get Mad

"Gone?"

Baili Mingyue was stunned for a moment and anxiously said, "How could it be gone? I heard from Brother Gu Lie that you bought that Water Ice Crystal!"

Fang Bai spread his hands and said, "I did buy it, but now that piece of Water Ice Crystal has already turned into a Spiritual Artifact... Hmm, Water Ice Crystal is a Royal Grade material, and the Spiritual Artifact made from it is a Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact."

Baili Mingyue slightly opened her mouth, unable to comprehend how a good piece of Water Ice Crystal could have turned into a Spiritual Artifact overnight.

Under normal circumstances, crafting a Spiritual Artifact consumes more time and effort than refining a spirit pill of the same level. If crafting a Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, even the greatest artifact refiner would take no less than three to five months, at most a year, otherwise, it would be impossible.

And someone who can craft a Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact overnight, how skilled must that artifact refiner be?

Baili Mingyue knew that in the entire Black Tortoise Island, there was no artifact refiner that skilled. Could it be that the one who crafted the Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact for this man was actually one of the artifact refiners from those two sea vessels?

Disappointed and regretful over not obtaining the Water Ice Crystal she hoped for, Baili Mingyue sighed, "So that's how it is... Congratulations, uncle..."

She thought to herself, "This uncle is really something, he just shouted loudly asking if I wanted the Water Ice Crystal or not. I came out, only for him to say the Water Ice Crystal is gone... What exactly does he want?"

Suddenly, there was a flash of dazzling light before her eyes, somewhat blinding, and when Baili Mingyue squinted to look, Fang Bai's hand unexpectedly held a saber-shaped Spiritual Artifact in the shape of a willow leaf.

The blade-shaped Spiritual Artifact was entirely as black as ink, appearing to be made of ink jade, thin as a cicada's wing, and on the blade, delicate water-like patterns were faintly visible.

The saber aura emitted from the blade spread across ten feet around, causing Baili Mingyue and the four Black Tortoise Sect disciples behind her to feel a faint pain on their skin, as if the saber aura was just sharp enough to wound them.

The five Black Tortoise Sect disciples, including Baili Mingyue, were all Thunder Tribulation Realm one-layer experts, and yet such a feeling emerged, demonstrating how powerful the willow leaf saber was.

Baili Mingyue's gaze fell on the willow leaf saber, with a peculiar glint of admiration in her eyes.

She thought that this willow leaf saber was truly beautiful, and if she could use it herself, then fully empowering it with Water Spirit Qi, its power would be terrifying.

“How about this saber?”

Fang Bai asked with a smile.

Baili Mingyue replied, “It’s beautiful.”

Fang Bai said, “If you like it, I’ll give it to you.”

“Oh... huh?”

Baili Mingyue snapped back, pointing to her own nose and said, “Give... give it to me?”

Fang Bai nodded and said, “Actually, I bought that Water Ice Crystal to craft this Spiritual Artifact, and the purpose of crafting this Spiritual Artifact is to give it to you.”

“Why give it to me? Didn’t you say... that piece of Water Ice Crystal was to be given to your Martial Dao partner?”

Baili Mingyue frowned as if remembering something, and her face turned slightly cold.

Fang Bai chuckled and said, “The Martial Dao partner I mentioned is you!”

“Uncle, please mind your manners!”

Baili Mingyue snapped, her face becoming serious, and said coldly, “I already have someone I like!”

Fang Bai sighed, “Can’t even my Royal Grade Superior Spiritual Artifact win your heart?”

“Royal Grade Superior Spiritual Artifact!”

The four Black Tortoise Sect disciples behind Baili Mingyue exclaimed, their eyes falling on the willow leaf saber in Fang Bai’s hand, their faces flushed with excitement.

No wonder they were so taken aback; Royal Grade Superior Spiritual Artifacts are said to be treasures second only to Immortal Artifacts, immensely powerful, and something these Thunder Tribulation Realm one-layer experts dream of.

Even the Supreme Elder of Black Tortoise Sect, a Thunder Tribulation five-layer expert, used only a Royal Grade Medium Spiritual Artifact.

It could be said that all disciples of Black Tortoise Sect, aside from the Supreme Elder, Xuanling Venerable, had only heard of Royal Grade Superior Spiritual Artifacts but hadn’t seen them.

“If you keep talking nonsense, I’ll get really angry!”

Baili Mingyue was unmoved, turning her head away from Fang Bai’s willow leaf saber, a layer of frost covering her delicate face.

Originally, she had a good impression of this middle-aged man, but now she felt disgusted, the good feeling gone, thinking if he continued talking nonsense, she would explode.

“Haha, I just like to see you angry! Come on, show me how mad you can get!”

As Fang Bai spoke, his voice was undisguised, causing Baili Mingyue’s delicate body to tremble, looking at Fang Bai with incredulous eyes, pointed at him and stuttered, “You... you...”

She remembered that when she used to spend time with Fang Bai, he liked to tease her with that phrase. Hearing it now from a voice so familiar to her, she instantly realized that the middle-aged man before her was indeed Fang Bai in disguise, and she was moved to tears.

“What do you mean? Do you want this saber? If you don’t, I’ll give it to another woman! Don’t come crying to me then!”

Fang Bai played with the willow leaf saber in his hand and said with a smile.

“You dare!”

Baili Mingyue, like a little wild cat, suddenly leaped forward to snatch the willow leaf saber from Fang Bai’s hand, throwing it into her Space Ring without hesitation.

“Rascal! You almost fooled me! I hate you!”

Baili Mingyue saw Fang Bai “haha” laughing as he spread his arms wide, twisted her waist, and nestled into his embrace, raising a pair of tender fists to pound his chest, coquettishly.

The four Black Tortoise Sect disciples on-site were shocked, their eyes nearly popping out.

The notorious “Little Witch” of Black Tortoise Sect, ignoring all men, was so taken with this middle-aged man, how had he won her heart, prompting her to lean into him willingly?

And what was even more enviable and jealous for the four was that the junior sister, whom they saw as a fairy, entwined her long arms around the middle-aged man’s neck, passionately kissing him.

The four Black Tortoise Sect disciples looked at each other, seemingly hearing the sound of their hearts breaking.

“Quickly tell Senior Brother! If he comes late, Junior Sister is going to be taken away!”

The eldest among the four Black Tortoise Sect disciples transmitted to the youngest.

The youngest one nodded, cautiously turned around, and left.

After several breaths, Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue's lips parted, Baili Mingyue's cheeks blushing, her whole body soft, leaning helplessly in Fang Bai's arms, whispering softly, "Rascal, did you know, when I fell onto Black Tortoise Island, I thought I'd never see you again!"

Without waiting for Fang Bai to reply, she continued, "At the time, I was sad for a long time. Later, my master said if I could cultivate to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, he would let me go out and experience the world, to search for you among the three thousand great worlds. Thus, I temporarily forgot my sadness and devoted myself to cultivation..."

She looked up at Fang Bai, with a blessed expression, "Luckily, you came, otherwise I might have left Black Tortoise Island, and then we'd be worlds apart again."

She squeezed into Fang Bai's embrace with force, desperately wanting to meld her body with his.

Chapter 1706: You Are Not Worthy of Him!

A black figure shot out from one of the halls of the Black Tortoise Sect, swiftly heading towards the southern gate.

The black figure was a handsome man in his thirties with sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes. At this moment, his handsome face was filled with anxiety and anger.

"Junior Sister Mingyue!"

The handsome man exited the southern gate of the Black Tortoise Sect and, seeing Baili Mingyue embracing Fang Bai, his eyes instantly filled with blood, he stopped in his tracks and shouted loudly.

He was also a strong one at the first stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, but his martial artist aura was clearly stronger than that of other disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect, evidently possessing more strength.

His loud shout was like rolling thunder, exploding in the ears of Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue.

Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue slowly separated from their embrace and turned their heads to look in his direction.

“Senior Brother Li?”

Baili Mingyue frowned slightly upon seeing the handsome man and asked coldly in a tone that kept others at a distance of a thousand miles: “What do you want?”

“Who is he?”

Senior Brother Li pointed at Fang Bai, stepping forward step by step, and asked harshly.

“He’s my man, so what?”

Baili Mingyue replied without hesitation.

“Impossible!”

Senior Brother Li seemed very agitated and said loudly, “Junior Sister Mingyue, you’re lying to me! This person is older than me, not as good-looking, and only has a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Cultivation... Now that you are also a strong one at the first stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, how could you possibly be interested in him?”

Baili Mingyue giggled and said to Fang Bai, “You scoundrel, did you hear that? My senior brother is belittling you to nothing!”

Fang Bai sighed, “What your senior brother says seems to make some sense... He’s tall, handsome, and extraordinary, young and almost reaching the edge of the second stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, better than me in every way. So why did you fall for me?”

Baili Mingyue secretly pinched him, then laughed, "Who can clearly say anything about fate? I just like you, old man, so what? Let me tell you, you'll never escape my grasp in this lifetime!"

Seeing the two of them flirting right in front of him, Senior Brother Li was so angry that he almost spat blood.

Senior Brother Li, named Li Sheng, was among the younger generation of disciples in the Black Tortoise Sect, entering the sect early and being an outstanding talent. His cultivation was also the closest to the second stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

Everyone in the Black Tortoise Sect knew about Li Sheng's affection for Baili Mingyue. Although he had many rivals, considering all aspects, many believed he was the most suitable match for Baili Mingyue.

Even Li Sheng himself believed that Baili Mingyue would ultimately belong to him.

Although Li Sheng's repeated expressions of affection had been decisively rejected by Baili Mingyue, he had not been discouraged, firmly believing he would win her heart sooner or later.

However, what Li Sheng never expected was that just now, while he was cultivating in the hall, a junior brother suddenly reported that Junior Sister Mingyue was embracing a stranger, looking very intimate.

At first, Li Sheng didn't believe it, but when he saw the scene before him, he was instantly furious, overwhelmed with rage.

"This outsider who appeared out of nowhere, I don't know what kind of enchantment he cast on Junior Sister Mingyue, but it has made her so intimately close to him!"

If looks could kill, at this moment, Fang Bai would have been pierced through the heart by ten thousand swords from Li Sheng.

Li Sheng looked at Fang Bai with intense hostility, his face terrifyingly grim, his fists tightly clenched, wishing he could crush Fang Bai with a punch.

Baili Mingyue, sensing the murderous intent surging around Li Sheng, worried he might harm Fang Bai, protectively stood in front of Fang Bai like a mother leopard, sternly warning, “Senior Brother Li, if you dare touch him, I won’t let it slide!”

Seeing Baili Mingyue protect Fang Bai so fiercely, treating himself like an enemy, made Li Sheng even angrier, and he shouted, “Junior Sister, you’re turning against me for an outsider?”

Baili Mingyue said seriously, “I’ve said, he’s not an outsider, he’s my man!”

After a pause, she continued, “Senior Brother Li, I’ve always respected you and regarded you as an elder brother. But... if you dare harm Fang Bai, I won’t be polite to you!”

Upon hearing this, Li Sheng felt his heart being shredded, murmuring, “All I wanted was to be your Martial Dao companion, yet you see me as a brother... Heh... Hahaha...”

He let out a few tragic laughs, his gaze fixated on Baili Mingyue, then said: “Junior Sister Mingyue, you should know, I’ve always liked you. For you, I’ve rejected many other female disciples’ affections; for you, I’ve trained harder than anyone, just to have the qualifications to stand before you. Even if you repeatedly reject me, I have never given up hope...”

He suddenly showed a pleading expression, lowered his voice, and said humbly: “Junior Sister Mingyue, what exactly have I done wrong that I can’t win your favor? Tell me, and I will change for you... okay?”

Baili Mingyue glanced at Fang Bai to ensure he wasn’t upset, then breathed a sigh of relief and stamped her foot at Li Sheng, saying, “Senior Brother Li, give up! I’ve never liked you! No matter what you do, I won’t like you!”

Li Sheng took a deep breath, suppressing the fury in his heart, fixed his gaze on Fang Bai, and said in a deep voice, “My junior sister has already advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, while you’re just a mere Half-Step Thunder Tribulation, you don’t deserve her!”

Fang Bai smiled and said, “Then what?”

Li Sheng said, "As long as you leave Junior Sister Mingyue, any condition, I can fulfill it!"

Fang Bai laughed, "I want to pass the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations and ascend to immortality, can you do that?"

Li Sheng's eyes turned sharp, filled with hatred, and said, "You know that's an impossible thing!"

Baili Mingyue, reunited with Fang Bai after a long time apart, had much to say and didn't want to waste more words with Li Sheng. She took Fang Bai's hand and turned to leave.

"Where to?"

Fang Bai asked.

Baili Mingyue pointed towards the Black Tortoise Peak and whispered, "To the Black Tortoise Peak, I'll show you a secret."

Fang Bai knew she was likely referring to the formation disk he left in his previous life and asked curiously, "What secret?"

"It's a secret for now! You'll know when we get there!"

Baili Mingyue giggled, wearing a mysterious expression.

Li Sheng watched the two of them walk farther and farther away, his eyes gleaming with a sinister light, clenching his fist, then relaxing it, and after a moment murmured, "Baili Mingyue, you are mine, no one can snatch you away!"

At this moment, a disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect approached, and flatteringly said, "Senior Brother Li, that guy doesn't know his place, dreaming of something beyond his reach! Should I... go teach him a lesson for you? Or maybe, when Junior Sister Mingyue isn't around, make him disappear from this world altogether?"

Li Sheng felt tempted but after a moment's thought, shook his head and said, "No! If that guy disappears, Junior Sister Mingyue will definitely know it's related to me and might hate me for a lifetime!"

The disciple scratched his head and said, "Then what should we do?"

Li Sheng snorted coldly, saying in a low voice, "I'll go to the Sect Master to make my case! I don't believe it, Baili Mingyue is the Black Tortoise Sect's rare genius disciple, the Sect Master would favor such a mediocre fellow! Hmph, even if they are in love, one word from the Sect Master can separate them!"

Chapter 1707: The Solution

At the summit of Black Tortoise Peak, Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue sat side by side on a protruding boulder, facing the rising sun, whispering to each other.

Prior to this, after seeing Baili Mingyue personally activate the formation disk, Fang Bai expressed his "astonishment," and then sat there chatting with Baili Mingyue about various events after entering the Three Thousand Worlds.

"So the Linghu Sisters are now living in your Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. From what you said, only a small portion of your relatives and friends have been found, with most still unknown?"

Upon hearing that Fang Bai had established the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and that some relatives and friends had moved in, Baili Mingyue felt invigorated and filled with longing.

Fang Bai sighed, "Indeed! The Three Thousand Worlds are vast, and relatives and friends from the secular world and minor worlds are scattered everywhere. Finding them all is easier said than done!"

Baili Mingyue tilted her head and asked, "When does the sea voyage you've arranged depart?"

Fang Bai replied, "Within the next two days, most likely."

Baili Mingyue said, "Then I'll tell my master a little lie, saying I need to go out for training. This way, I can accompany you to find those relatives and friends. Once we've found enough, I can settle down in your Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, keeping you company daily with laughter and cultivation. How does that sound?"

Fang Bai said, "That sounds nice. But..."

He glanced in the direction of the Black Tortoise Sect's halls and said, "Your Senior Brother Li probably holds a deep grudge against me! Leaving easily may not be simple."

Baili Mingyue pouted slightly and huffed, "If he dares act against you, I'll ask my master to punish him! My master is the Supreme Elder of the Black Tortoise Sect, known as 'Xuanling Venerable.' He is a formidable Thunder Tribulation expert of the fifth level!"

Fang Bai shook his head, "Your Senior Brother Li doesn't seem to be a generous person. The matter between us has likely been exaggerated in his reports to your sect's higher-ups. If he adds some defamatory words about me, your entire sect might see me as a major enemy."

Baili Mingyue pondered over Li Sheng's past behavior and thought Fang Bai's concerns were plausible.

"So... should we leave now?"

Baili Mingyue became anxious, understanding that once the Black Tortoise Sect viewed Fang Bai as an enemy, even the indulgence from the Supreme Elder wouldn't suffice.

After all, the Supreme Elder is also a disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect, and everything he does prioritizes the sect's interests.

If Li Sheng reported her close relationship with Fang Bai to the sect's higher-ups, her excuse of leaving for training with Fang Bai would surely be refused, even her master wouldn't let her go.

So, if there was a way to leave Black Tortoise Island now, Baili Mingyue would unhesitatingly follow Fang Bai.

Fang Bai chuckled wryly, "Without a sea vessel, how do we leave? With our current cultivation levels, we can't cross hundreds of thousands of miles of ocean."

Seeing Baili Mingyue's face tense, Fang Bai smiled, taking her small hand in his and patting it, "Don't worry, we'll find a way. There's always a solution to a problem."

Baili Mingyue made a sound of agreement, tilted her head, leaned on Fang Bai's shoulder, and joined him in watching the sunrise as her mind raced for a way to leave.

"How about we disguise ourselves?"

Baili Mingyue suddenly suggested.

Fang Bai shook his head, "There are plenty of Thunder Tribulation experts in your sect, and your master is a fifth-level Thunder Tribulation expert. Do you think disguising would deceive them?"

Baili Mingyue was immediately disheartened.

With her current cultivation level, changing her appearance was easy, but in front of her master, such a powerful expert, she couldn't completely hide her aura and would be seen through at a glance.

Fang Bai said, "As for me, I've already become quite a focus aboard the sea voyage. No matter how I disguise myself, once others investigate, they'll find out. So... disguising won't work."

Baili Mingyue slumped her shoulders, propped her head on her hands, and blinked her large eyes, continuing to think of a solution.

"What's your master's real name? And what is your Sect Master's name?"

Fang Bai suddenly asked.

Baili Mingyue didn't understand why Fang Bai was asking and, after some thought, said, "My master... seems to have the surname Yun, and is called Yun Yi. The Sect Master is called Hua Guanghan."

Upon hearing the name "Yun Yi," Fang Bai thought that since the person had the surname Yun, there might be some connection to himself. If that's the case, dealing with this would be easier.

He just wasn't sure if Yun Yi was like the Wei family members from Immortal Stone City and part of the Yun Clan from thousands of years past.

Fang Bai considered letting Baili Mingyue enter his Five Elements Space Ring, to be with Wu De and Lightning Mink, and leave on the sea voyage, but ultimately he abandoned the idea after thinking it over.

Fang Bai thought that if Baili Mingyue disappeared without reason, the Black Tortoise Sect would undoubtedly first suspect him, and they wouldn't easily let him leave. Conflicts would be unavoidable then.

With his current cultivation level, Fang Bai could, at full strength, contend with a second-level Thunder Tribulation expert and possibly escape unharmed from a third-level expert's attacks. However, he couldn't stand against a fourth-level expert like Hua Guanghan, let alone Yun Yi, a fifth-level expert.

Rather than that, it would be better to wait and see if Yun Yi is indeed a descendant of the Yun Clan.

"Let's go!"

Fang Bai stood up, holding Baili Mingyue's small hand.

"Where to? Have you thought of a way to leave?"

Baili Mingyue asked excitedly.

Fang Bai said, "Not yet. Let's go find your master."

Baili Mingyue exclaimed, "Find... find my master? But if my master doesn't let me go, I truly can't leave!"

Fang Bai said, "Let's give it a try! If it doesn't work, we'll think of something else!"

...

"...Sect Master, Junior Sister Mingyue is heavily cultivated by the sect and is set to become a pillar of our Black Tortoise Sect in the future. But that man is full of sweet words, intent on luring her away from Black Tortoise Island. His intentions are condemnable! Sect Master, Mingyue Junior Sister must not be allowed to leave the island... and that man should be killed..."

In the Sect Master Hall of the Black Tortoise Sect, Li Sheng spoke passionately, detailing Fang Bai's wrongdoings to the high-ranking members of the sect, all seated on stone chairs on either side of the hall.

Once Li Sheng finished speaking, the hall lapsed into several moments of silence before Hua Guanghan, the Sect Master, responded in a deep voice, "Li Sheng, is what you say true?"

Li Sheng puffed out his chest and said confidently, "Sect Master, every word I utter is true. If you don't believe me, you can ask the disciples who were on duty outside the south gate at that time. That man openly embraced Junior Sister Mingyue outside the gate and even... even kissed her... Now he has taken her somewhere on the island! I fear..."

He stopped speaking, a worried look on his face.

Hua Guanghan raised an eyebrow, "Fear what?"

Li Sheng gritted his teeth and said, "I fear that if Junior Sister Mingyue's body is possessed by that man, she'll be emotionally attached, and her heart will be set on leaving the Black Tortoise Sect, leaving her unable to focus on Martial Dao Cultivation."

Chapter 1708: Bamboo Hut in the Rear Mountains

Li Sheng's voice echoed in the Black Tortoise Sect Master Hall, and after hearing his remarks, the high-level officials of the Black Tortoise Sect looked at each other, deeply agreeing.

Especially Hua Guanghan, the Sect Master of the Black Tortoise Sect, felt even more worried.

As the number one genius in the history of the Black Tortoise Sect, Baili Mingyue was highly expected by Hua Guanghan, hoping she could take over his position as Sect Master in the future and continue the sect's glory.

Hua Guanghan even believed that with Baili Mingyue's qualifications, ascending to immortality in the future was not impossible.

Even if Baili Mingyue's cultivation level could reach the ninth tier of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, it could make the Black Tortoise Sect the strongest sect in the entire Three Thousand Worlds.

By then, what difference would it make if the Black Tortoise Sect were isolated at sea? It would still become a Cultivation Holy Land in the hearts of martial artists throughout the Three Thousand Worlds, attracting countless strong individuals to join the Black Tortoise Sect.

At that time, the Black Tortoise Sect would undoubtedly grow stronger and its prestige would spread far and wide in the Three Thousand Worlds.

However, all of this depends on Baili Mingyue's willingness to remain on Black Tortoise Island and always be a disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect.

Once Baili Mingyue forms a martial partnership with an outsider martial artist, develops an external interest, and insists on leaving Black Tortoise Island, then Hua Guanghan's vision for the future of the Black Tortoise Sect would become mere fantasy, turning into nothingness in the end.

"This matter is significant; if not handled well, it might cause Mingyue to feel estranged. I'm planning to consult with the Supreme Elder in the back mountain to see how we can resolve this."

After pondering for a moment, Hua Guanghan said in a deep voice.

“Li Sheng, keep an eye on Baili Mingyue to prevent her from doing anything unexpected.”

Before departing for the back mountain, Hua Guanghan instructed Li Sheng.

Li Sheng understood what he meant by “unexpected things,” and his heart rejoiced, quickly responding, “Disciple complies!”

He thought of Baili Mingyue being deceived by that outsider martial artist to leave and worried that the outsider might take advantage of Baili Mingyue. Leaving the Sect Master Hall, his heart burned with anxiety as he quickly headed toward Black Tortoise Peak.

He expected Baili Mingyue and that outsider to be at Black Tortoise Peak Summit, but upon jumping to the summit, he found it empty, with only the remnants of the two’s martial artist aura.

“Where did they go?”

Li Sheng searched almost the entire Black Tortoise Island but couldn’t find traces of Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue, feeling frustrated and increasingly worried.

“Senior Brother, I just saw Junior Sister Mingyue and that guy...”

At Li Sheng’s moment of anxiety, a disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect ran over excitedly saying.

Li Sheng was overjoyed upon hearing this and asked urgently, “Where are they? Take me there quickly!”

The Black Tortoise Sect disciple pointed backward and said, “They seem to have gone to the back mountain...”

“Back mountain?”

Li Sheng looked towards the mountain ranges behind the Sect Master Hall, furrowing his brows in confusion, "The back mountain is the Supreme Elder's residence, a forbidden area of our sect. What are they doing there?"

The Black Tortoise Sect disciple said, "Senior Brother Li, did you forget that Junior Sister Mingyue is the Supreme Elder's direct disciple..."

Li Sheng's gaze flickered, thinking to himself, "Could it be that Junior Sister Mingyue went to plead with the Supreme Elder? The Supreme Elder has always doted on her, and if..."

At this thought, he couldn't help but take a cold breath, feeling inexplicably nervous.

Supreme Elder Yun Yi, although he secluded himself in the back mountain decades ago and no longer intervened in sect affairs, as long as he spoke up, even the Sect Master dared not disobey.

If the Supreme Elder can't resist Baili Mingyue's request and agrees to let her leave Black Tortoise Island with that outsider martial artist, wouldn't Li Sheng's hope of forming a martial partnership with Baili Mingyue in this life be dashed?

However, despite being the top junior disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect, Li Sheng still did not have the qualification to go to the back mountain, so no matter how anxious he was, it was useless. He could only eagerly wait for news from the back mountain.

The so-called "back mountain" by the Black Tortoise Sect disciples is actually composed of three peaks.

And the Supreme Elder Yun Yi of the Black Tortoise Sect resides in a valley surrounded by these three peaks.

"Fang Bai, my master lives here... I used to come here once a month to listen to my master impart cultivation techniques and explain martial arts. But my master has recently been in seclusion to refine spirit pills, so I haven't seen him for over two months... When I last advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, I just stood outside and informed him."

Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai left Black Tortoise Peak and arrived unimpeded at a bamboo house in the back mountain, then whispered to Fang Bai beside her.

Fang Bai nodded and looked at the bamboo house not far ahead.

The bamboo house was isolated from the outside world by a formation, making martial artists outside feel as if clouds obscured their view, unable to witness any movement inside.

But Fang Bai was proficient in formations, and the formation set around the bamboo house seemed sophisticated to other martial artists but appeared simple to him, unable to block his divine sense.

Fang Bai's divine sense easily penetrated into the bamboo house, seeing a lean old man in a black robe sitting in front of an alchemy cauldron, with his left palm pressed against the cauldron body and his right hand continuously throwing spiritual medicine into the alchemy cauldron.

Inside the alchemy cauldron, a faint "sizzling" sound was heard, the sound of spiritual medicine being melted by the flames inside the cauldron.

Wisps of smoke carrying the fragrance of medicine rose from the gaps around the cauldron lid, diffusing throughout the bamboo house.

The old man in the black robe had a tense expression with slight nervousness, as fine beads of sweat appeared on his forehead.

Apparently, refining this batch of spirit pills was somewhat strenuous for him.

"Your master's batch of spirit pills might be ruined..."

Fang Bai murmured.

"What?"

Baili Mingyue responded, "You... How do you know..."

Before she finished speaking, she heard a sigh from inside the bamboo house, a sigh filled with deep sorrow and disappointment.

"It seems my master did indeed fail in alchemy..."

Upon hearing her master's sigh, Baili Mingyue knew that what Fang Bai said was true because previously, when her master failed in alchemy, he would also sigh similarly.

But this time, the master's sigh was longer and heavier than before, indicating the batch of spirit pills he was refining held extraordinary significance for him.

"Mingyue, you've come?"

At this moment, an aged voice came from inside the bamboo house, carrying a hint of weariness that could not be concealed.

With the appearance of this voice, the formation around the bamboo house was lifted, revealing everything inside and outside the bamboo house clearly to Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai.

Baili Mingyue stepped forward a few paces and crisply said, "Master, it's Mingyue. Mingyue has come to see you!"

The aged voice said, "You silly girl, don't you know the back mountain is a forbidden area of our sect? How could you bring an outsider here?"

Although his words sounded like he was scolding Baili Mingyue, there was no anger in his tone.

Baili Mingyue cheerfully replied, "Master, Fang Bai is not an outsider; he's my man!"

Chapter 1709: If Anyone Refuses, Face Me in Battle!

“Your man?”

Upon hearing Baili Mingyue’s words, the bamboo house fell silent.

After a dozen or so breaths, the elderly voice sounded again: “Mingyue, you’re causing trouble again! When did you have a Martial Dao companion? Why don’t I know about it? Besides... your Primordial Yin Physique remains intact, what kind of Martial Dao companion is that boy to you?”

Baili Mingyue understood what “Primordial Yin Physique” referred to, her face slightly flushed, she glanced at Fang Bai, and said coquettishly towards the bamboo house: “Master, in your understanding, a Martial Dao companion requires male and female Martial Artists to go through integrated cultivation, right? But I don’t think so...”

She paused, then continued, “Fang Bai and I have known each other for a long time, and our hearts and minds are in sync. In my heart, I have long regarded him as my Martial Dao companion. I... Regret nothing in this life.”

Fang Bai stepped forward, took Baili Mingyue’s small hand, and gently squeezed it once.

Baili Mingyue puckered her lips and smiled, making a funny face at him.

The bamboo house fell silent again for a moment, then the elderly voice spoke: “The two of you, come in together!”

Baili Mingyue let out a sigh of relief, grabbed Fang Bai’s hand, and walked shoulder to shoulder with him into the bamboo house.

Inside the bamboo house, there wasn’t much decoration, only an alchemy cauldron, a meditation cushion, and besides that, some Spiritual Medicine and small bottles made with Spirit Stones specifically designed to store Spirit Pills.

The black-robed elder inside the bamboo house knew Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue had entered, but he ignored them, focusing on cleaning the alchemy cauldron in front of him, pouring out some herbal residues and a few Spirit Pills that looked fairly dark.

Fang Bai knew that the black-robed elder in front of him was Baili Mingyue's master, known as Xuanling Venerable, Yun Yi.

"Master!"

"Hmm..."

"This is Fang Bai."

"Oh..."

"Master..."

"If you have something to say, say it. You're not one to dawdle."

"I have something to ask of you..."

"If I can do it, I will help you; if not, it's useless to ask me."

"I want to travel to the Eastern Desolate Continent with Fang Bai to train."

"Hmm?"

Upon hearing Baili Mingyue's words, Yun Yi stopped his movements, turned his head to look at her, and then cast his gaze on Fang Bai.

“You boy... quite peculiar...”

Yun Yi walked up to Fang Bai, surveying him incessantly, sometimes furrowing and sometimes relaxing his brows, shaking his head: “Can’t see through... can’t see through...”

Baili Mingyue curiously asked, “Master, what can’t you see through?”

Yun Yi pointed at Fang Bai and said, “This boy you brought, he appears to only have a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Cultivation, but his vitality is strong, and his Spiritual Energy is abundant. It seems his combat power far surpasses his cultivation level...”

He said to this point, suddenly reaching out, grabbing Fang Bai’s arm, pinching it up and down, and clicking his tongue: “I thought so, it turns out it’s an Innate Fire Spirit Root. But your ability to challenge across levels seems even stronger than Mingyue’s!”

Fang Bai grinned and said, “Senior, you are impressive. Even though I tried to conceal it, you still saw through me.”

Before coming here, Fang Bai was mentally prepared; if Baili Mingyue’s master was a stubborn old man refusing to let Baili Mingyue leave with him, he would subtly bring up matters of past life as Fang Bai did with the Wei Family in Immortal Stone City, to see how Yun Yi would react. If Yun Yi were a descendant from the same lineage, perhaps he wouldn’t obstruct them.

But now it seems, Yun Yi is quite approachable and treats Baili Mingyue well, so perhaps there’s no need to mention past matters and play the friendship card.

Yun Yi stroked his beard with a smile, feeling quite proud, and said: “Of course, no matter how much you conceal, how could it escape this old man’s eyes?”

Baili Mingyue immediately chimed in: “Of course! Master is a formidable Thunder Tribulation expert, five levels deep, extremely powerful!”

Yun Yi rolled his eyes, snorted, and said, “You little Mingyue girl, stop flattering me! Let me tell you, I can’t decide on what you just said!”

Baili Mingyue urgently said, “Master, you are the Supreme Elder and the number one in the Black Tortoise Sect. Who would dare not listen to you?”

Yun Yi shook his head: “You are wrong. Each Sect’s Supreme Elder only steps forward to fight for the Sect when it faces life-and-death peril, and hardly ever intervenes in Sect affairs otherwise.”

Baili Mingyue stepped forward to grab his arm, swaying and acting spoiled: “I don’t care! No matter what, I want to go on a training journey to the Eastern Desolate Continent with Fang Bai. As long as you nod, I’ll go with Fang Bai and see who dares to stop me!”

Yun Yi, shaken into a headache, smiled wryly: “About the journey for training... it’s not impossible. It’s just that you need to convince the Sect Master; only if the Sect Master agrees to let you go can it happen... What does the Sect Master say?”

Baili Mingyue pouted, muttering: “I haven’t spoken to the Sect Master yet! But the Sect Master is a bit old-fashioned, not as easygoing as you. I feel... he won’t easily let me go!”

Yun Yi pointed at her, laughed, and said: “You little girl, reckless! What disciple dares to criticize their own Sect Master! You came to me first, surely want me to stand up for you and pressure the Sect Master, right?”

Baili Mingyue said: “Master is the smartest, guessed it all!”

Yun Yi waved his hand, his eyes focused on Fang Bai’s face, and he said with admiration: “Boy, you are quite skilled! As far as I know, among the tens of thousands of disciples in our Black Tortoise Sect, many are admirers of Mingyue, wishing to form a Martial Dao companionship with her. Unexpectedly, you succeeded first... Aren’t you worried that if this gets out, you’ll anger many?”

Fang Bai chuckled and calmly said: “A Martial Dao companionship still requires mutual affection, otherwise, it benefits neither party. And Mingyue and I knew each other in common society, even then, connected in heart and admired each other. We are the perfect match!”

Yun Yi pondered: "Though that's true, you, an outsider Martial Artist, taking away our Black Tortoise Sect's most outstanding talent ever, I'm afraid many in the Sect will be displeased!"

Fang Bai, with a fiery gaze, boldly said: "If anyone's displeased, then let them fight me!"

Yun Yi's eyebrows rose, he said: "With you saying that, everything will be fine!"

Baili Mingyue, however, felt a touch of worry, lightly pulling Fang Bai's clothes, whispered: "Those Senior Brothers of mine, many are Thunder Tribulation experts. Senior Brother Li, whom we met before, is close to the second level of Thunder Tribulation. You..."

Fang Bai laughed: "Are you worried I can't defeat them?"

Baili Mingyue hesitated: "I know you have the ability to challenge higher levels, but... but Half-Step Thunder Tribulation is quite a gap from true Thunder Tribulation experts! Moreover, fighting could lead to inevitable injuries, in the end, it's not very good..."

Fang Bai patted her shoulder and said: "Have I ever lost along the way? Rest assured, if I wasn't confident, I wouldn't boast at this time!"

He said this, suddenly remembering something, and asked Yun Yi: "Senior, were you just trying to refine a medium Royal Grade Creation Pill?"

Chapter 1710: A New Level of Respect

"I am indeed refining a Royal Grade medium Creation Pill... How did you, young man, know about this?"

The fact that Yun Yi was in seclusion refining pills was known to the senior members of the Black Tortoise Sect, but Yun Yi had not mentioned to anyone which Spirit Pills he was refining.

Even his most favored disciple, Baili Mingyue, had not been told.

Earlier, when Yun Yi was refining pills, he had activated a formation that isolated the bamboo hut inside and out, making it impossible for Fang Bai to spy on it, given his cultivation level.

Therefore, when Fang Bai suddenly mentioned this matter, Yun Yi couldn't help but feel surprised, showing a look of astonishment in his gaze.

"Master, you might not know this, but Fang Bai is also an alchemist, and a very skilled one at that!"

Before Fang Bai could speak, Baili Mingyue had already hastily said.

"I am indeed somewhat involved in the art of alchemy,"

Fang Bai, after Baili Mingyue finished speaking, gave a slight smile and pointed to the dregs Yun Yi had just poured out of the alchemy cauldron and the few ruined Spirit Pills, saying, "The dregs that Senior poured out contain the Five-Color Human-Shaped Herb and some auxiliary herbs for refining the Creation Pill. Even those few ruined Creation Pills have the early form of a Royal Grade Spirit Pill..."

Seeing Yun Yi listening intently, and noticing the admiration in his eyes, he continued, "Considering Senior's cultivation level is already at the fifth level of Tribulation, refining Royal Grade lower-tier Spirit Pills holds little significance for you... Thus, based on the combination of these factors, I deduced that you were refining a Royal Grade medium Creation Pill."

Yun Yi nodded, saying, "Good! Well done! You're not simple, young man! Being able to say these things shows you have some significant knowledge in the way of alchemy!"

Other strong practitioners would feel proud to receive such praise from Yun Yi, but Fang Bai maintained a calm demeanor, as if unperturbed by praise or insult.

Seeing this, Yun Yi appreciated Fang Bai even more. Testing him, he asked, "Then do you know the reason why my Spirit Pill was ruined?"

Fang Bai circled around inside the bamboo hut, finally stopping in front of the alchemy cauldron, touching it and extending his Divine Sense to observe for a moment before speaking, "I think the problem might lie inside this cauldron..."

Yun Yi's heart was moved, and he said, "Oh? Go on."

Fang Bai said, "Senior's innate talent is extraordinary; you should have cultivated both water and wood system cultivation techniques, right?"

Yun Yi, quite surprised, said, "I usually only show water spirit energy to others, deliberately concealing the wood spirit energy, yet you, young man, somehow managed to see it. Just for that, I look at you in a new light!"

Fang Bai smiled calmly, saying, "However, to refine Spirit Pills, both fire spirit energy and wood spirit energy are essential, yet you're lacking in fire spirit energy. Therefore, during alchemy, you need to rely on the fire power generated within this cauldron."

He lightly tapped the alchemy cauldron Yun Yi used, saying, "Although this cauldron is a valuable fire system spiritual artifact, its rank is slightly lacking, causing the fire spirit energy to be insufficiently pure, unable to refine the higher rank Spirit Pills you need..."

He looked directly at Yun Yi, speaking frankly, "Forgive my bluntness, but if you continue to use this cauldron to refine Royal Grade medium Spirit Pills, no matter how many herbs you use, they will all be ruined with no chance of success! Is what I'm saying true?"

Yun Yi wasn't angry but nodded, sighing, "I've been using this cauldron to refine Spirit Pills for decades. I used to have a high success rate with Royal Grade lower-tier Spirit Pills. Recently, however, I've repeatedly failed with Royal Grade medium Spirit Pills. I initially thought it was due to my shortcomings, but only recently did I suspect it might be because of the cauldron..."

He gave Fang Bai an admiring glance, saying with amazement, "Having just arrived, you managed to discern the cause at a glance. In this, I am not as good as you. When Mingyue said you were impressive at alchemy, I was skeptical, but now I believe it quite a bit!"

Baili Mingyue pouted displeasedly, saying, “So Master didn’t believe what I said earlier. Humph, when did Mingyue ever lie?”

Yun Yi laughed heartily, “It’s not that the Master doesn’t trust you, it’s just that this young man is so young!”

Baili Mingyue’s eyes rolled, and she giggled, “Master, can you guess how old Fang Bai is this year?”

At this moment, Fang Bai was in disguise, appearing to be in his forties. His disguise was so skillful, like an antelope hanging its horns, leaving no trace. Baili Mingyue speculated that his Master might not be able to discern it.

When Martial Artists conceal their cultivation techniques, higher-ranked practitioners can usually sense it; however, the art of disguise merely requires shifting the muscles and bones, making it extremely difficult to detect without penetrating insight.

Yun Yi scrutinized Fang Bai for a moment, unable to detect any flaws, stroked his beard, saying, “This young man... is at most fifty.”

“Fifty?”

Upon hearing this, Baili Mingyue couldn’t help but giggle.

Yun Yi glared, saying, “Girl, what are you laughing at? Did I get it wrong?”

Baili Mingyue, laughing, pointed to Fang Bai, saying, “Ask him.”

Seeing Yun Yi’s gaze turn towards him, filled with a querying intent, Fang Bai’s face quickly shifted, reverting to his true appearance, saying, “Senior, this is my true face.”

Seeing Fang Bai so young, Yun Yi was momentarily stunned, then said, "Good lad, you're deeply hidden; I didn't even notice. Hmm, now you truly match well with Mingyue! Previously... your age appeared much older than Mingyue. To tell the truth, I was a bit unsatisfied."

He stepped back a couple of steps, looked at Fang Bai, then at Baili Mingyue, clicking his tongue, "Now that you two are standing together, you're a perfect pair of golden boy and jade girl, delightful to see!"

Baili Mingyue exclaimed with uncontainable joy, "Master, since you've said that, why not just let Fang Bai and I go to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training?"

Yun Yi shook his head vigorously, "No, no! This young man has already agreed to accept challenges from our Black Tortoise Sect's younger disciples! If he wins, naturally no one will stop you two! If he loses, you'll obediently stay on Black Tortoise Island! Of course, he can also stay with you and become my disciple, how about it?"

Upon hearing this, Baili Mingyue was somewhat tempted; for her, as long as she could be with Fang Bai, it didn't matter where they stayed.

Although Fang Bai was only at a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Cultivation now, his true combat strength could rival a third-level Tribulation expert, ensuring he had a significant self-protection ability without needing anyone's protection.

Therefore, while Yun Yi had the intention to accept Fang Bai as his disciple, Fang Bai had no intention of joining his sect.

"May I know why Senior is refining the Royal Grade medium Creation Pill?"

Fang Bai didn't want to dwell on this issue and quickly changed the subject.

Upon hearing Fang Bai raise this, Yun Yi's old face reddened slightly, surprisingly showing some embarrassment.

Baili Mingyue, seeing this, her eyes rolled, seemingly realizing something, giggled, “Could it be, Master, you’re... you’re doing it for Senior Brother Yun Feng?”