

Doctor 1711

Chapter 1711: Cooperation

The “Senior Brother Yun Feng” mentioned by Baili Mingyue is none other than Yun Yi’s son.

Yun Yi has two sons and a daughter. His eldest son, Yun Hun, is a powerful Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Two expert and currently serves as a steward on Black Tortoise Island.

The second daughter, Yun Yan, reached the Thunder Tribulation Realm Level One and then went traveling, having not returned for many years, with her whereabouts currently unknown.

The third son, Yun Feng, has lingered at the Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Realm for many years and is currently an ordinary disciple on Black Tortoise Island.

Yun Yi has put in considerable effort for his youngest son’s cultivation advancement, but despite Yun Yi’s tireless instruction and the use of abundant cultivation resources, Yun Feng has been unable to break through the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

This has caused Yun Yi great distress, and he has recently gone into seclusion, aiming to refine a mid-tier Royal Grade Creation Pill to assist his son’s cultivation.

Unfortunately, while Yun Yi can refine a low-tier Royal Grade Creation Pill, he has been unable to refine a mid-tier one, wasting a lot of rare spiritual medicine in the process.

The recent alchemy failure has left Yun Yi thoroughly disheartened, and he’s even considering taking his son with him to the Eastern Desolate Continent to seek opportunities there for his son.

“Indeed! Everything I’ve done is for that child Yun Feng!”

Hearing Baili Mingyue mention his youngest son, Yun Yi sighed deeply, a look of indescribable loneliness and desolation on his face.

Fang Bai pondered for a moment, then said, “Senior, do not worry. I have an idea that might be worth trying.”

Yun Yi asked, “What idea?”

Fang Bai said, “Senior, you lack Fire Spirit Energy for alchemy, whereas I possess Innate Fire Spirit Root, and my Fire Spirit Energy is sufficiently pure. If we collaborate to refine the spirit pill, I believe the success rate will be much higher.”

Yun Yi’s eyes suddenly lit up, but then dimmed again, as he sighed, “If only your cultivation level were stronger, we might then collaborate...”

He implied that Fang Bai’s cultivation level was too far beneath his own, making it impossible for them to coordinate seamlessly, and how could they then successfully refine the spirit pill?

Fang Bai smiled without saying a word, quietly opening his palm. A finger-sized flame slowly emerged from his palm.

In an instant, the scorching heat surged forth, engulfing the surroundings.

Had Fang Bai not deliberately controlled the fire’s intensity, the bamboo house where Yun Yi resided would have been reduced to ashes, no longer existing.

Fortunately, Baili Mingyue stood at a position behind Fang Bai, shielded from most of the heat by Fang Bai; otherwise, with her current cultivation level, she wouldn’t have withstood it at all.

Even Yun Yi, a Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Five expert, felt a faint burning sensation on his skin, which showed just how formidable the Spirit Fire’s might was.

“This...”

Yun Yi's eyes widened in astonishment as he stared dumbfounded at the flame in Fang Bai's palm, speechless for a long while.

"Senior, with this Spirit Fire, can I cooperate with you?"

Fang Bai asked with a smile.

"Spirit Fire... This is Spirit Fire..."

Yun Yi's face twitched with excitement, his voice trembling, "Before... I'd heard about the existence of Spirit Fire in the world; it was said that wherever Spirit Fire exists, a thousand miles around would be... be scorched, yet I had never witnessed Spirit Fire with my own eyes..."

Feeling the scorching heat waves emanating from the Spirit Fire, amidst his excitement, he couldn't help but thrill.

Previously, his only shortcoming in refining a mid-tier Royal Grade Creation Pill was pure Fire Spirit Energy, and Spirit Fire is the purest fire source in the world. With such a treasure in Fang Bai's hand, the chance of refining the pill successfully would be greatly enhanced.

"Friend Fang, if we can refine the pill successfully through cooperation, I will never forget your kindness!"

Yun Yi clasped his hands toward Fang Bai, bowing.

Previously calling Fang Bai a "boy," Yun Yi now changed it to "friend," recognizing Fang Bai's extraordinary abilities.

From Yun Yi's perspective now, with Fang Bai possessing Innate Fire Spirit Root and the aid of Spirit Fire, he's akin to a tiger with wings, having formidable capabilities for challenges exceeding his level. Though he still cannot compare to Yun Yi, dealing with a Thunder Tribulation Realm Level One expert should be manageable.

Furthermore, as Fang Bai is capable of refining spirit pills himself, it grants him an exalted status and position. Given his youth and limitless potential, Yun Yi feels it's apt to address him as "friend."

In truth, Fang Bai can refine a mid-tier Royal Grade spirit pill by himself, but he brought in Yun Yi to foster a closer relationship, hoping Yun Yi would side with him concerning Baili Mingyue.

Even if Yun Yi, due to sect relationships, doesn't speak for Baili Mingyue, as long as he doesn't obstruct, it will be much easier to resolve.

After all, a Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Five expert exerts immense pressure on Fang Bai, and if Yun Yi can remain neutral, Fang Bai would feel significantly more at ease. He has confidence he can handle any situation, no matter how severe.

With the hope of successfully refining the pill, Yun Yi was invigorated and became much warmer towards Fang Bai, engaging Fang Bai in discussions about alchemy, leaving Baili Mingyue aside.

"Mingyue, this has nothing to do with you for the time being. You should leave first!"

Yun Yi waved his hand and said.

Baili Mingyue, reluctant to leave Fang Bai, muttered, "You're making the pill; can't I stay and watch?"

Yun Yi said, "What we're refining is not an ordinary spirit pill. If someone is here, any disturbance would cause all our efforts to go to waste. Go to the entrance of the back mountain and keep watch, ensure no one comes to disturb us!"

Fang Bai also laughed, saying, "Mingyue, the heat from the Spirit Fire might be unbearable for you. How about waiting outside for a while... Don't worry, it won't take long."

Baili Mingyue said, "How long is 'soon'? If it's ten days or half a month, I would be worrying myself sick outside!"

Yun Yi glared and said, "Ten days or half a month? You wish! Even if Friend Fang and I cooperated seamlessly, it would take at least a month to succeed, wouldn't it?"

Baili Mingyue understood that the higher rank a spirit pill is, the harder it is to refine. Hearing this, though disappointed, she still uttered an "oh" and obediently turned to leave the bamboo house.

"Actually, one or two days should suffice."

Fang Bai smiled as he watched her leave.

Baili Mingyue naturally believed Fang Bai's words and left in high spirits.

Yun Yi didn't actually believe that he and Fang Bai could refine a mid-tier Royal Grade spirit pill in just one or two days, thinking Fang Bai was just comforting Baili Mingyue, so he smiled without comment.

Shortly after Baili Mingyue's departure, Yun Yi reactivated the formations set around the bamboo house, embarking on the alchemic seclusion with Fang Bai once more.

Baili Mingyue stood alone at the back mountain entrance, just steadying herself when she saw Sect Master Hua Guanghan hurrying towards her with a solemn expression.

"Mingyue? What are you doing here?"

Hua Guanghan saw Baili Mingyue and paused, glancing around before asking, "And what about that outsider Martial Artist who was with you?"

Baili Mingyue, being sharp, knew that the "outsider Martial Artist" the Sect Master referred to must be Fang Bai, suspecting that Senior Brother Li Sheng might have already informed the Sect Master about her and Fang Bai.

But what purpose does the Sect Master have for coming to the back mountain at this time? Could it be related to her and Fang Bai?

Chapter 1712: Is He Not Good Enough for You?

Baili Mingyue's mind raced as she pondered the Sect Master's purpose for coming to the back mountain, smiling brightly as she said, "Sect Master, I'm here to visit my master. Oh? What did you say about an outsider Martial Artist?"

Hua Guanghan saw Baili Mingyue playing dumb, both frustrated and amused, and sternly asked, "Mingyue, regarding your matter with that outsider Martial Artist, Li Sheng has already reported it to me. Do not hide anything, speak truthfully to me."

Baili Mingyue frowned, thinking to herself that her guess was correct. That damn Li Sheng indeed reported her matter with Fang Bai to the Sect Master out of jealousy and hatred.

The Sect Master's visit to the back mountain might be to discuss this matter with Master Yun Yi for a solution.

Thinking of this, Baili Mingyue was actually pleased rather than worried.

Currently, Fang Bai is collaborating with her master to refine Spirit Pills, and with this camaraderie, her master would be embarrassed to oppose her and Fang Bai going out for training.

According to Fang Bai's idea, as long as her master can remain neutral, the upcoming matters would be very favorable for them.

"Since the Sect Master already knows about Fang Bai's existence, I will go into detail about the matters between Fang Bai and me so that the Sect Master can understand a bit more..."

Baili Mingyue did not hide anything, concisely recounting how she met Fang Bai in the secular world, accompanying each other in the Minor World, parting in the Three Thousand Great World, and suddenly reuniting now.

When speaking of their reunion, her face showed a blissful and sweet smile, "Fang Bai and I have known each other for a long time, and our feelings are deep and sincere; in this life, I only wish to become Martial Dao partners with him!"

Hua Guanghan initially thought that Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai were just newly acquainted, worried she was being deceived by Fang Bai, only to realize that they were already in love, and seeing her last words being so resolute, his expression became unsettled.

"Sect Master, this time Fang Bai is going to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training, and I wish to accompany him. Please grant your permission."

Baili Mingyue saw Hua Guanghan pondering without speaking, so she gritted her teeth and expressed her thoughts.

In her mind, her master did not oppose her and Fang Bai's departure. If the Sect Master also agreed, then the matter would be more than half successful, and no further opposition would matter.

Hua Guanghan's gaze flickered, not knowing what he was thinking, and suddenly asked, "I heard from Li Sheng that Fang Bai is a mere Loose Cultivator and that his cultivation is only at Half-Step Thunder Tribulation?"

Baili Mingyue heard the Sect Master's tone, implying a belittlement of Fang Bai, and with a sniff, she loudly said, "Though Fang Bai is a Loose Cultivator, he knows Alchemy and Formation; his cultivation may be at Half-Step Thunder Tribulation, but he can fight against a first-level Thunder Tribulation expert!"

Hua Guanghan raised his brows slightly surprised and said, "This person... actually knows Alchemy and Formation? And possesses the ability to challenge across levels?"

Proud of Fang Bai, Baili Mingyue puffed out her chest and said, "Yes! Fang Bai is amazing! Otherwise... otherwise, I would not have taken a liking to him!"

Hua Guanghan said, "Hearing you say so, I actually want to meet him... where is Fang Bai now?"

Baili Mingyue turned her head and pointed in the direction of the bamboo house, saying, "He's with my master!"

Hua Guanghan frowned and asked, "Isn't the Supreme Elder in closed-door Alchemy? How come..."

Baili Mingyue sighed softly, "It seems Master failed in Alchemy... Now Fang Bai is cooperating with the Supreme Elder, hoping that they succeed!"

"Cooperate in Alchemy?"

Hua Guanghan exclaimed in disbelief.

He previously heard from Li Sheng that Fang Bai was only at Half-Step Thunder Tribulation; even if he understood Alchemy techniques, how could he have the qualification to cooperate with their Sect's Supreme Elder in Alchemy?

Seeing Baili Mingyue nod, Hua Guanghan grew even more curious about Fang Bai and was about to head towards the bamboo house on the back mountain.

Baili Mingyue hurriedly said, "The Supreme Elder said that when they are refining pills, they need exceptional quiet, and no outsider can disturb them... I am here as their protector."

Hua Guanghan froze, knowing Baili Mingyue would not dare to deceive him with such matters, so he stopped moving forward.

"Did the Supreme Elder mention when this pill refining would end?"

Hua Guanghan asked.

Baili Mingyue recalled Fang Bai's words and said, "If everything goes smoothly, it should be around one or two days..."

"Only one or two days?"

Hua Guanghan was full of disbelief, thinking that refining Spirit Pills couldn't be so quick, perhaps due to the cooperation between the Supreme Elder and Fang Bai?

"In this case, I will wait here with you."

After finishing his words, he went to an ancient pine tree nearby, sat cross-legged, and closed his eyes to rest.

Baili Mingyue stepped forward cautiously and asked softly, "Sect Master, you haven't answered my earlier question."

Hua Guanghan did not open his eyes, solemnly saying, "Mingyue, before I came here, I already discussed this with the top elders of the sect, you... cannot leave Black Tortoise Island with Fang Bai."

Although Baili Mingyue was mentally prepared for refusal, upon hearing Hua Guanghan's words, she was still agitated, her small face turning red, as she asked, "Why not?"

Hua Guanghan said, "We have always had high hopes for you and invested a lot in your training, hoping you can take on the major responsibilities of the Sect in the future. If you leave, it would be a significant loss to the Sect... do you understand what I'm saying?"

Baili Mingyue lowered her eyes and said, "I understand. But my leaving the Black Tortoise Sect is not to permanently cut ties and ignore the sect. Here, I swear: no matter what happens in the future, I will always remember being a disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect. If the Sect faces any difficulties, I will unhesitatingly come to help."

Hua Guanghan sighed softly and said, "Li Sheng is of good potential, not too old, and deeply devoted to you. Doesn't he deserve you?"

"Senior Brother Li? Ha..."

Baili Mingyue chuckled coldly, unabashedly mocking, shaking her head, "He is not even in the same league as Fang Bai!"

Li Sheng is the top junior disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect. Hua Guanghan has always appreciated him, so hearing Baili Mingyue dismiss him so, he felt a bit disgruntled and said, "It's clear you are determined to leave with Fang Bai. If I forcibly keep you, you'll be displeased. Given that, I have an idea. Would you like to hear it?"

Baili Mingyue said, "Please, Sect Master."

Hua Guanghan said, "When Fang Bai emerges, let him duel with Li Sheng. If he can defeat Li Sheng, things will be easily resolved. If he cannot match Li Sheng, then you should stay, letting him leave alone. How about it?"

This idea by Hua Guanghan had been anticipated by Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai. They believed this was the best possible solution to the problem, and were secretly delighted. She asked, "Sect Master, are you serious?"

Hua Guanghan snorted lightly, "Am I, as the Sect Master, capable of joking? But you'll have to ensure not to hold any resentment if Fang Bai loses."

Chapter 1713: Three Days Later

A Sect Master in the Thunder Tribulation Fourth Stage, and a young disciple who had just advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, reached a verbal agreement at the entrance of the back mountain, awaiting the completion of Fang Bai's alchemy.

For a Martial Artist, two days are nothing but passing smoke, fleeting in an instant.

Two days later, Hua Guanghan and Mingyue, who were sitting cross-legged at the entrance of the back mountain, sensed the commotion from the bamboo house and opened their eyes to look over.

At this time, the formation around the bamboo house, used to isolate the inside from the outside, had disappeared, and the scene inside the bamboo house could be seen clearly.

Fang Bai and Yun Yi walked out of the bamboo house, both with smiles on their faces.

Seeing this, Baili Mingyue was overjoyed, knowing that the joint alchemy effort of the two had succeeded.

“Master’s mood seems good. Hmm, if he’s in a good mood, then I’ll have more hope of leaving with Fang Bai!”

Mingyue thought to herself.

As the Sect Master of the Black Tortoise Sect, Hua Guanghan was a figure standing above tens of thousands, but here at the back mountain he had to lower his stance and respectfully perform disciple ceremonies.

“Supreme Elder. Guanghan pays his respects.”

Hua Guanghan walked to the bamboo house and cupped his hands in salute to Yun Yi.

“No need for formalities! No need!”

Yun Yi waved his hand dismissively, not even looking at him, his gaze fixated on a jade bottle in his hand, a look of delight on his face.

Inside the jade bottle in Yun Yi’s hand were five freshly crafted Royal Grade intermediate Creation Pills.

Initially, Yun Yi’s biggest hope when Fang Bai proposed joint alchemy was to successfully make one or two Royal Grade intermediate Creation Pills, but the result was a full five pills.

Though ten pills would be perfection when crafting a batch, this result far exceeded Yun Yi’s expectations, leaving him ecstatic.

Looking at the jade bottle, Yun Yi thought that with these five Royal Grade intermediate Creation Pills, his youngest son's chance of advancing to the Thunder Tribulation Realm would be greatly enhanced, with almost no hindrance.

Of course, Yun Yi knew that this alchemy success was largely thanks to Fang Bai's Spiritual Fire assistance, hence he felt grateful towards Fang Bai.

After greeting Yun Yi, Hua Guanghan's gaze fell on Fang Bai, scrutinizing him.

"Fang Bai, this is our Black Tortoise Sect's Sect Master. Sect Master, he is the Fang Bai I mentioned."

Baili Mingyue hurriedly introduced Hua Guanghan and Fang Bai to each other.

"Sect Master Hua, I've heard much about you."

Fang Bai smiled politely, neither humble nor arrogant.

Hua Guanghan let out a "Hmm," his expression slightly cold.

No wonder, no matter how outstanding Fang Bai was, he was an outsider. Now this outsider wanted to take away the most promising prodigy among Black Tortoise Sect's juniors; Hua Guanghan was understandably displeased.

"Guanghan, what brings you here?"

Yun Yi put away the jade bottle, coughed lightly, and suddenly asked.

Hua Guanghan sighed and pointed at Mingyue, smiling bitterly: "Isn't it about Mingyue?"

Feigning ignorance, Yun Yi asked, “What about Mingyue?”

Hua Guanghan knew that Baili Mingyue must have already told Yun Yi about it, but upon Yun Yi’s inquiry, he patiently explained: “Mingyue said Fang Bai is her Martial Dao companion. She wants to leave Black Tortoise Island with Fang Bai to go to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training...”

Yun Yi said, “Going to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training? Oh, that’s great! I support it! Our Sect’s young disciples should go out more to see, expanding their experiences and real battle knowledge. Guanghan, what do you think?”

Hua Guanghan said seriously, “If it’s regular training, I would naturally support it. But Mingyue has a Martial Dao companion, once she’s gone, she might find it difficult to return to the Sect... I and the high-level officials of the Sect have discussed and decided not to let her leave temporarily. I think this matter should be brought to the Supreme Elder’s attention, so I came here to inform you.”

Yun Yi was Baili Mingyue’s master, and they often met; therefore, it was impossible to keep such matters from Yun Yi.

If it were another disciple, Hua Guanghan could make the decision himself without needing to consult Yun Yi.

Baili Mingyue’s lips moved slightly, wanting to voice her defense, only to be stopped by Fang Bai’s eye signal.

Yun Yi twirled his beard, smilingly said: “Mingyue has a good eye, choosing a Martial Dao companion who’s pretty good! Young, with impressive strength, knowledgeable in alchemy, skilled in formations, I like him! I think Mingyue is a child who cherishes relationships deeply and has integrity; even if she leaves, she couldn’t possibly disregard the Sect in the future. If forced to stay, it would definitely hurt her feelings, making her feel estranged from the Sect...”

Upon hearing this, Hua Guanghan realized that Yun Yi supported Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai. He hurriedly said, “I thought so too. Therefore, not long ago, I worked out a plan with Mingyue, to determine whether Mingyue stays or leaves, and ensure she won’t have any grievances.”

Yun Yi curiously asked, “What plan?”

Hua Guanghan said: “Let Fang Bai and Li Sheng duel! Li Sheng is a standout among our Sect’s juniors, if Fang Bai can defeat him, then he is worthy of Mingyue! Otherwise... many of the Sect’s disciples would resent Fang Bai taking away Mingyue!”

Yun Yi furrowed his brows, momentarily speechless.

In Yun Yi’s view, Fang Bai, with Innate Spiritual Root, had the ability to challenge higher levels, possessed Strange Fire, and with Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Cultivation, he could battle and win against a Thunder Tribulation First Stage powerhouse.

However, Li Sheng’s strength has almost reached the Thunder Tribulation Second Stage, far surpassing Thunder Tribulation First Stage, so it’s uncertain who would win in their duel.

Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue exchanged a glance, both showing signs of joy.

Fang Bai said: “Since it’s a plan jointly discussed by Mingyue and Sect Master Hua, let’s follow through with it!”

Since Fang Bai agreed, Yun Yi had nothing more to say and said: “Since you’ve made the decision, then go and resolve it yourselves. Remember to inform me when there’s a result.”

After pausing, he added: “Friend Fang, don’t rush off just yet. Let’s sit down and chat, exchange some insights on the Alchemy Dao.”

Fang Bai smiled and said: “I would be honored.”

Hua Guanghan heard the Supreme Elder refer to Fang Bai as “Friend”, and couldn’t help but draw a cold breath, realizing Fang Bai must have an ability that has garnered the Supreme Elder’s admiration, and his gaze towards Fang Bai somewhat changed.

“You two go ahead, don’t disturb my exchange with Friend Fang on the Alchemy Dao! We’ll talk about the duel in three days!”

Yun Yi waved them off, starting to shoo them away.

With no other option, Hua Guanghan and Baili Mingyue left.

With matters weighing on his mind, Hua Guanghan left the back mountain first and returned to the Sect Master Hall, and then summoned Li Sheng.

“...Your duel with Fang Bai will take place in three days. Li Sheng, Mingyue’s future depends entirely on you, do not let me down!”

Upon meeting Li Sheng, Hua Guanghan informed him about the back mountain affair, admonishing him earnestly.

“Rest assured, Sect Master, I will surely defeat Fang Bai and make Junior Sister Mingyue give up!”

Li Sheng had thought he couldn’t keep Baili Mingyue, but unexpectedly, the Sect Master gave him such an opportunity. He thought that with his strength, defeating Fang Bai would be a breeze, and he couldn’t help but feel overjoyed, loudly pledging.

Chapter 1714: The Dao of Alchemy

“That statement is fine to say in front of me, but make sure not to truly act on it. Otherwise, Mingyue will hate you for a lifetime, and the Supreme Elder won’t be pleased either... The Supreme Elder holds Fang Bai in high regard and greatly admires him!”

Hua Guanghan noticed Li Sheng’s seething animosity towards Fang Bai and couldn’t help but smile bitterly.

Upon hearing that the matter involved the Supreme Elder, Li Sheng’s expression slightly changed. He responded with slight hesitation, but his true thoughts remained unknown to others.

“Also, although Fang Bai only possesses Half-Step Thunder Tribulation cultivation, he has the power to challenge opponents above his level. When you face him, you must not underestimate him! Go now!”

Hua Guanghan waved his hand, gesturing for Li Sheng to leave.

Li Sheng bowed and exited the Sect Master Hall, breathing a long sigh of relief upon stepping outside.

“Fang Bai, oh Fang Bai, what does it matter if the Supreme Elder thinks highly of you? Ultimately, you’re just an outsider. If I kill you, the Supreme Elder won’t do anything to me... Junior Sister Mingyue, at most, she’ll be sad for a while. To win Junior Sister Mingyue, you must die!”

Li Sheng’s face was as cold as water, a cruel smile appearing on his lips as he strode away.

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After Baili Mingyue left the bamboo house at the back mountain, she headed directly towards the dock of Black Tortoise Island.

The two sea ships Fang Bai previously traveled on would set sail today, continuing their journey to the Eastern Desolate Continent.

Due to his collaboration with Yun Yi in alchemy and the upcoming duel with Li Sheng, Fang Bai couldn’t travel with the sea ships and stayed temporarily on the island.

Anyway, the Black Tortoise Sect had its own ships, and many disciples traveled to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training each year. Fang Bai planned to join Baili Mingyue and other Black Tortoise Sect disciples heading to the Eastern Desolate Continent after resolving matters here.

For Fang Bai, not traveling with those two sea ships wasn’t necessarily a bad thing.

After all, there were many strong individuals on those sea ships coveting his Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, especially He Polang and Hai Dongsheng, the two Third Tribulation-level experts, who had their eyes on him.

The sea route was long and who could tell if He Polang and Hai Dongsheng would make a move against him on the ship?

Though Fang Bai did not fear the two, any conflict would be a major hassle, and avoiding them was preferable.

At this time, Baili Mingyue was rushing to the dock under Fang Bai's request, to inform Huo Zhenying that he would not be boarding the sea ship, and to give Huo Zhenying a Jade Pendant for protection.

Within the Jade Pendant, Fang Bai infused a murderous intent capable of killing Second Tribulation-level experts.

Although Huo Zhenying was a First Tribulation expert, among the thousands of strong individuals on the sea ship, she wasn't particularly distinguished. As a favor for Shi Xiaolian, Fang Bai gave her a Jade Pendant, greatly enhancing her self-protection capability.

When Baili Mingyue arrived at the dock, thousands of Martial Artists boarding the sea ships were returning from various parts of Black Tortoise Island.

"Excuse me, are you Elder Huo?"

Baili Mingyue, according to Fang Bai's description of Huo Zhenying's appearance, quickly found and intercepted Huo Zhenying among the group of returning Martial Artists, greeting with a friendly smile.

Huo Zhenying, seeing that the other person was a female disciple of the Black Tortoise Sect, whom she did not know, curiously asked, "Who are you?"

Baili Mingyue replied, "I am... a good friend of Fang Bai. At Fang Bai's request, I have come to deliver something to you."

Amid Huo Zhenying's confused gaze, Baili Mingyue took out the Jade Pendant and smiled, saying, "Fang Bai has business to take care of and will be staying on Black Tortoise Island for now! He said the journey to the Eastern Desolate Continent is dangerous and this Jade Pendant can help you protect yourself... With this Jade Pendant, even if you encounter a Second Tribulation expert or sea beasts, you needn't worry."

As she spoke, she handed the Jade Pendant to Huo Zhenying, waved her hand in farewell, and turned away, departing gracefully like a swallow.

Huo Zhenying held the Jade Pendant, watching her retreating figure in a daze.

"This young lady's cultivation level is actually First Tribulation, and she possesses such exquisite beauty and extraordinary temperament. She must be a rare genius like Xiao Lian. Could Fang Bai's decision to stay be related to her?"

After regaining her senses, Huo Zhenying pondered deeply, feeling a bit concerned for Shi Xiaolian's future.

Huo Zhenying knew that a peerless genius like Fang Bai was exceedingly rare, and in the future, he would inevitably be surrounded by many beauties.

Shi Xiaolian, with her pure heart and lack of deceit, would have difficulty competing with girls like the one just now, who appeared clever and mischievous, if Fang Bai's companions were largely like that.

"Alas..."

Huo Zhenying sighed inwardly, aware that she had no way to intervene in such matters, nor could she. Everything depended on Shi Xiaolian's own fate.

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He Polang and Hai Dongsheng coveted Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade. After landing on the island, they followed Fang Bai closely. When Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue entered the Black Tortoise Sect's territory, they each found a hidden spot outside and waited patiently.

Seeing that the sea ships were about to set sail, and unable to wait for Fang Bai to appear, the two resignedly returned to the ships, thinking that since Fang Bai was heading to the Eastern Desolate Continent, they would just wait for him at the port when the ships docked.

On the two sea ships, many other strong individuals shared the same thought as He Polang and Hai Dongsheng.

These strong individuals also feared the Black Tortoise Sect and dared not make a move against Fang Bai on Black Tortoise Island, but once they reached the Eastern Desolate Continent, where the survival of the fittest was taken to the extreme, they would have no reservations.

Certainly staying in the bamboo house at the back mountain on Black Tortoise Island, Fang Bai never expected that by not boarding the sea ship, many people on the ship were still "concerned" about him.

At that moment, Fang Bai was sitting cross-legged with Black Tortoise Sect's Supreme Elder Yun Yi inside the bamboo house, discussing alchemy techniques.

It was more of a case where Fang Bai was imparting his Alchemy Dao to Yun Yi rather than a simple discussion.

During their previous joint alchemy session, Yun Yi became aware that Fang Bai's alchemy skills surpassed his own. As they sat down to talk about alchemy, Yun Yi found that every word from Fang Bai was filled with ingenious alchemical techniques, greatly inspiring him.

Yun Yi believed that Fang Bai must have had a great encounter to possess such exceptional alchemical skills. He felt immense joy and seized the opportunity to ask Fang Bai about the issues he didn't understand about alchemy, and often, a few words of guidance from Fang Bai would illuminate the path before him, leaving him enlightened.

The two spent three full days discussing in the bamboo house. Gaining much from their exchanges, Yun Yi came to regard Fang Bai as a worthy mentor and friend in the field of Alchemy Dao. He himself made significant progress in alchemy.

Three days later, both emerged from the bamboo house with smiles on their faces. Yun Yi accompanied Fang Bai to the Sect Master Hall to meet Hua Guanghan, the Sect Master of Black Tortoise Sect.

Hua Guanghan was quite surprised to see the two walking side by side, thinking to himself that even he, as Sect Master, would have to follow half a step behind the Supreme Elder. What qualities did Fang Bai possess to stand side by side with the Supreme Elder?

Other high-ranking members of the Black Tortoise Sect also felt puzzled by the Supreme Elder's warm attitude toward Fang Bai. They wondered what kind of spell Fang Bai had cast to make the Supreme Elder lower himself so much.

Chapter 1715: Showdown

"Don't look at me with such strange eyes!"

Yun Yi knew Fang Bai was too young, and Hua Guanghan and the others didn't really take him seriously. He said sternly, "Let me tell you, don't underestimate Friend Fang because of his youth. His alchemy technique far surpasses mine. In these three days, I've gained a lot under his guidance."

Upon hearing this, Hua Guanghan and the others were secretly shocked, knowing that the Supreme Elder wouldn't lie, so they put away their disdain for Fang Bai.

Although Fang Bai's cultivation level wasn't impressive, the fact that his alchemy Dao was superior to Yun Yi's was enough to earn the respect of the top figures in the Black Tortoise Sect.

Not long after Fang Bai and Yun Yi arrived at the Sect Master Hall, Baili Mingyue and Li Sheng were also summoned separately.

Upon entering the hall, Baili Mingyue stood with a playful smile beside Fang Bai, whispering softly and not even glancing at Li Sheng.

Li Sheng's face was indifferent, a cold gleam flashing in his eyes, and his fist involuntarily tightened in his sleeve.

"Fang Bai, today is your death day! Don't think you can take Junior Sister Mingyue away from me!"

Li Sheng gritted his teeth, his heart roaring with anger.

"The two of you, duel on the plaza outside the hall!"

Yun Yi looked at Fang Bai and Li Sheng, then glanced at Baili Mingyue, pointing outside, "Regardless of the outcome, I hope you will both honor your bets and not go back on your word!"

Li Sheng clasped his fists and bowed, "I obey the Supreme Elder's command!"

With that, he straightened up, casting a provocative gaze at Fang Bai.

Fang Bai smiled and nodded at Yun Yi, completely ignoring Li Sheng.

Immediately, led by Yun Yi, everyone filed out of the Sect Master Hall and onto the spacious plaza outside.

"In a duel between martial artists, injuries are inevitable, but don't intentionally harm someone's life! Alright, let's begin!"

Yun Yi disliked complications and let Li Sheng and Fang Bai start their duel as soon as he stood on the plaza.

"The Supreme Elder said 'don't intentionally harm someone's life,' so if I accidentally kill Fang Bai during the duel, wouldn't I be off the hook? Hehehe..."

Li Sheng felt he had found a loophole in the Supreme Elder's words, secretly delighted.

He and Fang Bai stepped onto the plaza at the same time, standing ten meters apart, facing each other, their gazes colliding.

Li Sheng's fighting spirit surged, his dense black hair fluttering with the turbulent spiritual energy around him, like a lion preparing to pounce on its prey.

Fang Bai stood there with his hands hanging down, calm and unruffled, looking at Li Sheng with lightly mocking eyes, as if ridiculing Li Sheng's overestimation of himself.

Li Sheng was infuriated by Fang Bai's attitude of completely dismissing him.

He slowly stretched out his right fist, a large amount of water spirit energy rapidly gathering in front of him, then retracting to his fist.

"Go!"

Li Sheng shouted, retracting his right arm and then punching out forcefully.

A water ball the size of a grindstone shot towards Fang Bai like a cannonball.

As the water ball burst forth, a gust of wind carrying moisture swept across the vast plaza.

The gale roared like a high-altitude fierce wind, turning the previously sunny weather dark and obscuring the sunlight almost completely.

"That bastard Li Sheng, he completely ignored what the master just said! This punch was clearly at full strength, intending to kill Fang Bai!"

Baili Mingyue saw Li Sheng holding nothing back and realized he harbored a murderous intent towards Fang Bai.

Although Fang Bai had told her he would easily defeat Li Sheng, seeing the might of Li Sheng's punch, she couldn't help but worry for Fang Bai.

After all, Fang Bai was only at the Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Cultivation level, and facing Li Sheng, who was about to reach the second stage of Tribulation Cultivation, the odds were slim.

Aside from Baili Mingyue and Yun Yi, everyone else present didn't think highly of Fang Bai, believing that even if he was an Innate Spiritual Root with the ability to challenge higher levels, he was too inferior to Li Sheng and would ultimately be defeated after struggling for a while.

In the distance, gathered some Black Tortoise Sect disciples, who were allowed by the Sect Master to watch the duel.

They watched from afar, hoping that Senior Brother Li would defeat Fang Bai so that Junior Sister Baili could stay, giving everyone a chance to win Junior Sister Mingyue's heart.

If Senior Brother Li were defeated, Junior Sister Mingyue would leave Black Tortoise Island with Fang Bai, and they would have no more opportunity.

Moreover, the battle between Li Sheng and Fang Bai was also a matter of pride.

Li Sheng was the top disciple of the young generation in the Black Tortoise Sect, representing its youth. If defeated by the outsider martial artist Fang Bai, it would be a loss not just for him but for the sect's honor.

"Senior Brother Li, make us proud!"

Some Black Tortoise Sect disciples shouted encouragement to Li Sheng before the duel began.

When Li Sheng threw that punch, many Black Tortoise Sect disciples were thrilled, believing he could defeat Fang Bai in one move.

Facing the gigantic water ball with supreme force barreling towards him, Fang Bai's expression remained unchanged and calm.

The fierce wind on the plaza enveloped him, making his garments dance wildly as if about to fly away with the wind.

Li Sheng's punch indeed showcased the might of someone close to the second stage of Tribulation Cultivation, making Fang Bai take notice and realize that the top disciple of Black Tortoise Island was no mere name—a testament to formidable strength.

If it were another first-stage Tribulation Cultivator, they'd find it extremely challenging to handle Li Sheng's strike.

Though Fang Bai was confident he would defeat Li Sheng, he didn't wish to appear too ostentatious.

When the water ball was closing in, it was only then that Fang Bai seemed to just react and begin his counterattack.

He thrust his fists forward, and two bursts of fire spirit energy whooshed, merging together after leaving his fists, meeting the oncoming water ball from Li Sheng.

Boom!

Water and fire clashed; the collision of vastly different energies produced an intense reaction, with a powerful water-fire mixed shockwave rippling across the plaza at an undiscernible speed.

Those on the northern side of the plaza watching the duel were all Black Tortoise Sect higher-ups, at least second-stage Tribulation Cultivators, and the shockwave did not affect them.

But the disciples on the southern side were all first-stage Tribulation Cultivators and couldn't withstand the impact of the shockwave, forcing them to retreat.

Those who retreated slower were swept by the shockwave, tumbling like leaves in the wind before stabilizing awkwardly.

Fang Bai also stepped back.

He feigned taking a slight loss, retreating several steps before 'barely' standing firm, though his face was unchanged, his expression unmoved.

When Li Sheng saw his full-powered strike posed no real threat to Fang Bai, he was secretly astonished, realizing he had underestimated Fang Bai's ability to contend with him.

It seemed what the Sect Master said was true, that although Fang Bai's cultivation was not high, his ability to challenge higher levels was formidable. If he didn't exert all his strength, he might not defeat Fang Bai quickly.

Chapter 1716: The Sect Master Cheats

"Swish!"

The wind whistled, a black light flashed rapidly, and suddenly a black whip, a meter long, appeared in Li Sheng's hand.

The whip was as thick as a child's arm, enveloped in a layer of Water Spirit Qi, releasing the unique aura of a Thunder Tribulation Expert.

"Crack!"

Li Sheng's wrist shook, and the whip made a thunderous snap, then struck toward Fang Bai like a venomous snake preying on a man.

The whip was Li Sheng's personal Spiritual Artifact; though of lower Royal Grade, its power was formidable. It was both hard and soft, extremely tough, and ordinary Spiritual Artifacts couldn't compete with it.

As the whip struck, its length instantly surged, reaching Fang Bai's side in the blink of an eye, and wrapped around, attempting to bind Fang Bai's body.

"A firefly's light!"

A cold smile appeared at the corner of Fang Bai's mouth. His right hand made a grasping motion in the air, and the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade appeared in his hand, swiftly slashing towards the incoming whip.

"Puff!"

After a light sound, Li Sheng felt his hand suddenly lighten. On closer inspection, his whip was cut in half.

What had severed the whip was precisely the blood-colored knife that had suddenly appeared in Fang Bai's hand.

"This... how is this possible?"

Li Sheng's eyes bulged, he gasped, staring incredulously at the half-whip left in his hand.

The other spectators, disciples of Black Tortoise Sect, couldn't help but cry out in shock.

They all knew how formidable Senior Brother Li's whip Spiritual Artifact was, yet none expected that it would be destroyed by Fang Bai's Spiritual Artifact in one encounter.

Senior Brother Li's whip was a lower Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, so the blood blade that destroyed it must be at least a middle Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact.

Middle Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts are hard to come by; among tens of thousands of disciples in Black Tortoise Sect, only four Elders, the Sect Master, and a few Supreme Elders possess such an artifact.

As for other Black Tortoise Sect disciples, possessing a lower Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact is a very rare achievement.

Yet Fang Bai, merely a Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Martial Artist, owned a middle Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, which indeed made the Black Tortoise Sect disciples watching envious and eager.

Even the Supreme Elder Yun Yi and Sect Master Hua Guanghan paid attention when Fang Bai revealed the blood blade Spiritual Artifact, feeling extremely astonished.

Yun Yi and Hua Guanghan, one a Fifth Heavenly Tribulation Expert and the other a Fourth Heavenly Tribulation Expert, have both traveled across three thousand worlds, and their vision far surpasses other Black Tortoise Sect disciples.

In their eyes, the aura exuded by Fang Bai's blood blade surpasses any middle Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, potentially being an upper Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact.

Treasure stirs the heart.

At first sight of the blood blade, a trace of greed arose in Hua Guanghan's heart, thinking that owning the blood blade would greatly enhance his power.

But upon seeing the expression on Supreme Elder Yun Yi's face, he dismissed the thought.

Yun Yi's expression only showed admiration and appreciation for Fang Bai, without a hint of greed. Hua Guanghan was certain that if he expressed any intention to claim Fang Bai's blood blade, Yun Yi would oppose it.

Although Hua Guanghan's mind and capacity weren't as great as Yun Yi's, he always prioritized the sect's interests, and he showed ample respect for Yun Yi, the Supreme Elder, refraining from actions opposed by Yun Yi to prevent internal conflict within the sect.

“With this Spiritual Artifact in hand, Fang Bai can remain undefeated.”

Hua Guanghan sighed softly as he saw Fang Bai wielding the blood blade.

Yun Yi stroked his beard with a smile, but thought to himself: “Besides this extraordinary artifact, Fang Bai has yet to use his Spiritual Fire. Li Sheng will surely be defeated.”

After Fang Bai severed Li Sheng’s whip and while Li Sheng was dazed, he swiftly swung the blood blade again.

“ZZZ!”

A streak of blood-colored blade light, like a fleeting glimpse, sliced through the sky, dragging bright glare, like a reaper’s scythe, rushing to strike Li Sheng.

Wherever the blade light passed, it plowed a deep crack on the square’s hard surface.

Hua Guanghan’s pupils slightly contracted, showing signs of worry.

He worried for Li Sheng.

The power in Fang Bai’s strike clearly exceeded what Li Sheng could endure, and the blade light contained intense Evil Qi that could affect the Martial Artist’s mind. Even if Li Sheng could barely block it, he’d be severely injured.

Hua Guanghan knew this disciple Li Sheng well, proud and self-confident, undefeated before among the younger disciples on Black Tortoise Island.

If Li Sheng was utterly defeated by Fang Bai, it would greatly affect him, potentially disrupting his Martial Dao journey, possibly leading to a complete downfall.

No matter what, Li Sheng was one of the most outstanding younger disciples on Black Tortoise Island, likely to join the Black Tortoise Island's upper ranks in the future. Hua Guanghan hoped he wouldn't decline after this battle.

With a thought, Hua Guanghan's form flickered, appearing in front of Li Sheng, his left palm lightly clapping, dispersing the blade light from Fang Bai's blood blade using a Spirit Qi Big Palm condensed from Water Spirit Qi.

Seeing this, Fang Bai immediately put away the blood blade, ceasing his attack.

"The Sect Master interferes!"

Baili Mingyue grumbled discontentedly as Hua Guanghan intervened in the duel between Fang Bai and Li Sheng.

Yun Yi seemed to understand why Hua Guanghan acted suddenly and chuckled while stroking his beard.

"This duel between you two ends here!"

Hua Guanghan said solemnly and seriously.

In the eyes of many watching Black Tortoise Sect disciples, Fang Bai and Li Sheng's duel only lasted two moves, yet hadn't determined a winner before the Sect Master declared its end, leaving them baffled.

Only a few could perceive the power of Fang Bai's strike, and the spectators, including Li Sheng himself, weren't aware of the danger.

Li Sheng thought Fang Bai only relied on the advantage of the Spiritual Artifact, gaining an edge. If the duel continued, distancing from the blade's keen edge, he believed he could defeat Fang Bai relying on powerful Spiritual Energy as support.

Seeing the Sect Master suddenly intercede between him and Fang Bai, ending the duel, Li Sheng was momentarily stunned.

“Li Sheng, you’re no match for Fang Bai. Stand down!”

Hua Guanghan said casually, gesturing to Li Sheng to leave.

A buzz sounded in Li Sheng’s mind, filled with disbelief; he blurted out: “What? Sect Master, this... this...”

“Do you not trust my words?”

Hua Guanghan rebuked mildly, his face showing displeasure, casting a glance at Li Sheng with a hint of pressure.

“Disciple... wouldn’t dare!”

Li Sheng dared not argue further, lowered his head, and stepped back from the square.

He felt the Sect Master intentionally favored Fang Bai, standing at the edge of the square, his heart filled with resentment.

The crowd of Black Tortoise Sect disciples stirred, all doubting the Sect Master’s words, yet in Black Tortoise Sect, when the Sect Master speaks, no one dares to object.

Chapter 1717: Girl, You Need to Be Reserved!

Hua Guanghan was in a foul mood.

Li Sheng losing this duel meant that Baili Mingyue could follow Fang Bai to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training, which was equivalent to acknowledging their relationship as Martial Dao partners.

The thought of a prized talent from the Sect being taken away by an outsider, possibly never to return, gave Hua Guanghan a feeling of having his treasure stolen, filled with frustration and depression.

“Without the support of the Supreme Elder, no matter how strong Fang Bai is, he would not think of taking Mingyue away! But now... sigh...”

Hua Guanghan glanced at Yun Yi, seeing a smile on his face, seemingly happy for Fang Bai’s victory, which made him feel even worse.

The duel between Fang Bai and Li Sheng was arranged by Hua Guanghan himself. If he were to renege now, wouldn’t that mean losing face as the Sect Master?

Fang Bai won, and Baili Mingyue was delighted beyond measure. She quickly walked to Fang Bai’s side, cheerfully holding onto one of his arms, and said to Hua Guanghan, “Sect Master, Fang Bai has won; you must keep your word!”

Seeing her smiling like a flower, Hua Guanghan felt sorry for Li Sheng and also for the many disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect who admired her. He thought that if a disciple from the younger generation could suppress Fang Bai, it would not have come to this.

With things as they were, he felt a deep sense of helplessness, sighed, and said to Baili Mingyue, “Mingyue, wouldn’t it be better to stay? The position of Sect Master will be yours one day.”

Baili Mingyue shook her head and said, “I have no interest in the position of Sect Master.”

She lightly bit her red lips, her gaze full of love fixed on Fang Bai’s face, happily saying, “I just want to go out into the vast world with Fang Bai. I believe being with Fang Bai will be more beneficial than staying on Black Tortoise Island to cultivate.”

Seeing that she was determined to leave, Hua Guanghan knew she was deeply in love with Fang Bai, and no one could persuade her to change her mind. A profound sense of powerlessness rose in his heart, and he bitterly smiled, “Mingyue, since you came to the Black Tortoise Sect, the whole Sect has been good to you. Do you really have no attachment?”

During her years on Black Tortoise Island, Baili Mingyue spent most of her time cultivating and occasionally conversed with her mentor. If there was any attachment, it was only to Yun Yi.

As soon as Hua Guanghan finished speaking, Baili Mingyue walked up to Yun Yi, hugged his arm, and said coquettishly, "Master, Mingyue will miss you! Why not... come with me? In the future, I will take good care of you!"

Yun Yi chuckled, shook his head, and said with feeling, "Mingyue, it is enough that you have this intention. Your master is old with limited lifespan and just wants to stay on the island, guarding the legacy left by the ancestors. The outside world belongs to you young people. Go explore it!"

At this, his eyes became moist, and he patted Baili Mingyue's shoulder gently, saying warmly, "I know no one in the Black Tortoise Sect wants you to leave, but I don't want to stop you. A hidden dragon must soar to the ninth heaven. In my eyes, you are like a hidden dragon, and only by leaving here can you achieve higher accomplishments."

He then beckoned to Fang Bai, and when Fang Bai approached, he placed Baili Mingyue's hand in Fang Bai's and said earnestly, "Fang Bai, I entrust Mingyue to you. I hope you treat her well. Also, when you have spare time, I hope you both can visit Black Tortoise Island."

Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue exchanged a glance and nodded in unison.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Senior Yun, who said your lifespan is short? You are currently at the fifth level of Heavenly Tribulation; if you continue to cultivate, you might have a chance to ascend to the Immortal Realm."

Yun Yi laughed heartily, "I like hearing that! But what of the fifth level of Heavenly Tribulation? I know my own aptitude; reaching this level of cultivation is already a gift from the heavens. Advancing further is exceedingly difficult."

Fang Bai smiled, "That might not be the case. I have some Martial Arts Techniques obtained from an ancient relic, incredibly profound. In the coming days, let's discuss them together in your bamboo house in the back mountain?"

Although Yun Yi knew Fang Bai was full of mystery, he did not believe that the Martial Arts Techniques Fang Bai obtained could truly help him ascend to the Immortal Realm. But seeing Fang Bai's enthusiasm, he nodded, "Very well. In about a month, our Black Tortoise Sect's ship will also set sail, taking some island disciples to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training. You can travel together and look after each other."

Baili Mingyue originally hoped to spend this month in close company with Fang Bai, sharing their feelings of parting. Unexpectedly, Fang Bai intended to discuss Martial Arts Techniques with her mentor, which made her somewhat unhappy, her lips pouting noticeably.

Fang Bai used Thread Condensation Sound Transmission to tell her something unknown, and after hearing it, her eyes gleamed with a mix of shyness and joy.

The two exchanged flirtatious glances, caught by Li Sheng standing on the edge of the square, who snorted slightly, his gaze filled with sinister and vicious light, secretly thinking, "If I can't have it, no one else should even think about it!"

He left with a gloomy face, ignoring the junior brothers and sisters who approached to talk to him.

The other disciples of the Black Tortoise Sect in the square also dispersed.

Fang Bai, Baili Mingyue, and Yun Yi returned together to the bamboo house in the back mountain, reactivating the Formation around the bamboo house, isolating it from the outside. Then Fang Bai explained the Martial Arts Techniques while Yun Yi and Baili Mingyue listened.

Ten days later, Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue left the bamboo house hand in hand, leaving an excited Yun Yi inside to continue his secluded cultivation.

During these ten days, Fang Bai taught Yun Yi a set of Martial Arts Techniques he created in a past life. These techniques had transcended the Imperial Rank, reaching the Immortal Rank.

These Immortal Rank techniques were extraordinarily profound, each word and phrase contained Great Dao Principles. Although Fang Bai's explanation was clear and thorough, Yun Yi still had limited understanding.

Nevertheless, Fang Bai's teachings opened a new window for Yun Yi. Although he might be limited by his aptitude, unable to make significant breakthroughs in the short term, with persistent cultivation, he was bound to progress greatly in the near future.

As for Baili Mingyue, who listened in over those ten days, she also greatly benefited, completely stabilizing her newly achieved first level of Heavenly Tribulation realm.

With nightfall upon them, the two left the bamboo house. Baili Mingyue held Fang Bai's hand, walking slowly along the coast. The gusty winds and roaring waves crashing ashore did nothing to dampen their mood.

"Fang Bai, you said... you would take me to Black Tortoise Peak... when are we going?"

After walking a while, Baili Mingyue suddenly turned her head, looked up boldly at Fang Bai with a flushed face, and asked.

Fang Bai pinched her rosy cheeks, lightly brushed her straight nose, and laughed, "Girl, you're a lady; be reserved! Such things should be initiated by a man. How can you be so eager?"

Chapter 1718: Do You Like This Bad Guy?

"I'm not a lady! I don't want to be reserved!"

Baili Mingyue grumbled, "That Lu Liyu... and Sister Chenyu, they've already made the first move! If I keep being reserved, won't I be left behind? I don't want that!"

Baili Mingyue was bold and outgoing, loving and hating openly. Once she set her mind on something, she would persistently pursue it.

Seeing that Fang Bai was surrounded by beauties, and knowing she didn't have much advantage in any aspect, she thought that if she acted late, Fang Bai's heart would be claimed by other women, leaving no room for her.

Baili Mingyue knew Fang Bai well, aware that with his character, if they became true Martial Dao companions, he would never let her down, and there would always be a space for her in his heart.

However, in matters of love, it's rare for women to take the initiative. No matter how bold Baili Mingyue was, she was still an inexperienced girl, blushing slightly as she spoke, a rosy hue spreading over her cheeks.

A beauty under the moonlight, the more you look, the more enchanting she becomes.

Baili Mingyue was already charming and lovely, and with her current shy demeanor, she appeared even more enticing.

Fang Bai's heart stirred slightly, and he said with a grin, "Tonight I'll listen to you. Whatever you say, we'll do. How about that?"

Baili Mingyue pointed toward the Black Tortoise Peak summit and said, "I want you... to take me to Black Tortoise Peak right now!"

Fang Bai chuckled softly, lightly flicking Baili Mingyue's delicate chin, and said, "Together we ascend to bliss at the Black Tortoise Peak summit? Alright, tonight I'll risk my life to accompany the little beauty."

Baili Mingyue shot him a sidelong glance, full of allure and indescribably moving.

She lightly punched Fang Bai, then twisted her slender waist and swayed her graceful form, heading directly towards Black Tortoise Peak.

Fang Bai laughed heartily, catching up to Baili Mingyue, wrapping his left arm around her slender waist, and soared into the sky with her, leaving a long arc-shaped afterimage in the air before landing atop Black Tortoise Peak.

The summit of Black Tortoise Peak was deserted. Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue walked to the east side of the summit, settling down on a flat boulder beneath an ancient tree.

"The moon is so beautiful tonight!"

Fang Bai exclaimed with emotion.

Baili Mingyue, thinking about what was about to happen, felt a little shy. She looked down at her feet and murmured, "Aren't I beautiful usually?"

Fang Bai looked up at the night sky, smiling, and said, "I meant the moon in the sky!"

Realizing she'd been oversensitive, Baili Mingyue looked up at the bright moon in the sky, and seeing Fang Bai's teasing grin, she pouted coquettishly, "You rascal! I dislike you!"

Fang Bai pulled her into his arms and whispered softly in her ear, "Just joking! No matter how beautiful the moon in the sky is, how can it compare to the moon in my arms?"

Being praised by her beloved, Baili Mingyue felt endless joy. Her eyes sparkled, and she asked with a soft smile, "Then here's the question. Am I more beautiful, or is your Lu Liyu or Sister Chenyu more beautiful?"

"In my heart, you are all the most beautiful in the world!"

In his past life, Fang Bai had many confidantes and had faced similar questions many times. He answered without thinking, skilled in handling them.

Baili Mingyue rolled her eyes at him, pinched his waist with her fingers, lightly bit her rosy lips, and said, "I knew you would say that! Humph, such a cunning rascal!"

Fang Bai breathed softly into her ear and chuckled, "Then, do you like this rascal?"

The warm breath he exhaled tickled Baili Mingyue's ear, making her feel soft and limp, as if her bones were all removed. She lay in Fang Bai's arms, her eyes filled with charm, and her lips slightly apart, silently inviting Fang Bai.

Fang Bai flicked his fingers, and hundreds of Spirit Stones fell around, quickly setting up a Defensive Array atop the summit to prevent anyone from disturbing them.

The Spirit Stones emitted hundreds of rays of light, weaving into a giant light canopy that covered the entire summit.

At this moment, even if the Supreme Elder Yun Yi of Black Tortoise Island came, he wouldn't be able to break the defensive array or spy on what was happening within.

Having set up the formation, Fang Bai lowered his head to gently kiss Baili Mingyue's lips, soft as flower petals...

Just then, a figure, like a ghost, appeared at the base of Black Tortoise Peak.

That silhouette looked up, gazing at the luminous glow of the Defense Array atop the summit, his eyes flickering with uncertainty.

"Junior Sister Mingyue went to the Black Tortoise Peak summit with that Fang Bai. What are they doing? No, I need to go see, lest Fang Bai takes advantage of Junior Sister Mingyue!"

With that thought, the figure leaped up, reaching the summit in just a few breaths.

However, the summit was enveloped by the large light canopy, leaving him nowhere to land.

Knowing it was a Defensive Array, he tried to attack it, attempting to break the light canopy, but to no avail.

He had heard that Fang Bai knew Alchemy and formation techniques, and knew that this formation was likely set up by Fang Bai, who was now inside with Baili Mingyue. If they were being intimate, others wouldn't know at all...

Thinking of this, his eyes turned red with frustration, furiously attacking the formation with all his might.

Although he attacked madly, the spiritual energy was quickly depleted, and the formation remained unshaken.

"Fang Bai, if you take Junior Sister Mingyue's Primordial Yin Physique, I'll tear you apart alive!"

The figure, veins bulging, gritted his teeth but knew he couldn't break the formation. When his spiritual energy was nearly exhausted, he had to retreat to a hidden spot nearby to wait it out.

That figure was Li Sheng, who had been hiding in the shadows these days, always watching Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue but not daring to get too close for fear of being discovered.

Thinking that up at the summit, Fang Bai might be engaging in intimate acts with his beloved Junior Sister Mingyue, Li Sheng felt both jealousy and hatred, furious to the point of madness.

The entire night passed before the light canopy enveloping the summit disappeared.

Seeing this, Li Sheng was about to rush to the summit to check the situation, when he suddenly noticed dark clouds rapidly gathering over the summit, accompanied by the rumbling sound of thunder.

"This... this is... someone crossing the Thunder Tribulation?"

Li Sheng murmured to himself, realizing something, his gaze complex and his jealousy boiling over.

He thought that since Junior Sister Mingyue had just crossed the Thunder Tribulation not long ago, she couldn't be going through it again. The only possibility was that Fang Bai was preparing to cross his tribulation.

Chapter 1719: Heavenly Tribulation

In Li Sheng's view, Fang Bai was previously at the Half-Step Thunder Tribulation Realm, relying on the power of his spiritual artifact to destroy him, but was judged victorious by the Sect Master. Although Li Sheng was not convinced, he understood that Fang Bai's strength, even if inferior to his own, was not far behind.

However, if Fang Bai succeeded this time in crossing the tribulation and advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, with his spiritual artifact, his combat power might truly surpass his own.

"Heavens open your eyes, let him fail the tribulation and become ashes under the tribulation lightning!"

Li Sheng's eyes gleamed fiercely as he secretly cursed.

At this moment, a figure leaped down from the peak.

The figure was slender and delicate, graceful in posture. With just one glance, Li Sheng recognized his long-admired and coveted Junior Sister Baili Mingyue.

"Junior Sister Mingyue!"

In excitement, Li Sheng rushed out from the shadows, joyfully exclaiming, "Why have you come down?"

Baili Mingyue turned and saw it was him. Her face, originally filled with boundless shame and joy, immediately turned to indescribable disgust. She coldly said, "Why are you here?"

"I..."

Li Sheng hesitated, thinking he couldn't admit he was following her. Otherwise, Junior Sister might never pay him any attention.

“I... I was just about to go to the peak to cultivate, and happened to meet you coming down...”

Li Sheng quickly made up a story.

Using the dim light of One-Line Heaven, his gaze swept over Baili Mingyue’s face, noticing her snowy cheeks blushing, the skin on her neck showing a faint pink hue, her eyebrows and eyes exuding a heart-stirring charm and allure...

Li Sheng, a seasoned player in romance, immediately understood from Baili Mingyue’s expression and demeanor what had transpired. In an instant, his blood surged, almost spewing out a mouthful of blood, thinking, “Protected against everything, only to have been unable to protect against this! Junior Sister Mingyue’s Primordial Yin Physique has been broken, the culprit must be that Fang Bai! Damn it!”

His eyes filled with blood, killing intent emerged, wishing he could rush to the peak and destroy Fang Bai to vent his anger.

“Li Sheng, what are you planning to do?”

Baili Mingyue sensed the intense killing intent from Li Sheng, thinking he was going to harm her, she stepped back, highly vigilant.

Li Sheng gritted his teeth, his features twisted, eyes blood-red, he advanced towards Baili Mingyue, roaring in a hoarse voice, “Why? Why?”

“What... what do you mean by why?”

Li Sheng’s terrifying appearance made Baili Mingyue a bit apprehensive. With his continuous approach, she kept stepping back, her voice trembling.

Though Baili Mingyue had advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, she knew she was not yet Li Sheng’s opponent. If Li Sheng, driven by love to hate, intended to kill her, she would not escape a calamity.

Meanwhile, atop Black Tortoise Peak, Fang Bai was preparing to cross the Thunder Tribulation. He was having a hard time protecting himself, and thus couldn't come to her rescue.

"Black Tortoise Island is suspended at sea. If he kills me, he really has nowhere to escape! Yes, he definitely won't dare to harm me! Definitely won't!"

Thinking this, Baili Mingyue stopped retreating, her gaze became resolute, her beautiful eyes wide open, she stared at Li Sheng.

Li Sheng halted a foot away from her, his ferocious expression turning to one of agony and grief, he loudly exclaimed, "Why give your body to that Fang Bai? Why?"

Baili Mingyue was initially taken aback by his perception, then she "hehe" chuckled.

"Fang Bai is my man. Naturally, my body belongs to him."

Speaking this, Baili Mingyue thought of how she finally became Fang Bai's true martial companion, outdoing many of Fang Bai's beautiful companions, and couldn't help but beam with happiness.

Seeing Baili Mingyue's joyful expression upon mentioning Fang Bai, her radiant appearance, Li Sheng knew she had deeply fallen for Fang Bai, and his jealousy and hatred were overwhelming.

"Junior Sister, you and I have been fellow disciples for years. You know how I've treated you. That Fang Bai is a mere loose cultivator with no sect nor faction. Following him, what future is there compared to staying on Black Tortoise Island? If it really can't work out... don't bother with that Fang Bai anymore, let me accompany you to the Eastern Desolate Continent for training. We can become a pair of admirable martial companions... does this sound good to you?"

Li Sheng took a deep breath, suppressing the grief and hatred in his chest, his expression softened, his tone turned gentle, and he continued, "Though you've given your body to Fang Bai, as long as your heart remains with me, I... I don't mind! This... this will work, won't it? Junior Sister Mingyue, I truly like you so much, I'll go to any lengths for you!"

Li Sheng knew that in this world, Innate Spiritual Roots were extremely rare, even though Baili Mingyue had lost her most precious Primordial Yin Physique, if he paired with her as martial companions, it would still be like guarding an inexhaustible Spirit Stone vein, offering endless benefits for future cultivation.

Baili Mingyue “scoffed” and asked, “Would you truly go to any lengths for me?”

Li Sheng thought Baili Mingyue was swaying by his words, quickly nodding.

“Then should I ask you to die, are you willing?”

Baili Mingyue mockingly looked at him, coldly asking.

Li Sheng froze, realizing Baili Mingyue was teasing him, he angrily retaliated, “Junior Sister Mingyue, I have a true heart for you. Why are you so heartless? If... if you push me too far, then I... I...”

He wanted to threaten Baili Mingyue but was worried that after harsh words were spoken, there would be no chance of reconciliation between them.

Baili Mingyue stated, “What then? Do you dare to kill me? Master certainly won’t let you go!”

Li Sheng gritted his teeth, was about to speak when suddenly the sky within the dark clouds “cracked” and countless Lightning Snakes emerged, converging in mid-air into a wrist-thick lightning bolt, fiercely striking down towards the pinnacle of Black Tortoise Peak.

Baili Mingyue knew Fang Bai was starting to cross the Thunder Tribulation on the peak. Worriedly, she no longer cared about Li Sheng, and darted towards a low mountain several miles away and leaped onto the peak to gaze at Black Tortoise Peak from afar.

Li Sheng followed and upon seeing the lightning within the tribulation clouds repeatedly strike towards a single figure on the peak, he knew that figure was Fang Bai. He muttered to himself, curses unending.

Baili Mingyue heard his curses and angrily said, “Li Sheng, what nonsensical things are you saying?”

Li Sheng “hehe” chuckled, “I’m cursing that Fang Bai to fail the tribulation, turn to ash. Then I’ll reclaim your affection!”

Baili Mingyue looked at Li Sheng as if he were a lunatic, her lovely face as covered in frost, she stated word by word, “You—keep—dreaming!”

“Rumble!”

“Crack!”

...

The sound of thunder and lightning strikes were incessantly heard, shaking the heavens and earth.

Baili Mingyue was startled to observe the lightning bolts from the clouds were growing thicker, even stronger than those experienced by other powerful cultivators during their Thunder Tribulation, several times more powerful.

The movements from Black Tortoise Peak also attracted numerous Black Tortoise Sect disciples, all puzzled on which formidable cultivator was advancing to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, wondering if that person would be able to withstand it.

Chapter 1720: From Now On, You Have to Protect Me!

At the summit of Black Tortoise Peak, Fang Bai sat cross-legged, his demeanor dignified like an old monk in meditation.

Thick bolts of tribulation lightning, resembling giant purple pythons, darted out from the dark clouds above his head, continuously striking his body.

When other experts cross the Thunder Tribulation, they exhaust all their strength to form a defense Qi shield around themselves to withstand the tribulation lightning, avoiding injuries that could be fatal.

However, Fang Bai paid no heed to the tribulation lightning descending from the sky, allowing it to strike him directly.

The clothes he wore and his long, thick black hair had long turned to ash, disappearing without a trace.

Each bolt of tribulation lightning that struck his body would splash flesh and blood.

Before ascending to immortality, a Martial Artist must endure Ninefold Heavy Tribulations.

These Ninefold Heavy Tribulations are divided into major, medium, and minor tribulations.

The first, second, and third layers are called minor tribulations, where the Martial Artist must withstand forty-nine strokes of lightning.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth layers are known as medium tribulations, requiring the Martial Artist to endure sixty-four strokes of lightning.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth layers are referred to as major tribulations, demanding the Martial Artist to endure eighty-one strokes of lightning.

The tribulation Fang Bai was undergoing was just a minor one, specifically the first layer of the minor tribulation.

Nevertheless, the power of the lightning strikes descending from the dark clouds was several times stronger than what ordinary experts face during a minor tribulation, comparable to a medium tribulation.

“Rumble!”

“Crack!”

The thunder was deafening, and lightning illuminated the world.

In the blink of an eye, all forty-nine strokes of tribulation lightning had struck Fang Bai.

Fang Bai did not counter the tribulation with a Spirit Qi Shield but directly bore it with his flesh. After the tribulation, his entire skin turned inside out, with blood continuously oozing, making him look like a blood-soaked figure from afar.

Yet, Fang Bai's face did not show a hint of pain but rather an indescribable excitement.

Fang Bai, being of the Chaos True Body, embodied seven types of Innate Spiritual Roots, including the Innate Thunder Spirit Root.

While lightning struck Fang Bai's body, he madly circulated the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra. The majority of energy contained in each lightning strike transformed into Thunder Lightning Spirit Qi, absorbed by his body, ultimately merging into his Qi Sea.

Therefore, although the lightning's power was terrifying, Fang Bai could fully withstand it without worrying for his life.

Fang Bai chose not to form a protective Qi shield, allowing the lightning to strike his body directly, intending to temper his flesh within the lightning, making his body more robust.

"Crack!"

With the last bolt of tribulation lightning striking Fang Bai, all forty-nine strokes of lightning concluded, and the world returned to tranquility.

The dark clouds dispersed, the sky cleared, and the newly risen sun shone upon the summit of Black Tortoise Peak and Fang Bai.

At this moment, Fang Bai was entirely enveloped in a thick crust of blood, appearing like a bloody cocoon, while faint purple lightning snakes circled him, sizzling.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, the blood crust shattered and scattered in all directions. A vast and majestic aura burst out from Fang Bai and spread fiercely around, sweeping away the rubble and trees on Black Tortoise Peak’s summit like a hurricane.

When the dust settled, Fang Bai, now completely unclad, was suddenly clad in a white robe.

The robe was as white as snow, his skin like jade, his eyes like stars, and a faint brilliance flowed around him.

After advancing through the tribulation, Fang Bai’s entire aura transformed greatly, making him appear like a celestial child descending from the Nine Heavens.

Fang Bai collected his aura, with divine radiance contained within, slowly stood up, and upon first glance, he seemed even more ordinary than before.

“Fang Bai!”

Mingyue Baili traversed the void in a flash, flying from a distant hilltop to the Black Tortoise Peak summit.

Her beautiful eyes widened, unblinking, as she gazed at Fang Bai, captivated and infatuated.

Her heart resonated with Fang Bai’s, feeling a spiritual connection; the changes in Fang Bai couldn’t be hidden from her.

“Finally succeeded! Fang Bai, you are now a Thunder Tribulation Expert!”

Baili Mingyue was elated, joyful for Fang Bai's breakthrough.

Training together with Fang Bai on Black Tortoise Peak was crucial to Fang Bai's advancement, while she, having just advanced, could not progress further for the moment.

Nonetheless, she greatly benefited from their joint cultivation, accumulating a vast amount of pure Water Element Qi inside, laying a solid foundation for her next breakthrough, and her advancement speed will surpass others of the same realm.

In the vast seas of experts across the Three Thousand Great Worlds, only those who have reached the Thunder Tribulation Realm can truly be called "experts."

Experts who have been baptized by lightning tribulations can comprehend the Heaven and Earth Dao, stepping into an entirely new level of cultivation, massively extending their lifespan.

For Fang Bai, advancing to the Thunder Tribulation Realm carried even greater significance.

Many mystical arts he couldn't utilize in his past life could now be executed, and those he could already employ saw their power multiply several times over.

Now, on the Eastern Desolate Continent filled with countless experts, Fang Bai finally had the power to protect himself and his close friends and family.

Experiencing the long-lost surge of strength filling his body, Fang Bai couldn't help but let out a long roar to the sky.

Baili Mingyue twisted her delicate body, diving into his embrace like a returning swallow to the woods, playfully saying, "After advancing through the Thunder Tribulation, are you now a match for my master?"

Fang Bai shook his head, replying, "I'm only at the first layer of Thunder Tribulation, and your master is at the fifth. How could I defeat him?"

Pausing, he then smiled proudly, “However, it won’t be so easy for someone like your master to kill me. Nowadays, the only ones I fear are those who have already crossed the Great Calamity.”

By “Great Calamity,” Fang Bai naturally referred to those experts at the seventh, eighth, or ninth layers of the Thunder Tribulation.

Fang Bai knew that such Great Calamity experts were on the verge of shattering the void and ascending to the Immortal Realm, with profound understanding of the Heaven and Earth Dao. They could shatter mountains with a punch, cleave rivers with a palm, turn clouds with a wave, and bring rain with a flick, wielding terrifying power beyond what he could counter.

In the eyes of those who have experienced the Great Calamity, even a mid-tier Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact is nothing more than a useless stick, posing no threat.

“Master Fang, don’t be modest! Anyway, you’ll have to watch out for me in the future!”

Baili Mingyue laughed softly.

Fang Bai’s successful crossing of the tribulation brought her immense pride, making her happier than her own success.

Li Sheng stood on a distant mountain peak, gazing gloomily at Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue embracing atop Black Tortoise Peak.

When Fang Bai advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm earlier, the energy radiating around intimidated him, preventing him from following Baili Mingyue to face Fang Bai directly.

“Just wait... just wait... here on Black Tortoise Island, I can’t do anything to you, but once on the sea or on the Eastern Desolate Continent, you will meet a fate of no return!”

Li Sheng muttered to himself, clenching his fists tightly.