

Doctor 1771

Chapter 1771: Destruction

This Heaven's Net was cast by Fang Bai, so he was not affected by it at all.

With this advantage, plus the assistance of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, Fang Bai was faintly gaining the upper hand in the battle against Qiu Dechang.

The disciples of the Cangyan Sect watching from the sidelines were worried about being caught in the crossfire, so they did not dare to approach and could only watch from a distance.

Some Cangyan Sect disciples attempted to investigate with their Divine Sense, only to find they couldn't penetrate that Wood Spirit Qi net.

Little did they know, Fang Bai's Wood Spirit Qi was extremely pure, far surpassing the Wood Spirit Qi prevalent in the world, with a rather powerful isolating effect.

The massive Wood Spirit Qi net enveloped Fang Bai and Qiu Dechang within it. The net would occasionally tremble violently, being torn by the shock waves of spiritual energy from their battle, but it would quickly mend itself.

At this moment, an Elder and several Stewards from the Cangyan Sect who stayed back at the Sect had also arrived one after another.

They could sense Qiu Dechang's presence and knew he was temporarily unharmed within that Wood Spirit Qi net, so they did not rush forward to assist.

The elder who stayed behind at the Cangyan Sect was named Zhong Chen, a Thunder Tribulation Level Four expert, highly respected within the sect, with strength second only to the Sect Master, truly under one man, above tens of thousands.

"Do you know who is fighting Steward Qiu?"

Zhong Chen waved over a Mountain Guarding Disciple and asked in a deep voice.

The guard disciple respectfully replied, "Elder, the person fighting Steward Qiu claims to be the master of Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong, here to seek justice from Elder Qiu."

Zhong Chen was puzzled, asking, "Who are Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong?"

Zhong Chen held a high position in the Cangyan Sect and wouldn't bother with minor matters like recruiting menial servant disciples, so he really didn't know who Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong were.

The Mountain Guarding Disciple said, "They were two menial servant disciples recruited by our sect three years ago. Due to their mediocre aptitude and insufficient strength, Elder Qiu sent them to Yuhu Mountain to mine Spirit Stones... Who would have thought they actually had a master..."

Zhong Chen further asked, "What justice are they here to seek?"

"This... the situation is like this..."

The Mountain Guarding Disciple dared not conceal anything and haltingly relayed the conversations he'd overheard between Fang Bai and Qiu Dechang to Zhong Chen word for word.

Upon hearing this, Zhong Chen's expression turned somewhat unpleasant, and he murmured in displeasure, "A dignified Steward, why does he have to be at odds with two fellow sect menial servants? Why must he drive them to death to be satisfied? This Qiu Dechang is truly lawless, outrageous!"

Qiu Dechang's reputation within the Cangyan Sect had always been poor. Zhong Chen had warned him multiple times, yet he turned a deaf ear and acted at will.

The collapse incident at the Sixteenth Mine at the Yuhu Mountain Spirit Stone Veins, Zhong Chen never expected it to be man-made, purely to eliminate two unremarkable mining menial servants.

In that incident, the one who acted was Zong Jinhai, but the instigator behind the scenes was Qiu Dechang.

If they had killed enemies or opponents, it wouldn't have mattered, but to murder fellow sect disciples for no reason violated sect rules, no wonder Zhong Chen was furious.

Now, Zong Jinhai had already lost half his life under a strike from Fang Bai and it seemed he wouldn't survive.

And looking at Qiu Dechang's situation, although he couldn't be defeated in an instant, as time goes on, it's hard to say.

"What is that person's cultivation level?"

Zhong Chen casually asked the Mountain Guarding Disciple.

After asking, he immediately chuckled at himself, thinking that to be able to hold his own against Qiu Dechang or even slightly press Qiu Dechang down, he must at least be a Thunder Tribulation Third Level expert, how could these observing junior disciples have known?

"Elder, that person is of Thunder Tribulation Level One, equivalent to us disciples."

The Mountain Guarding Disciple's expression was somewhat peculiar as he spoke.

Someone younger and with cultivation level equivalent to himself, yet able to challenge the sect's Steward without falling behind... thinking about Fang Bai, the Mountain Guarding Disciple felt a bit ashamed.

"Thunder Tribulation Level One? How... how is that possible?"

Zhong Chen exclaimed.

He had traveled across the Three Thousand Great Worlds and encountered many Martial Dao prodigies, but a Thunder Tribulation Level One rivaling a Thunder Tribulation Level Three and even gaining the upper hand was something he had never seen.

“If the Elder doesn’t believe me, you can ask other disciples, they have all seen it.”

The Mountain Guarding Disciple said hurriedly.

Zhong Chen inquired among several of the sect disciples who had been present before the battle began, all of whom nodded.

Zhong Chen further inquired about the opponent’s age and upon hearing that he seemed only in his twenties, his expression grew grim.

A Thunder Tribulation Level One expert under thirty, able to contend with the sect’s Thunder Tribulation Level Three expert; just what was this kid’s background?

Could he be a prodigy from a top sect out for a trial?

Thinking of this, Zhong Chen couldn’t help but grow anxious.

Though the Cangyan Sect was strong, it was only considered a first-class sect in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, still greatly inferior to those top sects with Great Calamity Period experts of the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

If indeed Qiu Dechang provoked a prodigy from a top sect, it might spell great trouble for the sect.

Just then, with a loud “boom”, the Wood Spirit Qi net quivered violently. A figure flew out from within like a kite with a broken string, falling toward the ground.

Upon seeing that it was Steward Qiu Dechang of their sect, Zhong Chen gasped and immediately flew to catch him.

From the battle's onset to now, it had been merely a hundred breaths, and it seemed Qiu Dechang was already defeated, could it be his opponent was a Thunder Tribulation Level Four expert?

"Steward Qiu, how are you?"

Zhong Chen supported Qiu Dechang's body with one hand, slowly descending, noticing Qiu Dechang trembling, pallid, as if suddenly aged many years, couldn't help but ask.

"My... Qi Sea has been destroyed..."

Qiu Dechang said with a bitter smile, his eyes filled with despair.

With his Qi Sea destroyed, he could no longer absorb and gather nature's spiritual energy for cultivation. It was no longer possible to continue with Martial Dao; though not fatal and he could live as an ordinary person, for the once Thunder Tribulation Level Three Qiu Dechang, it was a fate worse than death.

"You think you can self-detonate if you can't win? No way!"

As Fang Bai spat those words, the Wood Spirit Qi net vanished, leaving Fang Bai hovering in midair, looking down at Zhong Chen and the other Cangyan Sect disciples.

Fang Bai initially intended to capture Qiu Dechang alive and, as he did with Yin Hao, turn him into a living Puppet Corpse.

Unexpectedly, seeing things were unfavorable, Qiu Dechang thought of self-detonating to bring mutual destruction with Fang Bai, so Fang Bai released Yin Hao, a Puppet Corpse he had recently subdued, to launch a sneak attack from behind, destroying Qiu Dechang's Qi Sea before he could self-detonate.

Before the Wood Spirit Qi net disappeared, Fang Bai had collected Yin Hao back into the Five Elements Space Ring; otherwise, if the Cangyan Sect disciples saw their Elder turned into a Puppet Corpse, they'd surely go mad.

Fang Bai wasn't arrogant enough to challenge the entire Cangyan Sect single-handedly.

With Qiu Dechang's Qi Sea destroyed, he was now no different from a dead man.

Zong Jinhai was also not long for this world.

At this point, Fang Bai's mission was complete, and he prepared to fly away from the Cangyan Sect, returning to Red Maple City.

Chapter 1772: If I Want to Leave, No One Can Stop Me!

"Stop!"

Zhong Chen saw Fang Bai about to leave and shouted, leaping to block his path, his voice harsh: "You injured two of my sect members and want to walk away just like that?"

Fang Bai sneered coldly, "What do you intend to do?"

His purpose in coming was to teach a lesson to Qiu Dechang and Zong Jinhai, avenging his disciples, with no intention of clashing with other disciples of the Cangyan Sect.

But if Zhong Chen in front of him obstructed his path, he was more than willing to engage.

Zhong Chen took a deep breath and said solemnly, "Although Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong were at fault, your revenge is overly cruel!"

Fang Bai chuckled lightly, "Cruel? Haha, I am merely paying them back in their own coin! Not killing them on the spot already shows my mercy!"

Zhong Chen shouted in anger, "What you did is no different from killing them!"

Fang Bai shrugged, "What's done is done, so what? Talking more is useless. If you want revenge for them, just bring it on, I'm up for it!"

Zhong Chen's eyes bulged, suppressing the anger in his chest, he said, "I'll capture you first, then wait for the Sect Master to deal with you when he returns!"

Fang Bai severely injured a steward and a direct disciple at the gates of Cangyan Sect, and if he were to escape, it would bring disgrace to Cangyan Sect, turning it into a laughingstock across the entire Three Thousand Great Worlds.

Zhong Chen wanted to strike down Fang Bai, but feared that he might be the favored child of a top-tier sect, so he decided to capture him first and hand him over to the Sect Master upon his return.

He spread his left hand like a claw, grasping the air, as a Spirit Qi Big Palm extended from above, reaching out to capture Fang Bai.

Fang Bai knew that without any auxiliary means, he couldn't directly contend with a powerhouse like Zhong Chen, who was of the fourth realm of the Heavenly Tribulation. So he didn't confront him head-on but instead punched the approaching Spirit Qi Big Palm while simultaneously dodging sideways.

"Boom!"

Fang Bai's Spirit Qi Big Fist collided with Zhong Chen's Spirit Qi Big Palm, causing space to tremble and energy waves to ripple, quickly showing the disparity in strength.

The Spirit Qi Big Fist dissipated and disappeared, while the forward momentum of the Spirit Qi Big Palm was slightly hindered but still reached forward.

However, this leftover force posed no threat to Fang Bai anymore.

Fang Bai merely dodged a few zhang sideways, and the Spirit Qi Big Palm failed to catch him.

Zhong Chen exclaimed “Oh!” his eyes widening, now seeing Fang Bai’s combat power in a new light.

That grab just now used seventy percent of Zhong Chen’s strength. Even a third realm Heavenly Tribulation powerhouse like Qiu Dechang would be hard-pressed to escape his Spirit Qi Big Palm.

Yet, this young man before him easily dodged it, truly a marvel, which explained how he could severely injure their sect steward Qiu Dechang.

“Once again! Let’s see how you defend this time!”

Zhong Chen’s hand clasped forcefully, creating overlapping Spirit Qi hands in the air like eagle claws, reaching towards Fang Bai on the ground.

This time, Zhong Chen held nothing back, going all out to resolve the conflict in one move by capturing Fang Bai.

Seeing the Spirit Qi Big Palms clawing from above, Fang Bai dared not underestimate them and summoned the Soul Loss Bell, which hovered above, enveloping his body beneath its cover.

“Dong!”

“Dong!”

“Dong!”

...

The Spirit Qi Big Palms grabbed at the bell above Fang Bai’s head, their powerful grasp setting off deafening sounds.

The deep and resonant bell toll transformed into sonic waves spreading outwards, leaving the weaker Cangyan Sect disciples standing dumbly, eyes vacant, as if their souls were lost.

If a formidable warrior were to attack at this moment, the Cangyan Sect disciples would be defenseless.

Even a power like Zhong Chen felt a momentary dizziness under the Sonic Wave Strike.

“That bell is strange!”

Zhong Chen was greatly shocked, calming his mind and focusing on the Great Bell hovering above Fang Bai’s head, unable to discern what grade of Spiritual Artifact it was, giving rise to apprehension.

In terms of cultivation level, Zhong Chen surpassed Fang Bai by much, but Fang Bai wielded a formidable Spiritual Artifact, making it not easy for Zhong Chen to capture him.

“Heh!”

Zhong Chen gathered his Spirit Qi, shouting loudly.

His powerful voice overshadowed the bell toll of the Soul Loss Bell, snapping the dazed and lost disciples of the Cangyan Sect back to reality.

“My visit to the Cangyan Sect is only to discipline Qiu Dechang and Zong Jinhai, not to entangle others. However, if you insist on blocking my way, don’t blame me for being ruthless!”

Fang Bai said indifferently to Zhong Chen.

While speaking, he extended his left palm forward, and the Soul Loss Bell instantly shrunk tenfold, resting in his palm.

Though the Soul Loss Bell was reduced in size, the pressure it emitted was still chilling, deterring anyone from approaching.

Zhong Chen was wary of Fang Bai's Spiritual Artifact but not afraid; he sneered, "If I let you leave, what face does my Cangyan Sect have? As powerful as you may be, can you withstand my Cangyan Sect's tens of thousands of disciples?"

Fang Bai laughed, a proud expression on his face: "What of tens of thousands of disciples? If I wish to leave, no one can stop me! Not even you!"

Zhong Chen's Spirit Qi surged, his battle intent rising, as a pair of black cudgels appeared in his hands.

The black cudgels, about three feet long, made of unknown materials, emitted a faint pressure, though only a Royal Grade medium Spirit Artifact.

However, compared to the Soul Loss Bell in Fang Bai's hand, the black cudgels seemed rather paltry.

"Let's see about that!"

Zhong Chen, provoked by Fang Bai, launched the black cudgels, one targeting Fang Bai's head and the other his legs.

Though small, each cudgel weighed thousands of pounds, capable of deadly impact against ordinary masters.

In Zhong Chen's view, Fang Bai, even with the mysterious bell as protection, couldn't safeguard both his head and all parts of his body, leaving his legs vulnerable.

Should one cudgel strike him, it'd be a severe injury.

"Dong!"

“Dang!”

The dull bell tone and metallic clashes sounded simultaneously, accompanied by sparks flying.

As Zhong Chen looked closely, Fang Bai still held the bell with his left hand, which repelled the incoming cudgel with its ringing.

His right hand now wielded a bloody long blade, deflecting the other cudgel.

Thus, Zhong Chen’s cudgel assault proved futile.

“That... that blade...”

Zhong Chen’s eyes widened, staring at the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in Fang Bai’s right hand, his gaze dazed.

He assumed Fang Bai’s Soul Loss Bell to be a superior Royal Grade Spiritual Artifact, one being a significant fortune.

Yet, after Zhong Chen had used his artifact for a full assault, Fang Bai revealed another artifact.

The Blood Blade emitted a potent bloodthirst and intense evil qi, imposing and seemingly not inferior to the bell in grade.

Chapter 1773: Supreme Elder Wu Jingfeng

Fang Bai held the Soul Loss Bell in his left hand, tightly gripped the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his right, and stood arrogantly in mid-air, his cold eyes like lightning.

The strong wind at high altitude whistled past him, causing his clothes to rustle loudly.

At this moment, more and more Cangyan Sect disciples gathered in front of the mountain gate, having received the alarm.

Many Cangyan Sect disciples saw Zhong Chen's twin mace attack on Fang Bai.

In the eyes of those Cangyan Sect disciples, Elder Zhong Chen's strength was the first below the Sect Master. His strongest strike with a spiritual artifact was believed to be impossible to block.

Thousands of Cangyan Sect disciples watched the movement of the twin maces, with some disciples even ready to cheer aloud.

However, none of them expected that Elder Zhong's seemingly unstoppable strike was shockingly deflected by the two spiritual artifacts in Fang Bai's hands.

Seeing Fang Bai suspended in mid-air unharmed, the Cangyan Sect disciples were stunned and speechless.

Only then did Zhong Chen realize he had underestimated Fang Bai's combat power. With those two spiritual artifacts in hand, Fang Bai was already invincible.

If he wanted to leave, it would be really difficult for Zhong Chen to stop him.

Zhong Chen took a deep breath, retracted the twin maces and held them in his hands, shouting, "Direct disciples and core disciples of Cangyan Sect, heed the order: Form the Immortal Sealing Formation!"

As soon as he spoke, nineteen figures shot like lightning, ascended into the sky, forming two levels to encircle Fang Bai, each wielding a spiritual artifact.

"Core disciple Zong Jinhai suffered heavy injuries, the Immortal Sealing Formation is still missing one person! I'll make up for it!"

Zhong Chen joined the formation encircling Fang Bai, filling in the required twenty people for the array.

This Immortal Sealing Formation was composed of ten direct disciples and ten core disciples, with direct disciples on top and core disciples below, blocking both upper and lower directions to make Fang Bai find no escape upward or downward.

Among the disciples forming the Immortal Sealing Formation, Lei Zheng, Luo Xin, and their friend Zhou Peng were also present, but at this moment they were opponents, and Zhou Peng dared not exchange looks with Fang Bai, pretending not to know him.

Fang Bai, in the center of the formation, swept his gaze around and couldn't help but chuckle, saying, "A formation full of flaws, dare to shamelessly call itself an Immortal Sealing Formation?"

In fact, once this Immortal Sealing Formation was activated, its power was astonishing, capable of resisting Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Five experts. However, in the eyes of a formation expert like Fang Bai, it was somewhat elementary.

Seeing Fang Bai belittle the formation formed by them, the nineteen Cangyan Sect disciples were all furious, greatly angered, yet Zhong Chen remained calm.

"The Immortal Sealing Formation is complete! Attack!"

Zhong Chen shouted, and the twenty disciples forming the formation, including himself, transformed their positions unpredictably, and the spiritual artifacts in their hands, moved simultaneously towards Fang Bai.

Among the twenty disciples, excluding Zhong Chen, the other nineteen were experts of Thunder Tribulation Realm Level One and Level Two. Once they formed the formation, each person's combat power doubled.

Twenty different spiritual artifacts attacked Fang Bai from twenty different directions, making the spiritual energy around him almost instantly become dense, nearly solid.

Fang Bai let out a long howl and before the surrounding attacks arrived, shot out at an unbelievable angle, towards a direct disciple of Cangyan Sect in the upper diagonal of the formation, while wielding the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade.

Although Fang Bai saw several flaws in the Immortal Sealing Formation, breaking it required full effort.

Therefore, this slash he executed with all his strength.

That Cangyan Sect disciple saw Fang Bai disregarding others, specifically attacking him, with a blade light exceptionally fierce, beyond his ability to block, was panicked, showing a horrified expression.

The intense evil qi emanating from the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade instantly enveloped the direct disciple, confusing his mind. In his moment of confusion, he was cleaved by the blade light.

Almost all formations in this world are interlinked, and Fang Bai identified the weakest link among them, struck it and shattered it, causing the entire formation to collapse instantly.

Zhong Chen intended to use the formation to trap Fang Bai, exhausting his spiritual energy as much as possible, so that when Fang Bai's spiritual energy was nearly depleted, he wouldn't be able to handle the two powerful spiritual artifacts effectively, allowing Zhong Chen to capture him later.

Yet, Zhong Chen never thought the Immortal Sealing Formation had only just started, and Fang Bai killed a formation disciple with one move, leading to the entire formation's destruction.

Fang Bai's strike embodied steadiness, accuracy, and ruthlessness, catching all Cangyan Sect disciples off guard, rendering them unable to save even those attempted.

This result was unacceptable to Zhong Chen.

The other Cangyan Sect disciples were even more ashen-faced, despairing, looking at Fang Bai with ghostly disbelief.

This Fang Bai not only had formidable combat power rivaling Elder Zhong Chen, but was also proficient in the Array Path. Such a powerful character, who else in Cangyan Sect could stop him?

"Farewell to you all!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily, under the dumbfounded gaze of many Cangyan Sect disciples, maneuvered his spiritual artifact, and soared towards the sky.

As he prepared to escape towards the distant horizon, from the direction of the Cangyan Sect's rear mountain, a stream of light shot forth, arriving in an instant.

"What a strong Martial Artist Aura and pressure, this is a Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Six expert!"

Fang Bai was slightly surprised and realized that the battle before the mountain gate may have alarmed the Supreme Elder of Cangyan Sect. Not daring to linger, he immediately fled towards the distant mountain.

Before coming to Cangyan Sect, Fang Bai had learned about some aspects of Cangyan Sect from Luo Xin and others, knowing that there was a Supreme Elder named Wu Jingfeng overseeing it.

However, it was said that Wu Jingfeng hadn't appeared to the world for sixty years; some said he had perished, others said he was diligently cultivating, preparing to break through the Great Calamity Period of Thunder Tribulation Realm.

A Wu Jingfeng with Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Six cultivation coupled with Zhong Chen at Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Four, if they teamed up to fight, their combat prowess would be formidable.

Fang Bai didn't want to lay the battlefield here, so he accelerated towards the distant mountains.

"That stream of light..."

"It's the Supreme Elder who has emerged!"

"Haha, with the Supreme Elder here, that kid is done for!"

"No matter how fast he runs, he can't escape the pursuit of the Supreme Elder!"

"Before the Supreme Elder went into seclusion, he was already Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Six, and now after decades, even if he hasn't advanced further, his prowess must have improved significantly. Fang Bai couldn't possibly stand a chance against the Supreme Elder!"

...

Thousands of Cangyan Sect disciples looked up at the sky, excitedly watching that stream of light chase after Fang Bai.

Even Zhong Chen couldn't help but clench his fists.

To them, with the Supreme Elder emerging, Fang Bai was bound to die.

Some Cangyan Sect disciples secretly admired Fang Bai, thinking it was an honor to force the Supreme Elder's hand, even though he would die.

Fang Bai flew with all his might, the Cangyan Sect Supreme Elder Wu Jingfeng gave chase with full speed, and even faster.

The distance between them kept closing.

Chapter 1774: Fierce Battle Against a Sixth-Level Heavenly Tribulation Expert

In just a few hundred breaths, Fang Bai and Wu Jingfeng have flown nearly a thousand miles.

Although Wu Jingfeng was gradually closing the distance between himself and Fang Bai, he was increasingly shocked in his heart.

He originally thought that with his cultivation level, he could catch up to Fang Bai within a hundred miles, but after nearly a thousand miles, there is still more than a hundred feet between them.

Wu Jingfeng usually considered himself the foremost below the Great Calamity Period of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, but Fang Bai's presence made him ashamed and utterly embarrassed.

Normal Thunder Tribulation experts can indeed fly hundreds of miles with spiritual artifacts, but within these hundreds of miles, they cannot maintain high speed all the way; they need to slow down, and even land to adjust their breathing.

Wu Jingfeng is a Thunder Tribulation expert of the sixth level, with extremely abundant spiritual energy accumulated in his Qi Sea, allowing him to fly not only quickly but also farther.

Despite this, this nearly thousand-mile high-speed flight still consumed a large amount of his spiritual energy.

Yet when he extended his Divine Sense to investigate Fang Bai ahead, he was shocked to discover Fang Bai's spiritual energy seemed endless, still incredibly abundant.

"Could that kid be born with some special constitution allowing him to directly absorb nature's spiritual energy?"

Thinking this, Wu Jingfeng's gaze toward Fang Bai became eager, like a Hungry Wolf, licking his lips with his tongue.

In his younger years, Wu Jingfeng acquired an evil secret technique during an outing, allowing him to absorb the blood essence of powerful individuals and refine it within the Qi Sea to advance his cultivation.

Usually, those with special constitutions have extraordinary blood essence, which greatly aids in cultivation.

Thinking of this, a sense of hunger arose within Wu Jingfeng, wishing to immediately seize Fang Bai and bite through his throat to drain his blood essence dry.

"Never mind, I will kill him first, and drink his blood while it's still warm—it's the same!"

Wu Jingfeng originally intended to catch up to Fang Bai, capture him alive, and then drink his blood essence dry, which would be best for cultivation.

However, as his spiritual energy consumed more and more, he didn't know when he'd catch up to Fang Bai, so he gritted his teeth, a sharp gleam flashing in his eyes, with murderous intent revealed.

His flight speed suddenly increased by several degrees, instantly closing in to a hundred feet behind Fang Bai, and he fiercely flung out his right hand.

"Whiz!"

A yard-long Silver Flood Dragon Spear, glowing with silver light, shot forward like a flood dragon emerging from the sea, similar to lightning striking, aimed at Fang Bai ahead.

The Silver Flood Dragon Spear was Wu Jingfeng's Royal Grade mid-level spirit artifact, paired with his Thunder Tribulation sixth level power, it could easily pierce through refined iron and Wanshi, with immense power.

Fang Bai sensed the danger from behind, without turning his head, flung the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade backward while swiftly descending toward the mountains below.

He landed on a hilltop, looking up at the sky, watching the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade collide fiercely with the Silver Flood Dragon Spear, emitting a "clang" sound; blood-red and silver light burst forth like brilliant fireworks.

Wu Jingfeng's chest felt constricted, with a painful Sea of Consciousness, knowing that his spirit artifact was damaged, thereby affecting him as well.

He focused and realized the spear tip of the Silver Flood Dragon Spear had snapped during the collision.

Wu Jingfeng was deeply shocked, his gaze fixed on the blood-colored long blade, blurting out: "Such intense Evil Qi!"

Wu Jingfeng, knowledgeable and experienced, took one look at the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and knew it was a Supreme Spirit Weapon, with countless experts having fallen under its blade.

Though he mourned the damage to his personal spirit artifact, seeing Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade excited him anew.

"My Silver Flood Dragon Spear is merely a mid-level Royal Grade spirit artifact, whereas that blood blade is far superior—it should be a superior Royal Grade spirit artifact, right? Heh, if I obtain that blood blade, could my power not increase by a few degrees?"

His eagerness grew, disregarding his Silver Flood Dragon Spear, reaching bare-handed for the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade suspended in mid-air.

Fang Bai beckoned toward the sky, and the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade seemingly sensing, flew into his hand.

Fang Bai gripped the blade, coldly gazing towards the sky.

"Give me the blood blade, and I'll grant you a swift death! Otherwise, you won't be able to live or die!"

Wu Jingfeng's voice thundered as his figure inverted in the sky, his palms pressed down toward Fang Bai below.

When he was still dozens of feet above Fang Bai's head, the pressure of a Thunder Tribulation sixth-level expert and the force from his palms descended upon him.

"Thunder Tribulation sixth-level expert, truly too powerful; with my strength alone, I ultimately cannot withstand him!"

The pressure and palm force both bore down, Fang Bai's thick black hair danced wildly, his clothes fluttered loudly, and even his breathing felt somewhat labored.

With a shout, he forcibly shook off the pressure Wu Jingfeng locked onto him with, propelling himself to another peak.

"Boom!"

"Boom boom boom..."

With a loud crash, Wu Jingfeng's palm force struck the mountaintop where Fang Bai had stood moments ago, causing it to collapse halfway, with large stones rolling into the ravine.

Fang Bai felt a slight chill within, thinking that Wu Jingfeng's combat strength was indeed formidable; though he possessed the ancient and rare Chaos True Body, if he took a blow with just his physical body, he might sustain heavy injuries.

"Let's see where you can run!"

Wu Jingfeng missed his mark, immediately pursuing Fang Bai.

Fang Bai swung his right arm repeatedly, unleashing the three styles of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, each more formidable than the last.

Wu Jingfeng, a connoisseur, noted Fang Bai's three flawless strikes seemed to contain limitless power; it's a pity his opponent's cultivation level was too low to effectively wield them, regrettably.

"If I used this blood blade with these three blade techniques, wouldn't the power be several times greater?"

Wu Jingfeng thought to himself.

His opponent, being of special constitution with rare blood essence and possessing the blood blade and three incredibly powerful blade techniques, Wu Jingfeng felt his opportunity had arrived, increasingly

excited, pointing at Fang Bai and shouting fiercely: "Give me your blade and techniques, and I may spare your life!"

Fang Bai watched him maneuver like a snake, agilely evading his three fierce styles, slightly shocked inside, realizing the vast gap in cultivation level between them, their combat strength incomparable.

"If you want my Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, come and get it!"

Fang Bai, though surprised, showed no fear, swirling several blade flowers with the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, chuckling as he gestured mockingly to Wu Jingfeng.

"You are courting death yourself!"

Wu Jingfeng saw Fang Bai refusing to yield, grew enraged, and with palms as blades, kept slashing, drawing ever closer to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai continually wielded the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, fending off Wu Jingfeng's slashing palm blades, wholly on the defensive.

Wu Jingfeng's palm strength was formidable; though Fang Bai could block with the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, preventing injury, under the force of the slashing palm blades, his stance kept retreating.

In a blink, the distance between Wu Jingfeng and Fang Bai narrowed to less than ten feet; Fang Bai could already see Wu Jingfeng's vicious smile and twisted features.

Chapter 1775: Puppet Corpse Joins the Battle

For Thunder Tribulation experts engaged in combat, being less than ten zhang apart is an extremely dangerous distance, as any misstep could result in falling under the opponent's attack.

Within this range, whether fists or Spiritual Artifacts, they can unleash their greatest power and pose the most threat.

Wu Jingfeng understands this, and so does Fang Bai.

Hence, Wu Jingfeng, who has a crushing advantage in cultivation level, already had a smile on his face when he got within ten zhang of Fang Bai.

He is confident that with just a few more punches, he can severely injure Fang Bai, even if Fang Bai has a powerful Spiritual Artifact for protection, it won't help.

Sometimes, the vast gap in cultivation level cannot be compensated for by a Spiritual Artifact.

"Let's see how many punches you can block!"

Wu Jingfeng roared, unleashing a flurry of punches, each punch carrying a tremendous force of ten thousand jins. At such close range, his punch speed was astonishingly fast.

Fang Bai swung the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, blocking left and right, in a fluster, being continuously knocked back with both man and blade by Wu Jingfeng's punches.

Fortunately, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his hand helped him block most of the force, otherwise he would have long perished under Wu Jingfeng's fists.

"You go die!"

Wu Jingfeng launched another punch, sending both Fang Bai and his blade flying back tens of zhang. His body followed closely like a shadow, palm blades crossing and slashing, enveloping Fang Bai entirely in his offensive.

His fighting spirit was high, thinking that Fang Bai was at his last gasp, capable of still blocking one or two of his palm blades, but unable to block more.

As long as one palm blade struck Fang Bai, he would either be dead or seriously injured.

As expected, just like Wu Jingfeng anticipated, after Fang Bai used the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade to block his two palm blades again, he couldn't block the third one, being knocked back, with the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade that's been gripping tightly also flew out of his hand.

The opportunity has arisen!

Wu Jingfeng's eyes lit up, refusing to give Fang Bai any chance to defend, slashing his fourth palm blade diagonally out.

He firmly believed that if this palm blade hit accurately, Fang Bai would definitely be split into two from left shoulder to right leg.

Although killing Fang Bai like this would waste some vital blood, Wu Jingfeng couldn't think of a better method.

"Swoosh!"

Wu Jingfeng's palm blade cleaved down like lightning, its sharp blade aura causing Fang Bai's skin to faintly sting, even tearing lines in his clothes.

At this moment, a figure suddenly appeared in front of Fang Bai.

That figure merely swung its arm mechanically and easily neutralized Wu Jingfeng's palm blade into nothingness.

"Who is it?"

Wu Jingfeng sensed an aura far stronger than his own suddenly appear, shocking him into retreat, immediately flying back, putting tens of zhang distance between him and Fang Bai.

His gaze fell upon the figure in front of Fang Bai, seeing it was an unfamiliar middle-aged man. Upon closer inspection, he saw the man's eyes were hollow, face expressionless, and void of life, actually a corpse.

However, this corpse stood upright like a normal person, surrounded by a surge of powerful Spiritual Energy.

"Is this a Puppet Corpse?"

Wu Jingfeng couldn't help but gasp out loud.

He had heard of a type of corpse refining secret technique before, one that could control deceased experts to assist in battle. He never expected to see it first-hand today.

"You recognize Puppet Corpses? Ha, you have some insight!"

Fang Bai sneered as he retrieved the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, continuing, "This Puppet Corpse of mine is a Thunder Tribulation expert at the seventh level of the Great Calamity Period, much stronger than you! You struck me with a palm blade, I'll return you the favor, let's see who dies!"

As he spoke, his hands rapidly formed seals in front of his chest, commanding the Puppet Corpse to launch an attack.

The Puppet Corpse unleashed by Fang Bai was Li Fenghou, a Thunder Tribulation expert at the seventh level. With a mere thought from Fang Bai, Li Fenghou, receiving the command, attacked at lightning speed, a palm blade slashing towards Wu Jingfeng.

This palm blade was much stronger than Wu Jingfeng's.

All of Wu Jingfeng's hair stood on end, knowing he couldn't withstand this palm blade, he could only rely on his movement technique to dodge.

Li Fenghou unleashed a series of interconnected palm blades, forcing Wu Jingfeng into a panicked frenzy, retreating constantly without even the ability to parry.

Earlier, it was Wu Jingfeng suppressing and pursuing Fang Bai, but now the situation had completely reversed, with Wu Jingfeng falling back step-by-step.

"Pfft!"

With a soft sound, one of Li Fenghou's palm blades brushed past Wu Jingfeng's left arm, slicing a piece of flesh off and revealing the stark white bones beneath.

Wu Jingfeng, injured, knew that if he persisted any longer, even his life might be lost, so he let out a strange cry, unleashed his body's potential, and fled towards the Cangyan Sect, reaching several dozen miles away in an instant.

His left arm bled profusely, leaving a long trail of blood in the sky as he fled.

Fang Bai watched Wu Jingfeng escape into the distance and finally breathed a long sigh of relief, his body swayed as he sat weakly atop a mountain peak.

Though the Puppet Corpse crafted from Li Fenghou's body was strong enough, controlling it to attack other experts was extremely taxing on his Divine Sense, and couldn't last long.

Fang Bai had unleashed this Puppet Corpse for only a dozen or so breaths, yet his Divine Sense was almost entirely drained.

Fortunately, Fang Bai's goal of deploying Li Fenghou to scare off Wu Jingfeng was achieved.

Wu Jingfeng did not know that if he held out for just a little longer, victory would have been his, and Fang Bai would have been the unlucky one.

"What a close call!"

Fang Bai wiped a layer of cold sweat off his forehead, murmuring to himself.

This time, the reason Fang Bai dared to single-handedly confront the Cangyan Sect was because his greatest reliance was on Li Fenghou, this Puppet Corpse, otherwise, he wouldn't have undertaken such a risky move.

Worried that Wu Jingfeng might return, he found a hidden spot nearby, set up a simple Concealment Formation, and began meditating.

In the battle with Wu Jingfeng, he used up a lot of Spiritual Energy and Divine Sense, but he recovered swiftly, returning to peak condition in less than a couple of hours.

Though he held enmity with the Cangyan Sect, Fang Bai wouldn't go there to resolve this feud for now.

He brandished the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and swiftly flew all the way to Red Maple City.

Before entering the city, Fang Bai summoned Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong from the Five Elements Space Ring, joining them to head to their residence.

Seeing Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong return with Fang Bai, Fang Bai's close family and Baili Mingyue, who had been worried for days, were very pleased, naturally engaging in some small talk.

"What, you've taken over a Spirit Stone vein with tens of millions of Spirit Stones? All Royal Grade Spirit Stones?"

Upon hearing Fang Bai recount his trip to the Cangyan Sect and the unexpected gain from it, Baili Mingyue leaped with excitement.

What does tens of millions of Royal Grade Spirit Stones mean?

With such a Spirit Stone vein, it would be enough to establish a sect and support its disciples for a long time.

"It's a pity that the Spirit Stone vein is not far from the Cangyan Sect. If we want to openly mine it, we'll definitely be harassed and attacked by the Cangyan Sect disciples! Unless..."

Fang Bai said up to this point, deliberately leaving it as a cliffhanger.

"Unless what?"

Baili Mingyue asked.

Fang Bai replied, "Unless we can destroy the Cangyan Sect or completely subdue it!"

Baili Mingyue said boldly, "Then we'll destroy it!"

Fang Bai smiled wryly, "The Cangyan Sect has a Thunder Tribulation expert at the sixth level in charge, and many other Thunder Tribulation experts as well. How do you propose to destroy it?"

Chapter 1776: Fulfilling the Promise

I've heard that the Cangyan Sect is guarded by a sixth-level Thunder Tribulation expert. Baili Mingyue stuck out her tongue and fell silent.

She, too, is a Thunder Tribulation expert and knows how vast the power difference is between each level of the Thunder Tribulation realm.

Although her admiration for Fang Bai is somewhat blind, she knows well enough that asking Fang Bai, a first-level Thunder Tribulation expert, to eradicate a sixth-level Thunder Tribulation expert from the Cangyan Sect is nothing short of a joke.

"We can't do it now, so we'll do it later! We'll just keep this score in mind for now!"

Baili Mingyue said self-assuredly.

Fang Bai smiled, reached out to ruffle Baili Mingyue's hair, and said, "Go to the Martial Artists Trading Market and call Lei Zheng, Luo Xin, and the others over!"

"You're messing up my hair again...Annoying!"

Baili Mingyue tidied her ruffled, sleek black hair and grumbled in dissatisfaction, casually asking, "What do you want them for?"

Before Fang Bai could respond, she realized and said, "I get it. You found Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong based on the information they provided, and now you want to give them the cultivation resources as a bounty, right?"

Fang Bai nodded with a smile, "Smart."

"Great! I'm on it!"

Baili Mingyue was eager to see Lei Zheng, Luo Xin, and the others' excitement after receiving the bounty, so she turned and left excitedly.

Lei Zheng, Luo Xin, Luo Zhong, and Luo Yi had previously returned to Red Maple City with Fang Bai.

After returning to Red Maple City, Fang Bai did not mention the bounty, and the four of them, sensing this, quietly awaited news at their residence.

They believed that with Fang Bai's status, he would certainly fulfill his promise.

Indeed, it wasn't long before Baili Mingyue, on behalf of Fang Bai, arrived to invite them.

“Finding Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong this time is thanks to the information you provided. Here’s a Royal Grade mid-level Spiritual Artifact and ten bottles of Royal Grade mid-level Spiritual Pills. Take them...”

Upon meeting Lei Zheng and the others, Fang Bai smiled and handed the prepared cultivation resources to the four.

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong also expressed their gratitude to Lei Zheng and the others.

They knew that without Lei Zheng and the others passing on their whereabouts to their master, who knows when they could meet their master.

Excitement was immense for Lei Zheng, Luo Xin, and the others upon receiving their bounty.

For these Thunder Tribulation first and second-level experts, possessing a Royal Grade mid-level Spiritual Artifact was a dream come true, akin to adding wings to a tiger.

Previously, Lei Zheng and the others only had Royal Grade lower-level Spiritual Artifacts, and they wanted to commission an Artifact Refiner to create a suitable Royal Grade mid-level Spiritual Artifact to boost their strength. However, due to a lack of crafting materials or being unable to pay the Artifact Refiner, they had to give up.

Now, holding the dream Royal Grade mid-level Spiritual Artifact in their hands, how could they not be thrilled?

And those ten bottles of Royal Grade mid-level Spiritual Pills are extremely precious cultivation resources that will greatly assist them in future breakthroughs and advancements.

“If you can find information on others, you can also let me know, and I’ll double the bounty for you at that time!”

Fang Bai smiled and said to Lei Zheng, Luo Xin, and the others.

“Understood!”

Lei Zheng, Luo Xin, and the others joyfully stashed the obtained cultivation resources in their space rings, saluted Fang Bai with clasped hands, and took their leave.

Fang Bai’s promise of double the bounty motivated them even more, so after returning to their residences and taking a short rest, they started to connect with friends inside and outside Red Maple City, mobilizing their network to try to locate the loved ones and cherished friends on the bounty order released by Fang Bai.

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The news of Fang Bai’s bounty order in Red Maple City quickly spread in all directions, centered around Red Maple City, through the mouths of various experts.

However, the Eastern Desolate Continent is vast, and who knows when this news will spread across the entire three thousand worlds.

Therefore, the news of Fang Bai’s bounty was known to all within a hundred thousand miles around Red Maple City, but beyond that, fewer experts paid attention to it.

After that period, Fang Bai didn’t rush to leave Red Maple City but instead went into closed-door training with his parents, sister, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong.

As Fang Bai reunites with more and more of his friends and beloved ones, they all are too weak in strength, with some even lacking the ability to protect themselves.

In a world where the strong prey on the weak to the extreme, weak martial artists risk falling at any moment if they aren’t careful.

Fang Bai wishes to do all he can to quickly elevate their cultivation levels so they can have some self-protection ability.

Fang Gang and Yang Mei were not suitable for cultivation originally. Although Fang Bai assisted them with Marrow Cleansing, their cultivation progress remained slow due to innate talent limitations.

Fang Bai could do nothing about this and just let it be.

As for Fang Yun, she successfully crossed the Thunder Tribulation with Fang Bai's help and became a Thunder Tribulation expert on par with Baili Mingyue.

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong both possess Innate Spiritual Roots, well-endowed with talent. Unfortunately, they lacked cultivation resources before meeting Fang Bai, causing their cultivation levels to stagnate.

Now, with the abundance of cultivation resources Fang Bai has provided, they've resolved their greatest cultivation obstacles. If they don't shirk their efforts, it won't take long for them to reach the Thunder Tribulation realm.

Fang Bai sincerely wishes to lend them a helping hand and, during their closed-door training, tirelessly explained the Dao of Cultivation to them, even bestowing a wisp of purest spiritual energy into their bodies to aid their success.

One day, over a month later, the experts residing in Red Maple City noticed thunderous sounds in a certain part of the city, with tribulation clouds rolling and powerful energy spreading wide.

Evidently, someone was about to cross the Thunder Tribulation.

The residents of Red Maple City, used to such natural phenomena, weren't surprised, and few paid attention.

Following that, the rumbling thunder and crackling lightning were endless, echoing continuously.

A few people were astonished to discover that two people were crossing the tribulation simultaneously, explaining the larger than usual commotion and phenomenon.

Half two hours later, the thunder subsided, the tribulation clouds dispersed, and the sky returned to clear.

After more than a month's closed-door training, with Fang Bai's tremendous assistance, Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong ascended through an entire great realm, smoothly advancing to become Thunder Tribulation experts.

"Creak!"

The doors of the palace where Fang Bai and others were in closed training suddenly opened from the inside, with those who had been within happily stepping into the courtyard.

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong were the biggest beneficiaries of this training session, and they stood in the courtyard, feeling the unprecedented surge of power within them, overwhelmed with excitement.

"Thank you, Master!"

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong knew that without Master Fang Bai's assistance, it would be unknown how long they would have to wait to reach the Thunder Tribulation realm, so their gratitude was boundless, and they knelt down to give their sincere thanks.

Chapter 1777: Immortal Tablet Secret Realm

Upon learning of Fang Bai's return to Red Maple City, the Fire Cloud Sect's leader, Qin Ming, paid a special visit once more.

Since teaming up with Fang Bai to annihilate the Wind Blade Sect, Qin Ming had been on edge, closely monitoring the movements from the Demon Flame Sect.

What Qin Ming couldn't understand was that although the Demon Flame Sect was the backing of the Wind Blade Sect, they had yet to react since the Wind Blade Sect's destruction, as if they were completely unaware of the matter.

In Qin Ming's view, this seemed unusual. Was the Demon Flame Sect planning a large-scale retaliation?

Later, news from a spy inside the Demon Flame Sect allowed Qin Ming to breathe a sigh of relief, easing his taut nerves.

The Demon Flame Sect was not unaware of the Wind Blade Sect's obliteration; it was just that their higher-ups were currently busy selecting the younger generation of disciples to participate in the upcoming Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, leaving them no time for other matters.

The Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, named after the towering ancient stele within it, is known as one of the greatest cultivation holy lands in the Three Thousand Great Worlds.

It is said that this stele was erected by ancient powerful beings, and the peculiar runes carved on its surface contain the Martial Dao Arcane and Great Dao Principles.

Those fortunate enough to enter the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm would sit cross-legged around the stele, carefully studying the runes on its surface.

The amount that can be comprehended from the runes depends on one's own fate and fortune.

It is said that over the tens of thousands of years since the discovery of the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, many gifted geniuses have been enlightened by the runes on the stele, breaking through barriers and advancing rapidly overnight, becoming noticeable figures of strength.

Although there are other secret realms in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm remains a must-visit for many Thunder Tribulation Experts during their journeys.

The Immortal Tablet Secret Realm seems like an independent minor world, inaccessible most of the time, and only opens once every five years.

Each time before and after the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm opens, countless Thunder Tribulation Experts from all over the Three Thousand Great Worlds gather, ready to test their skills and try their luck.

However, not all Thunder Tribulation Experts are eligible to enter the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

For tens of thousands of years, the experts of the Three Thousand Great Worlds have concluded two essential conditions for entering the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm: one must not be over thirty years old; the other is that their cultivation level must not be below the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

Only those Thunder Tribulation Experts who meet both conditions have the chance to enter the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm; otherwise, no matter how powerful, they will be denied entry.

It is precisely because of these two conditions that many Thunder Tribulation Experts are excluded and unable to enter the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm for enlightenment and cultivation.

Now, with the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm about to open, the major sects across the Three Thousand Great Worlds have begun to stir, selecting elite disciples to venture into the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

The high-ranking members of the Demon Flame Sect also took this matter very seriously, conducting an initial selection within the sect, ultimately choosing ten outstanding disciples to represent the Demon Flame Sect in the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

When this news reached the Fire Cloud Sect, the Demon Flame Sect's Sect Master Suiyi had already left with the ten young disciples, heading towards the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

Upon learning about the Wind Blade Sect's annihilation by the Fire Cloud Sect, how to deal with the matter sparked controversy among the Demon Flame Sect's high-ranking members, who ultimately decided to put it aside until the Sect Master's return to decide further.

For the time being, this relieved the pressure on the Fire Cloud Sect.

"The Immortal Tablet Secret Realm..."

Fang Bai murmured, repeating these four words while his facial expressions became colorful.

“Elder Fang, what’s wrong?”

Seeing Fang Bai’s peculiar expression upon mentioning the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, Qin Ming couldn’t help but ask.

“Oh, it’s nothing...”

Fang Bai waved his hand with a smile, casually asking, “With the secret realm opening and such a rare opportunity, I assume your Fire Cloud Sect will also send some disciples to join the event?”

Qin Ming nodded, smiling wryly, “To be honest, it’s embarrassing. Our Fire Cloud Sect doesn’t have many young disciples with outstanding aptitude. Among those under thirty, only five are Thunder Tribulation Experts. We’re far behind the Demon Flame Sect.”

The Fire Cloud Sect does have a number of Thunder Tribulation Experts, but besides those five, all are over thirty, not meeting the criteria for the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

Qin Ming felt helpless about this and just hoped that those five disciples would gain significant fortune in the upcoming Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, bringing unexpected surprises to the Fire Cloud Sect.

“When are you set to leave for the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm? I think I’ll take Mingyue and the others there as well.”

Fang Bai thought for a moment and told Qin Ming.

Baili Mingyue, Fang Yun, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong were all under thirty, and their cultivation had reached the first level of Thunder Tribulation. With the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm opening soon, Fang Bai planned to take them for experience, which would greatly benefit their cultivation.

With Fang Bai accompanying them, Qin Ming was naturally delighted and promptly said, “We’ll set out in ten days; by then, I’ll personally lead the team!”

Fang Bai said, "Alright, it's settled then! We'll depart in ten days!"

The two agreed on the specific time, and Qin Ming then took his leave.

After Qin Ming left, Fang Bai told Baili Mingyue and the others about the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, and all of them were thrilled.

Fang Yun asked, "Little brother, is it true that the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm was left by ancient immortals?"

Fang Bai replied, "Well... that's how the legends go. Anyway, it's not a bad thing for us to go and take a look!"

Baili Mingyue said, "Fang Bai, do you think the runes on the stele might be some kind of immortality technique? If we're fortunate enough to comprehend them, could we possibly break through the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations and ascend to become immortals?"

Seeing that she was only at the first level of Thunder Tribulation, Fang Bai laughed, "Haha, Mingyue, you're overthinking! The path to immortality is a long journey; you still have a long way to go!"

Baili Mingyue chuckled, "One should always have dreams; otherwise, what's the difference with a salted fish? Ah, how I'd love to become a fairy, that way I could live forever and remain beautiful."

Fang Yun smiled softly and took Baili Mingyue's hand, teasing, "Aren't you a beauty already? Otherwise, how could you mesmerize my little brother?"

Baili Mingyue laughed and teased back, "Sister Yun, only the vixen can truly mesmerize someone! Speaking of which, Linghu Baimi does resemble one, with her alluring eyes and charming demeanor..."

Fang Yun laughed, "Would you dare say that to Baimi's face when you meet her in the future?"

Baili Mingyue pouted, "Why wouldn't I dare? I'm not afraid of her! Fang Bai says she's not a Thunder Tribulation Expert yet, but I already am."

Fang Yun laughed, "Then the next time you see Baimi, you can flaunt it in front of her!"

Baili Mingyue proudly said, "Yes! I love seeing Linghu Baimi angry but helpless!"

Chapter 1778: Not to Be Let Down

Fang Bai's confidantes in the secular world and the Minor World all have different temperaments. Although they won't openly clash due to Fang Bai's presence, there's an unspoken rivalry among them; none wants to lose to another.

Among the women, Baili Mingyue is the outspoken type. In the Minor World, she often butted heads with Linghu Baimi, engaging in frequent verbal sparring like sworn enemies, leaving Fang Bai feeling rather helpless.

One can imagine that if the two were to meet again in the future, there would be no shortage of chatter and bickering.

But on second thought, the martial artist's journey in cultivation is dull and boring. Having women with different temperaments occasionally bickering, teasing, and being playful adds some fun to life, which isn't bad.

"You all should get ready first. Ten days later, we'll set out together for the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm."

Fang Bai said to Fang Yun and the others.

At this moment, Fang Gang and Yang Mei exchanged a glance, then nodded silently, seemingly having decided something.

Fang Gang cleared his throat and said solemnly to Fang Bai, "Fang Bai, your mother and I will not be going to the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm."

Seeing Fang Bai about to speak, he gestured to stop him and continued, "We have thought it over. With our aptitude, reaching our current state and possessing hundreds of years of lifespan is already beyond what we could dream of. But trying to advance further would be harder than ascending to the heavens."

Yang Mei added, "So we decided to stay here in Red Maple City for now. Whenever you think about going back to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, you can take us with you. I'd also like to see Chenyu, Qian Jiao, Baimei... oh, and there's another girl, what's her name again?"

Fang Yun interjected, "Lu Liyu."

Yang Mei said, "Right! Lu Liyu! She's the martial dao companion you met in the Three Thousand World! The Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace that you established should be your family estate, right? You train away from home, yet that girl is guarding your estate loyally! Fang Bai, you mustn't let her down!"

Today's Yang Mei is no longer a traditional woman of the secular world. Although many beauties surround her son, she doesn't worry at all but instead feels happy for him.

In Yang Mei's eyes, her son is not only handsome but also powerful, with a martial dao future that's limitless. Naturally, he attracts the admiration of many women in the world.

Nowadays, having multiple martial dao companions around him is perfectly normal in Yang Mei's view.

When Fang Bai heard his mother mention Lu Liyu, he couldn't help but picture her lovely face that was perfect for teasing or smiling. He said cheerfully to Fang Gang and Yang Mei, "I have mentioned both of you to Liyu, and she really wants to meet you."

Yang Mei, grinning from ear to ear, said, "Great! Great! We'll wait for that day."

Fang Bai then put on a serious face and asked, "Father, Mother, you truly don't plan to accompany us?"

Fang Gang nodded firmly, "Our strength is too feeble. Accompanying you may only become a burden if we encounter danger. Actually, both your mother and I really like this Red Maple City. Beyond cultivation, we can stroll around the city and make martial dao friends. Occasionally, we might even visit Zheng Family Village."

Yang Mei added, "Don't worry about safety. You are an Honorary Elder of Fire Cloud Sect, so no one will dare harm us. Besides, you've given us several Jade Pendants for protection!"

Initially, Fang Bai wanted to have his parents enter his Five Elements Space Ring and travel with him. But he realized that besides going to the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, he also needed to search for the Dongfang Sisters or other friends and family in the Eastern Desolate Continent.

In the meantime, he couldn't predict the dangers and challenges he might face. Should anything happen, having his parents stay inside the Five Elements Space Ring might trap them with no escape, inadvertently causing them harm.

Rather than that, it was better to fulfill their wishes and let them stay here for now.

Still, to ensure absolute safety, Fang Bai visited Fire Cloud Sect and found Qin Ming, asking him to take extra care of his parents after he left Red Maple City.

Qin Ming immediately agreed and instructed the upper echelon of the sect to heighten the security around the residence of Fang Gang and Yang Mei.

Meanwhile, Fang Bai summoned the familiar Lei Zheng and Luo Xin, spending several days guiding them to help each advance in cultivation, and had them live in the same courtyard as his parents, essentially acting as bodyguards to "watch the house" for his parents.

Lei Zheng and Luo Xin before were Thunder Tribulation Stage 1 and Thunder Tribulation Stage 2 experts. After Fang Bai's guidance, they quickly ascended to Thunder Tribulation Stage 2 and Stage 3 realms within just a few days, which left them ecstatic.

These four were not only extremely grateful to Fang Bai but admired him greatly, viewing him as a master and feeling honored to protect Fang Bai's home and family.

Once everything was arranged, on the tenth day, Fang Bai led Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong out of the city, joining Qin Ming accompanied by five young disciples from Fire Cloud Sect, setting off for the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

The group of eleven each piloted their Spiritual Artifacts, flying in formation in two lines.

The Immortal Tablet Secret Realm lies near the core of the Eastern Desolate Continent, tens of thousands of miles away from Red Maple City. Fang Bai and Qin Ming calculated that if all went smoothly, they could arrive within a month.

The eleven transformed into glimmering streaks in the high skies, swiftly flying over hundreds of mountain ranges, thousands of rivers, countless forests, and boundless deserts...

On this day, as the eleven were about ten thousand miles away from the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, they noticed that the strength of people they encountered along the way was gradually increasing.

These strong individuals, just like them, were traveling in groups, hurriedly making their way—all heading towards the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, as was obvious.

Among Fang Bai's group, apart from Fire Cloud Sect's Sect Leader Qin Ming being a Thunder Tribulation Stage 4 expert, the remaining ten appeared to outsiders as Thunder Tribulation Stage 1 experts.

Such a lineup, amidst the teams journeying to the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, was considered relatively weak.

Fang Bai noticed numerous teams along the way led by Thunder Tribulation Stage 5 and Stage 6 experts, followed by many Thunder Tribulation Realm disciples.

A certain sect that was bound for the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm had a shocking number of over a hundred Thunder Tribulation experts.

Over a hundred Thunder Tribulation experts flew with a roaring momentum, sweeping Spiritual Energy, majestic and impressive.

Seeing such grand lineups of other sects, then looking at their own simple lineup, the five disciples of Fire Cloud Sect couldn't help but feel a bit demoralized.

In contrast, Fang Bai's companions, Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, were looking around curiously, unable to hide their excitement and thrill.

Suddenly, as they were flying, Qin Ming's speed slowed down, his gaze falling upon a team a few miles ahead, his face turning somewhat grim.

"Is it the Demon Flame Sect's people?"

Fang Bai followed Qin Ming's gaze and saw that ahead, the group of more than ten disciples had garments embroidered with dark blue flames on the chest—recognizing them as members of the Demon Flame Sect.

Chapter 1779: Sect Master of the Demon Flame Sect

Since joining forces with Fang Bai to destroy the Wind Blade Sect, the person Qin Ming least wants to see is the Sect Master of the Demon Flame Sect, Suiyi.

Not to mention that the overall strength of the Demon Flame Sect far surpasses that of the Fire Cloud Sect, just Suiyi's strength alone exceeds him by one realm, reaching the fifth stage of the Heavenly Tribulation.

It is no exaggeration to say that if the Demon Flame Sect decides to stand up for the Wind Blade Sect and heavily punish the Fire Cloud Sect, then the Fire Cloud Sect would face a disaster.

Of course, the Fire Cloud Sect, having been established for thousands of years, has a deep foundation and could still inflict considerable losses on the Demon Flame Sect if they put up a desperate fight.

What Qin Ming is betting on now is that the destruction of the Wind Blade Sect is already an established fact, and the Demon Flame Sect, considering its own interests, will not want to punish the Fire Cloud Sect in a way that harms themselves as well.

Moreover, Qin Ming has already sent an envoy to the Demon Flame Sect, offering a substantial amount of cultivation resources, and declaring they would “bow and submit” to the Demon Flame Sect just like the Wind Blade Sect, hoping to pass through this calamity safely.

However, there has been no response from the Demon Flame Sect, leaving Qin Ming uneasy, unsure of how they plan to handle this matter.

The Wind Blade Sect has long been under the protection of the Demon Flame Sect, but now has been wiped out by the Fire Cloud Sect, which is equivalent to slapping the Demon Flame Sect. It’s no wonder that Suiyi, as the Sect Master of the Demon Flame Sect, would be furious.

Therefore, Qin Ming doesn’t want to see Suiyi, at least not now, to avoid embarrassment.

But sometimes, the more you fear something, the more likely it is to happen.

“Sect Master Qin, long time no see!”

Suiyi, flying ahead, who had met Qin Ming a few times, paused upon sensing Qin Ming’s aura, turned back and looked towards Qin Ming and his group from a distance of several miles.

Although he had a smile on his face, Qin Ming could sense a hint of coldness in his smile.

Qin Ming sighed inwardly, steeled himself, flew forward, bowed to Suiyi with clasped fists, and awkwardly said, “Sect Master Sui, how are you.”

“I am not well!”

Suiyi's smile abruptly vanished, he looked coldly at Qin Ming, a trace of killing intent flashing through his eyes, and said with a grim face, "Sect Master Qin, was the destruction of the Wind Blade Sect your Fire Cloud Sect's doing?"

Qin Ming's expression stiffened, stammeringly said, "Uh... about this... there is an explanation, Sect Master Sui, please let me explain..."

Suiyi sternly said, "I don't want to hear explanations! I just want to know, was it your doing!"

"So what if it was?"

Seeing Suiyi speaking to him in a condescending tone, filled with disdain and contempt, Qin Ming's inherent stubbornness was provoked.

"In the vast world, every year many sects rise, and many sects fall. This is the natural law of survival of the strong and elimination of the weak! It is only right that my Fire Cloud Sect destroyed the Wind Blade Sect, what is wrong with that?"

Qin Ming declared passionately.

Suiyi sneered, "The overall strength of the Fire Cloud Sect and the Wind Blade Sect is almost equal, how could you have destroyed the Wind Blade Sect without external assistance?"

As he spoke, he turned his gaze to Fang Bai beside Qin Ming, with a look of slight astonishment, said, "I heard from a few fleeing disciples of the Wind Blade Sect that it was you, this young one, who joined forces with the Fire Cloud Sect to destroy their sect?"

Fang Bai grinned and said, "That's right!"

Suiyi clicked his tongue and said, "A mere first stage Heavenly Tribulation cultivator, yet able to gain the favor of the Fire Cloud Sect and be qualified to join forces with them. It seems you have some means, young one!"

While speaking, he carefully scrutinized Fang Bai, discovering that although Fang Bai was only at the first stage of Heavenly Tribulation, there was an indescribable, unique aura about him, guessing that this person might have trained in some special martial arts techniques, or knows some powerful secret techniques.

Fang Bai smiled, bowed to Qin Ming with clasped fists, and said, "Thanks to Sect Master Qin's high regard, I only lent a little help in the battle to destroy the Wind Blade Sect, exerting a modest effort."

Qin Ming hurriedly said, "Brother Fang is being modest."

Suiyi snorted, raised a finger at Qin Ming, and said loudly, "Sect Master Qin, do you know that the Wind Blade Sect annually paid tribute to my Demon Flame Sect with cultivation resources and received our protection?"

Qin Ming nodded and said, "I know."

Suiyi's eyes gleamed, and he sternly said, "Knowing that, why did you still destroy the Wind Blade Sect? Does Sect Master Qin really believe that the Fire Cloud Sect has grown strong enough to challenge my Demon Flame Sect?"

His voice resounded like thunder in the ears of Qin Ming and his companions, while releasing a bit of pressure, enveloping Qin Ming and his group.

Under Suiyi's pressure, Qin Ming and Fang Bai's expressions changed slightly, their clothes rustling.

As for the other five disciples of the Fire Cloud Sect, along with Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, they felt as if a mountain were pressing down on them, almost suffocating, having to retreat dozens of feet to evade the pressure.

Suiyi was surprised that Fang Bai could actually withstand the pressure of a fifth stage Heavenly Tribulation expert like himself.

Qin Ming, however, wore no expression of surprise.

In the battle with the Wind Blade Sect, Qin Ming already knew that Fang Bai was not only capable of challenging higher levels but also possessed a Supreme Spirit Weapon and was skilled in many miraculous secret techniques, making him a true prodigy.

Therefore, even though Fang Bai's cultivation level was much lower than his own, he still treated Fang Bai with respect and as an equal.

In the previous battle against the Wind Blade Sect, Fang Bai killed the Demon Flame Sect disciple Lie Shijie and led Demon Flame Sect Elder Lie Yao away, who then seemed to vanish into thin air without any further news.

After returning to Red Maple City, although Fang Bai didn't explicitly say he killed Lie Yao, Qin Ming suspected that Lie Yao must have died at Fang Bai's hands.

As to how Fang Bai managed to kill Lie Yao, Qin Ming was intensely curious, but since Fang Bai didn't say, he tactfully refrained from asking.

It was Suiyi's first time meeting Fang Bai, so naturally, he was unaware of Fang Bai's extraordinary talents.

Suiyi thought there were only two possibilities for a first stage Heavenly Tribulation cultivator like Fang Bai to withstand his pressure: either his physical body was extremely strong or he was protected by a high-grade spiritual artifact.

A strong enough physical body naturally has an extraordinary resistance to pressure.

And a high-grade spiritual artifact, once refined, would have a connection with its owner and would naturally help its owner resist external pressures.

The first possibility he considered was the latter.

“For a mere first stage Heavenly Tribulation cultivation, he should at least have a Royal Grade Superior spiritual artifact to withstand my pressure.”

As he thought this, his heart warmed a bit, and he couldn't help but take a few more glances at Fang Bai.

“Oh right!”

Suiyi suddenly remembered another matter, fixing his gaze on Qin Ming, and asked in a deep voice, “My sect's Elder Lie Yao and his son Lie Shijie were tasked with collecting cultivation resources from the Wind Blade Sect, but later their Soul Lamps suddenly extinguished? Sect Master Qin, how do you explain this?”

Qin Ming's heart skipped a beat, resisting the urge to look at Fang Bai, trying to appear as calm as possible, replied solemnly, “Does Sect Master Sui suspect that the deaths of Elder Lie and his son are related to our Fire Cloud Sect? This is really unjust! During our battle with the Wind Blade Sect, we did not see any disciples of your sect!”

As he spoke, his heart was in his throat.

Chapter 1780: Take a Gamble

Back when Fire Cloud Sect wiped out Wind Blade Sect, they cleared out the elite disciples of Wind Blade Sect entirely, leaving only some insignificant menial servant disciples to flee.

Those menial servant disciples lived in remote areas far from the sect's main grounds, spending their days buried in work, completely unaware of any major events happening within the sect, let alone important figures like Lie's father and son visiting Wind Blade Sect.

Demon Flame Sect didn't gather much information from those fleeing menial servants of Wind Blade Sect. It was only after sending people to investigate that they learned Fire Cloud Sect joined forces with a strong person named Fang Bai to jointly destroy Wind Blade Sect.

As for the fact that Lie Yao and Lie Shijie were killed by Fang Bai, except for a few higher-ups in Fire Cloud Sect, no one else knew at all.

Otherwise, Demon Flame Sect would have long since charged into Red Maple City to demand justice from Fire Cloud Sect and Fang Bai.

Suiyi suspected that the fall of Lie Yao and Lie Shijie might be related to Fire Cloud Sect, but there was no evidence. He couldn't detect any unusual expressions on Qin Ming's face at the moment, causing his suspicions to gradually fade.

"Could it be that Lie Yao and his son did not fall at Wind Blade Sect? That's right, if they were at Wind Blade Sect at the time, how could they sit idly by while Fire Cloud Sect destroyed Wind Blade Sect? Hmm, maybe someone else murdered their father and son... Could it be our mortal enemy Soul Pursuit Sect who did it?"

The more Suiyi thought about it, the more possible it seemed.

Qin Ming sensed the killing intent from Suiyi's body had restrained itself and knew he had managed to muddle through. His heart finally settled down.

Suiyi snorted coldly, "The death of the Lie's father and son, I will investigate thoroughly! But how do you intend to explain the matter of Wind Blade Sect being wiped out?"

Suiyi knew the destruction of Wind Blade Sect was a fact, and launching a large-scale attack on Fire Cloud Sect to demand justice wasn't in his own best interest, so he watched Qin Ming coldly, waiting for his reply.

Qin Ming knew Suiyi was waiting for him to offer conditions, so he was secretly pleased and said, "We will split half of the cultivation resources we've obtained from Wind Blade Sect with your sect. Additionally, the annual cultivation resources Wind Blade Sect used to give to your sect will continue to be given as before. Will Sect Master Sui be satisfied?"

Suiyi's face finally softened a bit, nodding, "Then it's settled!"

After a pause, thinking that it seemed too easy to let Fire Cloud Sect off the hook, he sternly warned, "Sect Master Qin, the matter concerning Wind Blade Sect is an exception! If such things happen again, don't blame me for being merciless!"

Qin Ming said, "Understood."

Fire Cloud Sect's willingness to pay tribute to Demon Flame Sect every year basically accepted Demon Flame Sect as the master and accepted its protection.

In this way, the two naturally formed an alliance.

Something that could initially be a life-and-death enmity turned into an 'ally' because of interests, and Fang Bai among others, though accustomed to such matters, couldn't help but feel sentimental.

"Sect Master Qin, I hope we have a pleasant cooperation in the future! I'll be taking my leave now!"

Suiyi gave Fang Bai a deep look and then led the sect's disciples to continue flying towards the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

Qin Ming and the others followed far behind.

"That was close!"

When Qin Ming saw the people from Demon Flame Sect flying far away, he breathed a long sigh of relief and smiled at Fang Bai, "Suiyi's old eyes seem to pierce through people's hearts, it scared me into a cold sweat!"

Suiyi was a Thunder Tribulation fifth-level expert, while Qin Ming was only Thunder Tribulation fourth-level. This one-level difference made Qin Ming feel immense pressure and worry all the time.

Fang Bai smiled, thoughtfully saying, "That old fellow's look at me before he left was full of meaning, as if he's very interested in me."

Qin Ming paused, then seriously said, "Elder Fang, on this trip to the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, we'll encounter many experts like Suiyi, and even those with higher cultivation levels than him. You possess treasures, so make sure not to let them see them, or else... the consequences will be unpredictable!"

Fang Bai chuckled lightly, "It seems Suiyi suspects I have some treasure on me! I hope when the time comes, he won't cause me trouble. If I can't evade it, I'll have no choice but to fight!"

Seeing Fang Bai still able to laugh, and thinking that Lie Yao might have been killed by him as well, Qin Ming felt less worried and eagerly asked, "Elder Fang, to be honest, how much chance do you have against that old man Suiyi?"

Fang Bai shook his head, "None at all."

Seeing Qin Ming's wry smile, Fang Bai added, "If I can advance within the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, then I'll have a four-in-ten chance."

Qin Ming brightened up, "What if we join forces then?"

Fang Bai thought for a moment, "Then there should be at least a five-in-ten chance!"

Qin Ming clasped his hands together, his eyes flashing as he seemed to be pondering something, finally biting his teeth and resolutely saying, "Then let's take a gamble!"

Fang Bai smiled, "Are you planning to join forces with me against Suiyi?"

Qin Ming said, "That's right! I'm worried the matter of Lie Yao and his son's demise will be discovered by Suiyi sooner or later. Additionally, paying tribute to Demon Flame Sect every year, treating them as the master, I'm unwilling!"

Baili Mingyue interjected, "What if Fang Bai doesn't advance within the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm?"

Qin Ming, who had just been inspired, suddenly felt deflated and smiled wryly at Baili Mingyue, “Lady Mingyue, can we not speak discouraging words?”

Baili Mingyue chuckled, “Alright! Then I wish Fang Bai a triple advancement within the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm first, and then wish you two success, triumph, and the elimination of Suiyi!”

Qin Ming laughed heartily, “That’s the way to talk!”

After their banter, the previously oppressive atmosphere caused by meeting the people from Demon Flame Sect was completely swept away.

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The Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, located within a massive valley encircled by the Great Desolate Mountain Range.

The valley spans nearly a thousand miles in circumference, with flowers and grass everywhere, streams gently flowing, and spiritual energy dense as if substantial, sometimes appearing with small, cute spirit beasts.

For tens of thousands of years, every opening of the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm has attracted hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation experts from across the Three Thousand Worlds, all just to glimpse the mysterious symbols on the tablet and seek a great fortune.

For tens of thousands of years, many Thunder Tribulation experts have benefited from it, becoming those standing at the top of the Three Thousand Worlds.

Normally, the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm is covered by a powerful formation, completely isolated from the outside world, preventing anyone from entering it.

Only when the secret realm opens at the five-year interval does a narrow passage appear between the massive mountains encircling the valley, allowing martial artists to pass through.

Because this narrow passage only accommodates a few people side by side, looking up, one sees a strip of sky, therefore martial artists call it “One-Line Heaven.”

When Fang Bai and the others arrived at the outskirts of the vast valley, it was already night.

Lights dotted the valley’s outskirts, which were martial artists using spirit stones to illuminate.

“So many people...”

“Looks like there are thousands of them!”

“I think there are tens of thousands!”

“Are they all Thunder Tribulation experts?”

“Didn’t Sect Master Qin say before, the weakest among the strong ones who come here is only Thunder Tribulation first-level in cultivation.”

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Fang Bai and the others landed on a hilltop. Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, who came here for the first time, were filled with curiosity and couldn’t help but whisper.

Fang Bai stood at the top of the hill, his gaze sweeping across, noticing that the flowers, grasses, rocks, and woods here all looked as they did in the past, with not much change, getting lost in reflection.