

Doctor 1781

Chapter 1781: Meeting an Old Friend in a Foreign Land

As time passed, more and more powerful figures from various parts of the Three Thousand Great Worlds gathered.

By dawn, Fang Bai and the others stood on a hill looking around, discovering that the crowd resembled ants, the noise was overwhelming, and by estimation, the number far exceeded one hundred thousand.

These hundreds of thousands of powerful figures were all in the Thunder Tribulation Realm, with the majority being in the first stage of the Thunder Tribulation.

Most of these Thunder Tribulation experts belonged to major sects, although some were loose cultivators.

Hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation experts convening in one place was a rare spectacle in the Three Thousand Great Worlds.

Nearly all the Thunder Tribulation experts did not conceal their aura; instead, they intentionally released it to showcase their power to others and flaunt their strength.

With hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation experts releasing their aura simultaneously, these condensed into a nearly tangible pressure. Those with slightly weaker strength dared not stay in the dense crowd, opting to rest in more secluded and less populated areas.

Among Fang Bai and his eleven companions, even though nine had a cultivation level of the first stage of Thunder Tribulation, Fang Bai and Qin Ming's presence resisted the overwhelming pressure around them, making it seem effortless for them.

In the sea of Thunder Tribulation experts, Fang Bai unexpectedly recognized some familiar faces.

Among them was Hu Xiaoshan, the Supreme Elder of the Tiger Clan from the Heaven's Net Realm in the Western Desolate Continent.

While traveling in the Heaven's Net Realm, Fang Bai had befriended Hu Wei and Hu Zhuang, the Tiger Clan brothers, and was once invited to the Tiger Clan Territory, having met Hu Xiaoshan who was known as a first-stage Thunder Tribulation expert.

Having crossed the vast Black Sea spanning a hundred thousand miles, Hu Xiaoshan had evidently come to the Great Desolate Mountain Range in the Eastern Desolate Continent for the legendary Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

Hu Xiaoshan was the only Thunder Tribulation expert in the Tiger Clan, hence he came alone.

Besides Hu Xiaoshan, Fang Bai also noticed Lu Xiongfei, the City Lord of Wushuang City.

During a time in Wushuang City, Fang Bai and Lu Xiongfei had joined forces against the Wuya Sect, making them allies of sorts.

Additionally, several experts from the Yunhai Sect of the Luo Ao Realm were present, including Shi Xiaolian's former master, Huo Zhenying, among them.

Other than Huo Zhenying, Fang Bai didn't hold the Yunhai Sect experts in high regard, thinking the sect's leadership was composed of obstinate and outdated women.

Danxia Manor, renowned for alchemy, also sent numerous Thunder Tribulation experts.

The Fan Hai Sect, reigning by the Black Sea's coast in the Western Desolate Continent, was led by brothers Hai Dongsheng and Hai Dongqi, arriving with several others.

On a ship crossing the Black Sea, Fang Bai had slain a Dragon Python with his Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, resulting in He Polang from the Blue Sea Sect and Hai Dongsheng from the Fan Hai Sect coveting his Blood Blade, following him all the way to Red Maple City.

Subsequently, Fang Bai killed He Polang in the arena of Red Maple City, causing Hai Dongsheng to flee in terror, yet he unexpectedly reappeared here.

To Fang Bai's surprise, the Sect Master of the Black Tortoise Sect, Hua Guanghan, also arrived with some disciples, including Yun Yi's son and daughter, Yun Feng and Yun Yan.

Though Fang Bai wasn't familiar with Hua Guanghan, he was well acquainted with Yun Yi and had assisted Yun Feng by refining a Spirit Pill to help him advance to the first stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

As for Yun Yan, Fang Bai had met her earlier in Red Maple City and wondered how she had come to meet Hua Guanghan and Yun Feng.

Unexpectedly, Cangyan Sect, considered a life-and-death enemy by Fang Bai, had its Sect Master Wei Zongping arriving with disciples to the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

Previously, Fang Bai had attacked the Cangyan Sect to avenge Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong, killing several high-ranking members, and turning their Elder Yin Hao into a Puppet Corpse, later unleashing the Puppet Corpse Li Fenghou in battle, scaring off their Supreme Elder Wu Jingfeng.

Fang Bai surmised that his name had likely become infamous on Cangyan Sect's blacklist, marking him as a major adversary.

Within the entire Cangyan Sect, the only individual Fang Bai wouldn't view as an enemy was Zhou Peng, a friend of Lei Zheng and Luo Xin.

Without Zhou Peng informing Luo Xin and the others about Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong, finding those two disciples would have been far more challenging for him.

Once Fang Bai identified these acquaintances, they too recognized him, exhibiting varied reactions: some were joyful, others surprised, fearful, or resentful.

Among the joyful ones were the Tiger Clan's Supreme Elder Hu Xiaoshan, Wushuang City Lord Lu Xiongfei, Yunhai Sect Elder Huo Zhenying, Black Tortoise Sect disciple Yun Feng, and Yun Yan.

These powerful figures had either cooperated with Fang Bai or benefited from his help in the past.

Surprised were the Yunhai Sect experts, Danxia Manor experts, and Black Tortoise Sect Master Hua Guanghan.

These individuals had a superficial acquaintance with Fang Bai, yet they knew of his formidable abilities and considerable strength, prompting caution.

Fearful were the Blue Sea Sect Elders Hai Dongsheng and Hai Dongqi, along with Cangyan Sect disciple Zhou Peng.

Countryg over Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade had instilled fear in Hai Dongsheng and Hai Dongqi, aware that if Fang Bai could vanquish He Polang, he could just as easily deal with them.

As for Zhou Peng, he worried about potential severe punishment if the sect master ever discovered he had led Fang Bai there, resulting in the demise of several high-ranking members.

The resentful, naturally, was Cangyan Sect Master Wei Zongping.

Having several high-ranking members fall at Fang Bai's hands, and even suffering losses from their Supreme Elder Wu Jingfeng, made Cangyan Sect eager to eliminate Fang Bai.

Toward these familiar faces, if they were friends, Fang Bai would nod and smile or engage in small talk.

Though no more than acquaintances, Fang Bai chose to disregard them.

As for adversaries, Fang Bai met their gaze with indifference.

However, even with life-and-death enemies like the Cangyan Sect, since they too sought the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, neither side would likely seek a confrontation before achieving their goals.

The Tiger Clan's Supreme Elder Hu Xiaoshan and Wushuang City Lord Lu Xiongfei, having arrived alone, greeted Fang Bai warmly and joined his group, chatting merrily, generating a lively atmosphere.

At that moment, a group of strong figures, all dressed uniformly and belonging to the same sect, flew from afar, landing on a nearby mountain peak.

This group of experts consisted entirely of women, led by two silver-haired experts at the sixth stage of the Thunder Tribulation, followed by dozens of younger disciples at the first stage.

There was no doubt; these experts hailed from an exceptionally powerful sect, likely possessing Great Calamity Period experts at the seventh stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

"They're from Love Severing Tower!"

Qin Ming exclaimed at the sight of the group.

Others from nearby sects or loose cultivators recognized them too, casting wary glances.

"Love Severing Tower? When did such a force come into existence?"

Fang Bai muttered to himself, his gaze stopping on one of the female disciples from Love Severing Tower, his expression revealing indescribable delight.

"Ah! Fang Bai, look... isn't that Linglong? It's Su Linglong!"

Baili Mingyue pointed at the female disciple from Love Severing Tower that Fang Bai was gazing at, delightedly tugging on Fang Bai's sleeve in excitement.

Chapter 1782: Su Linglong in the Love Severing Tower

Fang Yun focused her eyes and saw that the female disciple from Love Severing Tower had a graceful figure, cascading hair, bright eyes and teeth, snow-white cheeks, and fresh red lips—truly a rare beauty.

"It's Linglong! It's her!"

While speaking, Fang Yun couldn't help but become excited.

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong also recognized Su Linglong. Although their reactions weren't as dramatic as Baili Mingyue and Fang Yun, their eyes widened in surprise, and simultaneously, they exclaimed, "It's Sister Su!"

Both were straightforward men, simple-minded, believing that any female friend of their master should be called sister-in-law without fail.

Just then, standing among the disciples of Love Severing Tower, Su Linglong also sensed several extremely familiar auras, suddenly turning her head to look towards Fang Bai and the others.

The next moment, her cherry lips parted slightly, her beautiful eyes widened, and her delicate body trembled as if struck by lightning.

Fang Bai did not expect to see Su Linglong here. His emotions surged uncontrollably, and with a smile on his face, he strode towards the peak where Su Linglong stood.

Su Linglong stood atop the mountain peak, gazing foolishly at Fang Bai as he approached, tears unwittingly streamed down her face.

"Linglong, what's wrong?"

A fellow female disciple beside Su Linglong occasionally turned her head, seeing this favored junior sister's face awash with tears, and couldn't help but be taken aback.

The other companions of Su Linglong also turned their gazes towards her, their eyes questioning.

"It's nothing... I... I suddenly remembered some sad things..."

Regaining her composure, Su Linglong hastily averted her gaze from Fang Bai, wiped the tears from her face, and forced a smile at the senior sister.

Seeing Fang Bai approaching the base of the mountain, ready to leap upward, she hurriedly used the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique to communicate with Fang Bai, "Brother Fang, don't come up! Listen to me..."

Although they were separated by the peak with a thousand yards between them, Su Linglong, who had reached the first realm of Heavenly Tribulation in cultivation, transmitted her voice clearly to Fang Bai's ears.

Fang Bai, hearing her urgent tone, paused slightly, looking at Su Linglong with confusion.

Su Linglong visibly eased her breath and continued transmitting, "Love Severing Tower, from top to bottom, consists of tens of thousands of disciples, all female. The tower's rules strictly forbid female disciples from associating with men, let alone forming Martial Dao partnerships with them, otherwise... both would be executed..."

Fang Bai snorted coldly and replied, "I've encountered sects with such bullshit rules before! Linglong, don't worry, I'll take you away and see who dares to stop me!"

Su Linglong was startled and quickly urged, "Please, Brother Fang, don't! I'm begging you! Love Severing Tower has Heavenly Tribulation seventh realm experts guarding it, very powerful ones. The two Tower Masters accompanying us this time both possess the sixth realm Heavenly Tribulation strength. Brother Fang, you can't defeat them!"

Sensing Fang Bai's aura, she knew it was similar to her own cultivation level, also being in the first realm of Heavenly Tribulation. Even knowing Fang Bai's ability to challenge higher levels and possessing several powerful means, she did not consider him a match for the two Tower Masters, hence strongly advising Fang Bai against doing anything foolish.

Fang Bai slightly furrowed his brow, thinking that a sect simultaneously having two Tower Masters was rather unusual.

He saw that the two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower were elderly women over a century old, looking remarkably alike, guessing they were twins. Such sisters jointly running a sect seemed plausible.

Fang Bai wasn't impulsive, having heard Su Linglong's words; he didn't rush forward to acknowledge her but instead cast his gaze up, focusing on the two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower.

"With the two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower joining forces, I truly am not their match! But having met Linglong, I can't leave her here either! Hmm, no hurry... I'll surely come up with a way to take Linglong away safely..."

As Fang Bai's mind raced, he suddenly chuckled silently, thinking to himself, "How foolish of me! I have the Five Elements Space Ring. Once inside the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, I can have Linglong enter the ring, who would know? We'll take her away, unnoticed, how fitting!"

Thinking this, he couldn't help but laugh out loud and transmitted to Su Linglong, "Linglong, let's pretend we don't know each other for now. Once we're inside the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, I'll find a way to free you from Love Severing Tower!"

Su Linglong's spirit lifted, saying, "Is there really a way?"

Fang Bai nodded firmly.

Su Linglong felt a sour sensation in her nose, her eyes filling with tears,

She had arrived in the Three Thousand Great Worlds alone, nearly suffering from the harassment of several loose cultivator experts, but was later rescued by a powerful figure from Love Severing Tower. Grateful for the life-saving grace, she joined Love Severing Tower, seeking a place of refuge.

However, Su Linglong did not anticipate that the meaning represented by "Love Severing Tower" was to sever all emotional ties for its disciples, forbidding romantic involvement with any man, further prohibiting forming Martial Dao partnerships, or they'd face severe punishment from the disciplinary Elders.

Su Linglong had witnessed it herself; a senior sister in the tower fell in love with an outside loose cultivator and bore a daughter for him, but the family of three couldn't escape Love Severing Tower's punishment and were executed publicly by the disciplinary Elder.

The incident involving the loose cultivator left a severe psychological shadow on Su Linglong, causing her intense fear.

Fortunately, her heart only held feelings for Fang Bai alone, vehemently refusing to associate with any other man, regardless of how outstanding they were, she wouldn't give them a second glance, thus receiving appreciation from the high-ranking members of the tower.

The Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower, seeing her extraordinary talent and rapid progress, treated her as the future successor.

Unbeknownst to them, Su Linglong's rapid progress was due to her diligent cultivation, and her motivation was to escape Love Severing Tower one day and seek out Fang Bai.

On the trip to the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, Su Linglong had promised herself that she hoped she could see Fang Bai at that gathering place full of powerful individuals, even just hearing news of Fang Bai would suffice.

Now reunited with Fang Bai, her wish came true, filling her heart with joy.

She engaged in conversation with Fang Bai, learning there was a chance to escape the sea of suffering, her heart incredibly spirited but afraid to express it for fear of arousing suspicion among her fellow disciples.

"Linglong, do you know that man?"

One of the two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower, Leng Qiushuang, noticed Su Linglong's gaze repeatedly falling on a young, handsome man standing at the foot of the peak, while the latter seemed to be looking at her too, so she coldly questioned in a harsh tone.

Su Linglong's heart tightened, retracting her gaze from Fang Bai, trying to maintain composure, said, "Great Tower Master, I don't know him! I just think... he looks somewhat similar to an old acquaintance from my past in the secular world."

Leng Qiushuang and her sister, though twins, Leng Qiushuang was the elder born first, thus all the tower's disciples addressed her as "Great Tower Master" and referred to her sister Leng Qiuxue as "Second Tower Master".

Leng Qiushuang knew Su Linglong hailed from secular origins; upon hearing this, she pressed further, "Why haven't you mentioned this before? What's your relationship with that secular acquaintance?"

Su Linglong was a sharp-witted person, having already prepared her words, replied, "He is a relative of mine, not involved in the Dao of cultivation."

Chapter 1783: Three Great Powerhouses of Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism

"Linglong, you are an Innate Spiritual Root, your talent is exceptional, and in the future, you may become a Thunder Tribulation Realm Great Calamity Period Expert, leading the Love Severing Tower to greater glory! Remember, no man in this world is a good person, never let them distract you and affect your cultivation!"

Leng Xueqiu sternly looked at Su Linglong and shouted.

Su Linglong uttered an "Oh", lowered her head, and murmured, "I understand, Great Tower Master..."

She secretly glanced down the peak at Fang Bai, and her gaze met Fang Bai's eyes looking up.

Fang Bai blinked at Su Linglong, gave her a comforting smile, then turned and walked away, joining Baili Mingyue and Fang Yun.

Leng Xueqiu shifted her gaze, looking at Fang Bai's departing figure, a cold gleam flashed in her eyes.

"Fang Bai, why didn't you bring Linglong back?"

Seeing Fang Bai return alone, while Su Linglong was still atop the peak, Baili Mingyue asked in confusion.

According to Baili Mingyue's understanding of Fang Bai, once Fang Bai discovered Su Linglong, he should definitely have brought Su Linglong back. But Fang Bai merely stood below the peak for a moment and returned without success, which surprised Baili Mingyue.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "The time is not yet ripe."

"What do you mean by 'the time is not yet ripe'?"

Baili Mingyue asked with a head full of doubts.

Fang Bai turned back and glanced at the peak where Su Linglong was, confirming that no Divine Sense had been released by the Love Severing Tower experts to probe the surroundings. He then whispered, "The sect Linglong is currently in is very powerful, and the two leaders are unreasonable. If I were to forcibly take Linglong away, conflict would inevitably occur. I am currently not confident in defeating them!"

Baili Mingyue said, "Can't we join forces, with eleven of us also not enough?"

Fang Bai shook his head resolutely and said, "They have two Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Six experts and fifty Thunder Tribulation Realm Level One experts. Do you think we can manage?"

"That strong?"

Baili Mingyue was astounded, her face slightly pale.

Even if just two Thunder Tribulation Realm Level Six experts from the other side made a move, the eleven of them here would be unable to contend, not to mention the additional fifty Thunder Tribulation Realm Level One experts aiding them. No wonder even with Fang Bai's strength and disposition, he temporarily chose to retreat.

Beside her, Fang Yun sighed, "Linglong actually joined such a powerful sect! What... what can be done?"

She thought if the other side insists on not releasing Linglong, and they are unable to forcibly take her away, how this matter would be resolved is quite a headache.

However, when Fang Bai said the timing was not yet ripe, could it mean he already has a plan in mind?

"Master, we will go fight those people, while you seize the chance to rescue Sister Linglong!"

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong rolled up their sleeves, clenched their fists, and requested to Fang Bai.

"With me here, do you need to go fight? Just behave yourselves!"

Fang Bai glared at Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong, scolding them.

Niu Ben and Hero, seeing their master's anger, shrank their heads and dared not say a word.

"You all also stay calm. I have a way to bring Linglong with us when we leave."

Seeing Baili Mingyue and Fang Yun's worried faces, Fang Bai smiled and whispered.

Fang Bai was confident, which made Baili Mingyue and Fang Yun calm down as well.

Qin Ming approached Fang Bai, earnestly saying, "Elder Fang, if you need any help, just say the word. We disciples of Fire Cloud Sect will go through fire and water without hesitation!"

Fang Bai nodded to Qin Ming and said, "Sect Master Qin, your goodwill is appreciated. It's best for you to stay out of this matter."

The strength of Love Severing Tower was far beyond what Fire Cloud Sect could contend with. If Qin Ming got involved in this matter, it might bring disaster upon Fire Cloud Sect.

Moreover, even if Fang Bai couldn't handle it, Qin Ming intervening would be of no use.

Three days later, with the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm about to open, the number of Thunder Tribulation experts arriving at the Great Desolate Mountain Range reached a staggering thirty thousand, making it the most grand event in the history of the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

Among the thirty thousand Thunder Tribulation experts, Level One experts accounted for the majority, but there was no shortage of Level Two, Level Three, Level Four, Level Five, and even Level Six experts.

"Tens of thousands of Thunder Tribulation experts gather, all seeking opportunities. But in the end, some are destined to rejoice while others will worry!"

Qin Ming looked at the dense crowd around him and sighed emotionally.

Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, and others, experiencing such a grand scene for the first time, were excited and amazed, also secretly astounded.

Having advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm not long ago, they initially thought their own strength would earn them a significant place in the Three-Thousand Worlds. But upon arriving here, they realized they were like ants before a mountain, so insignificant.

"Look, Lihuo True Person has also arrived! He's a Level Seven Thunder Tribulation cultivation, a renowned expert in the Taoist Sect!"

"There's also Zizai Monk, a high monk of the Buddhist Sect and a Level Seven Thunder Tribulation expert!"

"With them is Liu Sanqian, Layman Liu, also a Level Seven Thunder Tribulation expert!"

“I didn’t expect the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm to attract such strong experts too!”

“All three have lived for over three hundred years, right?”

“Yes, it’s said these three are close friends, loathing evil, and fond of punishing evil and promoting kindness, making them feared by evil sect strongmen. It’s rare to see them gathered here!”

...

At dusk that day, three beams of light shot across and landed at the top of three adjacent ancient towering pines.

The three were a Daoist with an immortal demeanor, a kind-looking old monk, and an old Confucian dressed in green robes.

Their knees facing each other, they sat cross-legged for a discussion, ignoring the thousands of gazes cast their way.

Such a gathering of Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian experts was a remarkable sight.

Fang Bai knew the Three-Thousand Worlds had numerous sects, with many people from Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian sects also dabbling in Martial Dao, frequently producing strong individuals who transcended the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations and ascended to immortality.

Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian experts usually lived apart from the mundane world, hidden from view, but their sects were often top strong sects with Thunder Tribulation Realm Great Calamity Period experts; few dared to provoke them.

“Lihuo True Person, Zizai Monk, Liu Sanqian Layman Liu... yet I’ve never heard these names before, perhaps they are strong experts who have risen in recent years! The surrounding experts have high regard for them, it appears these three are quite popular!”

With these thoughts, Fang Bai's gaze wandered toward Lihuo True Person and the other two, sensing an intense aura of blood and evil from their aura, indicating these three had taken many lives and seemed to have many martial partners.

"As far as I know, monks, Taoists, and Confucians in the Three-Thousand Worlds focus mainly on defense and rarely cause fatalities, avoiding women. How come Lihuo True Person and the other two are quite the opposite?"

Fang Bai couldn't help but frown slightly, wondering if these three were merely pretentious and had a hollow reputation.

Chapter 1784: Beneath the Stone Stele

"The Immortal Tablet Secret Realm opens today!"

On the tenth morning since Fang Bai and the others arrived at the Great Desolate Mountain Range, hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation Experts suddenly stirred, everyone vying to rush forward towards the great valley between two mountain peaks to the south.

It is said that the only passage to enter the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm will appear between those two peaks soon, called "One-Line Heaven".

Hundreds of thousands of experts formed several rows before the possible appearance of the passage, extending for hundreds of miles back, arranged according to cultivation level and strength.

Since the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm opens for eighty-one days and during this period the passage remains open, allowing experts to freely enter and exit, Fang Bai and his companions did not fight others for position.

As the morning sun rose in the east, within the encircled great valley, tens of thousands of beams of light suddenly shot into the sky.

These beams scattered, quickly forming a gigantic seven-colored light shield, enveloping the great valley spanning hundreds of miles.

Then, under the amazed eyes of hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation Experts, the mountain surrounding the valley on the south slowly split open, revealing a passage wide enough for several people to pass through at once.

This passage is the famous "One-Line Heaven".

"The secret realm has opened, hurry inside now!"

Hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation Experts surged forward in faintly chaotic excitement, entering the valley through the One-Line Heaven passage.

Despite the urgent haste of hundreds of thousands of experts, Fang Bai and his companions waited an entire day before following a group of experts through One-Line Heaven into the vast valley.

Within the valley, there were scattered rocks and overgrown weeds everywhere, flat and barren.

Yet no expert was anxious. After entering the valley, they each found a spot to sit cross-legged, their eyes filled with anticipation as they focused on the raised mound at the center of the valley.

Fang Bai and his eleven companions sat down on a patch of weedy ground not far from the disciples of the Love Severing Tower.

Fang Bai and Su Linglong occasionally turned to each other, their eyes meeting, filled with endless emotion.

"Hmph, as I thought, Linglong truly knows that person! To strengthen Linglong's resolve in cultivation, that person must be eliminated!"

Leng Qiushuang noticed the affectionate glances shared between Fang Bai and Su Linglong from the corner of her eye, murderous intent swelling in her heart, and exchanged a few words with her sister Leng Qiuxue using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique.

Between their exchange, the sisters had already sentenced Fang Bai to death.

Fang Bai keenly sensed the murderous intent emanating from Leng Qiushuang, curling his lips with indifference.

At dusk, the last ray of the setting sun streamed through the mountain crevices, illuminating the mound at the center of the valley.

"Boom!"

To the crowd's amazement, the ground suddenly trembled lightly, and a towering stone stele seemed to emerge from the earth, slowly rising until it reached a height of a thousand zhang, then halting its ascent.

The stone stele seemed carved from some unknown material completely like white jade, under the celestial light, the surface emitted a misty glow, as if shrouded in fog.

When the misty glow receded from the stele surface, a closer look revealed lines of mysterious runes inscribed.

Those runes were enigmatic, each stroke brimming with mysterious powers, and experts present often found themselves utterly absorbed after just one glance.

Hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation Experts spread within hundreds of miles around the stone stele, each possessing exceptional insight, and focused on the runes, managing to decipher some parts.

These runes supposedly contained supreme cultivation methods; understanding even a part meant great benefits, at least a breakthrough in one Thunder Tribulation realm, thus everyone immersed himself fervently into contemplation.

Yet these runes were vast and profound, exceedingly complex, making even partial insight challenging.

Thus, with every opening of the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, among hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation experts, barely one in a hundred could achieve a breakthrough.

As other Thunder Tribulation experts devoted themselves to cultivation, Fang Bai quietly stood up, silently heading towards the eastern side of the valley hill.

It was already nightfall, and Fang Bai merged with the night's shadows, concealing his presence to avoid detection by anyone.

He walked effortlessly to a dark hidden area at the eastern hill where none could see, pressing lightly on a protruding stone block, revealing a deep cave entrance beside it.

Fang Bai's figure flickered, slipping into the cave, which then closed, leaving no trace.

"It's been tens of thousands of years, yet this place hasn't changed much, though I wonder if the cultivation resources I left here back then are still present! If a fated individual has already taken them, it would be somewhat regretful!"

Fang Bai swiftly traversed through the mountain cavern, reaching deep underground, right beneath the thousand zhang stone stele.

Beneath the stele was a vast stone chamber a thousand zhang in diameter, filled with heaps of cultivation resources, including Spiritual Medicine, Spirit Pill, and Spiritual Artifacts.

Any other expert here would be astonished to find these resources were all Royal Grade Superior, each one enough to incite madness among experts across the Three Thousand Great Worlds.

"Thankfully... thankfully... these things are all still here! Haha, it seems that the cultivation resources I left behind in the past have become a boon for myself!"

Fang Bai's gaze shifted over the cultivation resources, unable to hide his excitement.

Tens of thousands of years ago, before advancing to Thunder Tribulation ninth realm and ascending to the Immortal Realm, Fang Bai had cultivated in seclusion here, creating the stone chamber's cultivation resources and the legendary "Immortal Tablet Secret Realm" out of idle curiosity.

The runes on the stone stele represented some cultivation methods and insights from Fang Bai, left for fated individuals. If one could comprehend seven or eight parts, advancing to Thunder Tribulation realm Great Calamity Period wouldn't be a mere dream.

If one comprehended ten parts, reaching Thunder Tribulation ninth realm, or even ascending to the Immortal Realm wasn't impossible.

Over tens of thousands of years since Fang Bai's ascension to the Immortal Realm, numerous experts benefited from the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, and some prodigies even reached Thunder Tribulation ninth realm, with some ascending to the Immortal Realm.

Of course, to Fang Bai, what benefited his cultivation in this stone chamber were mainly those Royal Grade Superior cultivation resources.

Fang Bai could already refine Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pill for cultivation, but due to the lack of alchemy materials, the Spirit Pill he refined was far from sufficient for his needs. The stone chamber's cultivation resources happened to compensate for this shortage temporarily.

"While they cultivate above, I shall do so here. With these resources aiding me through the eighty-one days, there's hope for advancing to Thunder Tribulation second realm; with luck, even Thunder Tribulation third realm isn't out of reach."

Fang Bai approached the center of the stone chamber, sitting cross-legged upon a circular cultivation platform about three feet high.

Chapter 1785: Whoever Makes My Woman Suffer, I'll Make Them Pay!

While Fang Bai was fully immersed in cultivation within the underground stone chamber, the hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation Experts on the surface also entered a cultivation state, each comprehending the runes on the stone tablet.

These Thunder Tribulation Experts possessed remarkable talents, among them were astonishing cultivation prodigies.

Thus, during the eighty-one days that the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm was open, clouds of tribulation continued to form above the valley, thunder roared, lightning descended, and one expert after another broke through.

As these Thunder Tribulation Experts advanced, intense auras emanated from their bodies, swirling through the valley, causing the entire valley to tremble intermittently.

Those breaking through danced with joy, unable to contain themselves.

Meanwhile, those who had not advanced could not help but feel disheartened and frustrated, their minds unsettled.

Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, seated cross-legged at the corner of the valley, benefited from Fang Bai's earlier guidance, so much so that the runes Fang Bai had left behind, considered incomprehensible by others, were simple in their eyes.

Among the hundreds of thousands of experts in the valley, the four understood the runes the most profoundly, and were the first to advance.

However, the four had only recently advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, and their realms had just stabilized, advancing from first to second-stage Thunder Tribulation.

If others knew of this advancement speed, they would certainly find it incredible.

As for the disciples of the Fire Cloud Sect, their harvest this time was not significant. Seeing that most of the days the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm was open had passed without any disciples advancing left Sect Master Qin Ming anxious and deeply disappointed.

Qin Ming himself also had some comprehension of the runes, but his cultivation level was already high, thus relying on this journey to the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm to achieve advancement was not easy.

However, with this comprehension as a foundation, there was now hope for him to advance to the fifth-stage Thunder Tribulation Realm someday.

On the eightieth day of the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm opening, suddenly an astonishingly strong aura surged from the depths of the earth.

The impact of this astonishing aura from the depths caused the entire valley to seem as if experiencing a powerful earthquake; the ground trembled, peaks shook, boulders rolled down, creating a terrifying scene.

The hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation Experts, immersed in cultivation, were startled, breaking out of their cultivation states, eager to see who had caused such a massive commotion during their advancement.

“Where did Fang Bai go?”

Baili Mingyue gazed around, not seeing a trace of Fang Bai, asking curiously.

Fang Yun, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, and Qin Ming also scanned the valley, searching for any sign of Fang Bai.

“I’m here!”

A moment later, Fang Bai’s figure appeared like a spectre before Baili Mingyue and the others, a familiar smile on his face.

“Little brother, where did you go earlier? You worried us!”

Seeing Fang Bai appear safe and sound, Fang Yun breathed a sigh of relief.

Fang Bai laughed, “I broke through ahead of you, so with nothing else to do, I wandered around.”

Qin Ming's gaze landed on Fang Bai, noticing his cultivation level was indeed at the second-stage Thunder Tribulation Realm. Observing Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, who also became second-stage Thunder Tribulation experts, he lamented about the Fire Cloud Sect disciples not advancing, attributing it to their missed opportunities, shaking his head with a bitter smile.

Seeing Qin Ming with a forlorn expression, Fang Bai said with a smile, "Sect Master Qin, don't worry, there's still one day until the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm closes!"

Qin Ming sighed, "There's been no movement for eighty days, hoping to advance on the last day would require a miracle!"

Fang Bai said, "Perhaps a miracle might happen?"

Qin Ming replied dispiritedly, "Let's hope so!"

Fang Bai instructed Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, and the others to continue their cross-legged cultivation to stabilize their realms, then shifted his gaze toward Su Linglong, noticing the fluctuation of spiritual energy around her, indicating she had also advanced.

Su Linglong sensed Fang Bai's gaze, opened her beautiful eyes, noticed the disciples of Love Severing Tower beside her still in cultivation, and quickly glanced toward Fang Bai.

Their eyes met, Fang Bai winked at Su Linglong, his lips moved silently saying something, then his figure shifted, standing behind a tall boulder.

Su Linglong glanced around cautiously, stood up, and in an instant also moved behind the boulder.

The two met behind the boulder, their hearts filled with excitement.

Fang Bai smiled, wordlessly opening his arms to Su Linglong.

Su Linglong's eyes reddened, her rosy lips parted, she leapt into Fang Bai's embrace, her slender arms wrapping around him like a serpent, tears silently slipping down her fair cheeks.

She held tightly, as if wanting to merge her entire self with Fang Bai, never to part.

"Fang Bai, I don't want to stay in Love Severing Tower a moment longer, how...how can you take me away?"

Su Linglong suddenly stood straight, her bright eyes fixed on Fang Bai, asking urgently.

The members of Love Severing Tower were not far from them, Su Linglong dared not speak directly to Fang Bai, resorting to Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique to communicate.

Fang Bai held Su Linglong's fragrant shoulders, looking at her tear-streaked face, kissed away her tears without answering her question, instead asked, "Since joining Love Severing Tower, have you been treated unfairly or faced abuse?"

Su Linglong shook her head, "The two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower have been strict, but never abusive. Fang Bai, why are you asking this?"

Fang Bai sneered, "That's good then. If there was abuse, I would have destroyed Love Severing Tower! Whoever makes my woman suffer will pay dearly!"

Su Linglong said, "The Main and Deputy Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower are sixth-stage Thunder Tribulation experts. If you clash with them, you'll suffer greatly! Besides, I've been at Love Severing Tower for years and have formed bonds with them, I don't want to see you fall out. If there's a chance, we should sneak away!"

She paused and asked again, "You haven't answered my question. How will you take me away?"

"That's easy!"

Fang Bai smiled, extending his left hand before Su Linglong, his right hand pointing to the Five Elements Space Ring, "You hide inside this ring first. Once the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm closes, I will take you away."

Su Linglong stared at the Five Elements Space Ring, shining with a bright glint, amazed, "Hide...hide inside here? How can I do that?"

Fang Bai explained, "This Five Elements Space Ring can accommodate life. Wu De and Little Mink are inside now. I will open the space now, as long as you don't resist, you'll be taken in."

With that, he waved his left hand before Su Linglong. Her body lifted off the ground under a powerful suction, feeling a brief dizziness, the next moment she found herself in a vast space rich with spiritual energy.

"Eh? Someone new has come in! Looks like that kid Fang Bai found another acquaintance... Haha, it turns out to be Miss Su! Welcome! Welcome!"

Wu De and the transformed Lightning Mink were sparring inside the Five Elements Space Ring. Seeing someone appear, they turned to look, laughing heartily as they moved forward to greet her.

Chapter 1786: Secret Realm Closes

"Taoist Priest Wu? Little Mink? You... you're really here!"

Seeing Wu De and the Lightning Mink, Su Linglong couldn't help but be both surprised and delighted.

"Yes, both of us have been in this ring for a long time... Oh my, Miss Su, you've already reached the second tier of Thunder Tribulation cultivation?"

Wu De looked Su Linglong up and down and exclaimed in surprise.

The Lightning Mink was also full of astonishment.

They had been in Fang Bai's Five Elements Spatial Ring for quite a while, using the dense spiritual energy here to raise their cultivation level to the first tier of Thunder Tribulation.

They thought they had leveled up quickly enough, but they didn't expect to fall behind a young girl like Su Linglong, which dealt a severe blow to their inflated confidence.

Su Linglong smiled and said, "Yes! I joined the Love Severing Tower earlier and used its abundant cultivation resources to advance to the first tier of Thunder Tribulation. Then, I just gained insight from the stele body runes in the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm outside, and advanced again..."

"Wait, what secret realm? Be clear!"

Wu De's eyes lit up as he loudly asked.

Su Linglong briefly explained the matter of the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, and Wu De and the Lightning Mink exchanged glances, their eyes shining brightly. They simultaneously shouted loudly to Fang Bai, asking him to let them out.

Su Linglong said, "Hey... don't be in such a hurry to go out! Tell me about the situation inside this Five Elements Spatial Ring first. I've just come in and don't understand yet!"

Wu De waved his hand and said, "Nothing much to say, just stay here at ease!"

The Lightning Mink said, "This Five Elements Spatial Ring is comparable to a Holy Land of cultivation. Cultivation within it progresses faster than outside! But staying too long is boring, it's more interesting to go outside and train with Fang Bai!"

They both had heard that there was an Immortal Tablet Secret Realm created by ancient powerful experts outside, which contained miraculous steles with mysterious runes that could lead to advancement upon comprehension, so they were eager to go out and take a look.

Fang Bai heard the clamoring of Wu De and the Lightning Mink from the Five Elements Spatial Ring and smiled silently. With a wave of his hand, he let them out of the ring.

Fortunately, Fang Bai was still standing behind the large rock, with no one else seeing this, otherwise, such a treasure like his Five Elements Spatial Ring would once again attract the covetous eyes of many powerful individuals.

“You two have had enough of staying in the ring? Want to come out and join the fun?”

Seeing Wu De and the Lightning Mink appear, staring in a daze at the thousand-zhang-high stele, Fang Bai asked with a smile.

Wu De’s eyes didn’t leave the runes on the stele, grumbling discontentedly, “Fang Bai, you sly fox! Having such a good opportunity, you didn’t even inform me and Little Mink, almost letting us miss a great chance!”

The Lightning Mink chimed in, “Exactly! Such a sneaky move!”

After they finished speaking, they saw Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, and others, so they stopped paying attention to Fang Bai, walked to the side of these people, sat down cross-legged as they did, and began to comprehend the runes on the stele.

Fang Bai also walked over to sit down, transmitted his voice to Wu De and the Lightning Mink, instructing them not to reveal Su Linglong’s whereabouts.

In the blink of an eye, the opening time of the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm had reached its last day.

On this day, Fang Bai used the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique to relay the stele runes in a simple and understandable manner to the ears of five junior disciples of the Fire Cloud Sect, enabling them to achieve sudden enlightenment and successively break through just in time.

This made Qin Ming overjoyed, thinking that Fang Bai’s words were indeed correct, a miracle had really happened.

After the five junior disciples of the Fire Cloud Sect advanced, they felt like they had just woken from a dream, joyous but puzzled as to who had transmitted the teaching to them, so they bowed in worship to the stele.

Wu De and the Lightning Mink had only comprehended for a day, but both being geniuses in cultivation and having been previously guided by Fang Bai, their understanding of the runes surpassed that of other experts.

Furthermore, they had accumulated massive spiritual energy in their Qi Sea while cultivating in the Five Elements Spatial Ring, allowing them to also break through and advance to the second tier of Thunder Tribulation within a short day.

Wu De and the Lightning Mink danced for joy, laughing heartily, behaving as if there were no one else around.

By dusk, the valley trembled, the stele sank back into the ground, and the seven-colored aura shield enveloping the entire valley gradually faded away.

“The Immortal Tablet Secret Realm is now closed; it’s time to leave!”

“Brother Zhang, congratulations on advancing!”

“Haha, congratulations to you too!”

“It’s a pity, if I had a few more days to comprehend, I could have advanced too! Now I’ll have to wait another five years!”

“Alas, those stele body runes are truly abstruse and difficult to understand, I researched them for ninety-nine days and nights, without grasping their meaning! Could it be that my opportunity hasn’t arrived?”

“I’ll come back in five years! I refuse to believe I can’t comprehend the mysteries within!”

...

Amid the noisy chatter, hundreds of thousands of Thunder Tribulation experts got up and walked out through the One-Line Heaven path between the peaks.

Those who didn't manage to advance were reluctant and unwilling to leave, but knowing it was futile to stay, they eventually sighed and followed the crowd out.

Fang Bai and others had just exited the valley and were about to leave the Great Desolate Mountain Range when suddenly dozens of figures swept over, surrounding Fang Bai.

Fang Bai focused his gaze and found that the dozens of people surrounding him were led by Leng Qiushuang and Leng Qiuxue from the Love Severing Tower.

"Where's that girl Linglong?"

The tower master of Love Severing Tower, Leng Qiushuang, stepped forward from the crowd, fixating her icy gaze on Fang Bai, her voice grim as she asked.

Earlier, after exiting her cultivation state in the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, she did not see Su Linglong, and her Divine Sense swept through the entire valley but still found no sign of Su Linglong, making her anxious.

She had long noticed that Su Linglong and Fang Bai were old acquaintances, leading her to suspect that Su Linglong's disappearance might have something to do with Fang Bai.

She and her sister Leng Qiuxue deliberated for a moment and decided to block Fang Bai after exiting the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, to see if they could force him to reveal Su Linglong's whereabouts.

Leng Qiuxue and Leng Qiushuang couldn't understand how Su Linglong, a perfectly healthy person, could suddenly disappear in the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm.

Could she be hiding in some secret place within the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm that their Divine Sense couldn't detect?

Or did she quietly leave while they were fully engaged in comprehending the stele runes, hiding herself and planning to reunite with Fang Bai after they left?

Leng Qiushuang and Leng Qiuxue were furious, not only furious that Su Linglong ignored the strict tower rules and consorted with an outsider but also furious that she had dared to quietly leave their side.

Now, to discover Su Linglong's whereabouts seemed to depend solely on Fang Bai.

"Who is Linglong?"

Fang Bai feigned puzzlement.

Leng Qiuxue snorted coldly, "Don't play dumb! I saw you and Linglong exchanging looks up and down the mountain earlier! You and Linglong are already acquainted, aren't you?"

Fang Bai replied dismissively, "There are plenty of people named Linglong in this world, and I know many of them. Like Zhang Linglong, Li Linglong, Zhou Linglong... which Linglong are you talking about?"

Leng Qiushuang chuckled rather than getting angry, "I'll give you ten seconds to tell me Linglong's whereabouts. Otherwise... you won't leave this Great Desolate Mountain Range alive!"

Chapter 1787: Bullying the Weak

Leng Qiushuang, with a cultivation level of six stages in the Thunder Tribulation realm, exudes an unyielding aura that commands respect without a word. As soon as she spoke, Fang Bai felt a powerful pressure enveloping him.

In the past, Fang Bai might have needed to summon the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, a spiritual artifact, to withstand the might of such a formidable expert like Leng Qiushuang.

But now, within the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, Fang Bai had advanced to a Thunder Tribulation realm stage two expert, his power having multiplied several times. His body was also more robust, allowing him to face Leng Qiushuang's pressure without fear.

Leng Qiushuang originally thought that under her pressure, Fang Bai would collapse and embarrass himself by coughing up blood. Yet, to her surprise, he remained unscathed and even showed no change in expression, causing her to exclaim "Eh?" in astonishment.

"A Thunder Tribulation stage two expert can withstand a stage six expert. Even a genius capable of challenging across ranks would find this difficult, wouldn't they? Who is this boy, actually?"

Leng Qiushuang's gaze towards Fang Bai was filled with amazement, her expression shifting unpredictably.

Initially, Leng Qiushuang intended to use her strength to pressure Fang Bai into revealing Su Linglong's whereabouts. Now, however, she feared Fang Bai might be a genius disciple from a top-level sect in the Three Thousand Worlds, stirring some apprehension within her.

"Hey, you old lady, what are you doing? Are you looking for a fight?"

Baili Mingyue saw Fang Bai surrounded by powerful figures from the Love Severing Tower, each with a fierce expression, and immediately squeezed in from outside to stand by Fang Bai's side, hands on hips, with raised brows and glaring eyes as she shouted at Leng Qiushuang.

Fang Yun, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, Wu De, Lightning Mink, Qin Ming, and five disciples from the Fire Cloud Sect also stood by Fang Bai's side, confronting the powerful individuals from the Love Severing Tower.

Many Thunder Tribulation experts passing by stopped and watched with interest upon seeing both sides at daggers drawn.

Some strong figures who loved causing a commotion even loudly urged the two sides to fight.

In the eyes of the spectators, the strength disparity between the Love Severing Tower's side and Fang Bai's side was overwhelming. If conflict arose, Fang Bai's side would undoubtedly be crushed.

"Which sect are you a disciple of?"

Leng Qiuxue signaled her sister Leng Qiushuang with a glance, then took a step forward, her gaze fixed on Fang Bai as she queried.

Before understanding Fang Bai's background, Leng Qiuxue didn't want her sister to act rashly to avoid bringing trouble upon their sect. Hence, she spoke tentatively.

Fang Bai chuckled, feigning mystery as he said, "The sect I belong to... you are neither worthy to know nor can you afford to provoke!"

He understood the wide gap in strength between the two sides and that if conflict erupted, aside from himself, the rest of his side could not contend with the powerful individuals from the Love Severing Tower. Thus, he deliberately said this to instill apprehension within them and deter them from acting rashly.

Leng Qiushuang and Leng Qiuxue exchanged glances, seeing some concerns in each other's eyes.

They believed Fang Bai was so confident and fearless that the sect he belonged to must be extraordinarily powerful.

However, because he was mysterious and unwilling to reveal which sect he belonged to, Leng Qiushuang and Leng Qiuxue grew even more hesitant to act recklessly.

Yet, letting Fang Bai leave without knowing Su Linglong's whereabouts was unsatisfactory for them, so the two sides remained in a standoff.

In the blink of an eye, ten breaths passed. Fang Bai noticed that Leng Qiushuang only uttered threats but hadn't truly taken action against him. He couldn't help but tug at the corners of his mouth with a mocking sneer.

“How dare you, boy! Don’t think I won’t kill you!”

Seeing Fang Bai’s mocking expression infuriated Leng Qiushuang. Her temper flared, and she raised her hand to grab at Fang Bai.

A Spirit Qi Big Palm appeared out of thin air in front of Fang Bai, with five fingers resembling the claws of a Giant Eagle, accompanied by the sound of air rupturing, viciously grasping toward Fang Bai’s throat.

The throat is a fragile part of the human body; a mere exertion can separate head from body, leading to instant death.

Leng Qiuxue opened her mouth, attempting to stop her, but it was too late.

Seeing Leng Qiushuang launching an attack, Fang Bai swiftly retreated while summoning the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, slashing out with all his might.

After advancing to a Thunder Tribulation stage two expert, his combat power had surged several times. At that moment, the scarlet blade light he unleashed was unmatched in fierceness, causing pain akin to being slashed to the skin for tens of feet around, making those strong figures retreat.

“Boom!”

A resounding explosion occurred as the blade light Fang Bai slashed collided with Leng Qiushuang’s Spirit Qi Big Palm.

Fang Bai groaned heavily, his figure trembled fiercely, and was jolted back dozens of feet, with blood seeping from the corner of his mouth.

On closer inspection, the web of his thumb holding the blade had been torn, blood gushing profusely.

“Though I’ve advanced to Thunder Tribulation stage two, I’m still unable to withstand a battle against a stage six expert!”

Fang Bai wiped the blood from his mouth, secretly sighing.

Leng Qiushuang believed that by attacking Fang Bai, a Thunder Tribulation stage two expert with her stage six cultivation, success was assured and Fang Bai wouldn’t escape. Yet, she never expected him to block her grasp and suffer only minor injuries.

This left Leng Qiushuang greatly shocked. In front of numerous eyes, her old face turned slightly red, feeling she had lost face.

Her gaze fell on the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade that had suddenly appeared in Fang Bai’s hand. Seeing the Blood Blade Fiend Aura surging to the sky, it influenced even her mind upon a single glance, causing her to exclaim involuntarily, “Good blade!”

With her rich experience and keen eyes, she realized in one glance that Fang Bai’s Blood-Drinking Mad Blade was extraordinary, much superior to the Royal Grade spiritual artifact she wielded, igniting her greed.

Around them, among the many spectators, some strong figures whose strength rivaled Leng Qiushuang also brightened their eyes upon seeing Fang Bai’s Blood-Drinking Mad Blade.

“Hahaha... Tower Master Leng, as someone about to enter the Great Calamity Period of the Thunder Tribulation realm, here you are bullying a junior at stage two of the Thunder Tribulation realm; isn’t that dishonorable!”

A wave of laughter reverberated around Fang Bai and his companions’ ears, followed by an elderly man in robes suddenly appearing on the scene, accompanied by a burning heatwave.

“Lihuo True Person?”

Seeing the newcomer, Leng Qiushuang's expression turned solemn, her eyes flashing with deep apprehension.

"Lihuo Old Daoist is right; a stage six Thunder Tribulation expert bullying a stage two junior, I, Zizai Monk, find it unbearable!"

"I, Liu Sanqian, love to intervene in worldly injustices. Where there's strong bullying the weak, how can I stand idly by?"

Following Lihuo True Person, two more figures appeared alongside him: Zizai Monk and Liu Sanqian, Layman Liu.

Seeing these three standing for Fang Bai, Leng Qiushuang didn't know whether to feel more troubled.

Lihuo True Person, Zizai Monk, and Liu Sanqian were three powerful figures known for championing justice and were revered in the Three Thousand Worlds. Their appearance caused those coveting Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade to momentarily restrain their greed.

Chapter 1788: False Affection

"Three elders, this is a private vendetta between us, please do not interfere!"

Leng Qiushuang took a deep breath, cupped her fists towards Lihuo Zhenren and his two companions, and spoke crisply.

Although Lihuo Zhenren and his two companions were all strong practitioners at the seventh level of Heavenly Tribulation, Love Severing Tower also had a Supreme Elder at the seventh level of Heavenly Tribulation and tens of thousands of disciples. In terms of overall strength, they could not be easily intimidated by Lihuo Zhenren and the others.

However, this time Leng Qiushuang and Leng Qiuxue only brought a few dozen junior disciples. If Lihuo Zhenren and his two companions were to truly interfere, they would be helpless.

Su Linglong was missing, likely related to Fang Bai; the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in Fang Bai's hand was an extremely rare treasure. Leng Qiushuang had already decided to capture Fang Bai alive, first to coerce information on Su Linglong's whereabouts, and then to seize his Blood Blade.

But if Lihuo Zhenren forcefully intervened, her hopes might be dashed.

"Haha, private vendetta? I think Tower Master Leng has her eyes on the treasure in this young lad's hands, right?"

Zizai Monk chuckled.

Leng Qiushuang, having her intentions pointed out, was unwilling to admit it, and said coldly, "Elder, don't fabricate wild accusations and slander me!"

Liu Sanqian laughed and said, "If that is not the case, would Tower Master Leng be willing to let this young fellow leave?"

"No way!"

Leng Qiushuang resolutely refused, "This boy abducted a female disciple from our tower; how can I let him go?"

Lihuo Zhenren glanced at Fang Bai and smilingly asked, "This young friend, is what Tower Master Leng said true?"

Fang Bai shrugged and said, "These are trumped-up charges! If I abducted a disciple from Love Severing Tower, then tell me, where is the person I supposedly abducted?"

Zizai Monk said to Leng Qiushuang, "Yes, you said this young friend abducted your tower's disciple, so where is this person?"

Leng Qiushuang was at a loss for words, speechless.

Liu Sanqian sternly said, "Tower Master Leng, this is your fault! Since this young friend did not abduct your tower's disciple, why frame him? Is it truly as Zizai Monk said, that you, Tower Master Leng, are eyeing the treasure in this young friend's hands to claim it for yourself?"

Leng Qiushuang defended, "This boy is an old acquaintance of our tower's disciple Su Linglong. Previously, they were secretly exchanging glances. When the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm opened, Su Linglong was still by my side, but now she is missing. I had to suspect it was his doing."

Liu Sanqian retorted, "Just because they are old acquaintances, you determine it was his doing? Did you see it with your own eyes? Do you have any solid evidence? If not, then you are deliberately framing him!"

After pausing, he added, "I, Liu Sanqian, detest evil, and the thing I dislike most is this! Young friend, don't be afraid, with me here, I'd like to see who dares to touch you!"

"That's right, I, Zizai Monk, am merciful. I will ensure your safe departure from here!"

Zizai Monk rubbed his shiny bald head and said with a grin.

"Whoever dares to touch you is an enemy of mine, Lihuo Zhenren! By then, I'll send them to the Nether Underworld with fire!"

As Lihuo Zhenren spoke, he grasped at the air with his right hand, and a horsetail whisk appeared in his hand.

The entire whisk was snow-white, surrounded by faint white flames. It radiated intense heat and turned out to be a royal grade superior fire system spiritual artifact.

Leng Qiushuang and Leng Qiuxue, seeing that Lihuo Zhenren and the others were shielding Fang Bai, looked extremely displeased.

Leng Qiushuang said coldly, "Are you three elders intended to be enemies of our Love Severing Tower?"

Leng Qiuxue snorted, “Although you three elders are powerful, our Love Severing Tower’s tens of thousands of disciples are not easily manipulated like soft persimmons!”

Liu Sanqian laughed loudly and said, “The two Tower Masters Leng seem quite unconvinced! We cultivators decide outcomes based on strength; why not have a fight?”

Zizai Monk rubbed his sleek, glistening bald head and agreed, “If you can defeat us three, this young friend will be at your disposal! Otherwise, you must let the young friend go. How about that?”

Although there were several dozen strong fighters on the Love Severing Tower’s side, aside from the Leng sisters, most of them were only at the first or second level of Heavenly Tribulation. While they might manage against one of Zizai Monk’s group, facing all three was beyond their capacity.

“It seems you three elders are determined to be enemies of our Love Severing Tower! Fine! Good! We will remember your profound sentiment and friendship!”

Knowing that with Lihuo Zhenren, Zizai Monk, and Liu Sanqian present, there was no chance of capturing Fang Bai, Leng Qiushuang gave the trio a hateful glance and led the Love Severing Tower’s strong fighters away.

“Sister, are we really just leaving like this?”

After walking a few hundred meters away, Leng Qiuxue asked via transmission.

Leng Qiushuang replied, “Leave? Impossible! We won’t go far. When that boy leaves, we will follow him from a distance and intercept him on the road! I can’t believe those meddlesome old fellows will stick with him all the time!”

Leng Qiuxue nodded, instructing the other Love Severing Tower disciples to leave temporarily while the two sisters concealed themselves at a must-pass location for leaving the Great Desolate Mountain Range, waiting for Fang Bai to pass by.

Meanwhile, on Fang Bai's side, once Zizai Monk and the others saw Leng Qiushuang and the Love Severing Tower disciples leave, they approached Fang Bai together.

"Young friend, the people from Love Severing Tower have taken you to heart. You should be cautious!"

"This Blood Blade of yours is extraordinary. The two Tower Masters from Love Severing Tower must be harboring ambitions for it! Remember, do not reveal this Blood Blade in front of others, or it may bring about disaster!"

"Where are you heading, young friend? Do you need us to escort you?"

Zizai Monk and his companions showed great care towards Fang Bai, as if they were old friends reunited.

The observing strong fighters around thought to themselves that these three formidable practitioners at the seventh level of Heavenly Tribulation showing such concern for a junior at the second level was indeed as virtuous as the legends say, earning respect.

Even Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, and others had goodwill towards Zizai Monk's benevolent and kind demeanor.

"Your good intent is appreciated, elders. I believe with your esteemed presence intimidating them, the Love Severing Tower disciples wouldn't dare act rashly. We will leave now and won't trouble you with escorting us. Farewell, farewell!"

Fang Bai knew that Zizai Monk and his companions also coveted his Blood Blade and would likely attempt to seize it secretly later. Despite this, he maintained a harmless smile, cupped his fists towards them, and turned to leave.

Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, and others followed suit as Fang Bai departed.

In the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm area, with heavy suppressions making it impossible to fly using spiritual artifacts, it was not until Fang Bai and the others traveled a hundred miles that they could begin flying.

After flying out of the Great Desolate Mountain Range, Fang Bai parted ways with Qin Ming and the others. Before leaving, he said to Qin Ming, "Sect Master Qin, this is where we part ways. I entrust my elderly parents to the Fire Cloud Sect's care in Red Maple City!"

Qin Ming replied, "Rest assured, Elder Fang. As long as the Fire Cloud Sect stands, your parents will be well taken care of. Safe travels in your search for friends and family, Elder Fang."

Chapter 1789: Su Linglong's Guilt

Watching Qin Ming and the five Fire Cloud Sect disciples leave, Fang Bai led Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong, Wu De, and Lightning Mink, flying to a dense bamboo forest hundreds of miles away.

Fang Bai waved his hand to set up the Concealment Formation within the bamboo forest, isolating the Divine Sense of the three major powerhouses — Leng Qiushuang, Leng Qiuxue, and Zizai Monk from Love Severing Tower. Then he released Su Linglong from the Five Elements Space Ring.

"Fang Bai, have we already gotten rid of the Love Severing Tower people?"

Su Linglong, realizing she was not inside the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm and couldn't see her fellow sect members of Love Severing Tower, felt a mix of surprise and joy.

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "The two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower suspect your disappearance is related to me. After leaving the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, they've been tailing us. It's easier said than done to get rid of them!"

Upon hearing this, Fang Yun and the others were all taken aback.

Su Linglong's expression changed slightly as she said worriedly, "Then... what should we do? Both the Main Tower Master and the Second Tower Master have Heavenly Tribulation cultivation levels of six, they're incredibly powerful! If they find out I was taken by you, the two of us... we're likely doomed!"

Thinking of the means by which Love Severing Tower punishes disciples who have affairs with men from the outside world, Su Linglong's pretty face turned pale, trembling in fear.

Fang Bai said, "It's not that easy for them to take our lives!"

After a pause, he added, "But, currently, it's not only the two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower who want my life, but also those three from Zizai Monk."

Fang Yun's beautiful eyes widened suddenly and she exclaimed, "Little brother, those three from Zizai Monk seem quite kind-hearted! They even helped you scare away the two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower earlier. Why would they want your life? Could you have misunderstood them?"

Wu De rolled his eyes and coughed a few times, saying, "Could it be because of the saying, 'A commoner is innocent, yet harboring a prized jade makes them guilty'?"

Baili Mingyue, who was incredibly intelligent, tilted her head and thought for a moment before clapping her hands and saying, "Oh, I understand now. Fang Bai, when you clashed with the Main Tower Master of Love Severing Tower, you revealed the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, which attracted a lot of attention. Those three from Zizai Monk probably also coveted your Blood Blade, right?"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "Mingyue is perceptive and observant, worthy of praise! Yes, those three from Zizai Monk show a façade of righteousness and hostility towards evil, but they are indeed coveting my Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, intending to lure me into complacency!"

Previously in the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, Fang Yun and the others heard many powerhouses discussing the three from Zizai Monk, knowing their strength far exceeded that of the two Tower Masters of Love Severing Tower. Now, with these five major powerhouses tracking and tailing them, just thinking about it sent chills down their spines.

"Who would've thought those three elders, looking kind and benevolent, could actually harbor greed!"

Fang Yun murmured to herself, truly unable to associate the three from Zizai Monk with villains, yet she had no choice but to trust her little brother's words.

Fang Bai sneered, "Sister, don't be deceived by the appearance of those three from Zizai Monk. They're not good people at all! Each of them has taken at least a thousand lives, or at least eight hundred. They've also humiliated many women! Those three, death would not be enough for them!"

Fang Bai's sensing abilities were far superior to those of Fang Yun and the others; he could sense the bloodthirsty and lustful aura from those three of Zizai Monk, which Fang Yun and the others could not detect, so their impression of those three was just superficial, unaware that they were truly evil.

Upon hearing Fang Bai mention the numerous lives those three from Zizai Monk had taken, Fang Yun and the others all gasped, thinking that if they were truly righteous and compassionate, they wouldn't have killed so many people. So Fang Bai's words seemed markedly true, and those three were nothing more than wicked hypocrites.

Su Linglong felt that the situation had developed because of her, causing her deep guilt and self-blame.

"If it weren't for me, Fang Bai wouldn't have clashed with the Tower Masters and wouldn't have revealed the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade to contend with them. And if those three from Zizai Monk hadn't seen the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, they wouldn't have become greedy and murderous towards Fang Bai, possibly implicating all of you. I... I am sorry for causing you trouble..."

Su Linglong furrowed her brows, speaking softly.

She thought if Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, and the others suffered great hardship because of this, she would feel worthy of a thousand deaths, making her eyes instantly redden in anxiety.

After reincarnating in the mortal world, Fang Bai's first close confidante became Su Linglong. Seeing her tearful demeanor, he felt compassionate and embraced her slender waist, softly comforting her.

"Linglong, you don't need to blame yourself, actually. Those three from Zizai Monk did not just follow us out of greed for the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade..."

Fang Bai suddenly spoke.

“Then... what’s the reason?”

Su Linglong asked, puzzled.

Fang Yun, Baili Mingyue, and the others also looked at Fang Bai, waiting for his explanation.

Fang Bai spoke solemnly, “I observed that those three from Zizai Monk are not only quick to kill, but also fond of women, often using the Prime Yin of women to boost their cultivation levels. I suspect they’ve set their sights on you three...”

As Fang Bai mentioned “you three,” his gaze swept over Su Linglong, Baili Mingyue, and Fang Yun, making it clear he was referring to them, causing their faces to flush and each to spit angrily.

Baili Mingyue said with fury, “So those three are just a bunch of old perverts? No wonder I felt their gaze was somewhat odd... yuck! Next time I see them, I’ll gouge out their eyes!”

Su Linglong and Fang Yun recalled how, in the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm, those three from Zizai Monk indeed seemed to glance at them intentionally or unintentionally. At the time, it felt inconsequential, but confirming it with Fang Bai’s words, it indeed seemed odd.

Wu De scratched his head and said, “Two Heavenly Tribulations level six, three Heavenly Tribulations level seven... Damn, being targeted by these five powerhouses, we can’t escape nor fight them. What’s the next step?”

Lightning Mink gently waved his folding fan, nodding with vigor, “When soldiers come, block them, when water comes, cover it with earth! Just fight them!”

Wu De rolled his eyes and said, “You talk so easily! Not to mention Heavenly Tribulations level seven experts, even battling a Heavenly Tribulations level six expert, one slap from them could kill us all!”

Lightning Mink retorted dissatisfied, “You, fat Taoist, why do you encourage others while demoralizing yourself?”

Wu De twisted his neck and said, "You, Little Mink, just love to boast and play hero! Sure, you're fast, when things turn sour, you might escape, but we can't!"

Lightning Mink spat, "Fat Taoist, am I the kind of person who would abandon friends and run in danger?"

Wu De said, "You are!"

Seeing the two bickering, Fang Bai said, "Are you two done? If so, can you listen to me for a moment?"

Wu De and Lightning Mink looked at each other defiantly, then said in unison, "Go ahead!"

Chapter 1790: Nine Bends Riverbank

While Fang Bai and his companions were in the bamboo forest's concealment formation, dozens of miles away on a mountain peak, Leng Qiushuang and Leng Qiuxue exchanged glances, looking utterly astonished.

"Strange, how did that bunch suddenly vanish without a trace?"

Leng Qiushuang's gaze lingered on the spot where Fang Bai and his group had disappeared, frowning as he spoke.

"They might have learned some kind of secret technique to conceal their presence. We've been too careless!"

Leng Qiuxue sighed as she spoke.

Leng Qiushuang said, "They shouldn't have gone far; let's wait here and observe carefully."

Leng Qiuxue gazed toward a dense forest in the distance and whispered, "The three old fellows of Zizai Monk are also nearby. Though they're well-hidden, they don't know my instincts are sharp, and I've already discovered their presence."

Leng Qiushuang sneered, "Those three old guys, who act so righteous on the surface, are in fact hypocrites, only hiding deeper! One day, their true colors will be revealed to the world!"

Leng Qiuxue said, "The three of them have been following all the way here, could it be they're also after the Blood Blade in that kid's hand? What should we do if they decide to interfere?"

Leng Qiushuang said, "Let's take it one step at a time. I have a feeling that kid seems to be confident, not simple at all!"

Leng Qiuxue sighed, "Sister, where exactly has Linglong gone? How could she just disappear out of nowhere..."

Leng Qiushuang snorted and said, "I don't know the reason, but it surely has something to do with that kid. They're definitely still in the bamboo forest; we just need to keep a close eye on them!"

As the Leng sisters were whispering, in a dense forest dozens of miles away, Lihuo True Person, Zizai Monk, and Liu Sanqian, three powerful cultivators at the seventh level of Heavenly Tribulation, were also quietly discussing.

"I used my Divine Sense to probe their movements, but suddenly it got blocked! Really strange!"

This was the voice of Lihuo True Person.

"It seems there's someone among them who knows secret techniques of concealment!"

This was the voice of Zizai Monk.

“They can hide for a while, but not forever. They’ll show themselves eventually. Who are we three afraid of when it comes to patience?”

This was Liu Sanqian’s voice.

“Let’s not rush; we’ll patiently wait here. As long as there’s any movement on the bamboo forest side, they can’t hide it from us!”

Zizai Monk said.

“Those two old women from the Love Severing Tower are hiding on the mountain peak opposite. I think they’re pretending to search for their missing disciple, but in truth, they aim to take the kid’s Blood Blade! However, they wouldn’t expect that our goal is also that kid’s Blood Blade.”

Liu Sanqian mentioned the Blood Blade, his eyes gleaming, and exclaimed, “Tut tut, that kid is only at the second level of Heavenly Tribulation, yet he can withstand an attack from the sixth level cold autumn frost with that Blood Blade, showing its terrific power. I suspect it might even surpass superior Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts, perhaps it’s a legendary Immortal Artifact!”

Lihuo True Person, eyes burning, stroked his beard and said, “So no matter what, we have to get our hands on that Blood Blade!”

Zizai Monk said, “Upon obtaining the Blood Blade, there’ll be no fighting among us. It’ll belong to whoever is most suited to use it!”

He stroked his smooth chin, smiled sinisterly, and said, “Honestly, compared to that Blood Blade, I’m more interested in the female disciples of the Love Severing Tower. Each one is tender and vibrant, mostly with the Primordial Yin Physique, perfect for being a cultivation furnace. Especially that little girl with the Innate Wood Spirit Root, she’s my favorite. Sadly, she vanished within the Immortal Tablet Secret Realm...”

As he spoke, he murmured to himself, “Could it be true, as the two Tower Masters of the Love Severing Tower claim, that the disappearance of the girl with the Innate Wood Spirit Root is related to that kid? Hmm, once we capture that kid, let’s see if we can force anything out of him...”

Lihuo True Person pointed at Zizai Monk and laughed heartily, "You lustful monk, all you think about is sleeping with women; you'll die on a woman's belly sooner or later!"

Zizai Monk chuckled, "I cultivate Joyful Zen, sleeping with women is my cultivation!"

Just then, Liu Sanqian "shushed" them, signaling silence, then said softly, "That kid has come out of the bamboo forest!"

Lihuo True Person and Zizai Monk heard this, they swiftly released their Divine Senses and indeed noticed the bamboo forest, dozens of miles away, shaking. Immediately, Fang Bai's figure soared into the sky, flying toward the eastern horizon.

"Why is it just the kid alone? Where are his companions? I can't sense their presence anymore."

Lihuo True Person frowned, his expression puzzled.

Zizai Monk and Liu Sanqian exchanged a look, both equally perplexed, wondering how Fang Bai and his group entered the bamboo forest together, yet now only Fang Bai was visible while the others were nowhere to be found?

Zizai Monk waved it off, "Whatever, our target is the Blood Blade in that kid's hand, the others are irrelevant!"

Seeing Lihuo True Person and Liu Sanqian readying to pursue Fang Bai, he hastily said, "No rush! No rush! We'll trail behind the two old women from the Love Severing Tower, and be the bird that catches the mantis that stalks the cicada!"

A few moments later, when Fang Bai flew far enough, the Leng sisters from the Love Severing Tower also transformed into streaks of light, taking off and following in the direction Fang Bai was heading.

"Let's go!"

Zizai Monk commanded in a low voice, and with Lihuo True Person and Liu Sanqian, they pursued the Leng sisters from dozens of miles behind.

Fang Bai sped like lightning, flying eastward for over three thousand miles, when he saw below a river over a thousand feet wide, meandering and flowing, with a huge fortress built on its banks.

Upon spotting the enormous fortress and confirming the fortress was inhabited by giants nearly ten feet tall, Fang Bai's tense expression finally relaxed, and he let out a long breath, a slight smile curling at his lips.

Fang Bai flew over the gigantic fortress, suddenly gathering his breath and shouting, "Nine Bends Riverbank, Giant Tribe Fortress, avert disaster, remember grace and righteousness!"

Upon his words, several streaks of light shot up from the fortress below, suspended in front of Fang Bai, looking at him with excited expressions.

As Fang Bai focused his eyes on them, he saw five tall, dark-skinned, rugged men dressed in animal hides.

"What is Gu Ta to you?"

Fang Bai's gaze swept over the five burly men across from him, finally stopping on the one in the center at the seventh level of Heavenly Tribulation, and he asked with a smile.

Upon hearing the name "Gu Ta," the five men appeared even more excited. The one at the seventh level of Heavenly Tribulation cupped his fists toward Fang Bai and said, "Gu Ta was a stunningly talented ancestor of our Giant Clan from tens of thousands of years ago. May I ask what relationship does this little brother have with Senior Fang Bai?"

Fang Bai's smile broadened, "Fang Bai is one of my ancestors. Coincidentally, I also go by the name Fang Bai."