

Doctor 1801

Chapter 1801: It's So Good to See You!

At the bottom of the River of Enlightenment, a ring quietly lay there.

The ring was Fang Bai's Five Elements Space Ring.

After bringing the Dongfang sisters into the Five Elements Space Ring and diving to the river bottom, Fang Bai slipped off the Five Elements Space Ring from his finger and entered it himself to reunite with the Dongfang sisters.

"Rushi, Ruhua, are you both alright?"

Seeing the Dongfang sisters looking pale and somewhat shaken, Fang Bai asked concernedly.

Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua had previously been meditating by the River of Enlightenment when they suddenly heard the sound of water exploding. Before they could look, they felt dizzy, and in the next moment, they appeared in this strange space.

Before they could regain their composure, Fang Bai's concerned voice reached their ears.

"Big Brother, I missed you so much!"

Seeing Fang Bai, Dongfang Ruhua's eyes lit up, and she flung herself into Fang Bai's arms like a little swallow returning home, wrapping her arms tightly around his waist, unwilling to let go.

Her face rested against Fang Bai's chest, eyes slightly closed, listening to his steady and powerful heartbeat, her expression intoxicated.

At this moment, her heart was filled with happiness. She just wanted to hold Fang Bai like this, without worrying or asking about anything else.

"Fang Bai, what happened just now? Where are we?"

Dongfang Rushi's affection for Fang Bai was no less than her sister's, but she was more reserved and calm.

On seeing Fang Bai, her first thought was not to express her feelings, but to understand what had just happened and where they were.

As she asked this, her gaze never left Fang Bai's face, her bright eyes filled with unconcealed joy.

Fang Bai smiled and explained how he manipulated the spirit beasts to attack powerhouses from the Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect and used the opportunity to bring the Dongfang sisters into the Five Elements Space Ring and dive to the river bottom.

Dongfang Rushi's gaze wandered as she looked at the mountains and rivers, flowers and trees, and little spirit beasts running around in this miniature world, and she exclaimed in surprise, "This Five Elements Space Ring actually forms a world of its own; it's truly a rare treasure."

Just then, a few figures emerged from amidst the mountain of Royal Grade Spirit Stones.

"Rushi! Ruhua!"

"Haha, Fang Bai, you're lucky to have found two more!"

"Our team is getting stronger!"

"Greetings, Mistress Rushi! Greetings, Mistress Ruhua!"

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Those figures were Fang Yun, Su Linglong, Wu De, Little Mink, Niu Ben, Xiong Yingxiong. They had been cultivating and sensed the presence of the Dongfang sisters, so they emerged from their cultivation state together.

The ones calling "Mistress" were naturally Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong.

"Haha, Sister Yun, Sister Linglong, Taoist Priest Wu, Little Mink, Niu Ben, Hero... It's so good to see you all!"

Dongfang Ruhua, hearing the voices of Fang Yun and others, released Fang Bai, turned to look, and then rushed forward, her pretty face full of joy and smiles.

Dongfang Rushi also went over, exchanged pleasantries with Wu De and others, then held hands with Fang Yun and Su Linglong, sharing the feelings of their long separation over the years.

Talking about the hardships they endured, the ladies couldn't help but sigh together.

"Our reunion marks the end of bitterness and the beginning of sweetness. Once we find everyone else, we'll follow Fang Bai back to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace he established, and settle down there."

Su Linglong said to the Dongfang sisters.

The Dongfang sisters were unaware of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and were very intrigued after hearing about it. Dongfang Ruhua clutched Su Linglong's hand and asked for details.

Thus, the four ladies gathered together to talk about the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and relevant matters, with Su Linglong casually mentioning Lu Liyu during the conversation.

Fang Bai hadn't concealed the matter of Lu Liyu from others and had frankly disclosed it to Su Linglong shortly after they met.

Although the women around Fang Bai were aware of each other's existence and didn't mind the number of women around Fang Bai, it inevitably felt odd to discuss such matters face-to-face.

Therefore, when the women gathered, they deliberately avoided bringing up such topics.

However, the straightforward and pure-hearted Dongfang Ruhua, upon knowing that Lu Liyu didn't accompany Fang Bai but stayed to guard the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, couldn't help but ask more questions, and felt concerned for Lu Liyu.

"That tree continuously exudes Wood Spirit Qi, it seems quite extraordinary. What kind of treasure is it?"

Dongfang Rushi, worried her sister might go on endlessly, turned to see the World Tree not far away, which was over a person tall and lush, and changed the subject.

Her remark indeed piqued Dongfang Ruhua's curiosity. Ruhua ran over with interest, stood under the World Tree, looked up, and then inquired about its origins from Fang Bai.

"Mistress Ruhua, this tree is called the World Tree. Cultivating under it yields better results than anywhere else!"

Niu Ben said, as if presenting a treasure.

Xiong Yingxiong, not to be outdone, pointed to the mountain of cultivation resources around and fawned, "Mistress Ruhua, these are all Royal Grade cultivation resources Master found; cultivating among them isn't bad either!"

Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua finally had time to carefully examine the cultivation resources within the Five Elements Space Ring and discovered an abundance of spiritual medicines, pills, stones, and artifacts, all of Royal Grade, resembling a massive cultivation treasure trove. They were, understandably, overjoyed.

"Big Brother, do we and my sister share in these cultivation resources?"

Dongfang Ruhua turned to ask.

Fang Bai nodded, "Of course! You can freely use anything within the Five Elements Space Ring!"

Dongfang Ruhua was excited for a moment, but suddenly became a bit dejected, sighing, "Almost all of these are Five Elements attribute spirit stones, yet Thunder Spirit Stones are very scarce. They can all cultivate, but what am I to do? Why was I born with an Innate Thunder Spirit Root?"

Fang Bai chuckled at her distress over her Innate Thunder Spirit Root, "Ruhua, if the mighty warriors of the world heard you, they'd be spitting blood from anger."

Dongfang Ruhua blinked her eyes and asked, "Why?"

Fang Bai said, "Do you know, among the billions of martial artists in this world, those with Five Elements Innate Spiritual Roots are rare, one in a million; but those with Wind or Thunder attributes are ten, even a hundred times rarer. In the same realm, a strong person with an Innate Thunder Spirit Root wields the most powerful and destructive attacks!"

Dongfang Ruhua's eyes gradually shone, "So, among the first rank of Heavenly Tribulation warriors, my combat strength will surpass others!"

Fang Bai replied, "Exactly."

Dongfang Ruhua was invigorated, but then her shoulders slumped, sighing, "Even so, cultivation resources for the Thunder attribute are even rarer than those for the Five Elements. Advancing my realm won't be easy!"

Fang Bai said, "When there's time, I'll take you on a trip to Thunder Mountain on the Extreme North Continent."

Dongfang Ruhua asked, "Extreme North Continent? Thunder Mountain? Is it a place for Thunder attribute strong people to cultivate?"

Fang Bai replied, "Indeed. Training at Thunder Mountain will greatly enhance your cultivation level."

Chapter 1802: A Way to Leave the River of Enlightenment

Fang Bai thought that at this moment, the banks of the River of Enlightenment must be filled with top-level cultivators waiting for them to come out, ready to confront them.

Previously, when cultivating by the river, Fang Bai absorbed a large amount of nature's spiritual energy and the traces of Immortal Qi lingering on the river's surface, disrupting the foundation of those illusions, causing them to blur and even vanish.

Fang Bai realized that because of this, he had already angered many, and if he appeared by the river now, it would certainly provoke countless top cultivators to condemn him.

The Qiantian Sect, top cultivators rising from the River of Enlightenment, would definitely not let him go either.

In addition to Leng Qiushuang, Zizai Monk, and other top five cultivators, looking across both banks of the River of Enlightenment, they had all become Fang Bai's enemies.

Therefore, Fang Bai wasn't in a hurry to leave and decided to stay deep at the bottom of the River of Enlightenment for a while.

Although the Five Elements Space Ring was a closed space, it contained a cycle of five elemental spiritual energy, forming a world of its own, where Fang Bai and others could stay as long as they wanted.

Hence, Fang Bai and the others temporarily made their home inside the Five Elements Space Ring, spending most of their time cultivating, while in their free time, they would chat and play together, and because of the company, they didn't feel lonely.

Even though Fang Bai had accumulated a large amount of cultivation resources in the Five Elements Space Ring, Fang Yun and the others, all with Innate Spiritual Roots, consumed much more cultivation resources than ordinary cultivators during their practice.

Especially the Lightning Mink, who directly swallowed Spirit Pills and Spiritual Medicine, depleting resources at an even faster pace.

Not to mention Fang Bai, who alone consumed resources equivalent to at least seven other cultivators of the same realm.

Time was passing unknowingly inside the ring.

Fang Bai and the others didn't know how long they had stayed inside the Five Elements Space Ring, only noticing that the cultivation resources around them were decreasing visibly.

During this period, the Dongfang sisters also advanced to the second level of the Heavenly Tribulations, catching up with Fang Yun and the others.

By now, Fang Bai, Fang Yun, Su Linglong, Baili Mingyue, Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua, Wu De, Lightning Mink, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong, all had become cultivators of the second level of the Heavenly Tribulations in the Five Elements Space Ring.

Though their numbers were small, because they all had Innate Spiritual Roots, they had the ability to challenge higher levels, thus their overall strength was not weak.

Especially Fang Bai, who, focused on cultivating in the Five Elements Space Ring, consumed over half of the cultivation resources alone, and it was not far from breaking through to the third level of the Heavenly Tribulations for him.

At this point, if Fang Bai employed all his methods, he could contend with cultivators at the sixth level of the Heavenly Tribulations, but he still had no confidence when facing those at the seventh level.

This gave Fang Bai a headache, as among his opponents, Lihuo True Person, Zizai Monk, and Liu Sanqian, all were at the seventh level of the Heavenly Tribulations.

Fang Bai couldn't deal with even one seventh-level Heavenly Tribulations cultivator, let alone three?

“This won’t do!”

One day, Fang Bai suddenly said to Fang Yun and the others, “The cultivation resources inside the Five Elements Space Ring are decreasing, and we must find a way to leave here.”

Fang Yun said, “Didn’t you say that there are too many enemies outside, and too many strong ones, how can we leave?”

The human-shaped Lightning Mink snapped the folding fan shut in his hand and said loudly with fierce eyes, “Just fight our way out!”

Wu De rolled his eyes and said angrily, “Fight? How? Didn’t you hear Fang Bai say there are many strong ones above, many at the third, fourth, fifth, sixth levels of Heavenly Tribulations, and even a few at the seventh level, with our cultivation level, going up there is just seeking death!”

He paused and continued, “In my opinion, we should just stay honestly in the Five Elements Space Ring and endure against those strong ones. What if they can’t outlast us and leave on their own?”

Fang Bai smiled wryly, “Don’t underestimate them, some people can sit by the River of Enlightenment for decades just to comprehend the Heavenly Dao.”

“I... Damn!”

Wu De was stunned for a moment, then suddenly cursed, “Are those people crazy!”

Fang Bai said, “They’re not crazy, they’re just obsessed. They’re fascinated by cultivation, knowing that if they can comprehend some Immortal Technique Secrets here, they could become renowned across three thousand great worlds!”

Lightning Mink scoffed and said, “If those are truly Immortal Technique Secrets, they must be incredibly difficult to comprehend. Those with opportunity would be fine, but without, even sitting here for decades might result in nothing, right?”

Fang Bai nodded, "Exactly."

He paced back and forth inside the Five Elements Space Ring, frowning slightly, thinking about a way to leave.

Fang Yun and the others' eyes followed Fang Bai's constant movement, also contemplating a solution.

"Forcibly leaving won't work... waiting it out isn't a plan either... what to do? What should we do?"

Fang Bai murmured, lightly tapping his forehead with his fingers.

"If all those illusions of Immortal Technique Secrets on the river surface disappeared, they wouldn't have anything to comprehend! Then they might scatter, and we could leave."

Wu De mumbled quietly beside him.

Fang Bai's eyes suddenly lit up, he turned to look at Wu De, and burst out laughing.

Wu De was baffled by his laughter, rolling his eyes he said, "What are you laughing at? I'm speaking the truth!"

Fang Bai said, "Truth is good! It's precisely because of your truth that you've solved my perplexity!"

Wu De said, "Have you thought of a good way to leave?"

Fang Bai said, "Exactly!"

Baili Mingyue said excitedly, "Great! Fang Bai, quickly tell us what the method is!"

Fang Yun, Su Linglong, and the Dongfang sisters' eyes also fell on Fang Bai, waiting for him to speak.

These people had been inside the Five Elements Space Ring for a long time and felt somewhat oppressed. If they could leave, that would be the best.

Fang Bai said, "You may not know, but the reason why those illusions on the river surface can exist for years is because a trace of Immortal Qi lingers in this area. If I cultivate in the river and absorb that remaining Immortal Qi, without the support of Immortal Qi, those illusions might vanish into thin air and no longer exist."

He chuckled and continued, "Just as Wu Lao Dao said, without illusions, the River of Enlightenment loses its meaning, the strong ones across the shores wouldn't have the patience to stay long, and once they disperse, we can leave at ease."

Wu De's eyes almost popped out at hearing "Immortal Qi," exclaiming, "Immortal Qi? How could there be Immortal Qi in these three thousand great worlds?"

Fang Bai said, "I've heard that millions of years ago, during the Desolate Ancient Era, the boundaries between realms weren't so distinct! At that time, immortals could walk freely in lower plane worlds. The trace of Immortal Qi by the River of Enlightenment is probably left by immortals from that era."

Wu De shouted, "So if you absorb the Immortal Qi, can you ascend to the Immortal Realm? Fang Bai, you cannot abandon us here without loyalty!"

Fang Bai chuckled, "You're overthinking it! How could it be so easy to enter the Immortal Realm? Without going through the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations, no cultivator can ascend to the Immortal Realm; that's the law of the heavens and earth!"

Chapter 1803: Breaking the Water

A few hours later, the many powerful practitioners along both banks of the River of Enlightenment, discovering the previously calm river surface suddenly starting to ripple again, saw a huge whirlpool forming at the center of the river.

At the same time, the dense nature's spiritual energy over the river was being absorbed into the massive whirlpool at a speed visible to the naked eye.

"What... what's going on again?"

"It's exactly like the scene when that kid was cultivating before!"

"That kid dove into the river and didn't come out, could he be up to no good again?"

"I think it's possible!"

"Because of that kid, some illusions on the river surface have become blurred or even disappeared..."

"Yes, this cannot continue! If the illusions of the River of Enlightenment cease to exist, it would no longer be called a cultivation holy land, posing a great loss to the strong practitioners of the three thousand great worlds!"

"Just watch, the powerful practitioners from Qiantian Sect won't allow such things to happen!"

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Many powerful practitioners on both banks of the River of Enlightenment watched as the whirlpool kept absorbing the nature's spiritual energy, creating a stir.

Some practitioners have already noticed that with the disappearance of spiritual energy, the illusions on the river surface have become more blurred.

These practitioners didn't know that the fate of these illusions was not much connected to the spiritual energy, but rather decided by a strand of immortal qi mixed within.

And now, that strand of immortal qi also flows into the body of Fang Bai, who sits cross-legged and enters a cultivation state at the bottom of the river, with the constantly absorbed nature's spiritual energy.

"I'll report this matter to the Sect Master and ask him to decide!"

A strong practitioner stationed there from Qiantian Sect looked distressed and flew away, heading towards the not-so-distant Sect Master Hall of Qiantian Sect.

Several other strong practitioners from Qiantian Sect also looked grim, as if facing a formidable enemy, staring at the river surface.

The Qiantian Sect strong practitioner returned in a hurry after only a few dozen breaths.

Accompanying him was another figure with fluttering sleeves and an immortal demeanor, possessing the cultivation level of the eighth level of Thunder Tribulation.

"It's Sect Master Zheng Qianyuan of Qiantian Sect!"

"Didn't expect him to show up personally!"

"He has already advanced to the eighth level of Thunder Tribulation, a rare strong practitioner in this era!"

"It's said Zheng Qianyuan is already over five hundred years old!"

"Wow, over five hundred years old and still so spirited, he's basically considered a demi-immortal, right?"

"Nonsense! Only practitioners who've surpassed the ninth level of Thunder Tribulation have the right to be regarded as a demi-immortal! He's still far off!"

“Shh... lower your voice, or do you want to die?”

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The strong practitioners on both sides of the River of Enlightenment saw the Sect Master of Qiantian Sect appear in person, causing another stir.

Zheng Qianyuan came to the edge of the River of Enlightenment, seeing the phenomenon like a dragon drawing water, he frowned tightly.

“Sect Master, what should we do? If this situation continues, the illusions on the river surface might disappear!”

A strong practitioner from Qiantian Sect said anxiously.

No wonder he was anxious; the existence of the River of Enlightenment is crucial to Qiantian Sect, and it could determine the sect’s rise and fall.

“At this point, we can only go down the river and investigate to see what’s really happening!”

Zheng Qianyuan, also encountering such an event for the first time, dared not assert whether this matter was related to the kid mentioned by the reporting Qiantian Sect practitioner.

Zheng Qianyuan found it hard to imagine, what kind of cultivator, cultivating in the depths of the river, could cause such an astonishing earthly phenomenon.

Originally, Qiantian Sect forbade entering the river under any circumstances, for fear of desecrating the immortal traces, but now, to preserve the illusions of the River of Enlightenment, there was no other way but this.

“Let me go down and see!”

A Qiantian Sect Steward of the sixth level of Thunder Tribulation said loudly.

He jumped high, descending towards the river.

But as other practitioners anticipated, the Qiantian Sect Steward was blocked by the spiritual energy on the river surface and could not touch the river water.

“Break for me!”

Under everyone’s eyes, the Qiantian Sect Steward felt embarrassed for not being able to enter the river, he leaned down and launched an all-out attack on the river surface.

The full power attack of a sixth level Thunder Tribulation practitioner was extremely potent, yet his fist power merely caused the river surface to ripple slightly, with no other effects.

At this time, someone by the river laughed, the laughter evidently carrying a hint of mockery.

The Qiantian Sect Steward felt both shame and anger, mobilized his spiritual artifact, and unleashed his strongest attack. But aside from slightly larger ripples, he still was unable to break the barrier of nature’s spiritual energy.

“Steward Wang, you come up, let me try!”

A Qiantian Sect Elder of the seventh level Thunder Tribulation called back the Steward and leapt over the River of Enlightenment, attacking mid-air downwards.

Compared to a sixth level Thunder Tribulation practitioner, a seventh level Thunder Tribulation practitioner was undoubtedly more formidable. This Qiantian Sect Elder was full of confidence, yet unfortunately, his attack also yielded no result.

“Huh? I refuse to believe this!”

The competitive spirit of that Qiantian Sect Elder surged up, he summoned a giant sword, transforming it into a bolt of lightning, slashing down with full force.

That giant sword was a royal grade superior spiritual artifact, of immense power, able to cleave a small stone mountain and cut through a small river.

“Wow!”

With a water sound, that giant sword indeed split open the nature’s spiritual energy on the river surface, cutting the River of Enlightenment’s water into a trench several feet long and several inches deep, but it quickly closed up again, with no time for him to enter the river.

He tried several times, yet the results were always the same.

“Elder Feng, let me handle it!”

Zheng Qianyuan saw even the sect Elder fail, he gasped in surprise, and summoned him back to the shore.

In this short time, several illusions of secret immortal techniques vanished, eliciting regret and exclaims from the powerful practitioners.

“Who is it, damaging these immortal traces of the River of Enlightenment?”

Zheng Qianyuan was both startled and furious, soared into the sky above the River of Enlightenment, fully circulating his cultivation technique, activating the spiritual energy within his body, and gripping a silver trident firmly with both hands, he stabbed fiercely towards the river surface below.

A practitioner of the eighth level Thunder Tribulation is only second to those of the ninth level, and their power is several times stronger than those of the seventh level.

The steel trident in Zheng Qianyuan's hands was said to be found at the side of the River of Enlightenment, even more formidable than royal grade superior spiritual artifacts, leading many to speculate it might be an immortal artifact.

Although Zheng Qianyuan couldn't fully utilize the power of the steel trident with his eighth level Thunder Tribulation cultivation level, its enhancing effect nonetheless bolstered his strength a few more notches, making him invincible in the same realm.

"Boom!"

Under the full-force piercing of Zheng Qianyuan's steel trident, the layer of nature's spiritual energy on the surface of the River of Enlightenment finally cracked open a gap more than a dozen feet long, and the river water exploded several feet high.

Zheng Qianyuan seized the fleeting opportunity, his figure lightning-fast plunged into the river.

Within the river water, divine sense was limited, making it difficult to probe beyond a hundred feet, so Zheng Qianyuan swiftly dove downwards, heading to the very bottom of the whirlpool, intending to see who was causing such an earthly phenomenon at the riverbed.

Upon reaching within a hundred feet of the whirlpool, Zheng Qianyuan finally discovered a handsome young man in white sitting cross-legged at the very bottom of the whirlpool, completely absorbed in a cultivation state, as the continuously absorbed nature's spiritual energy flowed endlessly into his body.

Chapter 1804: Courting Death

As a formidable Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv8 expert, Zheng Qianyuan's perception and experience naturally far exceed those of ordinary strong individuals. A single glance at Fang Bai was enough to know that this young man is extraordinarily unremarkable.

In Zheng Qianyuan's eyes, Fang Bai, with merely Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv2, was emanating an aura comparable to a Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv4 expert. Moreover, as a vast amount of nature's spiritual energy poured into his body, his aura grew increasingly imposing.

Zheng Qianyuan was even more astonished to discover that the immense nature's spiritual energy being absorbed by Fang Bai seemed to contain a strand of astonishing power.

This strand of astonishing power, once entering Fang Bai's body, was like a dormant underground volcano, silently hidden. Yet once it erupted, the resultant offensive and destructive power would be beyond everyone's expectations.

"Just what is the identity of this child? Not only does he possess an Innate Spiritual Root, but he also possesses more than one..."

Under Zheng Qianyuan's leadership, the Qiantian Sect also had many talented sect disciples. However, these disciples paled in comparison to Fang Bai. If Fang Bai were a disciple of some sect, then the strength of his sect must surpass the Qiantian Sect's.

Zheng Qianyuan cast a complex look at Fang Bai, feeling a certain level of trepidation within.

At this moment, Fang Bai also noticed Zheng Qianyuan, equally astonished in his heart.

He had been cultivating at the deep bottom of the river, hoping to leverage a strand of Immortal Qi diffusing over the river surface to once again advance in realm, in order to contend against several Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv7 experts on both banks of the River of Enlightenment. Yet unexpectedly, it attracted a Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv8 expert.

Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv7 and Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv8, though only a single realm apart, differ in strength by several multiples.

This is the fundamental reason other Qiantian Sect experts cannot enter the River of Enlightenment, but Zheng Qianyuan can.

With Fang Bai's current cultivation level, encountering a Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv7 expert is already troublesome, let alone having a Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv8 expert nearby.

Moreover, the other party looks on with hostility and obvious enmity, clearly an adversary, not an ally, which makes Fang Bai even more tense.

“You brat, which sect do you hail from? Quickly report your identity and origins! Otherwise, I won’t be polite!”

Before discerning Fang Bai’s identity, Zheng Qianyuan dared not act rashly for fear of causing trouble for the Qiantian Sect.

Yet Zheng Qianyuan was merely concerned about the possible forces behind Fang Bai; as for fear, that wasn’t the case. After all, even if he was to kill Fang Bai, he would be standing on the moral high ground of “Guardian of the River of Enlightenment,” earning support from the many strong experts across the three thousand great worlds.

With this support, the Qiantian Sect could stand against any sect.

Fang Bai ignored Zheng Qianyuan and instead accelerated the absorption of nature’s spiritual energy, seeking further advancement in cultivation level as a means of escape.

“Are you unwilling to speak? From now, you have ten breaths to consider. Once ten breaths have passed, don’t blame me for being merciless!”

Seeing Fang Bai ignore him, Zheng Qianyuan couldn’t help but feel enraged, thinking that he was after all a Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv8 expert, not the very pinnacle but surely among the top-tier. Yet, that kid, with mere Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv2, dared to disregard him, which was truly hateful.

Despite issuing a stern warning, Fang Bai still chose to disregard, absorbing nature’s spiritual energy even more quickly than before.

Zheng Qianyuan could distinctly sense the rapidly accumulating nature’s spiritual energy within Fang Bai, feeling like the next moment, his body would fail to contain the excess spiritual energy and burst.

“This kid has absorbed such a vast amount of nature’s spiritual energy in a short time, yet seems unaffected. His physical resilience is simply unprecedented!”

Increasingly shocked, Zheng Qianyuan thought to himself that if he were in Fang Bai’s shoes, absorbing such a vast amount of nature’s spiritual energy in a short period would likely be unbearable, causing him to die from body explosion.

Keeping his gaze fixed on Fang Bai, Zheng Qianyuan thought that if this went on, within two hours, Fang Bai might very well break through and advance to Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv3.

“This kid’s innate talent and physical resilience are truly extraordinary. Given a hundred years, his cultivation level might reach the Thunder Tribulation Realm’s Great Calamity Period! The fierce words I said to him earlier, he’ll surely harbor resentment against them. If I don’t eliminate him today, the Qiantian Sect might face huge trouble in the future.”

With this thought, Zheng Qianyuan gritted his teeth, emboldened by malice, his gaze toward Fang Bai becoming ruthless.

Fang Bai sensed the aggressive and murderous intent emanating from Zheng Qianyuan, knowing this Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv8 expert would, once making a move, unleash earth-shaking power. His mind raced, devising countermeasures.

“The ten breaths are up! Die!”

Zheng Qianyuan suddenly yelled, fists like hammers, striking forward simultaneously.

The River of Enlightenment seemed stirred by invisible forces, with rivers within a several-mile radius echoing loudly as enormous tidal waves towering over several feet high were lifted by the blow of Zheng Qianyuan’s fists, creating a terrifying scene.

At the deep bottom of the river, two enormous water columns several feet long, like missiles launched at high speed, shot toward Fang Bai.

“Hey!”

Facing the two gigantic water columns, Fang Bai neither dodged nor evaded, let out a muffled shout, eyes gleaming brilliantly, choosing to resist with his body.

“That kid is insane! He’s seeking death!”

Witnessing Fang Bai audaciously challenging his attack using just his body, Zheng Qianyuan was initially stunned, then sneered.

Despite knowing Fang Bai’s physical resilience, Zheng Qianyuan didn’t believe Fang Bai could solely rely on his physical strength to resist his strike.

“Boom!”

The two water columns carried Zheng Qianyuan’s formidable Thunder Tribulation Realm Lv8 spiritual energy power, fiercely hitting Fang Bai’s body.

The columns exploded loudly, stirring up even higher gigantic crashing waves.

Fang Bai let out a “pfft,” spewing a mouthful of blood, his figure propelled backward rapidly by the impact of the forces.

“Intense aura fluctuation... Could it be, that kid didn’t dodge my attack because he intends to leverage its power for forced advancement?”

Watching Fang Bai retreat rapidly underwater, Zheng Qianyuan sensed a sudden, intense aura wave emanating from him, leaving him speechless.

Zheng Qianyuan had seen cultivators making breakthroughs via accumulated spiritual energy, and those who used enlightenment chances for advancement. But the method of leveraging others’ power for advancement had only been heard of, never witnessed firsthand.

Cultivators relying on others' strength to advance were essentially dancing on the edge of a blade, recklessly gambling with their lives. A single mistake could lead to immediate demise.

Therefore, unless one had strong confidence in their physical resilience, such an approach was seldom dared.

Yet Fang Bai dared do so and succeeded.

"Even if you advance, what of it? You'll still be nothing but a ghost under my fists!"

Zheng Qianyuan immediately pursued, striking another fist as he neared Fang Bai.

This fist wielded even greater power, vowing to slay Fang Bai under its might.

Chapter 1805: Leveraging Power to Advance

Just as Zheng Qianyuan predicted, Fang Bai used his powerful body to withstand Zheng Qianyuan's double fist attack, and by harnessing the momentary force generated by the attack, achieved the purpose of advancing in rank.

Although Fang Bai's internal organs were shattered under Zheng Qianyuan's double fist attack, causing him to vomit blood and retreat with serious injuries, it was far from fatal for someone with such tenacious vitality as him.

As Zheng Qianyuan launched another punch, stirring the water into a misty turbulence before Fang Bai, a sly smile appeared at the corner of Fang Bai's mouth.

Amidst that misty spray, Fang Bai's body swiftly hid inside the Five Elements Space Ring, which was carried forward by the surging water, sinking into a field of rubble several hundred feet away under the impact of the mighty force in the water.

Under Fang Bai's intentional concealment, not a trace of spiritual energy leaked from the Five Elements Space Ring. Therefore, unless Zheng Qianyuan had the ability to drain the river completely and then turn

over every stone at the riverbed, it would be harder than reaching heaven for him to find the Five Elements Space Ring.

“Fang Bai, what’s wrong?”

Seeing Fang Bai reappear in the Five Elements Space Ring, with blood at the corner of his mouth and weak aura, clearly heavily injured, Fang Yun and the others rushed forward, asking anxiously.

In their eyes, although Fang Bai’s cultivation level was not high, he had many life-saving means and had never been so severely injured. Seeing him now in tattered clothes and barely alive, they were all at a loss.

“I’m fine.”

Fang Bai wiped the corner of his mouth and smiled, “Actually, I got injured on purpose.”

“Ah? On purpose?”

“How could you do that?”

“Why did you intentionally get injured?”

“Hey? Did you notice, Fang Bai is heavily injured but his Martial Artist aura seems even stronger... Strange!”

“Could it be that our master has advanced in rank again?”

...

Upon hearing that Fang Bai got injured on purpose, Fang Yun and the others looked Fang Bai up and down, all puzzled, utterly perplexed.

Fang Bai said, "If I didn't take that strike, it might take a lot longer for me to advance in rank! Hehe, this is called a blessing in disguise!"

Wu De, hearing Fang Bai's explanation, exclaimed in admiration, giving a thumbs up to Fang Bai: "You're amazing! If it were me, I definitely wouldn't dare to do such a thing!"

Fang Bai waved his hand, indicating he didn't want to speak anymore, pointed at the World Tree in the distance, and said, "I need to cultivate for a period to recover from my injuries while consolidating my realm. Do not disturb me."

Swaying, he staggered to the World Tree, supported by Su Linglong and Dongfang Ruhua, and sat cross-legged beneath it, entering a cultivation state almost instantly.

Baili Mingyue and others also stopped their chatter and play, quietly sitting in the cultivation resources not far from Fang Bai, cultivating alongside him.

Meanwhile, deep at the bottom of the river, Zheng Qianyuan was still searching everywhere for Fang Bai's traces.

"Strange, where did that kid go? He suddenly disappeared without a trace, could it be that my punch shattered him? Even if shattered, there should be some traces left! Strange..."

Zheng Qianyuan searched a radius of dozens of miles at the bottom of the River of Enlightenment, finding no trace of Fang Bai, as if he had vanished into thin air, feeling greatly astonished.

After searching for several hours with no results, in disappointment, he had no choice but to leave the riverbed of the River of Enlightenment, breaking through the water to the surface.

"Sect Master, something terrible happened, look at the illusion on the river surface..."

Zheng Qianyuan had just surfaced when an elder rushed toward him, pointing at the surface of the River of Enlightenment and speaking with a trembling voice.

Seeing the elder's expression and hearing the tone, Zheng Qianyuan already sensed something was wrong. Following the direction of his finger to look at the River of Enlightenment, he was stunned.

The river surface was empty, no longer showing the various miraculous illusions like a mirage.

The layer of nature's spiritual energy that enveloped the river surface also disappeared. Over the years, the River of Enlightenment, which attracted countless strong people to comprehend and cultivate, had turned into an ordinary river.

On the banks of the River of Enlightenment, a small number of strong people had already departed, but most continued lingering by the river, faces filled with regret, frustration, disappointment, and fury.

Some disciples from other sects secretly harbored schadenfreude, thinking that without the River of Enlightenment, the Qiantian Sect losing the advantage of proximity for cultivation would be a huge blow to them.

The Qiantian Sect, which rose to prominence thanks to the River of Enlightenment and still retains widespread renown today, might just face decline with the disappearance of the river's illusions.

"Ah... Damn it!"

Gazing dazedly at the tranquil river water, Zheng Qianyuan's expression kept changing drastically. Furious and nearly uncontrolled, he spat out a mouthful of old blood upwards.

"Sect Master!"

The mighty figures of the Qiantian Sect hurried forward to support him.

"Get away!"

Zheng Qianyuan viciously pushed away the surrounding strong figures of the Qiantian Sect, standing by the River of Enlightenment's edge, pointing at the water and shouting frantically, "It's him! That boy destroyed the River of Enlightenment! All of you go down into the river and find him for me! Alive, I want to see him; dead, I want to see his corpse!"

He was sure Fang Bai was not dead, just hiding temporarily, filled with boundless hatred, vowing not to rest until Fang Bai was found and torn to pieces.

Without the obstacle of the spiritual energy on the river surface, any strong person could enter the River of Enlightenment.

Therefore, hundreds and thousands of Qiantian Sect disciples jumped into the river, diving deep down to search meticulously for Fang Bai's whereabouts.

No one knew how long had passed before Fang Bai, cultivating inside the Five Elements Space Ring, slowly opened his eyes.

As he opened his eyes, his surrounding aura surged, imposing and oppressive, his gaze erupted with brilliant light, bright as lightning, making Wu De and others dare not meet his gaze.

"Could it already be the third level of the Heavenly Tribulation? Ah, I thought my cultivation had caught up to him, but he got ahead of me again... His advancement speed is like a rocket, shooting skyward!"

Wu De looked at the newly refined, more transcendent Fang Bai, feeling somewhat dejected.

Baili Mingyue laughed, "Tsk, Wu Taoist Priest, of all people to compare yourself to, you're comparing with Fang Bai, isn't that asking for frustration? Compare with us instead!"

Wu De slapped his forehead, saying, "Right! Why am I comparing with Fang Bai? That kid isn't human; he's a genius!"

Pausing, he said to Baili Mingyue and the others, "We are now at the same starting line, so let's see who can advance to the next realm first! The first to advance, others lose a share of cultivation resources to him! How about it?"

Lightning Mink shook the fan in its hand triumphantly, saying, "No need to say, the one who advances first will definitely be me!"

Baili Mingyue scoffed, "That's not certain! It might be me!"

Dongfang Ruhua also joined the fun with a cheerful smile, "I think I also have a chance!"

"We definitely can't make it!"

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong scratched their heads, acknowledging their limits.

Fang Yun, Su Linglong, and Dongfang Rushi, all being of serene and elegant nature, did not join in the fun, exchanging glances and smiling beautifully.

Chapter 1806: Escape

After a short period of intense cultivation, Fang Bai's Heavenly Tribulation Third Realm was completely stabilized.

"We've been at the bottom of the River of Enlightenment for quite a while. It's time to leave!"

Fang Bai stood up, stretched with all his might, then spoke to Fang Yun and the others.

Fang Yun said, "There are so many strong cultivators outside, are you confident you can get away?"

Fang Bai replied, "Breaking through by force is definitely not an option, but I have other ways to escape. Hmm, at least a seventy percent chance!"

“Seventy percent is more than enough!”

Fang Yun knew that Fang Bai’s so-called seventy percent confidence was actually a conservative statement. He was likely fully confident.

Wu De said, “Fang Bai, we’re all putting our lives in your hands. Make sure nothing goes wrong! If you fail, we’ll all meet our end!”

Baili Mingyue spat, saying, “Ptooeey ptooeey ptooeey... You old Taoist Wu, can’t you say something more pleasant? Something nice? It’s just... You can’t expect ivory to grow from a dog’s mouth!”

Wu De glared, hopping mad, “You little girl, you’re cursing me indirectly, aren’t you? Come on, let’s see if you can handle three hundred rounds with me. I’ll show you I’m not to be trifled with!”

Baili Mingyue snorted, retorting crisply, “Fight then, I’m not afraid of you!”

“Mingyue, I’ll help you!”

Dongfang Ruhua rubbed her hands together, saying excitedly.

Dongfang Ruhua knew that Wu De had a Dual Attribute Innate Spiritual Root and was more powerful than Baili Mingyue. She figured that joining forces with Mingyue might give them an edge.

Moreover, Dongfang Ruhua possessed an Innate Thunder Spirit Root, with a dormant, aggressive fighting spirit. Hearing that Baili Mingyue wanted to fight Wu De, she couldn’t help but feel an itch to participate.

Besides, she knew that when Wu De and Baili Mingyue sparred, it was actually just practice, so she was eager to join in.

Wu De, aware of Dongfang Ruhua's destructive and devastating lightning attacks, knew that if she teamed up with Baili Mingyue, he would stand no chance, so he shouted to Fang Bai, "Fang Bai, can't you control your women? They're ganging up on me!"

Fang Bai chuckled, "Well done, bullying him! Linglong, Rushi, do you two want to join in and beat up this Fat Taoist?"

Fang Bai had known Wu De for a long time and always called him the "Fat Taoist."

Wu De had grown stronger, but also fatter, and as Fang Bai put it, the guy was almost round like a ball, with eyes that were now just slits.

Wu De pulled Lightning Mink, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong to his side, shouting, "Little Mink, Niu Ben, Hero, we're good brothers, right? Good brothers should share fortune and misfortune, right? Help me in dealing with them!"

He pointed to the group of four women, Baili Mingyue, Dongfang Ruhua, Dongfang Rushi, and Su Linglong, who had stood together.

"I'll join in on the fun too!"

Fang Yun said, turning and walking over to Baili Mingyue with a smile.

So, Fang Yun, Su Linglong, Baili Mingyue, Dongfang Rushi, and Dongfang Ruhua formed a lineup against Wu De, Lightning Mink, Niu Ben, and Xiong Yingxiong.

Niu Ben and Xiong Yingxiong saw the five women across from them, four of whom were mentors' wives, and the remaining one was a sister of the mentor, and they couldn't help but feel nervous and apprehensive. Who dared to fight them? They all looked at Fang Bai.

Fang Bai waved his hand, saying, "Your cultivation levels are similar, and your strength isn't much different either. Fighting once in a while is very beneficial for cultivation! Go ahead, if you want to fight!"

Just don't cause any fatalities! If anyone gets seriously injured, go recover under the World Tree yourself... Alright, I'll take you out of the River of Enlightenment now!"

As he spoke, his figure disappeared from the Five Elements Space Ring, leaving only a phantom in place.

As soon as he left the Five Elements Space Ring, the battle between Fang Yun, the five women, and Wu De, the four men, began.

"Did you find any trace?"

At the bottom of the River of Enlightenment, a Qiantian Sect strongman asked another companion.

"Nothing at all!"

The companion shook his head, replying helplessly, "We've searched for so long with no results. Could that kid have snuck away?"

"Impossible! We have so many people watching the River of Enlightenment, laying down a Heaven's Net, how could he slip away?"

"Don't underestimate that kid! Even our Sect Master personally acted and couldn't deal with him!"

"A mere young man with a mere twofold Heavenly Tribulation cultivation level, and yet he's thrown our Qiantian Sect into chaos... Sigh..."

"Alright, let's search more carefully again..."

Hundreds and thousands of Qiantian Sect disciples conducted a carpet search at the bottom of the River of Enlightenment, but after days with no results, some had gradually lost patience.

Fortunately, for the Qiantian Sect disciples, the powerful Spirit Beasts in the River of Enlightenment had been docile for days, not angered by their intrusion, nor launching attacks.

However, this situation changed as Fang Bai left the Five Elements Space Ring.

Several Qiantian Sect experts, who were passing by a group of Silver-Horned Rhinos, suddenly heard a faint whistle from nowhere.

Hearing this whistle, the Silver-Horned Rhino herd, which had gotten along peacefully with the Qiantian Sect experts, suddenly had bloodshot eyes, their aura turning violent. They turned around and started a frenzied attack on the Qiantian Sect experts.

These experts were stewards of the Qiantian Sect, possessing Heavenly Tribulation Stage Six cultivation.

The Silver-Horned Rhino herd, comprising a dozen or so rhinos, mostly at stages of Heavenly Tribulation Three or Four, were Spirit Beasts stronger in battle than human experts, especially in their aquatic domain. Hence, the overall strength of both sides was not far apart.

The Qiantian Sect experts were caught off guard by the Silver-Horned Rhinos' sudden attack, retreating repeatedly until they had to temporarily exit the River of Enlightenment.

Yet the Silver-Horned Rhino herd did not give up, chasing them to the shore.

The Silver-Horned Rhinos, each two fathoms long and as large as a small mountain, charged with their massive, powerful bodies, scaring the Qiantian Sect experts into avoiding direct confrontation.

After knocking over a forest of towering ancient trees, several fourth-stage Heavenly Tribulation Silver-Horned Rhinos galloped into the distance, quickly disappearing from the Qiantian Sect experts' sight.

The Qiantian Sect experts were relieved to see these large, hard-skinned animals leave the River of Enlightenment, sighing in relief.

The rampaging Silver-Horned Rhinos ran three hundred miles before stopping in a dense forest.

One Silver-Horned Rhino opened its massive mouth, spitting out a bronze Great Cauldron about the height of a person.

The cauldron rolled a few times, then stood upright. The lid was pushed open from the inside, and a figure leaped out. Who else could it be but Fang Bai?

“Thank you, Little Rhino!”

Fang Bai emerged from the Great Cauldron, patted the Silver-Horned Rhino’s head, and said with a cheerful laugh.

The Silver-Horned Rhino seemed to understand him, nuzzling Fang Bai with its head a few times before leaving with the other Silver-Horned Rhinos.

Chapter 1807: The Dongfang Sisters’ Request

“Have you guys had enough fighting? Come out and get some fresh air!”

Watching a group of Silver-Horned Rhinoceroses move away, Fang Bai shouted loudly towards the Five Elements Space Ring.

Wu De and the others were having a lively fight inside the Five Elements Space Ring when they suddenly heard Fang Bai’s thunderous voice in their ears, startling them into stopping at once.

Fang Bai waved his left hand, and the Five Elements Space Ring flashed with a bright glow. After a moment of dizziness, Wu De and the others found themselves outside in the world.

“Are we... already away from the River of Enlightenment?”

Wu De looked around and circled Fang Bai, asking curiously, “Amazingly, we’re unharmed... You didn’t have a fierce fight with the Qiantian Sect experts and the five experts chasing us?”

Fang Bai shrugged and said, "I couldn't beat them, so I had to find another way to escape!"

Wu De laughed heartily, "To think that even you, Fang Bai, would have a time when you had to flee in embarrassment! Hmph, if it were me, even knowing I would lose, I'd still fight. Only if things were dire would I run! That's what a true hero does!"

Fang Bai chuckled, "How about I send you back to the River of Enlightenment to fight with the Qiantian Sect experts? What do you say?"

Wu De shook his head vigorously, "Since we're here, let's make the best of it. No need to go back!"

After a pause, he continued, "We've already found Rushi and Ruhua. Where to next?"

Fang Bai quietly calculated in his mind. Most of his most cherished loved ones, dear ones, and disciples have been found. For the remaining few, there's still no news, and he doesn't know where they are. Naturally, the next step is to find their whereabouts.

Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua had something on their minds. They exchanged a look, and Dongfang Rushi opened her cherry lips to speak, "Fang Bai, can you do Rushi and Ruhua a favor?"

Fang Bai was momentarily stunned, then laughed, "No need to stand on ceremony among ourselves. Whatever it is, if I can do it, I definitely won't refuse; if I can't, I'll try my best to find a way."

Dongfang Rushi said, "When Ruhua and I first entered the world of three thousand, we were each taken in as disciples by the Ice River Sect and the Leiyun Sect respectively. Although these sects are weak and have no Thunder Tribulation experts, Ruhua and I were quite happy and well in our respective sects, and we often got to see each other..."

As she spoke, her face as snowy as jade showed a nostalgic expression. She continued, "Due to our sects' weakness, to seek protection, we had to tribute cultivation resources every year to the powerful Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect. Later, when the experts from the Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect discovered us, they demanded us from our sects. The leaders of our two sects opposed it, only to be killed or severely injured, causing our sects to nearly fall apart..."

Though Dongfang Rushi was usually gentle and seldom angered, her pretty face was now full of agitated sadness. She evidently had deep bonds with everyone in her former sect, and the deaths and injuries caused her much pain.

Dongfang Ruhua angrily chimed in, “The leaders of the Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect are truly terrible. They wanted to forcibly take us as apprentices, but my sister and I believe that accepting a teacher and apprentice relationship should be consensual. Without mutual agreement, there’s no way to communicate in cultivation. Yet those two sects’ experts were unreasonable, using both force and soft tactics to make my sister and me submit...”

Baili Mingyue blinked and asked, “So did you finally submit?”

Dongfang Ruhua replied, “My sister said, ‘As long as there are green mountains, one need not worry about firewood.’ Outwardly, we pretended to submit, taking advantage of the cultivation resources of the two major sects to train, hoping that one day we could become strong enough to avenge the high-ranking members of the Ice River Sect and the Leiyun Sect who were killed and injured!”

Wu De laughed, “You two sure have far-reaching plans!”

Dongfang Rushi sighed softly, “Ruhua and I have been diligently cultivating in the Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect for a long time, and our strength has only advanced to the Thunder Tribulation realm. The Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect have Thunder Tribulation experts of six or even seven levels. It’s not easy to seek revenge, is it?”

Baili Mingyue said, “So you thought of asking Fang Bai for help?”

Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua nodded together.

Su Linglong glanced at Fang Bai, frowning, “Having Thunder Tribulation experts of the sixth and seventh levels qualify them as strong sects. Fang Bai is in the Thunder Tribulation third level now. Even if he can challenge fourth- or fifth-level Thunder Tribulation experts, he can’t handle those two sects!”

In Su Linglong's heart, Fang Bai was of utmost importance. She was genuinely worried that Fang Bai might impulsively agree to help the Dongfang Sisters seek revenge on the Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect.

Su Linglong, being gentle by nature, always had a harmonious relationship with the Dongfang Sisters. She wasn't blaming the sisters, but felt that making such a request of Fang Bai was truly beyond what he could handle, quite unrealistic.

The Dongfang Sisters, single-mindedly intent on avenging those of the Ice River Sect and the Leiyun Sect who were killed and injured, hadn't thought much else. Hearing Su Linglong's words, they suddenly realized they were putting Fang Bai in danger and felt a bit ashamed.

Fang Bai said solemnly, "A kindness as small as a drop of water should be reciprocated with a fountain. Since the Ice River Sect and the Leiyun Sect treated you well, it's only right for you to avenge them! But... just as Linglong said, I'm indeed willing but incapable at present, and we'll need to plan this from the long term!"

Dongfang Rushi looked embarrassed and said with a bitter smile, "I didn't think it through! Fang Bai, I'm sorry!"

Fang Bai grasped her small hand, gently caressing it, and said in a dissatisfied tone, "What's there to be sorry for or not sorry for? I don't like hearing that! Don't say it again in the future, alright? Actually, in your situation, if it were me, I'd probably do the same as you."

Dongfang Rushi, with her face blooming red, nodded slightly shy, having never been so intimately touched before.

"Ruhua, tell us about the Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect. Hmm, while it's impossible to destroy these two sects outright now, making some trouble for them... like taking out some of their personal disciples or core disciples, there are plenty of feasible ways."

Fang Bai didn't let go of Dongfang Rushi's small hand and turned to Dongfang Ruhua.

Dongfang Ruhua responded with an “Oh,” and told Fang Bai what she knew about the Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect.

The Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect each have tens of thousands of disciples, and both have a Thunder Tribulation expert of the seventh level. They’re indeed not to be trifled with, but as Fang Bai said, creating trouble for these two sects is something he can do with ease.

“Rushi, you said the Ice River Sect and the Leiyun Sect still have many injured? So, you and Ruhua first take me to these two sects, and after I heal the injured, we can discuss other things.”

Fang Bai thought for a moment and then said.

The Dongfang Sisters, who held deep feelings for the disciples of the Ice River Sect and the Leiyun Sect, were naturally overjoyed at these words. At once, they led Fang Bai in the direction of the two sects.

Chapter 1808: I Am Rushi, and I Have Returned!

The Ice River Sect and Leiyun Sect, tens of thousands of miles away from the River of Enlightenment, are two unremarkable small sects.

Yet, years ago, these two small sects unexpectedly acquired Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua, two disciples with Innate Spiritual Roots.

The two sects regarded them as treasures, devoting all their resources to nurturing Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua, hoping that in the future they could help enhance the sects’ power and bring great rewards.

However, something the higher-ups of the two sects never anticipated was that disaster would come knocking before they received any rewards.

The extraordinary talent of the Dongfang sisters caught the attention of the upper echelons of the Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect, who then demanded the two girls from Ice River Sect and Leiyun Sect by name.

Having placed immense hope on the Dongfang sisters, Ice River Sect and Leiyun Sect refused to let them go easily, outright rejecting the unreasonable demands of the Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect.

Both the Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect are powerful and uncompromising sects that regard small sects like Ice River Sect and Leiyun Sect as insignificant. Rejected, they resorted to forceful suppression, killing many strong members of the two sects and forcibly taking Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua away.

Being already small sects, Ice River Sect and Leiyun Sect suffered greatly from the suppression, with most of their leadership falling, numerous disciples fleeing, and the sects nearing destruction.

Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua, along with Fang Bai and others, flew towards Ice River Sect and Leiyun Sect, just as these two neighboring weak sects were quietly licking their wounds.

“I wonder how that girl Rushi is faring now. Though she has a reserved personality, her temper is very stubborn. I’m truly worried that she might vehemently resist being forcibly taken by Bluewater Sect, which could provoke murderous intent from its upper echelon.”

At this moment, Elder He Bing of Ice River Sect was sitting cross-legged by a small river, tending to his injuries, and spoke to Ice River Sect Master Jing Jianfeng beside him.

Jing Jianfeng smiled wryly and said, “Elder He, why bother worrying about this? Dongfang Rushi has Innate Spiritual Root, such an extraordinary disciple will be given priority training no matter which sect she joins. No matter how she resists, I presume the higher-ups of Bluewater Sect won’t trouble her. Besides...”

He paused, then continued, “All of Bluewater Sect’s conditions are tenfold or hundredfold better than ours at Ice River Sect. Perhaps Dongfang Rushi has accepted her identity as a Bluewater Sect disciple by now and forgotten about us.”

He Bing shook his head, firmly stating, “Impossible! I understand my disciple the best! Rushi is not someone ungrateful! Even if she’s at Bluewater Sect, her heart must be thinking of our sect!”

Jing Jianfeng sighed and said, "Alright, even if it's as you say, then what? Dongfang Rushi is now a disciple of Bluewater Sect, unless her strength grows to the point of rebelling against the sect, there's no way to change anything!"

He Bing fell silent, gazing blankly at the river water before him for a long time, then sighed deeply.

Bluewater Sect is guarded by a Great Calamity Period expert in the Thunder Tribulation Realm, and with tens of thousands of disciples, all Thunder Tribulation experts, even an external courtyard disciple could easily annihilate Ice River Sect, whose strongest member is only in the Foundation Establishment Realm's perfection level.

Ice River Sect and Bluewater Sect are worlds apart, and the strength difference is immeasurable. The near-destruction of Ice River Sect leaves the surviving disciples with no choice but to accept their fate.

"Don't think about anything else, just focus on healing!"

Jing Jianfeng said sadly, "I have decided that once everyone's injuries are healed, we will go our separate ways, traveling to various places for training. If we're fortunate enough to reach the Thunder Tribulation Realm, then we can rebuild the sect! Otherwise... Ice River Sect will cease to exist!"

He Bing's heart tightened, and he urgently said, "Sect Master..."

"You don't need to persuade me, my decision is made!"

Jing Jianfeng laughed bitterly and said, "Our Ice River Sect has stood for thousands of years, though small, we've never fallen. It's unimaginable that it would be destroyed by my hand... I'm a sinner of the sect!"

He Bing, who joined Ice River Sect in his teens, has been with the sect for over a century, has long considered it his home. Hearing the sect master intends to disband the sect, he naturally felt unwilling, tears already forming as he choked up and said, "Sect Master, why do this... why do this..."

Jing Jianfeng said, "If not this, then what other options do we have?"

Suddenly, he added, "The situation of Leiyun Sect isn't much better than ours. I suppose Sect Master Xing Zhen also has similar thoughts as mine now! Alas..."

Mentioning Leiyun Sect, both Jing Jianfeng and He Bing felt a sense of shared sorrow.

"Sect Master, Master!"

Suddenly, a familiar voice came from the sky above. They looked up, only to see several streaks of light flying rapidly from the horizon and landing before them.

"Ru... Rushi?"

Seeing one of the beautiful women, it was none other than the genius disciple Dongfang Rushi forcefully taken by Bluewater Sect three years ago. He Bing, filled with both surprise and delight, stood up, hurriedly stepped forward, and grabbed Dongfang Rushi's small hand, muttering, "I'm not dreaming, am I?"

Dongfang Rushi's eyes reddened, mist rising in them, she shook her head and said, "Master, you're not dreaming! I'm Rushi, I've returned!"

He Bing felt the warmth of Dongfang Rushi's hand, heard her breath, and confirmed this was no dream. His own eyes reddened, continuously scrutinizing Dongfang Rushi, excitedly saying, "Wonderful! Wonderful! Rushi! You've finally returned! During the time you were gone, Master missed you terribly!"

Dongfang Rushi said, "I missed you too, Master!"

Jing Jianfeng saw Dongfang Rushi return and, although extremely excited as well, was more composed than He Bing. He was surprised to find he could no longer discern Dongfang Rushi's cultivation level, and couldn't help but ask, "Rushi, what... what is your cultivation level now?"

He Bing, upon hearing what Jing Jianfeng said, released Dongfang Rushi's hand, stepped back to examine Dongfang Ruhua, and exclaimed in surprise, "Rushi, when you left, you were only in the mid-

stage of Foundation Establishment, right? Unexpectedly, in just three short years, you've already surpassed Master. What realm are you in now?"

Dongfang Rushi softly said, "Second level of Thunder Tribulation."

"What realm?"

Jing Jianfeng and He Bing suspected they misheard, and after a moment of shock, instinctively asked again.

Wu De couldn't help but interject, "My Dongfang sister is now a second-level Thunder Tribulation expert! How about it, very impressive, right?"

"Second-level Thunder Tribulation... Rushi, is this true?"

He Bing closely watched Dongfang Rushi, trembling as he asked.

Seeing Dongfang Rushi nod, Jing Jianfeng and He Bing exchanged glances, seeing shock and disbelief in each other's eyes, but more than that, sheer joy.

Dongfang Rushi left Ice River Sect for just three years, yet progressed from Foundation Establishment Realm to Thunder Tribulation Realm. This speed might not be unprecedented, but it's undoubtedly extremely rare.

Chapter 1809: What Is the True Relationship Between You Two?

In the vast world of three thousand realms, where Martial Artists number in the millions, powerful figures are numerous, and cultivation geniuses abound.

Jing Jianfeng and He Bing were both over a hundred years old and had seen many geniuses, but had never heard of anyone able to leap several major realms within three years, advancing from Foundation Establishment to the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

Both felt that Dongfang Rushi's advancement speed could definitively crush the vast majority of so-called geniuses in the world.

"Sect Master, Master, let me introduce..."

Dongfang Rushi noticed that the Sect Master and Master were absorbed in conversation with her, neglecting the presence of others, and hurriedly made introductions.

"We were rude, please forgive us!"

Jing Jianfeng and He Bing, overwhelmed by excitement, temporarily forgot the others around them. Upon Dongfang Rushi's introduction, they realized their oversight and, recognizing the aura of those present as beyond their understanding, knowing they might be Thunder Tribulation experts, repeatedly expressed apologies.

If it were other Foundation Establishment experts, Fang Bai and the others might not care at all, but because Jing Jianfeng and He Bing were Dongfang Rushi's Sect Master and her Master in the vast world, they showed them due respect.

"Rushi's friends are actually all Thunder Tribulation experts..."

Looking at Fang Bai and the others standing by Dongfang Rushi, Jing Jianfeng and He Bing were greatly shocked, wanting to ask Dongfang Rushi where she met so many friends, but felt embarrassed to inquire in front of Fang Bai and the others.

"By the way, Rushi, how did you and your sister leave the Bluewater Sect? The strong there should have kept a tight watch!"

He Bing suddenly remembered this matter and couldn't help but ask.

Dongfang Rushi turned her gaze to Fang Bai and said, "It was Fang Bai who led us away..."

Jing Jianfeng and He Bing listened to Dongfang Rushi recounting what happened at the River of Enlightenment, and their gazes toward Fang Bai now held some awe.

While Jing Jianfeng and He Bing weren't familiar with the strength of Qiantian Sect, they knew well the power of Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect, both having Thunder Tribulation Seventh Layer experts stationed, capable of annihilating a weak sect like theirs in the blink of an eye.

But this Fang Bai, with merely Thunder Tribulation Third Layer cultivation, managed to escort Dongfang Rushi and others unscathed through the encirclement of several major sects and experts, arriving here, undeniably a miracle.

From this, it could be inferred that, though Fang Bai's cultivation was only Thunder Tribulation Third Layer, he must possess extraordinary methods.

Yet, unfortunately, although Rushi's friends are extremely powerful, they are far from a match for Bluewater Sect. Otherwise, with their assistance, revenge against Bluewater Sect could be sought.

Dongfang Rushi said, "Sect Master, Master, I brought Fang Bai and the others here this time to heal our sect's injured senior brothers and sisters. Where are they now?"

Back then, under Bluewater Sect's suppression, Ice River Sect disciples suffered many casualties, with some critically injured disciples still unable to recover to this day, some even having resigned to never cultivating again.

The injured disciples of Ice River Sect, unable to cultivate, were in despair and, if not for the persuasion of several senior members, some might have already sought death.

"Fang Bai is an Alchemist, capable of crafting Royal Grade Spirit Pills."

Dongfang Rushi continued.

Upon hearing this, Jing Jianfeng and He Bing were overjoyed, and Jing Jianfeng said, "Friend Fang, can you craft Royal Grade Lower Nine Revolutions Rebirth Pill?"

Normally, given Fang Bai's cultivation, Jing Jianfeng and He Bing calling him "Senior" would be appropriate, but due to his relationship with Dongfang Rushi, Fang Bai suggested addressing each other as peers.

The seriously injured disciples of Ice River Sect mostly had their Qi Sea destroyed, unable to cultivate further, and only the Royal Grade Nine Revolutions Rebirth Pill could help restore their meridians and rebuild their Qi Sea, allowing them to tread the Martial Dao again.

Since the cultivation levels of those critically injured disciples were not high, the Royal Grade Lower Nine Revolutions Rebirth Pill was sufficient for their needs.

"Not to mention Royal Grade Lower Nine Revolutions Rebirth Pill, even Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pill, Fang Bai can craft!"

Baili Mingyue said with pride.

Upon hearing this, Jing Jianfeng and He Bing exchanged glances, their eyes brimming with indescribable joy.

To cultivators who haven't reached the Nascent Soul Realm, obtaining a Royal Grade Lower Spirit Pill is an immense fortune, let alone a Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pill?

They thought only the top-tier sects' Alchemists in the vast world could craft Royal Grade Superior Spiritual Artifacts, yet the young expert before them possessed such skills.

"Rushi, I see you and Fang Bai have a deep relationship, what exactly is your relationship?"

He Bing, observing closely, suddenly inquired Dongfang Rushi using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique.

"We... are martial companions."

Dongfang Rushi didn't expect her master to ask this question, her face slightly reddening, but she boldly admitted her relationship with Fang Bai.

"Oh... good! That's wonderful!"

He Bing was overjoyed, thinking that Ice River Sect had suffered a great calamity, nearly being extinguished, a sorrowful and infuriating event. This time, if a good relationship could be established with Dongfang Rushi and this young expert, they might be able to request the young expert's help in crafting Royal Grade Spirit Pills.

With Royal Grade Spirit Pill aiding cultivation, it could be foreseen that Ice River Sect's overall strength would greatly exceed its current standing in the near future.

Now that Fang Bai and Dongfang Rushi are close martial companions, when Ice River Sect asks for his help in crafting Royal Grade Spirit Pills, he likely won't refuse, considering Dongfang Rushi's connection.

"Master, do you intend to have Fang Bai help our sect craft Royal Grade Spirit Pills?"

Dongfang Rushi, clever as snow, instantly guessed her master's intention, and asked with a smile.

He Bing sighed, "Rushi, you know our sect's current state. Given Fang Bai's capabilities, I sincerely hope he can help... Rest assured, if our sect rises in the future, we will certainly remember his kindness!"

"Alright, I'll speak with Fang Bai about it, I'm sure he won't refuse."

Dongfang Rushi, recalling Fang Bai's Five Elements Space Ring containing many Royal Grade cultivation resources, felt inspired and mentioned the aid to Ice River Sect using Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique to Fang Bai, looking at him with eyes filled with hope.

Fang Bai has always been generous and magnanimous with his women, never denying any request they make. Upon Dongfang Rushi's request, he immediately nodded and said, "No problem, consider the Spirit Pill matter covered by me! However, avenging Bluewater Sect's matter must be discussed."

“Friend Fang, if you can help craft some Royal Grade Spirit Pills for us, we will be eternally grateful and dare not hope for revenge. At least in the short term, we won’t dare to think about it.”

Jing Jianfeng now only wishes for the nearly collapsed sect to thrive, not daring to think about anything else.

The overall strength of Bluewater Sect compared to Ice River Sect is like heaven and earth, completely on separate planes. To mention avenging Bluewater Sect now is a grand joke.

Chapter 1810: Awaiting Good News

Dongfang Rushi’s return quickly spread throughout the Ice River Sect.

Back in those days at the Ice River Sect, Dongfang Rushi got along well with everyone in the sect. She became not only the most outstanding disciple of the younger generation but also the most popular one.

Therefore, when Dongfang Rushi was forcibly taken away by the Bluewater Sect, it triggered widespread anger and sorrow throughout the Ice River Sect.

“This time, not only has Dongfang Rushi returned, but she has also brought back a master capable of refining Royal Grade Spirit Pills.”

Shortly after, an Ice River Sect disciple spread this good news to all the sect members who had been severely injured and unable to continue their cultivation, making them extremely excited.

That day, Fang Bai instructed Jing Jianfeng to gather all the Ice River Sect disciples to assemble in the square in front of the Sect Master Hall.

The Ice River Sect, which narrowly escaped disaster, suffered heavy losses. Tens of thousands of disciples perished or scattered, leaving only about half remaining, and less than a third were unharmed.

Fang Bai looked at nearly ten thousand disciples gathered in the Sect Master Hall square, among whom many were still injured, with missing limbs, and couldn't help but sigh quietly.

"Sect Master Jing, for those severely injured and unable to cultivate in your sect, don't use overly potent medicine. Distribute these Royal Grade inferior Nine Revolutions Rebirth Pills to them. Let them adjust their breathing after taking them."

Although many Ice River Sect disciples were injured, those severely wounded and unable to cultivate were only a minority. Since Fang Bai mastered refining Royal Grade Spirit Pills, he often made some during his leisure and stored them in his Five Elements Space Ring. He also obtained a considerable number of Royal Grade Spirit Pills after defeating many Thunder Tribulation Experts and destroying several major sects with Thunder Tribulation Realm experts.

Though Fang Bai himself and Wu De had already consumed many of the Royal Grade Spirit Pills within his Five Elements Space Ring during their previous cultivation, what remained was still considerable.

"Please distribute these Royal Grade inferior Gathering Yuan Pills to the other Ice River Sect disciples. After taking them, I will explain some Dao of Cultivation insights, and those with good fortunes may benefit from them..."

Fang Bai further instructed He Bing.

Upon hearing this, He Bing was exceedingly delighted, realizing that Fang Bai, being a Thunder Tribulation third-order expert, had insights into the Martial Dao far beyond those weaklings like them. Not only would the younger generation disciples of the Ice River Sect benefit, but even sect leadership could also receive immeasurable advantages.

Immediately, Jing Jianfeng and He Bing personally distributed some Royal Grade Spirit Pills given by Fang Bai and each kept some as Fang Bai suggested.

In fact, Fang Bai was willing to help the Ice River Sect solely because of Dongfang Rushi. Had Dongfang Rushi encountered any unfair treatment in the Ice River Sect, Fang Bai would not only not assist but trample upon them fiercely.

Once nearly ten thousand disciples of the Ice River Sect had gathered, Fang Bai began imparting his doctrines and explaining cultivation insights.

In fact, the Ice River Sect's overall weakness was not due to poor disciple aptitude but lack of cultivation resources and absence of high-rank cultivation techniques.

Fang Bai lacked none of these.

Therefore, meeting Fang Bai, receiving his Royal Grade Spirit Pills, and listening to his Martial Dao explanations equated to the disciples "encountering a storm and turning into dragons." Within ten days, disciples constantly broke through ranks, creating numerous Nascent Soul and Soul Severing Realm experts.

Although experts of such realms are still like ants to Thunder Tribulation Experts, for the Ice River Sect disciples, their strength had improved qualitatively, and their lifespan increased by several decades, a hundred years, laying a solid foundation for future strength enhancement.

Afterward, Fang Bai crafted a Royal Grade inferior Spiritual Artifact for each of the Ice River Sect leadership, enhancing their strength further.

Those Ice River Sect disciples whose wounds healed and could resume cultivation after taking Spirit Pills from Fang Bai almost regarded him as a paternal figure, expressing immense gratitude.

"Our next stop is the Leiyun Sect. Meanwhile, I'll make a trip to the Bluewater Sect and the Qinglei Sect, creating some trouble for them. Just wait for the good news!"

That day, Fang Bai and others bid farewell to the Ice River Sect high leadership, saying this.

Though Jing Jianfeng and others knew that the shallow waters of the Ice River Sect couldn't retain someone with Innate Spiritual Root like Dongfang Rushi, and following Fang Bai in cultivation offered greater prospects, they still felt regretful about Dongfang Rushi's departure.

As for Fang Bai's words about "creating some trouble for the Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect," Jing Jianfeng and others had little hope since both major sects had Thunder Tribulation seventh-order experts in command, considering them top-tier sects, and questioned how Fang Bai's Thunder Tribulation third-order cultivation level could possibly affect them.

"Then we'll eagerly await the good news."

Jing Jianfeng naturally wouldn't say demoralizing remarks in front of Fang Bai and their group, but bid them farewell with clasped hands alongside He Bing and other Ice River Sect leadership.

On the way to the Leiyun Sect, Dongfang Ruhua and Fang Bai flew ahead as guides.

The Leiyun Sect wasn't far from the Ice River Sect, and Fang Bai and his group arrived within a day.

Upon reaching the Leiyun Sect, they found it faring even worse than the Ice River Sect, with casualties immeasurable, leaving fewer than five thousand people, and even the sect master had fallen, leaving only two elders and four stewards.

"Where is my master?"

Not seeing her master Lei Hou, Dongfang Ruhua felt uneasy and couldn't help but ask the two elders and four stewards.

Only upon asking did she learn that after Dongfang Ruhua was forcibly taken by the Qinglei Sect, her master Lei Hou, driven by outrage, went alone to the Qinglei Sect to demand her return, ending up killed by an External Courtyard disciple of the Qinglei Sect.

Lei Hou, although a burly man with a full beard, treated Dongfang Ruhua exceptionally well, being both mentor and friend. Hence, upon hearing of her master's demise, Dongfang Ruhua couldn't suppress her tears.

"Big brother, I want revenge for my master!"

After crying, Dongfang Ruhua rubbed her swollen eyes, clenched her small fists, and vowed vengeance.

Sensing Dongfang Ruhua's grief, Fang Bai somberly nodded, "I'll help you!"

Fang Bai duplicated his efforts, healing Leiyun Sect's wounded and explaining the Dao of Cultivation, transforming the gloom of the Leiyun Sect to hope, with all its disciples seeing potential within ten days.

Following this, Fang Bai and others witnessed the Leiyun Sect disciples collectively electing a new sect master. The new sect master vowed to rejuvenate the Leiyun Sect and avenge the old sect master and fallen comrades against the Qinglei Sect when capable.

After arranging matters for the Leiyun Sect, Fang Bai, along with Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua, and others secretly discussed some issues and then bid farewell to the Leiyun Sect leaders, flying towards the Bluewater Sect and Qinglei Sect.