

Doctor 1881

Chapter 1881: Immortal Rank Cultivation Technique

Hu Yichen initially felt that the Withered Tree Spring Art was profound and mysterious, like listening to the heavenly scriptures, utterly bewildered.

After Fang Bai's explanation, he suddenly had an epiphany, as if seeing a new world he had never ventured into, completely absorbed, unable to extricate himself.

The two of them secluded in the secret chamber, ignoring outside matters, and half a month passed in the blink of an eye.

On this day, Fang Bai sensed the turbulent and restless spiritual energy inside Hu Yichen, crashing everywhere. Knowing he was just a step away from advancing, he took out a bottle of Royal Grade Superior Gathering Yuan Pill and a bottle of Royal Grade Superior Creation Pill for him to consume.

Hu Yichen also had a premonition of advancing, and in his ecstatic state, he took the two bottles of Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills handed by Fang Bai, and without looking, swallowed them all at once.

The Spirit Pills entered his stomach, and within moments, the medicinal power fully dissolved, violently spreading and impacting his internal organs.

The potent medicinal power continuously expanded his blood vessels and meridians, cleansing his limbs and bones, causing him to convulse all over, overcome with pain, sweat dripping like beans.

Hu Yichen knew this was the agony he must endure before advancing, gritting his teeth and silently bearing it.

After a day of this, Fang Bai suddenly projected his palm and lightly tapped the top of Hu Yichen's head, infusing a wisp of Chaos Spirit Qi into his body.

Hu Yichen grunted, his body twitching as if struck by lightning; then a powerful surge burst from within him, rippling through the secret chamber.

"Phew!"

The next moment, all discomfort vanished, and Hu Yichen breathed a sigh of relief, as if a burden had been lifted.

"Brother Hu, congratulations on advancing!"

Fang Bai watched as Hu Yichen opened his eyes in euphoric joy, saying with a smile.

"Brother Fang, thank you!"

Hu Yichen never expected that, with Fang Bai's assistance, he could advance from the fourth level of Heavenly Tribulation to the fifth level in just half a month, like a dream.

He knew that all of this was thanks to Fang Bai; otherwise, even ten years might not have been enough to reach the fifth level of Heavenly Tribulation on his own.

Advancing a level in half a month; even if this advancement speed slowed down tenfold, reaching the sixth level of Heavenly Tribulation within a year seemed hopeful.

Thinking that in a year's time, he could proudly meet the Divine Eagle Sect Master Feng Lingxiao, without suffering disdainful and contemptuous looks, Hu Yichen's eyes heated up, and tears flowed uncontrollably.

"You've just advanced, and your realm isn't stable. You'll need another half month to consolidate. Well then, I'll leave the rest of the time for your cultivation. I have some matters to attend to outside!"

Fang Bai patted Hu Yichen on the shoulder and turned to leave the secret chamber.

"So he advanced so quickly?"

Outside the secret chamber, in the courtyard, Xuan Feng Venerable stood there, looking astonished when he saw Fang Bai come out.

When Fang Bai taught Hu Yichen the cultivation technique, Xuan Feng Venerable had nothing to do and volunteered to act as a protector for them in the courtyard.

Helping the ordinarily talented Hu Yichen advance by two levels in a year seemed unrealistic to Xuan Feng Venerable, but he knew Fang Bai wasn't someone who boasted lightly.

He was there protecting them to know their secluded cultivation results as soon as possible.

The energy shockwave released during Hu Yichen's advancement, Xuan Feng Venerable sensed it too, knowing Fang Bai had truly created a miracle.

With this miraculous advancement, Xuan Feng Venerable knew Fang Bai had already won the bet with Feng Lingxiao, even without waiting for a year.

"Yes, he advanced."

Fang Bai smiled and added, "Brother Hu's talent indeed isn't great, otherwise I would've been out in three to five days."

"..."

Xuan Feng Venerable stared at Fang Bai, curiosity overwhelming him as he asked, "I'm really curious about what miraculous method you used to let him advance so quickly."

Fang Bai said, "First is the cultivation method, and second is the Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pill."

Fang Bai did not reveal the Chaos Spirit Qi within his Qi Sea; this secret, aside from the closest family and cherished companions, he had never told anyone else.

Xuan Feng Venerable pondered, "The Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pill isn't rare, nor could it allow a cultivator to advance so quickly. It must be that the cultivation method you taught him was very peculiar, right?"

He knew the cultivation method was a secret of a cultivator, and although his inquiry was inappropriate, he couldn't suppress his curiosity. He thought, if Fang Bai was willing to say, he would listen, and if not, he wouldn't mind.

Fang Bai, having long harbored a desire to win over the straightforward, generous, and strong Xuan Feng Venerable with a cultivation level of the ninth level of Heavenly Tribulation, did not conceal this matter from him, saying, "Actually, the method I taught Brother Hu is an Immortal Rank cultivation method..."

As he spoke, seeing Xuan Feng Venerable's mouth agape, he smiled and asked, "What, Brother Xuan Feng, you don't believe me?"

"I believe!"

Upon hearing "Immortal Rank cultivation method," Xuan Feng Venerable's throat went dry, his heart nearly leaped out from his chest from excitement; swallowing hard, he finally said, "Anything that happens with you, I believe now!"

Though he hadn't known Fang Bai long, he'd witnessed numerous unbelievable, miraculous events surrounding him and had come to accept them with ease.

Still, when Fang Bai mentioned "Immortal Rank cultivation method," his heart raced, utterly moved.

Despite previously obtaining the Immortal Axe, it could only function as a Half-Immortal Rank Spiritual Artifact for now, a bit of a pity.

But if he could acquire an Immortal Rank cultivation method, provided decent talent and consistent hard work, his cultivation level could steadily improve.

If given the choice, Xuan Feng Venerable would rather exchange the Immortal Axe for an Immortal Rank cultivation method.

"Well... Friend Fang, a bold question: did you discover some Immortal's treasure trove?"

Xuan Feng Venerable asked, fearing Fang Bai might misunderstand, hurriedly explaining, "I mean no offense, just thought that you possessing both Immortal Artifacts and Immortal Rank cultivation methods, you must have found an Immortal's treasure to achieve this."

Of course, Fang Bai wouldn't reveal that he was reborn through the Immortal Emperor's soul possession, with countless Immortal Rank cultivation methods in his mind. Laughing, he replied, "You've guessed it! Indeed, I discovered an Immortal's treasure trove and obtained some Immortal Artifacts and Immortal Rank cultivation methods... Oh yes, there's also a wind-based cultivation method among them, I wonder if Brother Xuan Feng would like to learn it?"

The temptation in Fang Bai's last words was immense, and Xuan Feng Venerable's face flushed with excitement, rubbing his hands together, his voice trembling, "Of... of course! If Friend Fang would teach me, I'd surely be willing to learn..."

Xuan Feng Venerable could not help but be excited.

Now, with an Immortal Pill and an Immortal Artifact, if he could also acquire an Immortal Rank cultivation method, focusing entirely on cultivation, there is a high hope for ascending to the Immortal Realm in the not-too-distant future, achieving the ultimate goal most strong cultivators across the three thousand great worlds pursue.

Chapter 1882: Wind Art

"I can teach you the Immortal Rank cultivation technique, but I have a condition..."

Seeing Xuan Feng Venerable itching with impatience, Fang Bai smiled and continued.

"What condition? Just say it."

Xuan Feng Venerable rubbed his hands and said.

He knew that with Fang Bai's character, the condition wouldn't exceed his psychological limit, at most it would be somewhat challenging.

Fang Bai said: "I have established a sect in the Heaven's Net Realm of the Western Desolate Continent, called the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. However, the current number of disciples in the palace is too small, and the overall strength is too weak. So I'd like to ask you, brother Xuan Feng, to be an elder there. What do you think?"

Xuan Feng Venerable was taken aback and said: "Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace? That's a domineering name!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and said: "My goal is to become an Immortal Emperor who traverses the Nine Great Heavenly Domains of the Immortal Realm. That's why I named my sect that way."

Xuan Feng Venerable laughed and said: "Good! That's a great name! Just hearing it is invigorating! I like it!"

Fang Bai said: "So, brother Xuan Feng, does this mean..."

Xuan Feng Venerable said: "Yes, I'll definitely take up the position of elder at your Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace! I want to be the chief Great Elder!"

Fang Bai said: "No problem!"

Right then, both of them clapped their hands together, officially confirming this arrangement.

"The Heaven's Net Realm is hundreds of thousands of miles away from Alchemy Immortal City; when shall we set off?"

Xuan Feng Venerable, hearing that among the disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, many have innate spiritual roots and there are many surprises awaiting him, was eager to leave immediately.

Fang Bai said: "I left the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace to search for those friends and family who came from the Secular World and got lost in the Three Thousand Great Worlds. Some of them still haven't been found, so I won't be returning for now..."

He paused and then said: "I also plan to travel through the Three Thousand Great Worlds. If I take Wumei and the others with me, it would be inconvenient and dangerous. Therefore, brother Xuan Feng, I entrust you to take Wumei, Wen Rou, and the others back to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace in some time."

Xuan Feng Venerable knew that Tang Wenrou, Ye Wumei, and the others were Fang Bai's beloved ones and couldn't suffer the slightest harm. He nodded and said: "I understand. Rest assured, I'll take good care of them for you. Whoever dares to touch them will meet my axe!"

With the Immortal Axe in hand and the Sky Domain Gang Wind in his body holding the same power as Spiritual Fire, he might not dare claim to be the top expert in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, but his battle prowess was undoubtedly exceptional, thus he was brimming with confidence.

Fang Bai then imparted the wind-based Immortal Rank cultivation technique "Wind Art" to Xuan Feng Venerable.

Xuan Feng Venerable, with his extraordinary aptitude and high comprehension, quickly grasped the profound and mysterious "Wind Art."

Having learned the "Wind Art" from Fang Bai, Xuan Feng Venerable looked back at his previous wind-based cultivation techniques, finding them incomparable, akin to comparing heaven and earth.

By cultivating the "Wind Art," Xuan Feng Venerable felt as if he had grown wings, with the hope of flying above the Immortal Realm one day.

Immersed in the wonders of the "Wind Art," Xuan Feng Venerable was even more captivated than Hu Yichen, spending his days in solitary confinement, ecstatic and dancing whenever he comprehended a new insight.

Seeing Xuan Feng Venerable in secluded cultivation, Fang Bai knew he wouldn't emerge for three to five months, so he went to the residence of Tang Wenrou, Ye Wumei, and Yan Muyu to chat and guide them in their cultivation.

The three women, all possessing innate spiritual roots and being rare cultivation geniuses, benefited from Fang Bai investing a large amount of cultivation resources, raising Ye Wumei and Tang Wenrou's cultivation levels to the third stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm within a few months.

Even the ten-year-old Yan Muyu stepped into the Thunder Tribulation Realm in one leap.

A ten-year-old Thunder Tribulation Expert, though not unprecedented among the countless cultivators of the Three Thousand Great Worlds, was definitely unparalleled.

Though Fang Bai was once a prodigy acclaimed as a genius unseen in ten thousand years in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, he only reached the Thunder Tribulation Realm in his teens.

Fang Bai even thought that when these people eventually ascended to the Immortal Realm one by one, Yan Qingye would surely catch up and not fall behind.

During this period, the City Lord Mansion provided Fang Bai and others with abundant cultivation resources without asking for any return.

Being so generous, Fang Bai wasn't stingy either, taking some time to refine a large quantity of superior Royal Grade Spirit Pills urgently needed by the City Lord Mansion. He also re-refined or specially crafted a batch of superior Royal Grade Spiritual Artifacts for the upper echelons of the City Lord Mansion.

Thus, the overall strength of the City Lord Mansion increased significantly.

Hua Yanqing, knowing how much Fang Bai valued his lost friends and family, dispatched numerous disciples and used all connections to search across the Three Thousand Great Worlds, ready to report any news to Fang Bai at once.

Time flowed like water, passing swiftly. In the blink of an eye, more than half a year had gone by.

One day, Feng Lingxiao, the Divine Eagle Sect Master, led many disciples to Alchemy Immortal City, preparing to reunite with his daughter's family.

Recently, Feng Lingxiao received news that Hu Yichen, now in Alchemy Immortal City, had advanced to the sixth stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, and even his beloved daughter Feng Ziyu had become a fifth-stage Thunder Tribulation Expert.

Upon hearing this news, the Divine Eagle Sect Master was deeply shocked, thus he came in person to verify if the news was true.

If the news was true, it meant he lost his bet with Fang Bai, and he would retract the order for pursuit and reconcile with his son-in-law, daughter, and granddaughter.

Feng Lingxiao didn't regret this, but rather felt a bit of secret joy.

He had previously looked down on Hu Yichen, opposing his relationship with his daughter because Hu Yichen had ordinary aptitude, showing no potential in cultivation.

But now, with Hu Yichen advancing by two realms within just over half a year, reaching the sixth stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, Feng Lingxiao viewed him in a new light.

If Hu Yichen indeed progresses to a ninth-stage Thunder Tribulation Expert within ten years as Fang Bai said, the acceptance of him by the Divine Eagle Sect would undoubtedly be a great boon, significantly boosting the Divine Eagle Sect's overall strength.

Upon arriving at the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion, Feng Lingxiao personally verified Hu Yichen's strength. Subsequently, under Fang Bai and Hua Yanqing's mediation and reconciliation, he finally reconciled with his daughter's family, letting go of past grievances.

On a subsequent auspicious day, under the joint auspices of Hua Yanqing and Fang Bai, Hu Yichen and Feng Ziyu held a belated wedding ceremony at the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion.

During the wedding, Hu Yichen and Feng Ziyu, remembering the years of fleeing and living in fear, finally felt their hardships come to an end, shedding tears as they embraced openly before everyone.

Watching his genuinely affectionate son-in-law and daughter, holding his lovely granddaughter, Feng Lingxiao felt a pang of emotion, finally lowering his stance to apologize to his daughter and son-in-law, vowing to treat them well in the future to make amends for past wrongs.

The wedding concluded joyously for all.

Chapter 1883: Purple Flame Mountain · Magma Lake

The Southern Desolate Continent, also known by the experts of the Three Thousand Great Worlds as the "Land of Extreme South".

This continent experiences long days and short nights, with intense sunlight, dry climate, and scorching temperatures, while the common phenomena of wind, frost, rain, and snow in other regions are rarely seen here.

The experts who have been born and raised in the Land of Extreme South generally have bronze-colored skin due to the influence of the climate and environment.

Legend has it that before the Ancient Era, the Land of Extreme South had a pleasant climate, with four seasons like spring, akin to a paradise.

Later, a prolonged great war among the immortals, demons, and monsters swept the Three Thousand Great Worlds, with scattered Immortal Fires, Demon Fires, and Monster Fires throughout the worlds, with the most of them falling on the Extreme South Continent.

Fortunately, under the suppression of the rules of heaven and earth in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, those powerful and extensive fires gradually degenerated and shrank, their power greatly diminishing over millennia, becoming the legendary Spiritual Fires sought by the world's experts.

When the Spiritual Fire appeared, the land became scorching red for hundreds of miles.

The reason the Land of Extreme South is so hot is because this vast continent harbors many Spiritual Fires.

The cultivators of the Extreme South are influenced by this, and most of them also practice Fire-based Techniques and Martial Arts.

Although Spiritual Fire possesses immense destructive power, it is regarded as a heavenly blessing by the fire-based cultivators of the Extreme South Continent.

Every fire-based cultivator dreams of devouring and subduing a kind of Spiritual Fire to enhance their own strength.

However, to devour and subdue Spiritual Fire without an Innate Fire Spirit Root, a cultivation level of strong aptitude or a robust physique, how could it be easy?

The Purple Flame Mountain Range is located in the eastern part of the Land of Extreme South, stretching about three thousand miles, bordered by a hundred thousand miles of primordial forest to the north and a vast ocean to the south.

According to legend, millions of years ago, a cluster of purple Immortal Fire fell into the Purple Flame Mountain Range, scorching the original green mountains into a purple hue, from which the name "Purple Flame" was derived.

Where that cluster of purple Immortal Fire fell, the ground for miles around was melted, forming a hundred-mile-wide purple Magma Lake.

The Magma Lake remains perpetually boiling, bubbling and steaming, with purple smoke rising, and even birds dare not fly over its expanse.

The area within ten miles of the center of the Magma Lake is a forbidden zone for ordinary cultivators; only those with Innate Fire Spirit Roots or experts whose cultivation level is above the Thunder Tribulation Stage Five dare to enter, otherwise they cannot withstand the agony of being burned by the fierce flames.

On this day at dusk, two slender and graceful young women, with delicate and charming appearances, appeared in a dense forest of the Purple Flame Mountain.

The two women were sprinting in full force through the forest, pursuing a Two-Tailed Fire Leopard dozens of feet ahead.

The cultivation level of both women was at the Thunder Tribulation Stage Two, and that Two-Tailed Fire Leopard was also comparable to a human of the Thunder Tribulation Stage Two.

Logically, among humans and Spirit Beasts with the same cultivation level, Spirit Beasts have an edge in combat strength, and if that Two-Tailed Fire Leopard turned to fight the two women, it might not necessarily lose.

But for some reason, that Two-Tailed Fire Leopard panicked under the women's pursuit, fleeing with no intention of stopping.

"Xiao Lian, put in a bit more effort, we're about to catch up!"

During the chase, the woman on the left suddenly spoke, her voice crisp like an oriole.

The woman had eyebrows as graceful as spring mountains, eyes filled with autumn water, a straight and elegant nose, lips like flowers, and her brows conveyed seven parts of charm with three parts of heroic spirit.

"Okay! Two-Tailed Fire Leopards are rarely seen, and its flesh is hugely beneficial for us fire-based cultivators. Dragon Maiden, once we slay that Two-Tailed Fire Leopard, shall we skin it, draw its tendons, and roast it for a meal?"

The one called "Xiao Lian" giggled as she answered.

Xiao Lian and Dragon Maiden shared the same graceful beauty, but with different temperaments: Xiao Lian lacked the heroic flair and had more of the unique softness of a woman, speaking in a gentle and soft tone.

"We can't eat it just yet!"

Dragon Maiden chuckled elegantly and said, "Once we capture it, we have to take it back to Luoxia Village and hand it over to the village chief. But don't worry, Xiao Lian, we'll definitely have a share of the Two-Tailed Fire Leopard's meat!"

Xiao Lian sighed bitterly, "Taking it back to Luoxia Village means we'll only get a little bit. There are hundreds of people in the village!"

Dragon Maiden said, "Then let's try to catch as many Spirit Beasts as we can. Moreover, Huo Wu and the others should have hunted quite a few Spirit Beasts too. The gains from this mountain trip should last the villagers for a while."

"Ah! The Two-Tailed Fire Leopard has run further away again, let's continue the chase!"

Xiao Lian saw the fleeing Two-Tailed Fire Leopard ahead suddenly speed up, widening the gap between it and the two women, and with a soft exclamation, left a lingering shadow behind as she continued the pursuit.

Dragon Maiden also exerted herself to speed up the chase.

Among the two women, Xiao Lian was actually Zhuge Lian.

Years ago, Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian came from a Minor World, landing in a mountain forest in the Land of Extreme South.

At that time, both women had weak cultivation levels, wandering aimlessly in the forest, and ended up encountering a group of powerful Spirit Beasts. In panic, they fled continuously, coincidentally being rescued by passing villagers from Luoxia Village.

Luoxia Village is a small village situated on the edge of the Purple Flame Mountain Range, with about five hundred people. Almost all the adult villagers are Thunder Tribulation experts.

However, due to a lack of Cultivation Resources, the strongest in Luoxia Village, the current village chief, is only at the Thunder Tribulation Stage Four, making him the only expert in the village to step into the middle stage of the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

With their skills too weak and having nowhere to go, Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian temporarily settled in Luoxia Village.

No one expected that they would stay for several years, developing a deep affection for the villagers of Luoxia Village, and became unwilling to leave.

Luoxia Village exists in a state of isolation. Villagers only leave the village to exchange Cultivation Resources, otherwise, they either stay in the village for focused cultivation or go into the mountains to hunt Spirit Beasts.

Although Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian's cultivation levels were weak, they had Cultivation Techniques taught by Fang Bai at the Immortal Rank. In the Three Thousand Great Worlds, where Spiritual Energy is many times denser than in the Minor World, their cultivation progressed by leaps and bounds.

Within two years, the two women consecutively entered the Thunder Tribulation Realm, earning them the title of cultivation prodigies among the villagers.

Having advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Realm, Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were qualified to join the villagers in the mountain to hunt Spirit Beasts.

During one hunting trip, while the two were jointly pursuing a Spirit Beast, they inadvertently discovered a Magma Lake deep within the Purple Flame Mountain. Since then, they've often trained in the area near the Magma Lake.

The Fire Spiritual Energy emitted by the Magma Lake is purer and denser than outside the mountains. By absorbing this Fire Spiritual Energy for training, the two women progressed to the Thunder Tribulation Stage Two over time.

The two had shared the secret of the Magma Lake with the villagers of Luoxia Village, but none possessed their Innate Fire Spirit Roots, and thus dared not approach to cultivate.

As a result, the Magma Lake became an exclusive area for the two women.

Today, after training near the Magma Lake, the two women discovered the Two-Tailed Fire Leopard, intending to capture and kill it before regrouping with the villagers from Luoxia Village and returning there.

Chapter 1884: Two Women Join Forces

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian joined forces, pursuing through the dense forest for dozens of miles, getting closer and closer to the Two-Tailed Fire Leopard fleeing ahead.

“Screech!”

Suddenly, an iron spear a zhang long flew in from the side, overwhelming waves of Fire Spirit Energy, ripping through the air and piercing the void, aiming directly at the Two-Tailed Fire Leopard.

“Puff!”

The Two-Tailed Fire Leopard, known for its agility and incredibly strong body, couldn’t dodge that zhang long iron spear. It was pierced through the head and firmly nailed to a massive tree that would take five people to encircle, struggling briefly before its life extinguished.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian witnessed this scene, realizing that the spear’s owner was far more powerful than them, and they couldn’t help but feel shocked, looking towards the direction from which the spear came.

“Whoosh!”

“Whoosh!”

“Whoosh!”

Three shadows swept over one after another, revealing three middle-aged men in black.

The middle-aged man in the middle was tall and elegant, with a handsome face, possessing a Lei Jie cultivation level of four, making him the most powerful among the three.

The middle-aged men on the sides, one fat and one thin, had ordinary appearances, both with a Lei Jie cultivation level of three.

“A Two-Tailed Fire Leopard with a Lei Jie cultivation of two, not bad!”

The middle-aged man in the center strode to the Two-Tailed Fire Leopard he had hunted with one spear, withdrew the spear, and with a casual wave, stored the leopard’s body into his Space Ring.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian had been chasing that Two-Tailed Fire Leopard for a long time, almost catching up and then being able to hunt it together, only for someone to intervene unexpectedly, leaving both a bit dissatisfied.

However, the three men were all Lei Jie level four experts, and no matter how dissatisfied they were, they could do nothing about it.

“Xiao Lian, let’s go!”

The Dragon Maiden saw the three men looking their way, determining from their eyes that they weren’t good people, and immediately whispered to Zhuge Lian.

The two women turned and were about to leave, but the wind roared in their ears, and the handsome middle-aged man had already appeared in front of them.

“Don’t rush to leave, little sisters!”

The handsome middle-aged man's gaze swept over the faces of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, revealing a touch of amazement, then looking at them up and down, his eyes becoming even brighter.

"Sorry, we don't know you!"

The Dragon Maiden coldly replied, pulling Zhuge Lian to bypass the man.

"You didn't know me before, but now you do?"

The middle-aged man opened his arms, blocking the two women's way, staring directly at their faces, and exclaimed, "Who would have thought in these wild mountains, there are such beauties. May I know your names, little sisters?"

"Get lost!"

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian shouted angrily in unison.

The middle-aged man wasn't angry but smiled cheekily, "You two have quite a fiery temper! But I, Kang Yande, love taming wild mares the most! Haha..."

Laughing heartily, he extended his hands, intending to tease the two women by the chin.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, hearing his increasingly inappropriate words and gestures, furrowed their brows in reverse, exchanging glances and agreeing to simultaneously strike.

The two had learned a combined attack formation with Fang Bai, using this formation in battle could multiply their combat power.

The two women overlapped their jade palms and struck simultaneously.

Both were Innate Fire Spirit Roots and had trained in Immortal Rank Cultivation Techniques, each possessing the ability to challenge higher levels. Now, combined with the formation, their combat power was even stronger.

Kang Yande was just over a zhang away from the two women and underestimated them because of their Lei Jie level two cultivation, never expecting their attack to be so powerful.

Off guard, he couldn't dodge the strike, taking the full brunt of the Fire Spirit Qi Big Palm they launched together, groaning as he flew backward.

The combined strike of the two had power comparable to a Lei Jie level four expert. The corner of Kang Yande's mouth dripped a trace of fresh blood; he had taken a minor injury.

Kang Yande underestimated his opponent and was injured, angering and shocking him at the two women's combat capabilities.

"Go!"

After repelling Kang Yande, the two women immediately rode their Spiritual Artifacts, flying towards the rendezvous point agreed upon with Luoxia Village's villagers.

The villagers from Luoxia Village came this time to hunt Spirit Beasts, with a total of twenty Lei Jie experts, mostly Lei Jie level two but also several level threes, and combined, they could confront the three middle-aged men.

Kang Yande only suffered a minor injury and was not seriously hurt. After casually swallowing a Healing Pill, he stomped, flying up, summoning his Spiritual Artifact beneath his feet, and hurriedly pursued with his two companions.

Kang Yande and his two were disciples of a powerful sect outside the mountains, also undergoing training. Seeing the extraordinary beauty and temperament of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, they couldn't help but have evil thoughts, wanting to lay hands on them.

Kang Yande thought that with his cultivation level, he could easily take the two women, never expecting to be injured by their combined attack.

If they let the two women escape, and this got back to the sect, he would become a laughingstock among his peers, so Kang Yande decided to capture them no matter what.

If he could bring the two women back to the sect as his Martial Dao companions, his peers would not mock but envy him.

Kang Yande and his two companions had a cultivation level two realms higher than the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian. During the pursuit of just a few dozen breaths, the distance rapidly closed.

“Uncle Huo Wu, save us!”

Seeing there were still more than ten miles to the rendezvous point, and Kang Yande and his two were about to catch up, Zhuge Lian immediately shouted.

“You’ve angered the Fire Python Sect disciples, even the Heavenly King can’t save you!”

Hearing the two women calling for help, Kang Yande laughed wantonly behind them.

Just as he finished speaking, twenty figures soared from the dense forest ahead, each wielding a Spiritual Artifact and carrying scorching Fire Spirit Energy as they approached.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian saw these people and sighed in relief, accelerating into their midst.

“Uncle Huo Wu, that guy spoke filthy words when he saw me and the Dragon Maiden, not a good person!”

Zhuce Lian pointed back at Kang Yande, who had just arrived, and said to a tall, strong, bronze-skinned burly man beside her.

The burly man's name was Huo Wu, one of the few Lei Jie level three experts in Luoxia Village, over a hundred years old, known for his straightforwardness and intolerance of wickedness.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were neighbors and often visited Huo Wu. Since his wife had suffered an injury that never healed, he had no children, so they respected him as a father, and he treated them as his own.

Hearing that the three men before him had spoken filthy words to the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, Huo Wu was filled with fury.

Upon seeing Kang Yande and his companions' attire clearly, Huo Wu's pupils slightly contracted, then he swung his Fire Scale Blade, shouting sternly, "Are you three disciples of the Fire Python Sect? I've heard the Fire Python Sect is a reputable sect, with disciples known for their demeanor, yet you disgrace yourselves by bullying two juniors. Have you no shame?"

Chapter 1885: Don't Do Anything Foolish

On the surface, Huo Wu's words were stern, but his heart was filled with worry.

The Fire Python Sect had a Thunder Tribulation Expert with eight layers in its ranks, making it the strongest sect in the Purple Flame Mountain Range and one of the top sects in the Three Thousand Worlds, renowned for its power.

Usually, a prestigious sect like the Fire Python Sect has strict regulations that forbid its disciples from actions that would damage the sect's reputation.

However, any powerful sect with tens of thousands of disciples inevitably contains both good and bad.

The three Fire Python Sect disciples before them all bore fierce expressions, and the unmasked malicious intent in their gazes toward the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian revealed them as unscrupulous scoundrels.

Clearly, the three Fire Python Sect disciples had their eyes on the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian. If they attempted to seize them by force, even if they could resist, there would be significant trouble afterwards.

After all, compared to a giant like the Fire Python Sect with tens of thousands of disciples, Luoxia Village was just an insignificant small village with a few hundred people, worlds apart in every aspect.

If they joined forces now, they might repel the three Fire Python Sect disciples, but if they returned with reinforcements from their sect to retaliate, Luoxia Village would face a great calamity.

The three Fire Python Sect disciples in front of them were all Thunder Tribulation experts with four layers, likely Inner Court disciples of the Fire Python Sect. Their retaliation wouldn't even require stronger Core Disciples, just more Inner Court disciples, and Luoxia Village would be unable to withstand them.

Now, Huo Wu could only hope that his stern words might stir the conscience of the three Fire Python Sect disciples, causing them to stop out of shame.

Of course, Huo Wu knew this was a naive thought, an impossible hope.

The three Fire Python Sect disciples showed fierce expressions, clearly ruthless individuals unlikely to turn away because of a few words from him.

"Enough talk! I've taken a liking to those two women. Hand them over to me as Martial Dao companions, and I'll reward you with some cultivation resources. Otherwise... I'll kill you all!"

Seeing that Huo Wu and his group were Thunder Tribulation experts with only two or three layers, Kang Yande was relieved and openly threatened with his greedy desire for the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

The more he looked at the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, the more he felt an itch he couldn't scratch, thinking that once he got them, he'd find a picturesque place to unite with them in cultivation—a most delightful thought.

Hearing his words laced with insults, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were furious, their faces flushed, and they brandished their Spiritual Artifacts, ready to fight.

The dozen Luoxia Village villagers behind Huo Wu regarded the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian as their own sisters and, incensed by his words, filled with righteous indignation.

A few hot-tempered Luoxia Village villagers even responded with curses, eager to fight.

Huo Wu was also very angry at Kang Yande's insulting and threatening words, but he knew he couldn't act impulsively, or a battle would be inevitable.

His side might have more people, but individually, they were weaker than their opponents. Even if they managed to drive off the three, there would inevitably be casualties.

That's what Huo Wu didn't want to see.

"Such tyranny and oppression are unworthy of a prestigious sect's disciples! If you insist on this path, we'll fight to the last! Though you're strong, we'll risk mutual destruction without fear!"

Huo Wu suppressed his anger and spoke with a grave face.

The moment he finished speaking, over twenty Luoxia Village villagers, including the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, crowded around him, presenting a united front against the enemy.

Over twenty Thunder Tribulation experts with two or three layers stood together, their aura intimidating, causing Kang Yande and the other two Fire Python Sect disciples to feel suffocated.

Kang Yande exchanged a glance with his two companions, then sneered, "Dare to challenge Fire Python Sect disciples, you countryside bumpkins have no idea how high the sky is! Hey, if you have the guts, tell me your names and origins!"

"We are from Luoxia Village."

A straightforward villager replied loudly, unconvinced.

Huo Wu realized things were turning bad, knowing that if they were found by the enemy at Luoxia Manor later, it would be disastrous for all the villagers.

But the words had been spoken and couldn't be taken back. Huo Wu could only glare at the villager and silently sigh.

"Luoxia Village..."

Kang Yande muttered, then laughed loudly, "Alright, I've remembered! Just wait, in a month at most, ten days at least, I'll come for you at Luoxia Village! Keep those two women safe for me, or I'll slaughter your entire village!"

Though he'd never heard of Luoxia Village, he guessed it was near the Purple Flame Mountain Range, and with the Fire Python Sect's abilities, finding a village wouldn't be difficult.

Kang Yande wasn't worried about the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian escaping early, unless Luoxia Village was willing to gamble with the lives of all its villagers.

"You two girls, be patient, we'll meet again soon! Remember, stay obediently in Luoxia Village and go nowhere else, or the village will pay dearly... ha... ha ha... ha ha ha..."

Kang Yande taunted the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian a bit, then left, laughing loudly under their fiery gazes, along with his two companions.

"Dragon Maiden, Xiao Lian, don't worry, if they dare come for you, we'll fight back!"

"That's right! Our village has hundreds of Thunder Tribulation experts, we fear them not!"

"The people of Luoxia Village are loyal and would never push their sisters into danger!"

...

After Kang Yande's group left, seeing the worried faces of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, the enthusiastic Luoxia Village villagers gathered around them for comfort, expressing their support.

Huo Wu gazed in the direction where Kang Yande's group left, his face shifting with myriad thoughts.

"Uncle Huo Wu, I'm sorry!"

The Dragon Maiden knew Huo Wu was worried about them and all Luoxia Village villagers, feeling deeply apologetic.

Huo Wu turned to her, sighed, and said, "Child, don't apologize. This matter isn't your fault; it's that Fire Python Sect disciple's excessive bullying!"

The Dragon Maiden shook her head and said seriously, "No! If it weren't for us, none of this would have happened today! This was caused by us... so we'll solve it!"

Huo Wu exclaimed, "Don't do anything foolish!"

The Dragon Maiden replied solemnly, "I haven't heard of the Fire Python Sect, but from Uncle Huo Wu's expression, I know the sect is very powerful—something Luoxia Village cannot contend with... Am I right, Uncle Huo Wu?"

Chapter 1886: Something Big Happened

"The Fire Python Sect is one of the top sects in the world, powerful enough to annihilate Luoxia Village with the snap of a finger. If this matter isn't handled well, Luoxia Village will face a catastrophe..."

Huo Wu knew that the Dragon Maiden was extremely intelligent, so he couldn't hide anything from her and had to confess the strength of the Fire Python Sect with a bitter smile.

However, he immediately added, "But don't worry too much, let's brainstorm together, maybe we can resolve this crisis!"

The Dragon Maiden shook her head again and said, "It's useless! In the face of absolute power, any method is futile! We don't have the ability to resolve this crisis!"

Huo Wu opened his mouth, wanting to argue something, but the Dragon Maiden stated an indisputable fact, leaving him with only a bleak sigh.

Zhuge Lian gritted her teeth and said, "Uncle Huo Wu, no matter what, the Dragon Maiden and I won't involve Luoxia Village. Let the Dragon Maiden and I handle this matter together!"

Huo Wu glared at Zhuge Lian and lightly reprimanded, "Xiao Lian, what nonsense are you talking about? You are also villagers of Luoxia Village, now that something has happened, how can you two take it on alone? Alright, don't say anything more now, let's rest for the night and return to Luoxia Village tomorrow morning, and discuss it with the village chief."

At present, more than twenty villagers from Luoxia Village rested for a night at a secluded location nearby, and the next morning, each mounted their Spiritual Artifact and flew toward Luoxia Village.

...

The morning sun bathed Luoxia Village in tranquility and peacefulness.

A dozen young boys and girls, led by Village Chief Huo Hai, came to the village entrance square to begin training their cultivation technique martial arts skills.

These youths, though young, practiced diligently and earnestly with a methodical approach.

Each of them remembered Village Chief Huo Hai's words: Only by cultivating powerful strength can you protect the safety of Luoxia Village and stand tall before other strong individuals.

As the village's only cultivator with the fourth level of Heavenly Tribulation strength, Village Chief Huo Hai's duty is to protect the village and also supervise the training of the village's youths.

Due to the limited cultivation resources obtained annually, hundreds of villagers in the village decided through discussion to allocate the limited cultivation resources to a few villagers with the best aptitude.

As a result, several villagers with good aptitude ended up with low cultivation levels due to a lack of cultivation resources.

“Village Chief, Uncle Huo Wu and the others are back!”

A young boy, who was training, suddenly looked up, pointed to the distant sky at the twenty or so streaks of light, and said excitedly.

“Understood! You rascal have so much to say!”

Huo Hai casually patted the boy’s head lightly and seriously reprimanded, “Train well for me, if you dare get distracted again, be careful I’ll spank you!”

The boy whispered “Oh”, and continued training, but his sidelong glance kept casting towards those rapidly approaching streaks of light.

The other dozen youths also noticed those streaks of light, unable to focus.

Huo Hai was amused and a bit exasperated, waving his hand and saying, “Forget it, let’s take a break for now! Hmm, let’s see what harvest Huo Wu and the others have from this trip into the mountains!”

The dozen youths cheered, ending their training, each raising their heads to look up, eyes filled with anticipation.

In the past, Huo Wu and other villagers returning from hunting Spirit Beasts in the mountains always yielded a good harvest; besides some Spirit Beasts exchanged in the town hundreds of miles away for cultivation resources, the rest would be distributed to village households for consumption.

Spirit Beast meat is tender and delicious, and greatly beneficial to cultivators. It is a favorite food of these young boys and girls; if they could get some Spirit Beast meat, it would be a chance to feast.

Moments later, twenty-some streaks of light descended upon the square, it was Huo Wu and the others returning from the mountains.

“What’s wrong, was this harvest not good?”

Seeing that Huo Wu and others did not look well, Huo Hai felt a moment of panic, but after counting all the villagers and knowing everyone was present, he relaxed.

To Huo Hai, each of the twenty-some mountain-going villagers is invaluable, so as long as there’s no casualty, that’s fortunate.

As for Huo Wu and others looking poorly, Huo Hai reckoned it might be due to the lack of harvest, causing everyone to feel down.

“Village Chief, something major has happened!”

Huo Wu stepped forward two steps and solemnly told Huo Hai.

Huo Hai knew that Huo Wu always remained calm and cautious, and when he mentioned “major,” it must be a challenging problem, making Huo Hai’s demeanor grow serious. “What happened?”

Huo Wu explained, “In the Purple Flame Mountain Range, the Dragon Maiden and Xiao Lian encountered three disciples from the Fire Python Sect. One disciple from that sect demanded fiercely to hand over the Dragon Maiden and Xiao Lian...”

Huo Wu went over the sequence of events, finally saying, “We rushed back intending to discuss with the villagers how to handle this matter!”

Upon hearing “Fire Python Sect,” Huo Hai couldn’t help but gasp, evidently aware of the sect’s formidable strength and terror.

He glanced at the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, thought for a moment, and then assured the two anxious women, “Don’t worry, under no circumstance will we hand you two over!”

The Dragon Maiden started to say, “But...”

“I know what you want to say!”

Huo Hai waved to interrupt the Dragon Maiden and decisively stated, “You and Xiao Lian are now also villagers of Luoxia Village; something happens to you, and all villagers will stand with you!”

His gaze fell upon Huo Wu, speaking solemnly, “You, go, gather all the villagers here in the square, I have something to say!”

Huo Wu acknowledged with a sound and turned away.

Soon, hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village gradually gathered at the square.

They didn’t know what happened; seeing Huo Wu and others return from the mountain, they thought this trip brought a good yield, expecting the distribution of Spirit Beasts’ spoils for everyone here with smiles on their faces.

Huo Hai stood atop a stone platform in the center of the square, pressing his hands downward, waiting for the noisy voices to calm down before he spoke, “Villagers, our Luoxia Village faces trouble, and it’s a gigantic trouble! If not handled well, the village might risk destruction!”

Upon hearing these words, everyone’s face changed; they didn’t expect the village chief to announce such bad news.

“Village Chief, what happened?”

A villager shouted to ask.

Hundreds of pairs of eyes focused on Huo Hai's face, waiting tensely to hear what the "gigantic trouble" he spoke of really was.

"This time, Huo Wu and the others encountered three disciples from the Fire Python Sect while in the mountains. The other party behaved arrogantly and wanted to forcefully take away the Dragon Maiden and Xiao Lian, but Huo Wu and the others stopped them..."

Speaking in anger, Huo Hai shared the story, followed by a silence that spread across the square.

The villagers experienced a mix of outrage and fear.

Outrage because the Fire Python Sect disciples truly behaved presumptuously, arrogantly, and unreasonably.

Fear because many knew how strong the Fire Python Sect was. If they didn't comply by handing over the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, it might bring calamity to Luoxia Village.

Chapter 1887: Do You Miss Him?

"What should we do?"

In the silence, every villager of Luoxia Village was contemplating a solution, yet none considered handing over the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian to the Fire Python Sect disciples in exchange for the safety of the village.

Do not abandon, do not give up.

This was a belief instilled in every villager of Luoxia Village from a young age. Even though many feared reprisal from the Fire Python Sect, no one dared to make a move against the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

"Let's all discuss together and see what we should do about this!"

Huo Hai glanced around and said loudly.

"If the Fire Python Sect disciples say they want to retaliate, they are very likely to come. By then, not to mention our Luoxia Village, even if ten or a hundred villages banded together, we'd still not be opponents! I think, if we quickly relocate from here, we might ensure the villagers' safety!"

An elder put forward his suggestion.

The elder's words were met with agreement from many villagers.

Though it's hard to leave one's homeland, it's far better than staying here waiting for the Fire Python Sect to come for retaliation, risking their lives.

"Yes, I've also thought about relocating to avoid the Fire Python Sect's retaliation. We can find another more secluded place with richer nature's spiritual energy to rebuild the village."

Huo Hai agreed with the elder's proposal and added, "The sooner we do this, the better! If no one objects, let's prepare today and leave tomorrow."

Seeing that no villagers expressed any objections, Huo Hai instructed the villagers to return home to pack up and prepare to leave the next day.

"Dragon Maiden, Xiao Lian, don't feel guilty."

Huo Hai smiled and said to the restless Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, "Not just for you two, even if other villagers had such trouble, we would act the same way. Now, go on and pack!"

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian both bowed deeply to Huo Hai to express their gratitude, then returned to their residence side by side.

"Dragon Maiden, because of the two of us, the entire Luoxia Village must relocate. I can't help but feel uneasy in my heart!"

"In the future, if we become powerful and acquire more cultivation resources, we can compensate the villagers more."

"Yes, Xiao Lian, you're right!"

"Following the cultivation method Brother Fang taught us, training in the Purple Flame Mountain Range, we may advance to the Thunder Tribulation Realm level three or even level four within a few years. By then, we can join hands and first kill those three disciples of the Fire Python Sect!"

"Exactly, those vile guys deserve to die! Had it not been for them, the villagers of Luoxia Village wouldn't have been forced to relocate!"

"Speaking of Fang Bai, I wonder where he is now, if he's safe and sound..."

"Dragon Maiden, you miss him?"

"Don't you?"

"I miss him too! But... as you said, who knows when we'll see him again!"

"I have a feeling deep down that Fang Bai is searching everywhere for us. If we just wait patiently, there will come a day when we reunite with him!"

"Let's hope so!"

...

Back at their residence, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian packed their things while chatting, speaking of Fang Bai. The bitter longing over the years made the two women feel somewhat melancholic.

Early the next day, nearly five hundred villagers of Luoxia Village gathered at the village square entrance and, led by the village chief Huo Hai, ventured into the Purple Flame Mountain Range.

Their large group of several hundred people would be too conspicuous. If they migrated to other plains, they might be discovered by the Fire Python Sect disciples, making escape difficult.

Within the Purple Flame Mountain Range, the high mountains and dense forests would aid in concealment and facilitate escape. Therefore, they planned to traverse the Purple Flame Mountain Range to find a hidden place to settle somewhere else.

According to Huo Hai, since they were moving the village, the further from the original site, the safer it would be.

Many villagers of Luoxia Village often ventured into the mountains for training or to hunt spirit beasts, making them familiar with the Purple Flame Mountain Range. They need not worry about getting lost, and within a few days, they arrived deep within the range.

On this day, the temperature between heaven and earth suddenly soared, and even the wind blowing past carried heat. Although the nearly five hundred villagers all practiced fire-based techniques, able to withstand high temperatures, they still felt parched and were sweating heavily.

Both the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian possessed innate fire spirit roots, making them immensely more resilient to high temperatures than ordinary Thunder Tribulation experts, therefore showing no abnormal reactions.

"The temperature here is high; we must be near the Magma Lake!"

Huo Hai thought of the legendary Magma Lake where the Immortal Fire had fallen, and said with a guarded expression.

Many experts who entered the Purple Flame Mountain Range for training said that within a ten-mile radius of the Magma Lake it was a forbidden zone for ordinary Thunder Tribulation experts. If entered, one might perish in the scorching waves.

The so-called ordinary Thunder Tribulation experts referred to strong cultivators in the Minor Tribulation Phase within the first three layers of the Thunder Tribulation Realm. Though Huo Hai was at the fourth level of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, and counted as a strong cultivator within the realm, he dared not proceed any further.

"Let's take a detour, avoiding the ten-mile range of Magma Lake."

Huo Hai leapt onto a nearby peak, observed for a moment, then returned to the several hundred villagers of Luoxia Village and said.

He led the way, with several hundred villagers following closely, traversing rapidly through the forested mountains.

"Whish!"

A sharp sound pierced the air as a long iron spear, engulfed in roaring flames, shot forward like a giant python moving at high speed, just five feet above the ground.

"It's him!"

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, upon seeing that iron spear, immediately thought of Kang Yande of the Fire Python Sect, their expressions instantly changed.

"We're under attack! Everyone be careful!"

Huo Hai was also taken aback, crying out to warn the villagers.

But the iron spear came suddenly, like a bolt of lightning; its speed was too fast, and in an instant, it broke into the midst of the Luoxia Village's several hundred inhabitants, piercing through the bodies of several villagers who couldn't dodge in time.

Those villagers who were hit didn't even have time to let out a cry before their bodies shattered into pieces with a bang, leaving a scene too tragic to behold.

"Huzi! My son!"

Among the fallen villagers was one of Huo Hai's sons. He screamed towards the heavens, eyes filled with fury, his gaze bloodshot focused on the origin of the spear.

Other family members of the deceased villagers also cried out, filled with grief and indignation.

The remaining villagers, their faces showing fear, followed Huo Hai's gaze towards the direction from which the spear came.

Witnessing the tragic scene, both the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian bit their tender lips, fists clenched, their beautiful eyes seeming ready to spew fire, glaring at the swiftly approaching group of Fire Python Sect disciples.

That group consisted of dozens of disciples, almost all of them were Thunder Tribulation Realm level four experts. Judging by their attire and manner, it was clear they were inner court disciples of the Fire Python Sect.

The person at the forefront was an elegant and handsome middle-aged man, with a wicked smile at the corner of his mouth, none other than Kang Yande, who just days ago had declared that the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian would be his Martial Dao companions.

Chapter 1888: Resolute

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian never imagined that Kang Yande would appear at this time and place.

They remembered Kang Yande once saying he would come to Luoxia Village within a month at most, or ten days at least, to demand people, but how did he chase them down in just a few days?

Moreover, judging by their stance, it was evident that they knew in advance about the village's planned migration and had gathered a large number of Fire Python Sect disciples to intercept them.

Could it be that someone from Luoxia Village leaked the information?

That's unlikely.

The villagers of Luoxia Village had packed their belongings that day and set off early the next morning. During this time, no villager left the village.

Seeing the wickedly smiling Kang Yande gliding over, Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian stood dumbfounded, at a loss for words, their hearts filled with despair.

On the opposite side, there were dozens of Fire Python Sect disciples, each of whom was a Thunder Tribulation Expert. Though Luoxia Village had hundreds of people, if a conflict arose, it would be a catastrophe for Luoxia Village.

Just now, Kang Yande mercilessly slew several Luoxia Village villagers with a single spear, clearly signaling his intent for a massacre.

"Everyone, be on guard and prepare for battle!"

After experiencing the initial sorrow of losing his son, Huo Hai forced himself to calm down and shouted sternly.

As the village chief of Luoxia Village, Huo Hai knew the most important thing he needed to do was not to immerse himself in the grief of losing his son, but think of how to lead hundreds of villagers safely away, otherwise he would die with regrets.

However, with dozens of Fire Python Sect disciples glaring at them and rapidly approaching, this long convoy, though containing many Thunder Tribulation Experts, also included many young children just beginning to learn the Dao of Cultivation. How could they escape?

"I told you to wait obediently in Luoxia Village for me, not to roam around, yet you wouldn't listen. Now, I'm very angry, so... Except for you two, every villager in Luoxia Village must die!"

Kang Yande leapt forward, his wicked smile now turned into a cold sneer. His gaze quickly swept over the hundreds of villagers, finally fixing on the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

The hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village now knew what fate awaited them and surprisingly felt no fear or panic.

They formed a large circle, protecting the women and children with no fighting power in the center, each holding a Spiritual Artifact, glaring at the Fire Python Sect disciples with determined hatred.

The opposition had already voiced their intent to slaughter them, so how could they sit and wait for death?

Fight!

This was the heartfelt cry of every villager in Luoxia Village.

An atmosphere of resolute sadness shrouded every villager's heart.

Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian suddenly stepped forward, frost on their charming faces, and looked at Kang Yande with indescribable hatred.

"Let the villagers of Luoxia Village go, and we will go with you!"

The Dragon Maiden coldly said to Kang Yande, "If you kill one more villager from Luoxia Village, we will end our lives on the spot! Do not doubt our resolve; we mean what we say!"

"Heh..."

Kang Yande sneered, clearly not believing them.

With a slight movement of his hand, the iron spear in front of him pointed directly at the hundreds of Luoxia Village villagers. Instantly, a large amount of Fire Spirit Energy gathered around the spear, forming a ten-foot-long Fire Python, seemingly ready to pounce in the next moment.

Huo Hai knew that if Kang Yande thrust his spear, apart from himself, no one among the hundreds of Luoxia Village villagers could withstand it, so he stepped forward, fully alert, prepared to take the blow.

"Dragon Maiden!"

Zhuge Lian suddenly called out in alarm.

Everyone looked towards the Dragon Maiden, seeing the Fire Spirit Energy surging around her, a violent aura raging within her, and a trickle of blood slowly spilling from the corner of her mouth.

Kang Yande frowned slightly, knowing that the Dragon Maiden was preparing to sever her own meridians and destroy her Qi Sea to show that if he killed again, she would end her life on the spot.

Kang Yande hesitated.

What he wanted was an unharmed Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, so he could become martial arts partners with them, combining cultivation would greatly benefit his own cultivation; otherwise, it would be meaningless.

"Fine! As long as you two obediently come with me, I'll spare them all!"

Kang Yande quickly made a decision.

To persuade dozens of fellow sect members to assist, he had paid a significant amount in Cultivation Resources. If he couldn't get the two women, it would be a huge loss, an unprofitable venture.

To Kang Yande, Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were valuable, and the life and death of the hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village were utterly insignificant, easily dismissed.

"No, let them go first!"

Dragon Maiden wiped the blood from the corner of her mouth, firmly saying, "Only after they have been gone for half a day will we go with you!"

Kang Yande knew the Dragon Maiden feared he would renege on his word, feeling a bit annoyed but still waved his hand, saying to Huo Hai and the villagers, "This Lord is feeling gracious today, sparing your lives! Hurry and leave! If I see you again in half a day, you will be killed without mercy!"

The hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village silently looked at Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, not one moving an inch.

They had long decided to live and die with them, unwilling to abandon the two women.

Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian turned to face Huo Hai and the hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village, then slowly knelt down and bowed deeply.

"We will always remember the kindness you have shown us, and in another life, we will surely repay it!"

Dragon Maiden straightened up, her eyes reddened, tears glistening, as she spoke to Huo Hai, "Village Chief, please take everyone and leave! We can't bear to see the villagers die innocently because of us!"

Zhuce Lian was also in tears, choking, "Village Chief, villagers, please go quickly!"

"We'll all go together!"

Huo Hai shook his head vigorously.

"Yes! All together!"

The hundreds of villagers were filled with emotion.

Dragon Maiden stood up, flipped her right hand, and with a flash of light, a three-foot-long sword lay across her fair neck.

She gently pressed the sword downward, and a thin line of blood emerged on her snow-white, slender neck.

"Dragon Maiden, don't do anything foolish!"

Huo Hai raised his hand in alarm.

Dragon Maiden gave a sorrowful smile, speaking each word clearly, "Village Chief, if you don't leave within ten breaths, I will die!"

Zhuge Lian cried, "Village Chief, if you don't go, you'll force us to die!"

Huo Hai knew the two had resolved to die; if they didn't leave, the women might perish immediately. If they did leave, the women would seek a chance to end themselves, unwilling to endure the humiliation from Fire Python Sect disciples.

"Fine! Fine! We'll go! We'll leave now!"

Huo Hai's tears flowed freely as he stomped and sighed deeply, "As the village chief, I have failed to protect you, I am ashamed! I am ashamed!"

Dragon Maiden said, "At this point, Village Chief, why blame yourself further? If there is any shame, it should be ours!"

She paused and continued, "Village Chief, before we part, there is one more thing to trouble you and the villagers..."

Huo Hai said, "Just say it!"

Chapter 1889: Fire Crowned Eagle

"In the future, if you encounter someone named Fang Bai, and he's looking for us, please tell him about the things that happened here..."

When mentioning Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden's expression became distant, and a gentle smile appeared on her lips. She continued, "Also, tell him that Xiao Lian and I miss him a lot. We are not meant to be in this life; may we meet again in the next!"

Huo Hai did not know who Fang Bai was, but from the Dragon Maiden's expression and tone, he guessed that Fang Bai was someone very close to her. He nodded and said, "Alright, I'll remember."

He understood that the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian sacrificed themselves to save the lives of hundreds of villagers, so he hesitated no more. After saying this, he took a deep look at the two women and quickly left with the hundreds of Luoxia Village villagers.

Kang Yande smirked coldly with disdain, watching as the hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village left, and indeed, he did not let any of his comrades stop them.

Half a day passed, and the Dragon Maiden believed that the villagers of Luoxia Village should have gone far. Only then did she turn around and exchange a glance with Zhuge Lian.

The two women, understanding each other perfectly, simultaneously summoned their Spiritual Artifacts, leaping up and transforming into streaks of light, flying towards the Magma Lake.

“Trying to escape? Haha, if I let both of you get away today, I’ll write my name, Kang Yande, backwards!”

Kang Yande saw that the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian did not follow their promises to obediently leave with him. He wasn’t angry and laughed as he rode his Spiritual Artifact in pursuit.

The other disciples of the Fire Python Sect exchanged glances, giggling, each riding their own Spiritual Artifacts, closely following behind.

.....

Huo Hai led the hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village, quickly flying through the sky, planning to traverse the Purple Flame Mountain Range in search of a suitable place to settle.

Many of them still had expressions of grief and indignation on their faces.

They were outraged by the tyranny and brutality of the Fire Python Sect disciples and mourned the sacrifice of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

“Village Chief, are we really going to abandon the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian?”

One villager asked with reddened eyes.

“Leaving like this makes us heartless and ungrateful! I’ll never have peace in my heart!”

Another villager said indignantly.

“There are hundreds of us, and only dozens of them. Even if we can’t win, we should at least take a chunk out of them!”

Another villager shouted passionately, gesturing with his fists.

Huo Hai listened to the villagers around him, struggling internally, his expression constantly changing.

After a long while, he sighed deeply, floating in mid-air, and said, "You all saw the situation back then. The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were determined to face death, and if we didn't leave, I'm afraid they would have taken their own lives on the spot."

The villagers of Luoxia Village thought back to the situation earlier. It was indeed like that. They knew the two women acted that way to ensure their safety, and they couldn't help but look gloomy, with a few close friends shedding tears.

"Therefore, we must leave! Otherwise, their sacrifice would be meaningless! I, Huo Hai, hereby swear on behalf of all Luoxia villagers, if we ever become strong, we'll destroy the Fire Python Sect to avenge the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian!"

Huo Hai clenched his fists tightly, roaring as he spoke.

"Revenge!"

Hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village raised their arms and shouted in unison.

Over the past half-day, they had already flown more than a thousand miles away, unafraid of being heard by the disciples of the Fire Python Sect.

Their collective roar echoed through the mountains and forests within a hundred miles, scaring many Spirit Beasts away.

"Whoosh!"

Suddenly, a strong gust of wind approached from afar, sweeping towards them. The villagers of Luoxia Village looked over and saw a giant creature descending from a mountain peak in the distance, diving towards them.

That giant creature was a bird with wings spread over ten feet wide, swooping down like a cloud.

“It’s a Fire Crowned Eagle! Everyone, descend and hide in the forest!”

Seeing the powerful aura of the Fire Crowned Eagle, obviously much stronger than himself, Huo Hai was shocked and shouted loudly, knowing that it was at least as formidable as a human at the fifth level of the Heavenly Tribulation.

The Fire Crowned Eagle is a unique giant bird within the Purple Flame Mountain Range, extremely rare but exceedingly powerful, named for the flame-like crown on its head.

An adult Fire Crowned Eagle is at least as strong as a human at the third level of the Heavenly Tribulation, and as they age, their strength increases further.

The Fire Crowned Eagle before them, equivalent to a human at the fifth level of the Heavenly Tribulation, was quite rare. Even a human at the fifth level wouldn’t stand a chance against it and would flee in defeat.

In the Purple Flame Mountain Range, the Fire Crowned Eagle is the undisputed aerial overlord. Even a human at the sixth level of Heavenly Tribulation wouldn’t stand a chance against the one before them.

The hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village were stunned upon seeing the Fire Crowned Eagle. Only after hearing Huo Hai’s shout did they snap out of it, immediately descending and spreading out in the forest after landing.

Huo Hai was the last to enter the forest. Once he landed, he leaned against an ancient tree nearly ten feet in diameter, looking up at the Fire Crowned Eagle circling overhead, his heart anxious and palms sweating.

Rumor has it that Fire Crowned Eagles enjoy the flesh of human experts. Seeing the hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village, how could it easily leave?

Just escaping from the hands of the Fire Python Sect disciples, they were now under attack by the Fire Crowned Eagle, causing Huo Hai to curse internally.

Fire Crowned Eagles, as Spirit Beasts, not only possess immense strength but also great patience, willing to wait motionlessly for days or weeks to hunt.

Once they leave this forest, they would become the target and food of the Fire Crowned Eagle.

“Everyone, be careful!”

As Huo Hai contemplated a way out, he suddenly felt a scorching wave of heat from above. A fireball followed, crashing down, indicating an attack by the Fire Crowned Eagle.

Hundreds of villagers were already keeping an eye on the Fire Crowned Eagle. Seeing the incoming fireball, they dodged on their own before Huo Hai could remind them.

The fireball was immensely powerful, sweeping across several giant trees as it came crashing down, instantly igniting them in flames.

The Fire Crowned Eagle continued its relentless attacks from the sky, and most of the giant trees within the dozens of miles where the villagers were hiding had fallen and caught fire.

Without the cover of the ancient trees, the hundreds of villagers were left in a state of panic.

“Screech!”

The Fire Crowned Eagle let out a sharp cry, looking extremely pleased. To it, the humans below were already a delicious meal.

“It’s over!”

Seeing the Fire Crowned Eagle swoop down with a gust of wind and fire, Huo Hai turned pale and sighed in despair.

Despite his hopelessness, Huo Hai refused to sit and wait for death. He stood up, shouting, "Those at the third level of Heavenly Tribulation, attack the Fire Crowned Eagle with me. The rest, flee quickly!"

Immediately, over a dozen figures rose up, floating beside Huo Hai, ready to attack the Fire Crowned Eagle together.

They knew that facing the Fire Crowned Eagle with just these few people was certain death, but if the other villagers could escape, their deaths would be worthwhile.

At that moment, a figure in white, stepping on a blood-colored long blade, flew toward them from afar, stopping in mid-air not far away. With a fiery gaze on the Fire Crowned Eagle, he smiled and said, "A Fire Crowned Eagle at the sixth level of Heavenly Tribulation? Well, it could make a nice mount!"

Chapter 1890: My Name Is Fang Bai

Huo Hai squinted, discovering that the white figure was a graceful, handsome young man.

The young man appeared suddenly, coming out of nowhere. Huo Hai hadn't sensed him at all beforehand, which made him realize that the young man's power far surpassed his own, and he couldn't help but feel secretly alarmed.

Unsure whether the young man was friend or foe, he became somewhat wary. At the same time, he was quite skeptical about the young man's claim that he wanted to make the Fire Crowned Eagle his mount.

One must understand that taming a Fire Crowned Eagle, which is comparable to a human expert who is at the sixth level of Heavenly Tribulation, is incredibly difficult. Even an expert with a seventh-level cultivation would find it hard to achieve without knowledge of Beast Taming Techniques.

The young man looked so young, and even if he was a rare genius in the Dao of Cultivation, it was impossible for his cultivation level to exceed the sixth tribulation stage. His boast about capturing this Fire Crowned Eagle seemed rather reckless.

The overwhelmingly powerful Fire Crowned Eagle eyed the young man with a sharp gaze like swords, as if recognizing a formidable enemy, ignoring Huo Hai and his group to face off against the young man.

“The dozen of you are no match for this Fire Crowned Eagle! How about handing it over to me to deal with?”

The young man glanced at Huo Hai and the others, presuming they were experts training in the mountains or a team hunting Spirit Beasts, and asked with a smile.

Seeing his calm gaze and friendly tone, unlike those of evil villains, Huo Hai felt a slight relief in his heart.

If it had been other experts, they might take this chance of the confrontation between the young man and the Fire Crowned Eagle to quickly escape. But Huo Hai was worried the young man would not be able to handle it alone and said, “This Fire Crowned Eagle is extremely formidable. I’m afraid you can’t take it on by yourself! How about we join forces and drive it away?”

The young man laughed heartily and said, “A mere sixth-level Fire Crowned Eagle, I don’t even take it seriously! I’ve been flying using a Spiritual Artifact all the way here, which consumes quite a bit of Spiritual Energy. Won’t it be more comfortable to tame a Fire Crowned Eagle to ride on?”

When Huo Hai heard the word “tame,” he realized that the young man knew a fair amount about the Beast Taming Art, which made his eyes light up, and he asked, “Are you a Beast Tamer?”

The young man replied, “Well, I know a little bit, I suppose!”

Huo Hai saw his serious demeanor and believed him somewhat, and his heart pounded wildly, thinking that if this young man rode this sixth-level Fire Crowned Eagle to rescue the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, there was a great hope of saving them both.

Yet, he and the young man were strangers. Would the young man help?

Moreover, if he helped, he would offend the powerful Fire Python Sect. Would he agree?

“Give it a try! What if he happens to be kind-hearted and willing to help?”

Huo Hai gritted his teeth and was about to speak but saw the young man put away his Spiritual Artifact and step into the void, walking towards the Fire Crowned Eagle one step at a time.

Huo Hai raised his hand, wanting to call out to the young man, only to witness the Fire Crowned Eagle not attacking him as he approached. Instead, there was a hint of fear in its eyes.

Huo Hai was dumbfounded, finding it unbelievable.

Unknowingly, although the young man was only at the sixth level of Heavenly Tribulation, the pressure he emitted far exceeded this realm. This majestic aura enveloped the Fire Crowned Eagle, making it dare not resist.

The Fire Crowned Eagle, possessing high intelligence, knew it had encountered a nemesis and that any move to attack would result in its destruction with ease.

The young man stopped three yards in front of the Fire Crowned Eagle, suddenly letting out a high-pitched to low-pitched whistle while a strand of Divine Sense, accompanied by the whistle, forcefully infiltrated the Fire Crowned Eagle’s mind.

The whistle entered the eagle’s ears, making its gaze turn dazed, and with the infiltration of the Divine Sense, its body trembled slightly, regaining clarity after a moment.

Looking at the Fire Crowned Eagle now, one would see its gaze at the young man was filled with complete awe.

The young man laughed aloud, stepped forward, and patted the Fire Crowned Eagle’s massive head.

The Fire Crowned Eagle leaned forward, rubbing its head against the young man, showcasing closeness.

Witnessing the scene, Huo Hai was almost jumping with excitement.

The young man taming the Fire Crowned Eagle wasn't just a simple act of saving all the villagers, hundreds of them, it also gave Huo Hai hope for the rescue of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

"Sen... senior, please wait!"

Indeed, seeing the young man sitting cross-legged on the Fire Crowned Eagle's back, ready to leave, Huo Hai hurriedly approached, blocking the eagle's path, and knelt before Fang Bai in mid-air.

This call of "senior" from Huo Hai was genuinely meant.

The young man might be young, but his strength far exceeded his own, plus he effortlessly tamed a sixth-level Heavenly Tribulation bird. With such status and ability, calling him "senior" was only natural.

The young man frowned slightly and asked, "You may stand and speak. Are you blocking my way for a reason?"

Huo Hai did not rise; instead, he knelt deeply and said, "All of us here are villagers from outside Luoxia Village in the mountains. Half a day ago, two of our villagers were captured by the unscrupulous Fire Python Sect, and without timely rescue, they will perish. If you, senior, are righteous enough to rescue them, all of our villagers will forever be grateful!"

"Please save our lives, senior!"

Alongside Huo Hai, the dozen people floating in mid-air and the hundreds of villagers on the ground from Luoxia Village all knelt.

The young man's brow furrowed once more, and he said, "What is this Fire Python Sect? And how did your Luoxia Village come to bear a grudge against them? Can you tell me?"

Huo Hai dared not conceal anything. He explained everything in detail but didn't mention the names of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, referring to them only as "two villagers."

After listening, the young man's gaze turned cold, his Killing Qi surging skyward. He snorted, "I, Fang Bai, detest those scoundrels who bully the weak and abuse women. Stand up, I will accompany you to rescue them! What if the Fire Python Sect has a ninth-level tribulation expert in charge? I am not afraid!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he saw Huo Hai eyes widened, staring at him intently, seemingly excited. Curious, he asked, "What is it?"

"Senior... is named Fang Bai?"

Huo Hai asked in a trembling voice.

"Yes, I am Fang Bai."

Fang Bai nodded.

The young man was Fang Bai, who had come from the Eastern Desolate Continent.

Previously in Alchemy Immortal City, Fang Bai parted ways with Ye Wumei, Tang Wenrou, Yan Muyu, and Xuan Feng Venerable. He continued to search for other friends and relatives in the Eastern Desolate Continent, while Ye Wumei and the others, escorted by Xuan Feng Venerable, headed to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace to wait for Fang Bai.

Having searched in the Eastern Desolate Continent for a long time without any sign of friends or relatives, and without any news from Alchemy Immortal City, Fang Bai followed a group of experts across the sea to the Land of Extreme South to continue his quest.

The Southern Extremes were also vast, making finding people no different from looking for a needle in a haystack.

Fang Bai wandered aimlessly, stopping at some large cities, putting up reward notices hoping for good news, while also searching himself.

He arrived at the Purple Flame Mountain Range because he sensed the dense Fire Spirit Energy around, hoping to see if any treasures existed, which led him to Huo Hai and the others.