

Doctor 1891

Chapter 1891: Magma Lake

“Senior Fang, do you recognize the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian?”

After confirming Fang Bai’s name, Huo Hai asked with strong anticipation.

He knew that in the vast world, there were countless people with the same name. He wondered if the Fang Bai before him was the one the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian spoke of.

If so, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian could be saved, and the hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village, including Huo Hai, would not have to feel guilty about them anymore.

“What did you say?”

Upon hearing the names of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, Fang Bai’s gaze turned sharp as he stared at Huo Hai, his heart pounding.

Huo Hai felt as if Fang Bai’s gaze pierced through him, like standing beneath a towering mountain, overwhelmed with a pressure that made it difficult to breathe, his body nearly collapsing again.

“Senior, do... do you recognize the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian?”

Under Fang Bai’s immense pressure, Huo Hai mustered all his strength to support himself, his voice trembling as he repeated his question.

Fang Bai’s hands suddenly reached out, tightly grasping Huo Hai’s shoulders as he loudly asked, “Tell me, where are they now?”

Though he did not directly answer Huo Hai, this question confirmed he knew the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

Huo Hai's shoulders were in immense pain from Fang Bai's grip, but he gritted his teeth and endured, his face contorted in agony.

Seeing Huo Hai's pained expression, Fang Bai realized he was too agitated, hurriedly released his grip, and concealed his aura, apologizing, "I'm sorry! That was improper!"

Huo Hai felt the pressure around him dissipate and breathed a sigh of relief.

"The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian are my martial arts companions. I have been searching for them for years without any news. Please tell me where they are now; I would be eternally grateful."

Fang Bai clasped his hands together, speaking urgently.

Hearing this, Huo Hai was overjoyed, thinking that the Fang Bai before him was indeed the one the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian spoke of. Since they were martial arts companions, there was no reason Fang Bai wouldn't save them if they were in danger.

"The two villagers I just asked Senior to rescue are the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian! They voluntarily stayed behind to fight with the Fire Python Sect disciples to save all the villagers of Luoxia Village. I knew then they had death wishes... We parted half a day ago, and I don't know their current situation. Senior Fang, quickly go save them!"

Huo Hai urged urgently.

Now that Fang Bai, the one the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian so yearned for, was found, any mishap on their side would be a tremendous regret.

Upon hearing this, Fang Bai's eyes instantly turned blood-red, and his aura became terrifying as he coldly declared, "If the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian are harmed in the slightest, I will eradicate all the Fire Python Sect disciples!"

The hundreds of villagers of Luoxia Village, including Huo Hai, shivered under Fang Bai's chilling and terrifying aura, shocked by Fang Bai's unfathomable strength.

"Huo Wu, I'll take Senior Fang to rescue the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian first; you and all the villagers follow closely behind!"

Knowing time was of the essence, Huo Hai dared not delay, instructing Huo Wu and then leaping onto the Fire Crowned Eagle with Fang Bai, heading towards the Magma Lake.

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Within a ten-mile radius of the Magma Lake, the heat waves rolled, scorching the area, making it a forbidden zone for those in the Minor Tribulation Phase of the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

At this moment, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian stood at the edge of this ten-mile radius, their faces frost-covered, eyes glaring at Kang Yande and the Fire Python Sect disciples, who watched them like tigers eyeing their prey.

The two women had waited half a day after the Luoxia Village villagers left, calculating they should have reached far away by now. With telepathic understanding, they flew to the vicinity of the Magma Lake, wishing to use this perilous area to confront Kang Yande and the Fire Python Sect disciples.

Kang Yande and the Fire Python Sect disciples chased them to this place. Seeing the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian intending to enter the ten-mile radius of the Magma Lake, they knew if they did, they might perish, so they dared not act rashly. The two sides faced off across a distance of dozens of feet.

"Are you two insane? One step forward and you'll sacrifice yourselves to the flames; one step back and the sea is vast and the sky high! Come back, be my martial arts companions, and I won't treat you poorly! Surely you lack cultivation resources? I have plenty!"

Kang Yande worried that if the beauties recklessly entered the ten-mile radius of the Magma Lake, he would end up empty-handed, so he anxiously urged loudly.

“We would rather jump into the Magma Lake than suffer your humiliation!”

Zhuge Lian held her Spiritual Artifact before her, focused on Kang Yande and the Fire Python Sect disciples dozens of feet away, speaking fiercely.

She and the Dragon Maiden were of one mind to die, so they showed no fear, determined to charge into the Magma Lake’s forbidden zone if Kang Yande and his men attacked.

If Kang Yande and his men continued to press, they would jump into the Magma Lake to preserve their dignity.

“You promised to come with me obediently if I released the Luoxia Village villagers. Why do you go back on your word? As cultivators, do you not keep your promises?”

Kang Yande, having spent much effort persuading them, grew exasperated when they remained unmoved.

Zhuge Lian sneered, “If the other party were a righteous and upright person, we’d naturally keep our promises. But with evil scoundrels like you, there’s no need!”

Kang Yande laughed in anger, pointing at the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, and stomped his foot, “I fell for your trick! Just wait; when I catch you, I’ll make sure you can’t live or die!”

He paused, then added, “You two are just bluffing. Do you think I’d believe you? Ha, besides, I’ve heard there’s a Spiritual Fire within the Magma Lake. If you jump in, you’ll surely be turned to ash, with no bones left. If you want to jump, then do it for me!”

With that, he stepped forward, advancing step by step, his eyes emitting a cold light.

Seeing Kang Yande coming closer, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian hardened their resolve, transforming into two streams of light, charging into the ten-mile radius of the Magma Lake without hesitation.

“A pair of mad people!”

Kang Yande cursed loudly as he watched the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian rushing toward the Magma Lake.

“Brother Kang, should we go in? Don’t let them escape!”

A Fire Python Sect disciple suggested.

Kang Yande said, “Brothers, let’s spread out temporarily and surround the ten-mile radius of the Magma Lake! I don’t believe those two can stay inside forever!”

So, several dozen Fire Python Sect disciples spread out, flying to both sides of the Magma Lake, surrounding it. If the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian wanted to escape, they would have to break through their blockade.

Chapter 1892: Cultivation in the Forbidden Zone

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian rushed into the ten-mile range of the Magma Lake, immediately enveloped by boundless heatwaves, feeling unbearably hot, instantly drenched in fragrant sweat, with a burning sensation as if their skin was on fire.

“Dragon Maiden, I’m feeling so uncomfortable!”

Amidst the heatwaves, Zhuge Lian found breathing exceptionally difficult, her delicate brows tightly knitted, moving closer to the Dragon Maiden.

“Legend has it that this Magma Lake was formed due to Spiritual Fire, and it seems this is indeed true... Hmm, Xiao Lian, try circulating the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art, it can resist the heat here!”

The Dragon Maiden quickly said.

Since she entered the ten-mile range of the Magma Lake, the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art began circulating, although she still felt the heat, it was bearable.

The Nine Revolutions True Fire Art, taught to them by Fang Bai, is a fire-based cultivation technique. This technique aligns with the Heavenly Dao, mysterious and boundless, and at higher levels of cultivation, not to mention Spiritual Fire, even Immortal Fire does not intimidate.

Unfortunately, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian have only cultivated this technique for a few years, their cultivation levels are too weak, their power too shallow, insufficient to withstand Spiritual Fire.

Nevertheless, as long as they don't approach the edge of the Magma Lake, the scorching high temperature released by the Magma Lake poses no great threat to them.

Though disciples of the Fire Python Sect like Kang Yande are all Heavenly Tribulation Stage Four experts, cultivating fire system techniques, their techniques are mediocre, their aptitudes also ordinary, thus they cannot withstand the Spirit Fire Might.

Therefore, while the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian dared to venture inside, they dared not, fearing being devoured by the Spiritual Fire.

Zhuce Lian, hearing the words of the Dragon Maiden, immediately began circulating the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art. Fire Spirit Energy swiftly moved within her body, indeed feeling the surging heatwaves around her became much calmer.

"The people from Fire Python Sect think we can't withstand the high temperature heat here and will soon leave, but we definitely won't go out, let's see who can outlast whom!"

The Dragon Maiden said to Zhuge Lian.

Zhuce Lian replied, "Indeed, let's just cultivate here. Perhaps we can advance our strength by leveraging the pure, dense Fire Spirit Energy here. If they can't outlast us, they will naturally leave, then we'll have a chance to escape!"

After exchanging a few words, their initial resolve to face death upon entering was already replaced by the confidence to escape the crisis.

Thus, the two women sat cross-legged on the spot, each circulating the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art, focusing on cultivation.

Both women have Innate Fire Spirit Roots, the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art being an Immortal Rank cultivation method, so as they focused on cultivation, heavenly phenomena emerged.

Visible to the naked eye was large quantities of Fire Spirit Energy from all directions flowing into their bodies at an astonishing and unbelievable rate.

“The cultivation method they’re using... is very peculiar!”

Standing ten miles away from the Magma Lake, not daring to take a step forward, Kang Yande saw the heavenly phenomena occurring while the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian cultivated, and couldn’t help expressing amazement.

He, born from Fire Python Sect, one of the top sects in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, is considered knowledgeable. He’s heard that only high-ranking cultivation techniques produce heavenly phenomena during circulation, stirring his heart.

He figured that since he, the Dragon Maiden, and Zhuge Lian all cultivated fire system techniques, if they could cultivate here, so could he. If he were to capture them and force them to reveal their cultivation technique, while also acquiring their bodies, wouldn’t it be a perfect two-for-one deal?

However, the ten-mile range of the Magma Lake was a marked forbidden zone, like a natural barrier before him, and he dared not easily step forward.

In such a situation, how could he capture the two women, obtain their bodies, and extract their cultivation technique?

Just as Kang Yande was fretting, suddenly a stream of light flew in from afar, landing beside him after a dozen breaths.

“Gu... Steward Gu? How come you’ve come, sir?”

Seeing the arrival, Kang Yande was initially stunned, then secretly lamented.

The “Steward Gu” he was referring to is Gu Chaotian, one of the stewards of Fire Python Sect, possessing a Heavenly Tribulation Stage Seven cultivation.

Several decades ago, Gu Chaotian acquired an evil cultivation technique from unknown origins and has since indulged in dual cultivation with female martial artists, surprisingly advancing to Heavenly Tribulation Stage Seven relying on this evil technique.

Thus, as soon as Gu Chaotian arrived, Kang Yande knew those rare beauties were not for him.

“The sect’s higher-ups heard that you, kid, gathered dozens of fellow disciples just to snatch two women and were a little worried, specially sending me to check. Humph, you little rascal, causing such a commotion for two women—is it worth it?”

As Gu Chaotian spoke, his gaze shifted forward. When the meditating Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian entered his sight, he abruptly stopped speaking, his eyes fixed on them.

Kang Yande secretly sighed, knowing the two women targeted by Steward Gu would suffer more than if they fell into his hands.

“Yande, are those the two women you want to seize?”

Gu Chaotian suddenly asked, though his gaze never left the two women ahead.

Kang Yande responded with a smile, “Yes, that’s them!”

Pausing, he continued, “The two women were clever, escaping into the ten-mile forbidden zone of the Magma Lake. The disciples’ strength is weak, so they dared not venture inside, thus this stalemate occurred.”

At this, his eyes turned, and he smiled, “Steward Gu is strong, I’m sure the ten-mile forbidden zone of the Magma Lake can’t stop you! If Steward Gu captures the women, I offer one to you willingly...”

Gu Chaotian grinned, his right palm’s fingers first spreading out like a fan, then slowly clenched into a fist, saying, “I’ll take both those women!”

Kang Yande’s smile froze immediately, his face then falling, saying, “But Steward Gu, I discovered them first... You’ll eat the meat, surely you should at least leave me some soup?”

Gu Chaotian patted his shoulder, cheerfully saying, “You’re quite good. I’m very interested in those two women! Thus, later I’ll instruct you in some cultivation techniques and reward you with some cultivation resources. If you don’t want the resources, you can pick a few women from my entourage to take away!”

Kang Yande cursed silently, knowing Gu Chaotian’s words meant the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were undoubtedly not for him, but dared not utter a rejection, timidly agreeing.

He understood this Steward Gu’s character well: although he seemed amiable, if he dared utter a no, Gu Chaotian could make life miserable.

“Hmm? Those two women can actually cultivate within the Magma Lake’s forbidden zone?”

Seeing the heavenly phenomena produced during the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian’s cultivation, Gu Chaotian initially exclaimed in admiration, then became overjoyed.

With broader horizons than Kang Yande, Gu recognizes the phenomenon is unprecedented, clearly surpassing the Imperial Rank cultivation methods of the Three Thousand Great Worlds.

Anything beyond Imperial Rank, even if not Immortal Rank, is at least Half-Immortal Rank!

Chapter 1893: If There Is a Next Life, Let Us Be Sisters Again!

In Gu Chaotian's mind, as long as he could obtain even a Half-Immortal Rank cultivation technique and then dedicate himself to its practice, he could hope to become one of the strongest of his era in the near future.

Thinking of the possibility that he could become a Ninefold Heavenly Tribulation expert and stand on equal ground with the Sect Master, maybe even surpass them in strength, Gu Chaotian was overwhelmed with excitement and anticipation.

"You dozens of Fourth Stage Heavenly Tribulation experts couldn't even catch two Second Stage Heavenly Tribulation girls. Pathetic! Watch how this steward does it!"

As Gu Chaotian spoke, he cast a look of disdain towards Kang Yande before boldly striding forward.

Though he spoke lightly, he didn't dare to be careless. Once he entered the ten-mile range of the Magma Lake, he began to circulate his cultivation technique, forming a Fire Spirit Energy shield around him to repel the scorching heat waves.

Though the Spirit Fire Might was powerful, Gu Chaotian, being a formidable Sevenfold Heavenly Tribulation expert with a robust physique, could reach the edge of the Magma Lake by exerting his full strength and remain there for a hundred breaths.

With those hundred breaths, he was confident he could capture the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

"Xiao Lian, someone is coming!"

The Dragon Maiden, whose cultivation level slightly surpassed that of Zhuge Lian, was extremely perceptive and sensed the presence of the newcomer when Gu Chaotian appeared beside Kang Yande, thus exiting her cultivation state.

She overheard the conversation between Kang Yande and Gu Chaotian and realized that the newcomer was a high-ranking figure from the Fire Python Sect with strength far surpassing Kang Yande's, causing her heart to sink.

The Dragon Maiden initially hoped to leverage the forbidden zone of the Magma Lake to confront the disciples of the Fire Python Sect and then find an opportunity to escape. However, this hope seemed slim now.

"What should we do?"

Zhuge Lian quickly exited her cultivation state, and upon discovering that the newcomer was a stronger Fire Python Sect expert than Kang Yande, she grew a bit panicked.

"Let's go! We'll keep going in!"

The Dragon Maiden decisively said.

She gambled that their innate Fire Spirit Roots, which afforded them a natural affinity with Fire Spirit Energy, and their unique cultivation technique would allow them to approach the Magma Lake more closely, unlike their pursuer.

Of course, if the opponent's strength was overwhelming, allowing them to approach the Magma Lake as well, it would likely mean they couldn't escape alive.

Thus, their fates hinged on the whims of destiny.

The two women swiftly stood up, continuing to fly towards the direction of the Magma Lake, now able to see its boiling magma surface.

Meanwhile, Gu Chaotian continued to advance steadily and slowly.

Upon reaching the five-mile range of the Magma Lake, both the Dragon Maiden, Zhuge Lian, and Gu Chaotian were drenched with sweat.

"Keep charging!"

Seeing that Gu Chaotian showed no signs of stopping, the Dragon Maiden gritted her teeth and said.

About two miles from the Magma Lake, the speed of the two women slowed, and they were struggling, panting heavily.

While Gu Chaotian fared slightly better, he too was sweating profusely.

"Damn it!"

The Dragon Maiden looked back and saw that Gu Chaotian was getting closer, witnessing the smug smile on his lips igniting a sense of despair in her heart.

With each step now, a substantial amount of Spiritual Energy and physical strength was drained, yet the two women persevered through sheer determination, finally arriving at the edge of the Magma Lake, just within ten zhang of it.

"I'm done!"

Zhuge Lian had exhausted all her strength and Spiritual Energy; her legs gave out, collapsing onto the ground where the heat made her feel as if her body was on fire, causing her to moan involuntarily.

The Dragon Maiden walked to her side, resolutely turned to face Gu Chaotian, who was now less than ten zhang away, and clenched her fists tightly.

She too was nearly at her limit, standing more due to sheer willpower and unwavering determination.

Gu Chaotian could hardly believe that these women, with only Second Stage Heavenly Tribulation cultivation levels, managed to reach the edge of the Magma Lake, a feat that would have left other Second Stage Heavenly Tribulation experts severely burned or even dead.

Astonishment turned into growing interest towards the two women in his mind.

"Why not keep running? Haha..."

Gu Chaotian laughed loudly, having used up most of his Spiritual Energy along the way but realized that the two women's states were far worse than his.

Zhuge Lian struggled to her feet, standing shoulder to shoulder with the Dragon Maiden, facing Gu Chaotian together.

Their hands, gripping their Spiritual Artifacts, trembled lightly, unable to unleash them for attack.

"Stop! If you take another step, we'll jump!"

Seeing Gu Chaotian approach with a sinister smile, the Dragon Maiden pointed her Spiritual Artifact at him, slowly retreating while shouting sternly.

"Go ahead and jump!"

Gu Chaotian's steps didn't halt as he continued forward.

The agony of being burned alive by magma was unbearable for any strong warrior. Gu Chaotian gambled that these delicate beauties were merely bluffing and wouldn't actually leap.

"Xiao Lian, it seems we'll have to be sisters in the next life!"

"Yes, Dragon Maiden, if there's a next life, let's be sisters again!"

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian exchanged a glance, finding resolve in each other's eyes.

"Let's go!"

With a sorrowful smile, the Dragon Maiden tightly clasped Zhuge Lian's hand, both women summoning their last strength, leaping toward the boiling, churning magma below.

Gu Chaotian froze in disbelief.

He never would've imagined that these women would be so resolute, choosing to be burned alive by magma rather than fall into his hands.

On the infernal surface of the Magma Lake, the extreme heat was more than the two women at their limits could withstand.

As their bodies soared above the lake surface, they were enveloped by the rising heat, losing consciousness instantly.

"Crazy fools! Made me rejoice in vain!"

Watching the two women who had leapt high and were now plummeting rapidly, Gu Chaotian muttered angrily to himself.

Just then, a flash suddenly appeared before his eyes; he saw a white light dart like lightning from above the magma lake, catching the two falling women and bringing them to the shore.

Seeing that the light turned out to be a young man in white attire, Gu Chaotian's pupils constricted, and his face displayed shock.

He knew that even at his peak, he wouldn't dare traverse above the magma lake, much less now with less than thirty percent of his strength remaining.

Yet the young man in white not only crossed over the lake but also managed to rescue the two already unconscious women—such strength was beyond Gu Chaotian's reach.

"Just a Sixth Stage Heavenly Tribulation expert, but why is his combat power far exceeding mine at Seventh Stage?"

Gu Chaotian pondered silently.

Uncertain whether the stranger was friend or foe, or why he saved the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, Gu Chaotian heightened his vigilance, fully alert.

"Are you from the Fire Python Sect?"

The white-clad young man gently set the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian down on the ground, lightly tapping each, transmitting two strands of Chaos Spirit Qi into their bodies, before straightening up and coldly questioning Gu Chaotian.

Chapter 1894: Seventh Layer of Heavenly Tribulation—No Challenge at All!

The young man in white was Fang Bai.

He and Huo Hai rode the Fire Crowned Eagle, flying swiftly back to the vicinity of Magma Lake from thousands of miles away, and then he tracked the aura of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian to find his way here alone.

Fortunately, he arrived just in time to save the two maidens as they were falling towards Magma Lake.

Although the two were only in a fainted state and not in mortal danger, Fang Bai's chest still burned with rage, and a murderous intent permeated the air.

In Fang Bai's heart, his dearest friends and beloved confidantes were his reverse scale. Anyone who dared to touch it would face death!

Upon seeing the unconscious Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, Fang Bai had already sentenced the death of Gu Chaotian standing before him.

As for the Fire Python Sect backing him, Fang Bai would make them pay a blood price.

Gu Chaotian, under Fang Bai's piercing gaze, felt as if he was facing his own sect master in a furious rage, staggering back more than ten steps before barely managing to steady himself.

"How is this possible?"

A tempest of disbelief raged in Gu Chaotian's heart. He could not fathom how a strong individual with only a sixth-level Heavenly Tribulation could exert such pressure on him.

"I am Gu Chaotian, a steward of the Fire Python Sect!"

Gu Chaotian puffed out his chest and loudly declared his name and identity.

Although Fang Bai's cultivation was one realm lower than Gu Chaotian's, Gu Chaotian doubted he could defeat him. So, he hoped invoking the name of the Fire Python Sect might intimidate this person into not acting rashly.

"Good, since you're a disciple of the Fire Python Sect, I'll use you as a sacrifice for my Blood-Drinking Mad Blade!"

Fang Bai gave a sinister smile, gripping the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade tightly as he swung fiercely.

A streak of blood light shot diagonally from the blade, enveloping Gu Chaotian with overwhelming Evil Qi and Killing Qi.

Fang Bai's combat power was originally much stronger than Gu Chaotian, and Gu Chaotian's current strength was less than thirty percent of his peak. Thus, with just a casual swing, Fang Bai left Gu Chaotian unable to defend.

Gu Chaotian watched in horror as the blood light grew rapidly before his eyes, rendering him powerless to evade. Terrified to his core, he wished to plead for mercy, but he didn't even have the chance.

The blood light carved a deep furrow in the ground, extending from Fang Bai to Gu Chaotian's feet before slicing cleanly through his body.

"Boom!"

The powerful impact of the blade light completely destroyed Gu Chaotian's body, reducing it to a mist of blood that scattered.

The dignified steward of the Fire Python Sect, boasting a seventh-level Heavenly Tribulation cultivation, fell with a single strike by Fang Bai.

"A seventh-level Heavenly Tribulation, this was not challenging at all!"

Fang Bai sheathed his Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, murmuring to himself, then leaned down to check on the condition of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

The Chaos Spirit Qi within Fang Bai was comparable to an Immortal Pill or Divine Medicine, circulating within the two maidens, rapidly healing their internal injuries and quickly restoring the depleted Spiritual Energy.

Though the edge of Magma Lake was unbearably hot, the blazing heat waves, upon reaching Fang Bai, felt like a mild spring breeze, gentle and refreshing.

"Mmm..."

After several dozen breaths, the Dragon Maiden let out a soft moan and woke up first.

Soon after, Zhuge Lian's delicate body twitched, and she slowly opened her eyes.

The moment they opened their eyes, they discovered a familiar face they had longed for day and night.

"Have I died already?"

This thought simultaneously arose in both of their hearts.

"Don't let your minds wander, both of you are fine! I arrived in time and saved you!"

Fang Bai, guessing what was on their minds, grabbed their hands and placed them on his face, letting them feel his warmth.

The two girls stared blankly, their minds utterly blank for quite some time.

After a long pause, once they confirmed everything in front of them was real, Zhuge Lian pursed her small lips, as if suffering from infinite grievances, and then burst into sobs.

The Dragon Maiden bit her cherry lips tightly, trying hard to hold back, but the tears still fell uncontrollably like rain.

"That was so close; if I had come a little later, we would have been parted forever!"

Recalling the scene just now, Fang Bai couldn't help but feel a bit of lingering fear.

Seeing one crying aloud and the other shedding silent tears, he sighed softly, seated himself between them, and embraced them, allowing them to vent their emotions.

A moment later, the Dragon Maiden seemed to remember something, wiped her tears, looked around, and then focused on Fang Bai's face, saying, "What about that Fire Python Sect steward..."

"I killed him! He almost forced you to death; his dying ten thousand times wouldn't be enough!"

Fang Bai said fiercely.

The Dragon Maiden said, "His strength was formidable; I felt he was at least five levels of Heavenly Tribulation, wasn't he? What realm are you at now?"

The Dragon Maiden knew Gu Chaotian held a higher status in the Fire Python Sect than Kang Yande and naturally had greater strength, while Kang Yande was already a fourth-level Heavenly Tribulation expert, so Gu Chaotian was at least a fifth-level expert.

As for Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden found it increasingly difficult to gauge him.

Yet considering Fang Bai was able to kill Gu Chaotian, and factoring in his ability to challenge higher levels, his cultivation must be at least at the fourth level.

Zhuge Lian had ceased crying by now, but she did not sit up like the Dragon Maiden; instead, she snuggled comfortably in Fang Bai's embrace, inhaling his scent, feeling at peace.

"Yes, Brother Fang, what level of Heavenly Tribulation are you now?"

Zhuge Lian raised her head to ask.

Fang Bai chuckled and replied, "Gu Chaotian was a seventh-level Heavenly Tribulation expert..."

As he spoke, both the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian gasped in unison.

Zhuge Lian's eyes sparkled with light, and she asked admiringly, "If you could slay a seventh-level expert, doesn't that mean you must at least be at the sixth level, Brother Fang?"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and said, "That's right, my cultivation is now at the sixth level of Heavenly Tribulation!"

The Dragon Maiden breathed a sigh of relief, thinking that with Fang Bai's strength, the dozens of Fire Python Sect disciples within ten miles of Magma Lake were nothing to fear.

"Fang Bai, how did you know we were here?"

The Dragon Maiden was curious about this.

"I encountered villagers from your Luoxia Village..."

Fang Bai explained how he met the Luoxia villagers and helped with the Fire Crowned Eagle, adding, "Luckily, Village Chief Huo Hai brought me here, otherwise, if I had blindly searched, I might not have found this place so quickly."

"Where is Village Chief Huo Hai and the villagers from Luoxia Village now?"

The Dragon Maiden asked with concern.

Fang Bai replied, "He rode the Fire Crowned Eagle back to fetch the villagers of Luoxia Village! Don't worry, that Fire Crowned Eagle is on par with a sixth-level Heavenly Tribulation human; they'll be fine!"

The Dragon Maiden, initially worried that Huo Hai might encounter Kang Yande and others, felt relieved after hearing Fang Bai's words.

A flying beast comparable to a sixth-level Heavenly Tribulation human could, in ferocity, contend with a seventh-level human, handling Kang Yande and several dozen Fire Python Sect disciples with ease.

"There should be Bauhinia Spirit Fire beneath this Magma Lake!"

Fang Bai suddenly turned his head to look at Magma Lake a few meters away.

The Magma Lake churned and boiled, faintly glowing purple, with purple smoke slowly rising into the air. The scorching temperature distorted the area above the lake, making it look extremely frightening.

Chapter 1895: Bauhinia Spirit Fire Emerges at the Bottom of the Magma Lake

“Bauhinia Spirit Fire?”

Both the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian possess innate Fire Spirit Roots and have been practicing Fire-based Techniques, so they understand what Spiritual Fire signifies. Hearing this, their spirits are lifted, and their gaze turns toward the Magma Lake.

Fang Bai nodded and said, “Yes, the Bauhinia Spirit Fire is a type of Spiritual Fire. It resembles the bloom of a bauhinia flower, and once its power is fully unleashed, a radius of a thousand miles will be scorched, leaving ordinary life unable to survive. Its power is terrifying.”

He looked intently at the Magma Lake, frowned slightly, and muttered, “It’s a bit strange... if there’s only one cluster of Bauhinia Spirit Fire, it might not be enough to form this Magma Lake of a hundred miles in radius... Could it be that there is more than one cluster of Bauhinia Spirit Fire in this lake?”

Upon saying this, his eyes lit up, and he stood up, saying to the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, “If there really are two clusters of Bauhinia Spirit Fire, and each of you subdues one, your cultivation level could increase by one or even two realms in an instant!”

“The power of the Spiritual Fire is too great, one can lose life before even getting close, how can we subdue it?”

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were dumbfounded as they looked at Fang Bai, feeling that his idea to subdue the Spiritual Fire was simply unrealistic.

It is known that this fearsome Magma Lake was formed by the burning of the ground by Spiritual Fire, showing how powerful the fire is. Their physical bodies may be strong and impervious to ordinary fires, but to contend with Spiritual Fire seems unlikely, let alone subduing it.

Fang Bai’s eyes flickered eagerly, “I have a way to help you subdue the Bauhinia Spirit Fire, but you might have to endure some hardships!”

Zhuce Lian clenched her fist excitedly and said, “If it means subduing the Spiritual Fire, any hardship is worth it!”

The Dragon Maiden shared the same thought.

If Fang Bai's words hold true, and subduing the Spiritual Fire can indeed raise their level by one or two realms, they would even be willing to make a venture to the Ghost Gate.

"Wait here. If I don't return, do not leave!"

Fang Bai took a few steps forward, reaching three feet from the boiling, violet-tinged Magma Lake.

"Fang Bai, what are you going to do?"

The Dragon Maiden exclaimed in surprise.

She noticed that Fang Bai's gaze was fixed intently on the lake's surface, as though he was about to leap into it the next moment.

"Brother Fang, you... don't do something foolish! You'll lose your life!"

Zhuge Lian also realized Fang Bai's intent and couldn't help feeling terrified, her voice taking on a sobbing tone.

Fang Bai turned and gave them a reassuring smile, "If my guess is correct, the Bauhinia Spirit Fire lies beneath this magma, let me go and fetch it out!"

As he spoke, the Red Silkworm Spirit Fire, Nether Spirit Fire, and Green Lotus Spirit Fire simultaneously released Fire Spirit Energy, forming three defensive shields around him, blurring his entire figure.

"This..."

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian were astonished to see the three layers of Fire Spirit Energy extend from Fang Bai, easily repelling the incredibly hot violet waves around them, seemingly possessing even greater power.

They were unaware that at this moment, the Fire System Primordial Spirit in Fang Bai's Qi Sea had already condensed three separate clusters of Spiritual Fire, each as powerful as the Bauhinia Spirit Fire.

Now, with all three clusters released, the Bauhinia Spirit Fire was immediately suppressed.

In the moment of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian's stunned daze, Fang Bai, protected by the three layers of fire shields, leaped into the boiling Magma Lake and was instantly submerged.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian stared blankly at the spot where Fang Bai disappeared, their worry evident on their faces.

They could hardly imagine what it would be like to immerse themselves in that magma capable of melting steel.

"Don't worry, Fang Bai wouldn't do something he wasn't sure about! Maybe... he really can succeed?"

Though the Dragon Maiden said this, deep inside, she was even more worried than Zhuge Lian.

They had only just met Fang Bai and hadn't even had a chance to speak much, yet Fang Bai was risking his life to find Spiritual Fire for them, to help enhance their strength. If anything happened to him, how could they have peace for the rest of their lives?

"Yes, he will definitely succeed!"

Zhuce Lian also knew she mustn't speak ill-tidings at this moment. Her hands clasped together as she silently prayed for Fang Bai.

Inside the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, a strand of Chaos Spirit Fire, placed by Fang Bai, could resist the external high temperatures. Thus, the two women sat cross-legged by the Magma Lake, quietly waiting for Fang Bai.

It is unclear how much time passed, but the initially gurgling Magma Lake suddenly boomed, with the intertwined red and violet magma violently churning and shifting uneasily.

“Boom!”

With a deafening explosion, the magma erupted upwards, and a figure shot up from the magma, pausing in the air for a few seconds before lightly landing in front of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

That figure was Fang Bai. The three layers of Fire Spirit shields around him had vanished, and he appeared perfectly unharmed, bearing a cluster of thumb-sized violet flames in each palm.

The flames shimmered eerily, resembling bauhinia blooms, yet within them lay a terrifying heat.

“Fang Bai!”

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, seeing Fang Bai return unharmed, were almost tearfully joyous, although they both feared the two clusters of violet flames in his hands, and dared not approach.

“This is the Bauhinia Spirit Fire!”

Fang Bai gestured at the two clusters of Bauhinia Spirit Fire in his palms and said, “These two clusters of Bauhinia Spirit Fire exist at the bottom of the Magma Lake, like twin blooms of the same lotus. Together, they exert such force that the surrounding earth couldn’t withstand the heat and gradually melted, forming the Magma Lake over time.”

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian examined the beautiful, strange Bauhinia Spirit Fire in Fang Bai’s hands, their hearts racing as they imagined the terrifying power it contained. If they could subdue this fire and wield it themselves, how formidable would their combat power become?

At least if they encountered a powerful adversary like Kang Yande, who had reached the fourth stage of the Heavenly Tribulation, they wouldn't have to flee in fear.

Fang Bai saw the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian excited and eager, and he smiled slightly, saying, "To swallow and subdue this Spiritual Fire, you're going to endure great pain. This kind of pain isn't something ordinary people can bear. However, since you both have innate Fire Spirit Roots and my Nine Revolutions True Fire Art, I believe that after a moment of suffering, you can take this Spiritual Fire as your own."

After a pause, he added, "Do not be afraid, I will assist you. Come... sit facing each other..."

Following Fang Bai's instructions, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian sat cross-legged facing each other, extending their right palms upwards, then began to circulate the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art, gathering Fire Spirit Energy towards their palms.

Within seconds, flames began to rise from the palms of both women.

The flames were small but contained immense power; if released, not even a strong Heavenly Tribulation Stage Three expert would dare to confront it head-on.

Fang Bai seated himself before the duo's outstretched hands, a thought causing the two clusters of Bauhinia Spirit Fire to slowly drift to three inches above the women's palms, hovering there.

Chapter 1896: Two Women Break Through

For three whole days and nights, under Fang Bai's full assistance, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian finally refined the Bauhinia Spirit Fire in their palms into a wisp of Fire Spirit Energy.

The two women slowly took that wisp of Fire Spirit Energy into their Qi Sea, merging it into the Primordial Spirit within their Qi Sea.

Then, the two women spent another three days and nights to completely suppress and subdue the Bauhinia Spirit Fire.

Although the Bauhinia Spirit Fire seemed just a tiny wisp, the Fire Spirit Energy it contained was vast like the sea, and extremely pure and rich.

That single wisp of Bauhinia Spirit Fire entering their bodies was enough to match the cultivation power of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian amassed from vast resources.

The two women only felt the Fire Spirit Energy within their bodies full and swelling, boiling incessantly, like a river about to overflow, so they accelerated the circulation of the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art, guiding the Fire Spirit Energy to rapidly flow through their meridians.

Meanwhile, Fang Bai once again infused Chaos Spirit Qi into the two women's bodies, protecting their meridians and veins from the violent impact of the Bauhinia Spirit Fire.

On the morning of the ninth day, when the morning sun broke through the clouds and shone on the two women, their delicate bodies trembled slightly as if struck by lightning.

Subsequently, a ripple-like aura surged out of the two women's bodies, spreading out as shockwaves, and it took a dozen breaths before it calmed down.

However, after another hundred breaths, the two women's bodies trembled again, and two auras, with even more frantic and fierce momentum, spread out once more.

The successive shockwaves swept clean objects on the ground within the range of several miles.

Fang Bai stepped back a few paces, looking at the two women as ethereal as immortals, feeling the aura on them several times stronger than before, with a slight smile on his lips.

"Phew..."

After several dozen breaths, the two women softly exhaled and opened their eyes one after another.

"Congratulations, congratulations, both of you are now fourth layer Thunder Tribulation Realm experts!"

Fang Bai lightly clapped his hands, smiling broadly as he spoke.

Fang Bai initially expected that after the two women devoured the Bauhinia Spirit Fire, and with his full assistance, they might advance two layers in the Thunder Tribulation Realm. Now that everything went smoothly, he was very pleased.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian stood up, feeling the surging power within them as vast as the sea, and were pleasantly surprised beyond words.

They advanced from the second layer of Thunder Tribulation Realm to the fourth layer, their combat power surpassing even fifth layer Thunder Tribulation experts. If they encountered a Fire Python Sect disciple like Kang Yande again, either one of them alone could defeat the opponent.

Even if they encountered a Fire Python Sect steward like Gu Chaotian with seventh layer Thunder Tribulation cultivation, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian could join forces with Fang Bai's Dual Combat Formation and the devoured Bauhinia Spirit Fire to contend with him.

Within just nine days, they devoured a powerful spirit fire born of heaven and earth and advanced to the fourth layer of Thunder Tribulation, something the two women could not have imagined before, as if they were in a dream.

"Ah! Look quickly!"

Zhuce Lian suddenly turned her head towards the Magma Lake, looking incredulous.

Upon hearing this, Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden turned around, only to see that the originally billowing and purple-tinged Magma Lake had solidified into gray rock.

"This... what happened?"

The Dragon Maiden asked in surprise.

Fang Bai replied, "It's normal. The two clusters of Bauhinia Spirit Fire caused the existence of the Magma Lake. Now that the Bauhinia Spirit Fire has been devoured and subdued by you, the Magma Lake has lost its condition for existence, thus it solidified into stone. From now on, there will be no Magma Lake here."

The three of them surveyed their surroundings and found that the temperature within a thousand miles had also significantly decreased with the disappearance of the Magma Lake, becoming pleasant and comfortable.

It is believed that it will not take long before the mountains and wilderness in this area will be filled with flowers, plants, and trees.

"Let's go! Huo Hai and the villagers of Luoxia Village are still waiting for you!"

Fang Bai suddenly said.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian then remembered that Fang Bai had previously said that Huo Hai and he had come first, and the villagers of Luoxia Village would arrive later. Now that nine days had passed, they wondered how they were doing.

They remembered that within ten miles of the Magma Lake, there were dozens of Fire Python Sect disciples like Kang Yande. If Huo Hai and the villagers of Luoxia Village had a conflict with them, the consequences would be unpredictable.

"Don't worry, that Fire Crowned Eagle is the king among the nearby birds, it can summon many of its kind to help, ensuring the safety of the villagers of Luoxia Village."

Seeing the worry on the faces of the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, Fang Bai assured them.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian still felt unsure, so the three of them flew away together using their Spiritual Artifacts.

At this moment, under the leadership of Kang Yande, dozens of Fire Python Sect Inner Court disciples were confronting hundreds of Luoxia Village villagers.

Although the Fire Python Sect disciples overwhelmingly held the upper hand in overall strength, above the heads of the Luoxia Village villagers, there were more than a dozen Fire Crowned Eagles circling. Even though only one of those Fire Crowned Eagles compared to a human sixth layer Thunder Tribulation expert, with the rest much weaker, their combat power was not to be underestimated.

The Fire Python Sect disciples led by Kang Yande were apprehensive about the Fire Crowned Eagles and dared not attack the hundreds of Luoxia Village villagers. They were also waiting for the return of Steward Gu.

"When Steward Gu comes back, all of you will die!"

Kang Yande pointed at Huo Hai and the other villagers of Luoxia Village, shouting harshly, yet inwardly puzzled, why had Steward Gu not returned after nine days without any news?

Could it be that Steward Gu had caught those two fair, delicate beauties and found a hidden place to cultivate together with them?

Upon thinking this, Kang Yande's mood soured, and the villagers of Luoxia Village across from him seemed even more disagreeable.

The hundreds of Luoxia Village villagers, aided by the more than a dozen Fire Crowned Eagles, knew Fang Bai had gone to save the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, and feeling highly spirited, yelled retorts in response.

At this moment, two streams of light flew through the sky, and then two figures landed beside Kang Yande and the other Fire Python Sect disciples.

Huo Hai saw that the attire of the two newcomers was similar to Gu Chaotian's, their aura beyond his ability to fathom, and knew that they were probably two more Fire Python Sect stewards. His heart sank, and he inwardly exclaimed that things were not looking good.

"Steward Zhou, Steward Ji, how come you two are here?"

Seeing the arrival of stewards Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen from their sect, Kang Yande rejoiced greatly, stepping forward with a smile plastered on his face and speaking ingratiatingly.

Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen were both seventh layer Thunder Tribulation experts, one always silent and stern, the other smiling broadly like Maitreya Buddha.

Zhou Zhi glanced over at the hundreds of Luoxia Village villagers, and the more than a dozen Fire Crowned Eagles circling above them, and said expressionlessly: "You have been in the mountains for many days and have not returned, and Steward Gu also disappeared searching for you, so the Sect Master sent us to check... What is going on here?"

Kang Yande's eyes turned, a malicious thought arising, and he recounted in detail the events after encountering the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, deliberately praising the two women as if they were unmatched treasures, successfully stirring Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen's interest.

Chapter 1897: Reunion

"You said those two women both have Innate Fire Spirit Roots? And could both possibly have a Primordial Yin Physique?"

Ji Sen's small eyes suddenly lit up, with a captivating brilliance shooting out.

Even Zhou Zhi, who rarely spoke, turned his gaze to Kang Yande, seemingly waiting for his answer.

Kang Yande patted his chest and said, "Every word of the disciple is true, I am willing to guarantee it with my life."

Zhou Zhi nodded, his face stern, "Gu Chaotian's actions are somewhat selfish. A woman with both Innate Fire Spirit Roots and a Primordial Yin Physique is an excellent Furnace Cauldron for cultivation. One would suffice, the other should be shared with everyone."

Ji Sen chuckled and said, "Do you think Gu Chaotian would be so generous? He wants to hide his treasure and enjoy it himself! When we meet him, we should chide him a good deal."

Kang Yande raised his hand and pointed in the direction of the Magma Lake, saying, "Steward Gu has been gone for nine days and hasn't returned. I suspect that he might have already captured those two women and is possibly enjoying himself somewhere now!"

Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen exchanged a glance, a hint of dissatisfaction showing on their faces.

However, soon both of them sensed the change in the environment around here, Zhou Zhi said curiously, "No, this Magma Lake, within a thousand miles, is much hotter than other regions; the area within ten miles is unbearably hot, even ordinary Thunder Tribulation Experts can't withstand it. Why has it become much cooler now?"

Ji Sen was also surprised.

Upon hearing them say so, Kang Yande felt a stirring in his heart and said, "Not long ago, I sensed shockwaves from the direction of the Magma Lake from a strong expert advancing in level. Could it be that Steward Gu took advantage of combining cultivation with those two women to advance in level?"

Upon hearing this, Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen's faces turned somewhat unsightly.

Gu Chaotian was already a Thunder Tribulation Expert of the seventh level, if he advances, he would be at the eighth level, then wouldn't he be qualified to covet the position of Elder and surpass them?

Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen have always had some discord with Gu Chaotian, and they thought if Gu Chaotian became an Elder, then their days in the Fire Python Sect would not be easy.

The two extended their Divine Sense towards the direction of the Magma Lake to check if Gu Chaotian was there.

Previously, within ten miles of the Magma Lake, due to the heavy oppression of the heavens and earth, Divine Sense could not enter. But now two clusters of Bauhinia Spirit Fire had entered the Qi Sea of Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, "settling" there, allowing other experts' Divine Sense to enter the Magma Lake area without obstruction.

"This... how is this possible?"

When Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen spread their Divine Sense and discovered that the Magma Lake, which had existed for tens of thousands of years, had actually disappeared, they were astonished.

"Gu Chaotian is not there either."

Their Divine Sense then scanned a hundred-mile range but did not see Gu Chaotian's trace. It seems like Kang Yande said, Gu Chaotian might have already captured the two women, taking them somewhere far, enjoying himself in some secret location.

Though they were shocked and puzzled by the disappearance of the Magma Lake, they thought it might be due to sudden changes in heaven and earth, not thinking further about it.

"Huh? That is..."

Suddenly, Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen saw three streaks of light quickly flying from the direction of the Magma Lake, their faces showed a look of terror.

They were horrified because just now their Divine Sense scanned a hundred miles, yet did not discover the traces of those three.

There were only two possibilities for this situation: one is the strength of the three far exceeds theirs; the other is the three possess a secret technique to conceal their aura, able to evade their Divine Sense detection.

As the three flew closer, Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen simultaneously breathed a sigh of relief, knowing it must be the latter.

Because the aura released by the three showed that the one with the highest cultivation level among them was only at the sixth level of Thunder Tribulation, which was still a considerable gap compared to them.

"A secret technique to conceal aura, if we could force it out, it would be greatly beneficial for traveling the three thousand great worlds in the future."

Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen's hearts throbbed, with wicked thoughts arising.

"It's them! It's them!"

Kang Yande suddenly pointed at the sky, excitedly shouting, "Two stewards, those two women are the ones I mentioned before... Steward Gu actually didn't capture them..."

As he finished speaking, the three riding on their Spiritual Artifacts had already landed among the villagers of Luoxia Village.

The ones who landed were Fang Bai, Dragon Maiden, and Zhuge Lian.

Upon seeing the appearances of Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian clearly, Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen were greatly amazed, their faces lighted with joy.

"How strange, these two women are so outstanding, yet Gu Chaotian didn't capture them? Where did he go?"

Zhou Zhi murmured.

Ji Sen rubbed his hands excitedly, saying, "Who cares where he went! It's best he's not here! Let's capture these two women, one for each of us, take them back for combined cultivation, and have a merry time."

Zhou Zhi nodded, he always had discord with Gu Chaotian, and he just casually asked about Gu Chaotian's whereabouts, whether dead or alive, he truly didn't care.

The hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village were boiling with cheers due to the safe return of Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

The villagers knew that without Fang Bai, they along with Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian might have already perished, thus they were grateful to Fang Bai, filled with affection.

"Dragon Maiden, Xiao Lian, you both... have advanced in level?"

When Huo Hai found Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian's current cultivation level surprisingly matched his own, his face showed expressions of shock and joy, subsequently turning his gaze to Fang Bai with a few hints of awe.

Although he didn't know the cause, he speculated it had something to do with Fang Bai.

"Yes, we have advanced!"

Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian nodded together.

"I knew it, you two were not pond fish, in just nine days, you advanced from the second level to the upper level of Thunder Tribulation. Amazing! Truly amazing!"

The hundreds of villagers of Luoxia Village erupted instantly, cheering even louder than before.

The villagers of Luoxia Village had already regarded Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian as one of their own, now both women's cultivation level surprisingly matched that of the village chief, making them better protectors for everyone, how could they not be happy?

"Thanks to Fang Bai's help, we were able to advance!"

"Yes, without Brother Fang, we wouldn't be talking about advancing, by now we might have already turned to dust, vanished amid heaven and earth!"

Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian simultaneously looked at Fang Bai, their eyes filled with deep affection, gentleness to the extreme.

Fang Bai waved his hand with a smile, "My help was secondary; the main thing was the good fortune of you two!"

Just as he said this, suddenly hearing the stewards from the Fire Python Sect mentioning words like "combined cultivation, merry time," his eyes turned cold instantly, with killing intent surging in his chest.

Chapter 1898: Instant Kill

Fang Bai's face was just full of smiles, but suddenly it was as if covered with frost. This emotional shift had a great impact on the hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village around him, making them feel cold and pressured, causing them to involuntarily retreat in fear.

Fang Bai's gaze locked onto Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen, the two stewards of the Fire Python Sect, as he split the crowd and strode towards them.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian closely followed behind.

Subsequently, Huo Hai and several hundred villagers from Luoxia Village also followed.

Even the dozen or so Fire Crowned Eagles circling above swarmed toward the direction of the Fire Python Sect's disciples like dark clouds.

The villagers of Luoxia Village seemed to know that a great battle was imminent, with each clenching their fists and trembling with excitement.

Although the Fire Python Sect had two stewards assisting, greatly increasing their overall strength, Fang Bai's fearless demeanor gave them immense courage, making their blood boil with excitement.

"Ha, we haven't even made a move, yet they're coming to us themselves!"

Watching Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden, Zhuge Lian, and others stride towards them, Ji Sen stroked a few strands of his beard, chuckling.

Zhou Zhi said, "That works! Brother Ji, I like the one with some heroism, she's mine!"

"Just as well, I've taken a liking to the gentle one!"

Ji Sen pointed to Zhuge Lian, grinning wickedly, "Women, they should be gentle and charming to have flavor! The one you like seems to have a pretty fiery temperament."

Zhou Zhi shook his head, "You don't get it, taming a fiery woman gives a sense of accomplishment!"

Ji Sen laughed, "Haha, that's what they call different preferences, you..."

His word "you" had not yet fallen when he felt blinded by blood light in front of him, and Fang Bai swung a bloody long blade in his hand, slashing a bloody sword beam at them.

The bloody blade beam, connected heaven and earth, filled with killing intent reaching the sky, with fierce evil qi. Ji Sen felt a deadly, intense threat, his pupils shrinking, realizing he faced a formidable enemy never seen before.

He retreated in fright, simultaneously summoning a pair of flame-wreathed hammers, crossing them before him, intending to block the forceful and unmatched bloody blade beam.

His hammers were royal grade superior spiritual artifacts, forged from extraterrestrial dark gold, extremely durable, yet they failed to block a single strike from Fang Bai's bloody blade beam.

"Crack!"

A crisp sound, as the bloody light sliced through the hammer, as if cutting through vegetables, splitting the hammer in two.

Ji Sen had no time to exclaim before feeling a chill over his body, the remainder of the bloody blade beam slicing through him.

“Puff!”

As blood spattered, Ji Sen’s body split open from chest to abdomen, falling to both sides.

Silence!

A deathly silence at the scene!

All the strong witnesses had their mouths agape, looking incredulously at the bisected corpse of Ji Sen.

They never expected that Ji Sen, a dignified steward of the Fire Python Sect with a cultivation level of seven Heavenly Tribulations, would be so vulnerable, unable to withstand a single strike from Fang Bai, meeting a tragic end on the spot.

Immediately, their gaze shifted to Fang Bai and the bloody long blade in his hand, each face filled with dread.

At this moment, Fang Bai, holding the Blood Blade, seemed one with the blade, the sharp, overwhelming murderous aura presenting an intangible pressure to everyone on the scene, like a god of death descended to the world.

Fang Bai’s strike just now was too fast and fierce, everyone was thinking that if they were in Ji Sen’s place, they too wouldn’t have been able to survive that strike and would have met their demise.

After a few moments, hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village erupted in thunderous cheers, looking at Fang Bai with a few hints of fanaticism in their eyes.

As for Zhou Zhi and the dozens of Fire Python Sect disciples, their faces turned pale, cold sweat emerging, their entire bodies trembling.

In the minds of those Fire Python Sect disciples, a strong person capable of killing their sect's steward with one strike must have at least the eighth cultivation level of Heavenly Tribulation, and with their dozen people, there was no way they could stand against such a formidable opponent.

Seeing his old friend Ji Sen killed by Fang Bai in an instant, Zhou Zhi's heart couldn't help but tremble. Quietly, he maneuvered his spiritual artifact to fly away, attempting to escape.

As for the life or death of those dozens of Fire Python Sect disciples, he no longer cared, only wanting to flee from under Fang Bai's terrifying blood long blade that seemed like a scythe of death.

Once Zhou Zhi fled, the other dozens of Fire Python Sect disciples scattered like birds and beasts, each piloting their spiritual artifacts to escape as streams of light.

"Others may escape, but you shall not!"

Fang Bai watched Zhou Zhi's fleeing figure with a cold smile, the Houyi Bow in hand, instantly drew to full, and a flame arrow containing the might of Spiritual Fire shot out, whistling towards Zhou Zhi.

This arrow, with his energy and spirit in perfect union, shot with both speed and ferocity, catching up with Zhou Zhi within a few moments, piercing him with one strike.

Watching Steward Zhou Zhi turning into a blood mist, the dozen Fire Python Sect disciples fled with all their might, worried they might share Zhou Zhi's fate, even risking triggering their life potential to escape faster.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian wanted to pursue but were stopped by Fang Bai, who smiled and said, "Let those small fry escape, killing them is of no significance! If you want revenge, I'll take you to destroy the Fire Python Sect later!"

Zhuge Lian excitedly said, "Really?"

The Dragon Maiden didn't speak, but from her tightly clenched fists, it was clear she also had intentions to hold the Fire Python Sect accountable.

Seeing Fang Bai killing Ji Sen with one strike and Zhou Zhi with one arrow, easily reaping the lives of two Fire Python Sect stewards within moments, Huo Hai felt both shocked and joyous.

However, regarding going to destroy the Fire Python Sect, he didn't dare to think about it at all, bitterly smiling at Fang Bai, "Senior, the Fire Python Sect has a powerhouse of nine Heavenly Tribulations stationed, with tens of thousands of disciples, it is one of the top sects in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, going to seek revenge now is somewhat unrealistic. I implore you to reconsider!"

Among the hundreds of villagers in Luoxia Village, some elder and stable ones deeply agreed, thinking that although Fang Bai was powerful and could kill someone with a cultivation level of seven Heavenly Tribulations, going to destroy the Fire Python Sect would be courting death.

But the young and hot-blooded ones thought the village chief was underestimating their strength, not agreeing at all.

In their minds, Fang Bai could instantly kill two Fire Python Sect stewards, his combat power could at least match the sect master of the Fire Python Sect. To storm the Fire Python Sect, causing a sensational commotion and settling grudges, that would be truly satisfying.

Fang Bai said to Huo Hai, "You have the kindness of saving the Dragon Maiden and Xiao Lian, calling me senior is inappropriate... how about this, you call me 'young friend,' and from now on, I will call you village chief."

He paused, then said, "Chief Huo, rest assured, dealing with the Fire Python Sect, I have my ways. I won't just take the Dragon Maiden and Xiao Lian directly to fight recklessly."

Fang Bai, dealing with sects much stronger than himself, was already experienced, and without a sure chance of winning, he would not usually fight head-on.

Chapter 1899: Fang Bai's Recompense

Three days later, hundreds of villagers from Luoxia Village returned, accompanied by Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden, and Zhuge Lian.

After observing the terrain of Luoxia Village, Fang Bai spent an entire day setting up a total of nine defensive formations both inside and outside the village.

These nine formations were intricately connected, wonderfully profound, and virtually impregnable.

According to Fang Bai, with these formations, even the Fire Python Sect Master himself couldn't breach them, ensuring the safety of the hundreds of villagers in Luoxia Village.

Huo Hai, who had never seen a formation capable of withstanding attacks from a Thunder Tribulation Realm expert, was somewhat skeptical.

To verify the strength of these formations, Huo Hai specially gathered the villagers whose cultivation level was above the second level of the Thunder Tribulation Realm to collectively attack the formations.

In Luoxia Village, there were more than two hundred villagers with cultivation levels above the second level of Thunder Tribulation. Their combined attack was far less powerful than that of a ninth-level Thunder Tribulation expert, but was still equivalent to a full-strength strike of a seventh-level expert.

But their attacks did not shake the formations in the slightest, which made them believe somewhat and become extremely excited.

"If we had met Friend Fang earlier and had protection from these formations, why would we, the villagers of Luoxia, need to hurriedly relocate?"

After verifying the power of the formations, Huo Hai said emotionally.

Fang Bai raised his hand and pointed around, saying, "I observed the area around Luoxia Village; the spiritual energy is not dense. Living here isn't ideal. Meanwhile, the Fire Python Sect is a top sect that has stood for thousands of years. Their headquarters must be a cultivation paradise. If the opportunity arises, you should consider relocating to the Fire Python Sect's headquarters."

Upon hearing Fang Bai's words, Huo Hai inhaled sharply, thinking that the idea of destroying the Fire Python Sect and then relocating Luoxia's villagers to their headquarters was something he had dreamed of but never imagined could be realized.

Yet, Fang Bai was not speaking aimlessly; he intended to help Luoxia Village.

Because of Luoxia Village's great life-saving care for the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, Fang Bai sought to repay them a hundredfold by finding a cultivation paradise for the villagers, making them stronger and no longer oppressed. This was one of Fang Bai's ways to show gratitude.

The Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian understood Fang Bai's character and knew he wouldn't just talk but had a good plan to bring down the Fire Python Sect.

"I plan to use Spiritual Fire to create another Magma Lake near the Fire Python Sect. What do you think—will the disciples of the Fire Python Sect still be able to stay at their headquarters when that happens?"

Fang Bai said with a smile to the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian.

Upon hearing this, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian's eyes lit up, joy spreading across their faces as they grasped Fang Bai's plan.

The power of the Magma Lake created by Spiritual Fire was well known to them, more so than any villagers of Luoxia.

The Magma Lake imbued with Bauhinia Spirit Fire was a zone where no one below the Minor Tribulation Phase could tread within a ten-mile radius; it was uninhabitable by humans within a hundred miles and barren within a thousand miles. If Fang Bai could create such a Magma Lake near the Fire Python Sect, the disciples would be forced to relocate.

Once the disciples moved, Fang Bai could retract the Spiritual Fire, and the villagers of Luoxia could then relocate there and, in no time, the area could be restored to its former state.

This plan, which required no large-scale conflict, seemed a remarkably good approach to take over the headquarters' location of the Fire Python Sect.

Upon hearing that Fang Bai possessed Spiritual Fire, Huo Hai could not help but think of the sudden disappearance of a Magma Lake in the Purple Flame Mountain Range, musing whether the legendary Bauhinia Spirit Fires were possibly devoured by Fang Bai.

He had not imagined that the legendary Bauhinia Spirit Fire not only existed but that two clusters of it were indeed present and had been respectively consumed by the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian, propelling them to the fourth level of Thunder Tribulation, entering the Middle Tribulation Phase.

Naturally, he also didn't realize that within Fang Bai resided three types of spiritual fires: Red Silkworm, Nether, and Green Lotus, and that releasing two clusters of spiritual fire could create a Magma Lake capable of affecting a thousand-mile radius.

However, Fang Bai did not rush to deal with the Fire Python Sect; instead, he peacefully resided in Luoxia Village for a time, spending a rare and leisurely period with the two women.

During this time, the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian learned from Fang Bai that over the years he had found many of his relatives, friends, disciples, and beloved others, and they had almost all headed to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace he founded.

"Once we find Yaorao and the others, we'll head to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace together!"

"Among the countless relatives and friends who have come from the secular world and the three thousand Minor Worlds, finding everyone will probably take a very long time."

Both the Dragon Maiden and Zhuge Lian yearned for the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace; if not for Fang Bai intending to continue searching for other relatives and friends, they would have eagerly gone back with him to reunite with those already there.

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "The three thousand grand worlds are perilous; those who can survive here are gifted with great opportunities. But there are also those who sadly perished. So, finding everyone might not be possible."

He sighed lightly and said, "I plan to set a period of ten years. Within these ten years, no matter the outcome of the search, we will return to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace."

Currently, Fang Bai's close kin and several disciples had been found and should have already arrived at the Nine Heavens Immortal Palace Emperor, but among his close romantic partners, Qin Yaorao had yet to be located, making him somewhat melancholy.

Qin Yaorao was the first romantic partner Fang Bai met after possessing and reincarnating in the secular world; she was also once his teacher, leading to an extraordinary connection with her.

Fang Bai's utmost hope for the next ten years was to find Qin Yaorao, for even if he returned to the pinnacle of the Immortal Emperor one day and could view the Immortal Realm with disdain, the absence of finding her would still cause sorrow and regret in his heart, impossible to settle.

"Yes, we'll accompany you in searching for ten years!"

The Dragon Maiden said.

"Even for a hundred years, we'll accompany you!"

Zhuge Lian said.

To them, as long as Fang Bai was by their side, they were content, finding joy and happiness in drifting with him.

The hundreds of villagers in Luoxia also felt incredibly fortunate.

Because of Fang Bai, they no longer needed to leave their homeland and migrate elsewhere.

Also because of Fang Bai, they got to learn profound cultivation techniques, which dramatically boosted everyone's cultivation level within just days, with someone advancing every single day.

Luoxia's village chief, Huo Hai, had already reached the fifth level of Thunder Tribulation.

Those who reached the fourth level of Thunder Tribulation numbered more than a dozen.

Those at the third level exceeded a hundred.

In short, after Fang Bai's guidance, the hundreds of villagers (except some children) became Thunder Tribulation strength experts.

Thus, Luoxia Village's overall strength experienced a qualitative enhancement.

Chapter 1900: Bringing Troops to Demand Justice

The soul lamps in the Soul Hall of the Fire Python Sect extinguished one after another as their three stewards fell.

The disciples guarding the Soul Hall were shocked and immediately reported the news to Sect Master Shi Chengjin.

Upon receiving the news, Shi Chengjin was equally astonished. He promptly gathered over a dozen of the sect's senior members to the Sect Master Hall for a meeting, and then dispatched disciples to investigate the situation.

Three days later, some disciples from the Fire Python Sect who had fled back from the Purple Flame Mountain Range reported to Shi Chengjin about the slaying of steward Zhou Zhi and Ji Sen by Fang Bai.

"It seems very likely that Steward Gu Chaotian also fell by that kid's hands... Who exactly is that brazen fellow, daring to kill three of our sect's stewards! He deserves death! The entire village of Luoxia is equally culpable!"

Enraged upon hearing this, Shi Chengjin immediately assigned two elders, along with four stewards, ten direct disciples, and ten core disciples, to march on Luoxia Village to demand accountability.

The two elders of the Fire Python Sect are formidable Heavenly Tribulation eighth-stage experts. Along with four stewards at the seventh stage, ten direct disciples at the sixth stage, and ten core disciples at the fifth stage, their forces are few but exceedingly powerful overall.

Shi Chengjin believed the culprit, who murdered three stewards, possessed a mere sixth stage Heavenly Tribulation cultivation level. It was only because the culprit wielded incredibly powerful Spiritual Artifacts that he was able to slay Gu Chaotian and the others.

The forces sent by Shi Chengjin could even contend with a ninth stage Heavenly Tribulation expert, and should easily be able to handle the murderer.

Shi Chengjin instructed the leading elders to slaughter the culprit and also exterminate Luoxia Village, leaving none alive as a warning to others about the consequences of provoking the Fire Python Sect.

The two elders, Li Lingfeng and Cui Zhenren, each over several centuries old and fierce eighth stage Heavenly Tribulation experts, were instructed by Shi Chengjin to ensure no survivors in Luoxia Village.

Two days later, led by Li Lingfeng and Cui Zhenren, a group of Fire Python Sect experts arrived near Luoxia Village.

A gathering of Luoxia Village villagers, practicing at the village entrance square, noticed streaks of light rushing from the sky. Suspecting it was Fire Python Sect experts seeking retribution, they immediately sounded a warning.

In response to the call, hundreds of villagers gathered at the village center crossroads, looking skyward with vigilance.

Fang Bai, Dragon Maiden, and Zhuge Lian calmly emerged from their small courtyard.

Over the past few days, Fang Bai had enlightened the two women on many aspects of the Dao of Cultivation, which profoundly enlightened them like an Ambrosia Baptism. Although they hadn't advanced a level, their strength improved significantly.

Fang Bai anticipated that the Fire Python Sect would seek revenge after he initially let the disciples go, but he was confident and unworried.

"There are certainly many experts from the Fire Python Sect here this time!"

Dragon Maiden gazed at the dozens of experts who landed outside the village entrance, frowning as she spoke.

"What's to fear! Those formations that Brother Fang set up are impenetrable by them!"

Zhuge Lian had witnessed the power of Fang Bai's formations and was brimming with confidence.

Standing among hundreds of Luoxia villagers, Fang Bai glanced towards the village entrance and remarked, "Two at the eighth stage, four at the seventh stage, ten at the sixth stage, ten at the fifth stage... Their sect master isn't even here? Haha, this force is insufficient!"

Beside him, Huo Hai secretly clicked his tongue, contemplating that even just these experts from the Fire Python Sect had astonishing power. If their sect master were also present, he wondered if Fang Bai's formations surrounding Luoxia Village could withstand such an attack.

Though Huo Hai and the villagers had already tested the formations' defensive capabilities, they now faced a real-world test. Confronted with numerous fierce experts, they were not entirely confident.

If the few formations set up by Fang Bai were breached, the hundreds of villagers wouldn't stand a chance against dozens led by eighth-stage Heavenly Tribulation experts.

Even if Fang Bai were strong, whether he could escape remained uncertain.

With this thought, Huo Hai couldn't help but worry. However, seeing Fang Bai's calm demeanor and composed response, his anxiety lessened considerably.

The dozens of experts from the Fire Python Sect landed outside Luoxia Village, seeing hundreds of villagers gathered with fearful, uneasy expressions, ready for slaughter. They sneered, viewing them as lambs to the slaughter.

"I'll kill a few villagers first to show them a lesson!"

One direct disciple, at the sixth stage of the Heavenly Tribulation, eager to prove himself, dismissed the earlier deaths of the stewards as he saw villagers of matched strength, and attempted to force his way into the village.

"Whoosh!"

As the direct disciple set foot into the village, one of the offensive and defensive formations set by Fang Bai was triggered, unleashing a deadly intent slashing towards the disciple.

The formations set by Fang Bai could kill seventh-stage experts effortlessly, repel eighth-stage, and cause even ninth-stage to retreat.

Despite being a sixth-stage expert, this disciple lagged behind those like Gu Chaotian, Zhou Zhi, and Ji Lin, all of whom were seventh-stage. Caught off-guard by the sudden attack, he couldn't evade and was cleaved in two, perishing instantly.

"Alright!"

Seeing the formation instantly kill a sixth-stage disciple, the villagers cheered, their earlier fear and anxiety visibly reduced.

The faces of the Fire Python Sect disciples turned grim, deep shock internally.

"This formation... is extraordinary!"

Elder Li Lingfeng scrutinized the light defense shrouding Luoxia Village, his brows furrowed, hesitating to attack impulsively.

Being an eighth-stage Heavenly Tribulation expert with vast experience and knowledge of the Array Path, Li Lingfeng couldn't find any flaw in the defense array, knowing any forced attack might cause their side harm.

"No matter how intricate the array, it can't withstand overwhelming force! Let me test it!"

Elder Cui Zhenren, also impulsive, was enraged by the loss of a direct disciple right at the outset. He stepped forward, punching out two giant fireballs towards the defense Qi shield.

Even a casual strike by an eighth-stage expert can easily kill a seventh-stage, and Cui Zhenren was confident that his attack, even if it didn't shatter the shield, would at least come close.

But, unbelievably, his full-powered attack merely caused the shield to ripple before it instantly stilled.

"How can it be... how can it be..."

Staring at the thin defense shield, Cui Zhenren muttered in disbelief.