

Doctor 1951

Chapter 1951: How Could We Bear to Leave You Behind

The Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace is a sect founded by Fang Bai, and he naturally attaches great importance to its defense.

Before leaving the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace years ago, Fang Bai set up several layers of offensive and defensive formations both inside and outside. As long as the reserve of spirit stones is sufficiently abundant, the formations can maintain normal operation.

Moreover, before he left, Fang Bai left behind a large number of spirit stones, enough to keep the formation running for several months.

Today, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace has many Thunder Tribulation Experts stationed there, the most powerful of whom is Xuan Feng Venerable, a loose cultivator whom Fang Bai met in the Blood Sea Desert of the Eastern Desolate Continent.

Xuan Feng Venerable possesses cultivation at the ninth level of the Thunder Tribulation realm, making him a formidable presence even on the Western Desolate Continent. Coupled with a Half-Immortal Rank Spiritual Artifact gifted by Fang Bai, he is unmatched and invincible.

Back then, Xuan Feng Venerable voluntarily joined the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, and at Fang Bai's request, he brought along Fang Bai's close female friends and other experts, crossed mountains and seas, to serve as the Supreme Elder of the Palace, thereby becoming the Sea-Calming Divine Needle of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

With only a few hundred members, having Xuan Feng Venerable support the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, the sect's overall strength could be called formidable within the Western Desolate Continent.

Apart from Xuan Feng Venerable, there is also Granny Yu, a fifth-level Thunder Tribulation expert. Furthermore, Tang Wenrou, Ye Wumei, and other women's cultivation levels have advanced to the third level of the Thunder Tribulation, becoming the backbone of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Currently, the high-levels of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace have Xuan Feng Venerable as the Supreme Elder; Lu Liyu temporarily takes the role of Sect Master; Tang Wenrou, Ye Wumei, Xia Chenyu, and other women serve as Elders; whereas other Thunder Tribulation experts hold Steward positions.

If the tens of thousands of invaders attacking the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace only faced Xuan Feng Venerable, he would surely fight a great battle, then leave at ease.

But since Xuan Feng Venerable came to watch over the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and protect its disciples at Fang Bai's request, he cannot act recklessly, caring only for his own pleasure.

Considering the sheer number of enemies, if a chaotic battle ensues, he cannot protect everyone alone. Therefore, Xuan Feng Venerable instructed Lu Liyu to temporarily activate the Defense Formation, staying within and contemplating strategies to repel the invaders.

"The opponents are extraordinarily patient, besieging Qiankun Peak for nearly a month with no sign of retreat... Should this standoff continue and our spirit stones run out, the formation will crumble by itself, putting us in danger,"

said Xuan Feng Venerable to Lu Liyu and others one day.

In the Western Desolate Continent, Thunder Tribulation experts are rare, yet many of them have gathered near the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. Although they lack Great Calamity Period experts, the strength of tens of thousands is terrifying.

Xuan Feng Venerable can imagine that if the formation breaks, and he no longer protects them, without his protection, the hundreds of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace disciples could be swallowed by the tens of thousands in an instant.

"The rate of consuming spirit stones to maintain the Defense Array's operation is faster than I anticipated. The remaining spirit stones can probably last about another month..."

Lu Liyu surveyed the surroundings, whispering softly.

The tightly furrowed brows marked Lu Liyu's anxiety and worry.

Across the dense Defense Qi Shield, Dongfang Ruhua watched as the tens of thousands began attacking the shield. Her fists were clenched tightly, and with anger, she said, "Those people are truly vile. We discovered the spirit stone veins, and they are supposed to belong to us, being near the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. Why do they come to seize them?"

Baili Mingyue shouted, "They are just envious! To take a share of the spoils, they've thrown away all decorum!"

Shi Xiaolian sighed, "It's a pity they outnumber us greatly; otherwise, we could combine forces and form a formation to battle them, and we might not lose!"

"If Big Brother were here, we wouldn't fear these people! Big Brother is formidable and has plenty of solutions!"

Standing beside Shi Xiaolian, Yan Muyu blinked her big, clear eyes as she spoke.

Yan Muyu, now older and more mature, had grown a bit robust, shedding her previous innocence and becoming a bright and lively young girl.

Dongfang Rushi and Tang Wenrou, one serene, the other naturally cool, sat cross-legged on a large stone, remaining silent, coldly watching the tens of thousands outside the Spirit Qi Shield. There was no fear in their eyes, only loathing and a resolute killing intent.

By their own desire, they'd rather rush out to kill joyfully, irrespective of life or death, than stay within the Defense Shield, helplessly watching the grim and twisted faces flashing outside.

Xia Chenyu, Ye Wumei, Su Linglong, Linghu Qianjiao, and Linghu Baimei gathered together, completely ignoring the tens of thousands of enemies outside, focusing solely on practicing the Combined Assault Formation method Fang Bai taught them.

They had prepared meticulously, ready to form a formation and fight if the array was breached. They didn't aim to kill the enemies massively, but only hoped to break through and avoid capture by those strong cultivators.

As for what might happen once captured, the women knew well. They even prepared for the worst and planned to self-detonate when at the brink of desperation, refusing to be humiliated.

Within the Defense Array, the hundreds of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace disciples eagerly awaited Fang Bai's return.

In their hearts, Fang Bai was omnipotent, a deity-like being; as long as he was present, the current crisis would be resolved.

"I've dug a tunnel below the mountain leading out a hundred miles. We will escape before our defense array is breached."

Wu De, who hadn't been seen for almost a month, appeared suddenly among them, looking exhausted, and said.

Within the Qiankun Peak, a large space existed specifically for storing cultivation resources.

After the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace was besieged, Wu De went inside and, utilizing his Earth Element Techniques, finally dug a passage within a month's time.

This passage leads directly to a small valley a hundred miles away, conveniently behind where the tens of thousands strong cultivators are stationed.

"Thank you for your hard work, Elder Wu."

Lu Liyu's face showed a hint of joy as she spoke to Xia Chenyu and the others, "If our Defense Array truly becomes untenable, you should hurriedly leave through the underground passage and flee far from here."

Xia Chenyu caught something in Lu Liyu's words and asked, "What about you? Will you not leave?"

Lu Liyu smiled faintly and said, "Even if there's an underground passage, with our hundreds of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace people, strength varies; the strong may escape, but the weaker ones could be caught... When the time comes, I will stay behind to block those pursuing you. Every person who escapes is one more that survives!"

Xia Chenyu stepped forward, grabbing Lu Liyu's hand, and said earnestly, "We're good sisters, sharing blessings and hardships. If you ask us to leave first, how can we bear to abandon you?"

Chapter 1952: I Sensed His Presence

"Li Yu, Chenyu is right, no matter what happens, we will always be together!"

Dongfang Rushi, Tang Wenrou, and other women successively walked to Lu Liyu's side, their slender jade-like hands stacked together, each person's face marked with a resolute determination.

Lu Liyu's eyes were slightly red, with a misty haze in her beautiful eyes.

"Please, don't do this..."

Lu Liyu sniffed, a smile blossomed on her face, and shook her head saying: "Remember Fang Bai once said: 'As long as the green mountain is preserved, there is no fear of lacking firewood.' If you can escape, you can seek revenge for me in the future. What can we do if we all fall here?"

Pausing again, she continued: "Fang Bai went out to find people, and sooner or later he will return here. When you meet him in the future, please convey my apologies to him: I couldn't protect the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace well."

The siege on the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace involved tens of thousands, but most were watching from the perimeter; the actual attackers were only a few major sects from the Western Desolate Continent, each disciple of the palace could remember.

Lu Liyu believed that when Fang Bai returned to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, his strength would be transformed. To seek revenge on her behalf, he merely needed to eliminate those few major sects.

Xia Chenyu and other women, their noses turned sore, their eyes reddened; some teared up and gently sobbed. Despite Lu Liyu's persuasion, they affirmed they wouldn't leave no matter what.

"You silly girls, not taking this Supreme Elder seriously? Absurd!"

Xuan Feng Venerable, sitting cross-legged on the tallest boulder at the mountain peak, suddenly spoke, irritated, "Things haven't reached the worst yet; why are you discussing escape already?"

He stood up, jumped down from the boulder, and walked toward Lu Liyu and the others, his imposing figure akin to a mountain, his voice low as thunder.

"I am the Supreme Elder of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, usually indifferent to palace matters, but in times of crisis, all of you must listen to me! Now I ask you: are you willing to heed my words?"

Xuan Feng Venerable, a powerhouse at the ninth level of heavenly tribulation, was always amiable, nurturing juniors, respected in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, so Lu Liyu and others replied, "How could we not listen to the Supreme Elder's words?"

Xuan Feng Venerable nodded satisfactorily, then said, "Good! Since you are willing to listen to me, I will say a few words: once the formation breaks, you all leave through the underground passage, I will stay behind to halt any pursuers!"

Seeing Lu Liyu and others about to speak, Xuan Feng Venerable waved his hand, nearly domineeringly, "That's settled! Anyone who disobeys, I will truly get angry!"

Lu Liyu sighed, softly said, "Supreme Elder, you are mighty, but facing tens of thousands of powerhouses alone..."

Xuan Feng Venerable laughed, "Tens of thousands of powerhouses sound daunting, but they're merely a ragtag group; I can smash a large chunk with one punch!"

"But Xuan Feng Venerable, as powerful as you are, spiritual energy too has its limits! What if those tens of thousands use a strategy of attrition, you'll tire out!"

Yan Muyu uttered earnestly.

All the women wanted to express this worry, surprisingly voiced by Yan Muyu, thus they nodded in agreement.

Lu Liyu and others thought that their fall wouldn't impact the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace greatly, but if anything were to happen to Xuan Feng Venerable, it would be a great loss.

Xuan Feng Venerable glared at Yan Muyu, "Little girl, don't speak ill-fated words! My spiritual energy is boundless as the sea, inexhaustible, how could it deplete? Enough, enough, let's settle it like this! I'll first inspect the underground passage Elder Wu excavated..."

With Wu De, he entered the mountain, followed the underground passage, and thoroughly inspected it, then highly praised Wu De.

A month later, more than eighty percent of the spirit stones stored in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace were consumed. The defense arrays shook more violently as increasing attackers joined, indicating unfavorable omens.

With less than twenty percent spirit stones remaining, the array would be breached in about ten days at this rate, prepare to escape with Elder Wu!"

Xuan Feng Venerable shouted.

The arrays set by Fang Bai isolated inside from outside, people outside couldn't hear nor see the appearance of those inside the array, thus Xuan Feng Venerable spoke freely.

Lu Liyu and others exchanged glances, tacitly deciding once through the underground passage, they'd return to join Xuan Feng Venerable to fend off pursuers, enabling Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace disciples to survive.

As for their own lives, they no longer mattered.

That day, the defense array trembled more violently, on the verge of collapse, tens of thousands cheered, their eyes reflective of fervor.

If they breached the array, they might discover the specific location of the large spirit stone vein, some might seize those vividly beautiful women.

"Let's go!"

Xuan Feng Venerable decisively waved, he glanced at the exquisite palaces surrounding, feeling a weighty sorrow.

Entrusted by Fang Bai, he guarded the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, thus as long as Lu Liyu and others lived, he fulfilled his duty.

Regarding the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, he knew once the defense array broke, these exquisite palaces might be destroyed.

Yet he believed in the near future, they would return triumphantly, rebuilding even grander palaces on the original site.

Hundreds of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace disciples reluctantly glanced around, some crying silently, others sobbing loudly, some clenched fists in anger... hundreds harbored varied feelings, filing into the mountain, ready to depart through the underground passage.

"Wait..."

The previously solemn Xuan Feng Venerable suddenly stopped the disciples entering the mountain, his tone imbued with irrepressible joy.

He faced east, hopeful, murmuring, “Yes, it’s his aura... Friend Fang has finally returned...”

“It’s Brother Fang, I’ve sensed his aura...”

Simultaneously, Xia Chenyu, Su Linglong, Dongfang Rushi, and others turned and looked eastward, joy evident on their faces.

From the eastern sky, a mass of dark clouds surged toward the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, upon closer inspection, the “cloud” was actually thousands of fierce birds.

Birds varied from eagles to rocs, different species, yet all possessed combat power comparable to humans at the fifth realm of heavenly tribulation.

Chapter 1953: The Palace Master’s Mighty and Dominating Presence

Thousands of fierce avian beasts in the Thunder Tribulation fivefold realm surged forth, covering the sky, converging above tens of thousands of powerful cultivators in an instant, causing the sky to darken.

“What’s going on?”

“Where did so many fierce beasts come from?”

“They are all fierce beasts comparable to humans in the Thunder Tribulation fivefold realm!”

“Those beasts appear very aggressive, each full of killing intent, seemingly aimed directly at us!”

“With thousands of Thunder Tribulation fivefold beasts attacking from above, there’s no way to resist!”

...

Tens of thousands of powerful cultivators simultaneously looked up towards the sky, perceiving intense hostility and a thick murderous aura from those thousands of fierce beasts, fear involuntarily flashed in their eyes.

Some weaker cultivators had already started to flee in all directions to avoid being attacked by the fierce beasts.

“Screech!”

Suddenly, a piercing cry rang out from afar, the sound like a sharp sword cutting through the sky, resounding vividly and stirring, causing the ears of tens of thousands of cultivators to ring.

Upon hearing this cry, the eyes of those thousands of fierce beasts instantly filled with blood, exuding a violent aura, and amid sharp cries, they swooped down from the sky, launching a frenzied attack on the tens of thousands of cultivators below.

Thousands of Thunder Tribulation fivefold beasts descended from the sky in unison, their wings flapping, stirring up strong winds. Within a radius of a hundred miles, tiny grains of sand and fist-sized rocks flew wildly, making it impossible to see the surroundings clearly with the naked eye.

The fierce beasts, attacking from above, held every advantage—they either spat spiritual energy attacks or attacked with sharp beaks and claws. Amidst cries and wails, blood mist filled the air, and many cultivators’ bodies shattered, dying instantly.

Among the tens of thousands of cultivators besieging the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, only a third were Thunder Tribulation experts, and even fewer were Great Calamity Period experts within the Thunder Tribulation realm.

Faced with the swift attacks of thousands of Thunder Tribulation fivefold beasts, apart from those Great Calamity Period experts remaining unscathed, the rest could not withstand the fierce beasts, forced either to flee or evade.

Tens of thousands of cultivators gathered in the narrow space spanning dozens of miles, pushing and shoving in their escape, resulting in chaos and an uncontrollable scene.

Those powerful quickly broke through the crowd, escaping to the distance by harnessing spiritual artifacts; the weaker, in the pushing and shoving, were either slain by other cultivators or attacked by fierce beasts, leaving them dead or injured.

The leading disciples attacking the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace were stunned, watching thousands of sudden fierce beasts, unsure of what to do.

“Look at that Fire Crowned Eagle!”

“A Fire Crowned Eagle comparable to a human Thunder Tribulation eighth realm!”

“Someone’s standing on its back!”

“It’s a Thunder Tribulation sevenfold expert!”

“The cry came from this person!”

“The fierce beasts driven by the cry—could this person be a Beast Tamer?”

“Using one’s power to drive thousands of Thunder Tribulation fivefold beasts—this Beast Tamer is a prodigy!”

...

Some cultivators suddenly pointed to a giant Fire Crowned Eagle in midair, voicing their observations.

Among the thousands of fierce beasts, the Fire Crowned Eagle's body was largest, with the strongest attack power. As it flew, its eyes proudly gazed downward, exuding disdain, as if considering the tens of thousands of cultivators below as mere ants.

Standing confidently on the broad back of the Fire Crowned Eagle was a handsome youth clad in white, with black hair fluttering and garments billowing. His dark, deep starry eyes coldly gazed at the several sect powerhouses attacking the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, eyes filled with murderous intent.

"Brother Fang!"

Within the defense array of Qiankun Peak, Dongfang Ruhua, Baili Mingyue, and other ladies sensed Fang Bai's presence, looked up excitedly, soon spotting Fang Bai standing on the Fire Crowned Eagle's back, and joyously waved their slender arms towards the sky.

Typically, cultivators outside the array truly couldn't see inside the array, nor could their divine senses penetrate it, but since Fang Bai set this array, it naturally had no effect on him.

Fang Bai heard the cheers of Dongfang Ruhua and others, looking towards the summit of Qiankun Peak, where he saw Dongfang Ruhua and others waving their arms energetically towards him, a smile replacing the coldness on his face.

"Let me drive away these troublemakers, then I'll speak with you!"

Fang Bai's clear voice penetrated the Defense Array, echoing in the ears of hundreds of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace disciples.

"The Palace Master has returned!"

"We're saved this time!"

"The Palace Master is mighty!"

“The Palace Master is imposing!”

...

Upon hearing Fang Bai’s voice, hundreds of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace disciples erupted in cheers, each one invigorated and extremely excited.

Most of these Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace disciples came together with Fang Bai from the secular world or Minor World; they witnessed Fang Bai rising at an unimaginable speed to a realm they could only look up to, never reaching.

In their hearts, Fang Bai was proficient in various secret techniques, seemingly omnipotent.

Previously, faced with the siege of tens of thousands of cultivators, they had prepared to abandon the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, ready to leave at any moment.

But now, Fang Bai’s return had significantly bolstered their confidence, giving them the belief and courage to resist.

“Kill!”

Fang Bai pursed his lips and emitted a long cry, continuing to drive thousands of fierce beasts to launch a fierce attack on the cultivators besieging the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

At this moment, of the tens of thousands of cultivators gathered here, those on the outskirts had already fled far away, while the remaining tens of thousands hailed from several major sects of the Western Desolate Continent.

These major sects had come from afar, mobilizing forces, unwilling to retreat without gaining any advantage.

In the eyes of the disciples of these major sects, Fang Bai was merely at the Thunder Tribulation sevenfold realm, not formidable. What he relied on was merely those thousands of fierce beasts; as long as this group of fierce beasts was dispersed, they still hoped to break through the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace's Defense Array and seize the locations of its large Spirit Stone Veins, as well as those alluring women.

In terms of single combat power, these major sect disciples may not surpass the thousands of fierce beasts, but they figured they had a big chance of winning with tens of thousands against thousands.

The sects of the Western Desolate Continent, in overall strength, couldn't compare with those of the Eastern Desolate Continent. The so-called strong sects currently besieging the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace were led by the strongest merely having Thunder Tribulation sevenfold or eightfold experts, nowhere near the top-tier sects.

Therefore, Fang Bai appeared alone, driving thousands of fierce beasts.

If top-tier sects had come to invade, Fang Bai couldn't confront them alone, but would have to summon the Bixie Immortal Beast from the Five Elements Space Ring to help.

Fang Bai believed that as long as he utilized powerful techniques to strongly kill the sect masters and high-level members of these major sects, the rest would crumble like a mountain, scattering into defeat, thus relieving the crisis of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

"Less than two years since my farewell with Friend Fang on the Eastern Desolate Continent, I never imagined he has advanced to the Thunder Tribulation sevenfold realm. He's not a genius; he's a prodigy!"

Xuan Feng Venerable observed Fang Bai, exuding celestial aura and mannerism, his gaze shining brightly, amazed.

Chapter 1954: Joining Forces to Defeat a Powerful Enemy

Xuan Feng Venerable still remembers that in the Blood Sea Desert, when he first met Fang Bai, he was only a Thunder Tribulation Fifth Level expert.

Later, Fang Bai devoured the Green Lotus Spirit Fire and advanced to the Thunder Tribulation Sixth Level realm.

Now, less than two years after they parted, he had already reached the Thunder Tribulation Seventh Level.

Such advancement speed is something that even the so-called 'cultivation geniuses' of the Super Sect cannot achieve and can only be described as 'demonic'.

Under the control of Fang Bai's howl, over a thousand fierce birds, madly attacked tens of thousands of sect disciples from several major powerful sects.

Even the Fire Crowned Eagle under Fang Bai's feet joined the attack camp.

Over a thousand Thunder Tribulation Fifth Level fierce birds going berserk was extremely terrifying. Although the disciples of several major powerful sects fought back with all their might and killed many fierce birds, under the waves of attacks from those fierce birds, the casualties were even more severe, and their originally orderly formation was scattered everywhere.

"I will go out and lend Fang Bai a hand!"

Xuan Feng Venerable, seeing the lively battle between Fang Bai and the several major powerful sects outside, couldn't help but feel restless. He didn't dare to suddenly remove the Defense Array, lest the other disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace be attacked, so he hurriedly gave a command, then maneuvered through the underground passage inside the mountain, bypassing to a hundred miles behind the several major powerful sects.

Leaving the Defense Array, Xuan Feng Venerable felt as excited as a bird released from its cage.

He soared into the sky, silently approached the disciples of several major powerful sects from behind, and locked onto the Sect Master of one major powerful sect. He summoned the Immortal Axe that Fang Bai had gifted to him; with a thought, the Immortal Axe, like lightning, dragged a trail of dazzling light, slashing towards the Sect Master who had Thunder Tribulation Eighth Level cultivation.

Although his Immortal Axe could temporarily only exert the power of a Half-Immortal Rank Spiritual Artifact, it was still something a Thunder Tribulation Eighth Level expert could not contend with.

The Sect Master sensed a strong crisis approaching from behind and abruptly turned around to find the Immortal Axe already upon him. Panic overcame him, and he wanted to dodge, but he was firmly locked by the Killing Qi of the Immortal Axe, rendering him immobile.

"Puff!"

A sound like cutting through melons rang out, and the Immortal Axe sliced the Sect Master from top to bottom, splitting him in two.

The Sect Master couldn't even utter a scream before all signs of life were snuffed out, and he fell to the ground.

As soon as the Sect Master died, his sect's disciples were in an uproar; some were terrified, others filled with indescribable grief and indignation.

Tens of high-ranking members of the sect forced the fierce birds back, glared with blood-red eyes, and with Spiritual Artifacts in hand, charged jointly towards Xuan Feng Venerable to avenge their Sect Master.

"If you don't fear death, come battle!"

Xuan Feng Venerable roared like thunder, filled with fighting spirit, as he recaptured the Immortal Axe in his hands, waving it up and down. Axe lights intertwined and spread like lightning, slashing towards the dozens of approaching opponents.

Despite being dozens of high-ranking sect members, most of them were Thunder Tribulation Sixth and Seventh Level cultivators, utterly incapable of matching Xuan Feng Venerable, who had Thunder Tribulation Ninth Level cultivation and wielded a Half-Immortal Rank Spiritual Artifact.

In just a few dozen breaths, Xuan Feng Venerable skillfully maneuvered in the air, charging back and forth with the axe several times. The dozens of high-ranking sect members turned into clouds of blood mist, vanishing between heaven and earth.

In less than a hundred breaths, the high-ranking members of a powerful sect on the Western Desolate Continent had all fallen.

The remaining sect disciples were terrified, their confidence and courage to continue fighting lost.

One by one, they piloted their Spiritual Artifacts, fleeing quickly, afraid that a moment's delay would see them split in two by the terrifying axe.

Witnessing Xuan Feng Venerable's divine might, wielding an axe single-handedly, other major sect disciples couldn't help but feel chills up their spines, a sudden coldness birthing a desire to retreat in their hearts.

However, many of their strong members were entangled by the fierce birds under Fang Bai's control and could not retreat for the time being.

"Haha... exhilarating!"

Having slain dozens of experts, Xuan Feng Venerable finally vented some of the long-repressed rage in his chest.

"Xuan Feng Elder, mighty indeed!"

Fang Bai's laughter came from afar.

Xuan Feng Venerable, wielding the Immortal Axe, slashed a bloody path, reaching Fang Bai's side, and with a smile, said, "Little Fang... oh no, now that you are back, you should be the Sect Master, and I should address you as Sect Master! Sect Master, when it comes to might, you single-handedly controlled thousands of fierce birds, dispersing tens of thousands of strong foes, now that's true might!"

He continued, "After parting on the Eastern Desolate Continent, you have become a Thunder Tribulation Seventh Level expert, while I am still at a standstill, it's truly shameful!"

Fang Bai said, "Having joined the Nine Heavens Immortal Palace Emperor, how could you worry about not advancing? Someday, ascending to the Immortal Realm will no longer be a dream for you!"

Xuan Feng Venerable was elated, exclaiming loudly, "Hearing these words from you, my heart is filled with joy! I hope the day of ascension to immortality is not far away!"

His gaze sweeping around, seeing the several major sect disciples surrounding him and Fang Bai but not daring to attack, he coldly snorted, "After we kill all these invaders of the Emperor's Palace, we shall converse again!"

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Today, I shall teach the strong ones of the Three Thousand Universes a rule: those who dare to invade the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace will be killed without mercy!"

The Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace was created by Fang Bai, and it was inhabited by his family, friends, disciples, and Hongyan. If he had not arrived in time to relieve the crisis, many disciples of the Emperor's Palace might have perished.

The family, friends, disciples, and Hongyan of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace were Fang Bai's reverse scales; anyone who dared to touch them would provoke his bitter hatred, leaving no room for mercy.

Fang Bai also wanted to use this opportunity to kill a warning, proclaiming to all the strong of the Three Thousand Universes that the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace must not be violated, or they will face fierce retaliation.

Blood light flashed, and Killing Qi soared to the sky.

As Fang Bai uttered the three words "kill without mercy," the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade was already tightly grasped in his hand.

As the blood blade swung, dense Killing Qi spread in all directions, and the disciples of several major sects, who were slightly weaker, found themselves plunged into an illusion of Corpse Mountain Blood Sea, screaming "ah ah," wielding their Spiritual Artifacts, and started killing each other.

Fang Bai's gaze was indifferent, swinging the blade continuously, every flash of blood light taking away several experts' lives, with no one able to withstand it.

Xuan Feng Venerable's Immortal Axe also ceaselessly harvested the lives of the major sect's strong members.

The two of them, like two gods of death, dashed left and right, advancing as if in an uninhabited land, wherever they passed, large swathes of strong foes perished, and blood mist filled the sky.

"The opponents show signs of collapsing, let's join the battle as well!"

Within the Defense Array, Lu Liyu spoke to the women like Xia Chenyu and the disciples like Ghost Hand, who were Fang Bai's disciples.

These people, all at the Thunder Tribulation realm now and having practiced the Combined Assault Formation taught by Fang Bai, could form several Offensive and Defensive Great Formations, able to contend against several Thunder Tribulation Seventh or even Eighth Level strong experts.

"Alright!"

Xia Chenyu and the others, having been eager to try, unanimously agreed as soon as Lu Liyu finished speaking.

Thus, Lu Liyu personally deactivated the Defense Array of Qiankun Mountain, and with Xia Chenyu and the others, summoned their Spiritual Artifacts, charging out together, forming multiple Combined Assault Formations along the way, sweeping towards the strong members of several major sects.

Chapter 1955: One Thing Subdues Another

The arrival of Lu Liyu and others was like the last straw that broke the camel's back, causing the disciples of the major strong sects to completely collapse.

"Run away!"

No one knew who first shouted, but soon after, tens of thousands of disciples from the major strong sects began to flee in tears, calling out for their parents.

"Forget it, don't chase a desperate enemy!"

Xuan Feng Venerable and others seemed unsatisfied, wanting to pursue and kill, but were halted by Fang Bai.

"The high-ups of those major sects, from Sect Master and below, have all been executed. No matter how many disciples are left, they can't stir up any trouble, killing them is pointless!"

Fang Bai said to Xuan Feng Venerable and others.

Killing the high-ups of the major sects has already served as a strong deterrent, going after the irrelevant disciples is unnecessary and meaningless.

"Being besieged on Qiankun Peak for two months by that bunch of bastards, I am frustrated! Humph, if you hadn't stopped us, Sect Master, I would have killed them all!"

Wu De muttered as he put away his spiritual artifacts, looking unsatiated.

In Fang Bai's absence, Lu Liyu temporarily took the position of Palace Master of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. Now that Fang Bai is back at the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, everyone calls him Sect Master.

"Fang Bai, let me into the Five Elements Space Ring to get some sleep. I've found that my speed in advancing ranks is even faster in there!"

Lightning Mink, having transformed into a spirit beast state during the attack on the disciples of the major strong sects, devoured many powerful beings. It now nudged Fang Bai with its head, whining as it spoke.

Fang Bai thought about the Bixie Immortal Beast in the space ring and wondered what the two beasts would think of each other, causing him to smile: "While I was training on the Eastern Desolate Continent, I acquired another spirit beast. If you go in, you might suffer! I think you should stay outside."

"No way! I must go in! I want to see what kind of spirit beast could cause Master Mink to suffer!"

Born with a fearless nature, Lightning Mink became even more defiant after Fang Bai provoked it.

Currently, Lightning Mink's cultivation level has reached the fifth stage of Heavenly Tribulation, ranking among the top strong beings in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace; it couldn't tolerate being overshadowed by another spirit beast.

"Alright, just don't complain if you suffer!"

As Fang Bai spoke, a glimmer of light flashed from the Five Elements Space Ring on his left finger. With a wave of his arm, Lightning Mink vanished and appeared inside the Five Elements Space Ring.

Not long after, there was a roar and bellowing of spirit beasts from within the space of the Five Elements Space Ring, clearly indicating a conflict between the Bixie Immortal Beast and Lightning Mink.

But just a few moments later, the roaring quieted down.

Others didn't know what had happened inside the Five Elements Space Ring, but Fang Bai did. The usually lazy and proud Lightning Mink had been easily subdued by the Bixie Immortal Beast and had become its obedient "assistant."

"Ah, there's always something to tame something else!"

Fang Bai could see that Lightning Mink was genuinely submissive to the Bixie Immortal Beast. Even when the Bixie Immortal Beast bossed it around, it complied without complaint and seemed to enjoy it.

In this battle, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace didn't lose anyone, while tens of thousands of attackers fell. Looking around, Qiankun Peak was surrounded by corpses, and the air was still thick with the stench of blood.

Fang Bai dispatched hundreds of disciples from the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace to collect the space rings of the fallen strong ones and integrated all the cultivation resources contained within into the mountain, to be distributed as needed in the future.

This battle was full of surprises but without real danger, and the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace gained immensely, achieving a resounding victory. Every disciple's face was filled with joy.

Especially the return of Palace Master Fang Bai, it invigorated everyone and filled them with hope and confidence for the future of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

"The Palace Master is our backbone, now that you're back, we feel reassured."

Xuan Feng Venerable said with a smile.

The high-ranked members of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, led by Fang Bai, filed into the Palace Master Hall and took their seats.

Lu Liyu spoke on behalf of the disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, recounting the events that occurred after Fang Bai left,

While Fang Bai shared many of his encounters and dangers during his journeys to the Eastern Desolate Continent and the Southern Desolate Continent.

Although what Lu Liyu recounted were minor daily events of the disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, Fang Bai listened with great interest.

What Fang Bai described was filled with peril and challenges, with each moment teetering on the edge, yet there were significant opportunities and bizarre adventures, keeping Lu Liyu and others on the edge of their seats, unable to calm down.

After Fang Bai finished speaking, Lu Liyu and others were filled with emotion and sighed repeatedly.

Lu Liyu sighed softly: "I didn't expect Brother Fang to encounter so many things on this journey."

Xia Chenyu's beautiful eyes were fixed on Fang Bai's face, filled with gentle affection, as she laughed softly and said: "Thankfully, our Fang Bai is blessed and returned safely!"

Dongfang Ruhua blinked her black and white eyes and asked crisply: "Brother Fang, now that you're back, you won't leave again, right?"

Su Linglong, Ye Wumei, and other women heard this, and their eyes all turned to Fang Bai, each with a look of anticipation on their faces.

Since arriving in the vast world, each of them has been separated from Fang Bai for years. Although they met again later, they soon returned to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and had little time with Fang Bai. Naturally, they all hoped to be with Fang Bai, living a carefree life like immortals.

Su Linglong sighed softly and said: "Teacher Qin... Sister Yaorao is still missing, I fear Brother Fang finds it difficult to settle."

In the past, Su Linglong and Fang Bai were classmates, and Qin Yaorao was their teacher. She was accustomed to calling Qin Teacher Qin and still found it hard to change.

With Su Linglong's understanding of Fang Bai, if he couldn't find Qin Yaorao, even if he stayed at the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, he wouldn't be truly happy.

Su Linglong believed that with Fang Bai's return this time, he wouldn't stay at the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace for long. He would likely leave again after a while.

Sure enough, when Su Linglong mentioned Qin Yaorao, Fang Bai's face showed less joy, and he said: "This time I've returned, I plan to stay at the Palace for a while and manage it well to prevent you from only being able to trap yourselves within the Defense Array in the event of a large-scale attack without being able to fight back. As for Yaorao..."

Fang Bai paused here, his expression tinged with worry, and said to Xia Chenyu and others: "We are all reunited, except for her, whose whereabouts are unknown, and her safety unclear. After a year or so, I will go out again to look for her!"

Su Linglong and the other women exchanged glances, thinking it was indeed as expected. Because Qin Yaorao was absent, Fang Bai wouldn't stay long.

However, they all felt that Fang Bai's decision was natural because if Qin Yaorao were replaced by any one of them, Fang Bai would undoubtedly do the same, without bias.

Chapter 1956: Recruiting Disciples Broadly

Although missing Qin Yaorao, in any case, the return of Fang Bai and others this time is a rare reunion for the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Therefore, for several consecutive days, the hundreds of disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace were all full of joy.

Through the recent offensive and defensive battle, Fang Bai discovered that the defense of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace still had many shortcomings, so he continually improved and refined it, making the formation more powerful.

Meanwhile, Xuan Feng Venerable led Wu De and others to mine the newly discovered large Spirit Stone veins, then gradually transferred the mined Spirit Stones to be stored within the body of Qiankun Peak.

In just a few months, the cultivation resources amassed by the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace equated to a century's accumulation of a top-tier sect.

This was a huge fortune for the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, which had only hundreds of disciples. Just the cultivation resources within the mountain body were enough for their ten years of cultivation needs, not to mention the large Spirit Stone vein that could provide a continuous supply of Spirit Stones.

According to Fang Bai's expectations, with this large Spirit Stone vein, the hundreds of disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, even those with lower cultivation levels, with his careful guidance and teaching, could advance to the Thunder Tribulation Realm within one or two years.

As for those like Lu Liyu, Xia Chenyu, Su Linglong, Ye Wumei, Ghost Hand, and Xiong Yingxiong, who had innate Spiritual Roots, Fang Bai focused on cultivating them, enabling them to all reach or surpass the fifth level of the Thunder Tribulation Realm within a year.

As for Xuan Feng Venerable, already at the ninth level of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, although Fang Bai explained the Immortal Rank cultivation techniques to him, due to the limitations of his talent and aptitude, he might not achieve a breakthrough in a short time.

However, Xuan Feng Venerable still had at least a century of lifespan, and Fang Bai predicted he might ascend to immortality within sixty years, so he was not in a hurry.

Besides, Fang Bai also focused on teaching the hundreds of disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace to form various large and small formations to enhance their strength and confront powerful opponents.

These formations, both offensive and defensive, ranged from large formations formed by hundreds of people to micro formations partnered by two. Once formed, each one could unleash unimaginable power.

The large formation formed by hundreds of people was called the "Thousand-Armed Buddha Formation," which Fang Bai had created years ago in the Immortal Realm, referencing the Five Hundred Arhat Formation of the Great Thunderclap Monastery in the Western Heavenly Domain.

Currently, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace conveniently had about five hundred disciples, each with two arms, making a thousand arms in total, perfectly forming such a large formation.

According to Fang Bai's idea, if all five hundred disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace advanced to Thunder Tribulation experts, the power of their Thousand-Armed Buddha Formation could trap at least ten times their number of Thunder Tribulation experts.

Fang Bai taught the large and small formations to hundreds of disciples and then let them practice on their own. Once the formation practice became proficient, the overall strength of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace would make a qualitative leap, and Fang Bai was filled with expectations.

Previously, when hundreds of thousands of strong intruders invaded the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and ended up defeated, after this battle, the prestige of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace echoed throughout the entire Western Desolate Continent.

Especially Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable, who were key figures in the battle, playing a crucial role at the last moment that led to a decisive collapse and thus became admired figures of many strong individuals on the Western Desolate Continent.

Consequently, tens of thousands of loose cultivators came attracted by the name, gathering outside Qiankun Mountain, hoping to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

"Recently, every day, a large number of strong loose cultivators from all over the Western Desolate Continent come to pay respects and wish to join our sect. Let's discuss whether we should accept them or not?"

That day, upon receiving a report from the Mountain Guarding Disciples, Fang Bai summoned Xuan Feng Venerable and other high-level members of the palace to the Palace Master Hall for discussion.

"I think if we want the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace to become a great and powerful sect of the time, we must not only recruit more disciples but also as many as possible!"

Xuan Feng Venerable stroked his beard and said seriously.

He had traveled through the three thousand great worlds and had seen many top strong sects, often having tens of thousands of disciples, or even more.

Granny Yu strongly agreed with Xuan Feng Venerable's words and also said, "I agree with the Supreme Elder. A sect with too few disciples cannot become a strong or great sect! For example, in the previous battle, if our Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace had ten thousand disciples, there would have been no need to stay curled up within the Defense Array, and we would have had the strength to fight the opponents!"

Granny Yu had once wandered the three thousand great worlds with Tang Wenrou, and later suffered severe injuries to protect Tang Wenrou.

After meeting Fang Bai and receiving his treatment, not only did her injuries heal, but she also gained from the misfortune, with Fang Bai's guidance, advancing her cultivation from the fifth level of the Thunder Tribulation to the current sixth level.

Subsequently, Granny Yu, together with Tang Wenrou and others, came to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and naturally joined, becoming the second strongest presence after Xuan Feng Venerable, and took on the role of Elder.

Seeing both Xuan Feng Venerable and Granny Yu, two esteemed strong individuals in the palace, approve of recruiting more disciples, the others present had no objections.

"With more disciples in the palace, our cultivation resources might not suffice!"

Wu De scratched his head and said.

Fang Bai said, "If we lack cultivation resources, we will just continue to search. In these vast three thousand great worlds, cultivation resources are abundant!"

Both he and Wu De had a keen sense for cultivation resources, plus the Bixie Immortal Beast within the Five Elements Space Ring; as long as they searched diligently, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace would not worry about the lack of cultivation resources.

"Since everyone agrees on recruiting wide disciples, then Brother Xuan Feng, please join me at the mountain gate to personally screen them. We will only accept disciples based on two points: those with

poor character or ill temperament shall not be accepted; those with too poor aptitudes shall not be accepted!"

After saying this, Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable walked out of the Sect Master Hall side by side.

Granny Yu, Lu Liyu, Xia Chenyu, and other high-level members of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, with nothing to do, followed suit down the mountain.

Before they reached outside the mountain, they saw that there were already over ten thousand gathered on the plaza outside the mountain gate, with more continuously arriving, a spectacle that made them smile.

Those strong loose cultivators wishing to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace came from all over the Western Desolate Continent, and some were even strong individuals from other continents. Seeing the crowd surrounding Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable, they guessed the two might be the legendary Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable, who had made their name with a single battle, causing a stir.

"I am Fang Bai, the first Palace Master of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace; beside me is Xuan Feng Venerable, the current Supreme Elder of the palace."

Fang Bai glanced over the dense crowd ahead and said loudly, "Those who wish to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace can line up in front of the Ruyi Stone for a test of cultivation and aptitude, after which the Supreme Elder and I will assess their character and temperament. Those with poor character or ill temperament, please leave."

Chapter 1957: Good News

"Knowing a person by appearance doesn't mean understanding their heart. How can one judge a person's character and temperament?"

As Fang Bai's words fell, someone from the crowd opposite loudly asked.

Fang Bai smiled slightly and said, "Others may not see it, but the Supreme Elder and I can! Whether you believe it or not, you'll soon know!"

Fang Bai had previously imparted the Soul Capturing Heart Refining Technique to Xuan Feng Venerable. This secret technique can control others' thoughts and wills through Divine Sense, and once a strong individual is controlled, any secret in their heart cannot be concealed.

Therefore, with Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable overseeing, it can be ensured that the disciples accepted by the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace won't include those with low morals and evil intentions.

As Fang Bai expected, among the many loose cultivators who wished to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, there were indeed some with disgraceful conduct and wicked intentions, drawn by the palace's rapid rise and the newly discovered large Spirit Stone veins.

Their purpose in joining the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace was merely to find a powerful backing and use its cultivation resources to advance their ranks.

Upon hearing Fang Bai's words, the evil-minded individuals began to retreat internally, though most still held onto a try-and-see mentality, with few choosing to leave.

In their minds, even if they couldn't meet the conditions to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, its members wouldn't make things difficult for them.

Yet they didn't realize that such wishful thinking would ultimately lead to their downfall.

Both Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable had a deep hatred for evil; once they discovered their misconduct, how could they easily let them go?

Tens of thousands of loose cultivators walked up to the Ruyi Stone one by one, placing their palms on it, which immediately reflected their current cultivation level.

Meanwhile, Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable could roughly assess their talent and qualifications by merely scanning their gazes over those standing before the Ruyi Stone.

Although Fang Bai intended to observe people's character and temperament, he wouldn't examine each one individually. He and Xuan Feng Venerable chose a portion of them based on their experience and then used the Soul Capturing Heart Refining Technique for interrogation.

That group, despite their attempts to hide, couldn't obscure any heinous, depraved acts when questioned, revealing everything like spilling beans from a bamboo tube.

"That old thief even kills infants in swaddling! Despicable!"

"That guy not only abuses a woman daily but also discards her corpses in the wilderness afterward! Truly deserving of death!"

"Look at that tall, skinny man—seemingly upright, yet secretly he commits all kinds of evils! What a scum!"

"Unbelievable, that female martial artist has such a number of men! The saying 'A pair of jade arms as pillows for thousands, a thousand tastes of scarlet lips' describes her, doesn't it?"

...

Hearing the filthy, evil deeds confessed under Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable's inquiry, the other strong individuals were shocked and found it incredible, unfathomable.

And those interrogated, upon realizing their deeds were exposed amid surrounding discussions, became panicked and attempted to fly away on Spiritual Artifacts.

"Trying to escape? Treacherous, evil men—everyone must punish them!"

Xuan Feng Venerable snorted coldly, raising his hands slightly. Several Spirit Qi Big Palms condensed over those attempting to flee and then slammed down fiercely.

In an instant, the bodies of more than a dozen infamous strong individuals exploded into clouds of blood mist, with none escaping.

Xuan Feng Venerable's divine prowess was displayed, killing a dozen with a single palm strike, serving as both a shock and a warning to those newly joining the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, cautioning each not to engage in villainous acts lest they meet the same fate.

Following the incident, among the tens of thousands of strong individuals present, some who had committed shameful acts feared Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable's interrogation and left silently.

Those who stayed were all people with clear consciences.

Ultimately, among the thousands gathered at the square before the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace's mountain gate, three thousand passed Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable's assessment and officially became disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

With the increase in disciples, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace began establishing different levels like other sects, categorizing below Supreme Elder, Palace Master, Elder, and Steward as Direct Disciples, Inner Court Disciples, External Courtyard Disciples, and menial servant disciples.

Some observant palace disciples noticed that the position of "Core Disciple" was unexpectedly vacant, for unknown reasons.

Later Fang Bai announced publicly that the core disciples of the sect would be selected based on merit from the inner, external, and menial servant disciples, and he would personally transmit the cultivation techniques to motivate new disciples to cultivate earnestly.

Some newly joined disciples knew little about Fang Bai, but later learned from the higher-ups of the palace that their young palace master, although at a cultivation level of Heavenly Tribulation Seventh Level, possessed combat power not inferior to Supreme Elder Xuan Feng Venerable, and was proficient in alchemy, artifact refining, and beast taming array setting.

Thus, those palace disciples revered Fang Bai and admired him profoundly.

Periodically, every few months, numerous strong individuals would gather outside the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, seeking to join, and the palace welcomed all comers, though it was still Fang Bai and Xuan Feng Venerable who personally oversaw the screening.

A year later, the number of disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace exceeded ten thousand, and with Xuan Feng Venerable at Heavenly Tribulation Ninth Level and Fang Bai whose strength could rival Heavenly Tribulation Ninth Level, the palace's overall power rose to be among the top sects in the Western Desolate Continent and the Three Thousand Great Worlds.

One day, Fang Bai was supervising disciple cultivation in the palace when a disciple guarding the mountain gate reported that an elder named Shi En from Alchemy Immortal City in the Eastern Desolate Continent sought to meet him.

During his training in the Eastern Desolate Continent, Fang Bai had served as an Honorary Elder of Alchemy Immortal City, still holding the title.

Shi En was one of the four elders of Alchemy Immortal City, and Fang Bai had quite a rapport with him. Curious about his purpose for traveling tens of thousands of miles, Fang Bai personally welcomed him outside the mountain gate.

Upon seeing Shi En, Fang Bai noted his joyful expression, indicating no calamity had befallen Alchemy Immortal City, prompting him to come for assistance. Feeling a sudden insight, Fang Bai smiled and asked, "Does Elder Shi bring good news this time?"

"Exactly! It is good news!"

Shi En laughed heartily, twirling his beard and asking Fang Bai, "Should I call you Elder Fang now or address you as Palace Master Fang?"

Fang Bai replied, "Whether calling me elder or palace master seems too formal. I think it's more appropriate to call me Friend Fang!"

Chapter 1958: The Legend of Fairy Xuanbing

Shi En met Fang Bai this time and didn't expect that his cultivation level was already on par with his own.

Shi En also knew that Fang Bai had the ability to challenge those a level higher, thus he speculated that Fang Bai's combat power now should far surpass his own, and might even exceed that of City Lord Hua Yanqing.

Originally, he thought that after Fang Bai gained immense power and the status of a palace master, he would be like other rapidly rising young powerhouses, arrogant, aloof, and overlooking him from above. However, when the two met, Fang Bai was as warm and friendly as ever, treating him like an old friend, which made Shi En feel greatly comforted.

As they talked, their steps never stopped, walking side by side towards the Palace Master Hall at the top of Qiankun Peak.

"Steward Yang Qiong, who went out to train from Alchemy Immortal City, returned to the City Lord Mansion a few days ago and said she had some news about Qin Yaorao, Miss Qin..."

Shi En whispered as they walked.

Upon hearing this, Fang Bai stopped in his tracks, turned around, and looked at Shi En with a face full of joy, saying excitedly, "Really? Yaorao... where is she now? Is she alright?"

Shi En said, "Steward Yang only heard this from hearsay, got the news from a friend's words, and did not see Miss Qin in person. Otherwise, she would definitely have passed on word about you to Miss Qin."

Fang Bai showed a regretful expression, sighed, and said, "What a pity..."

After a pause, he continued, "But having news of Yaorao is ultimately a good thing. Elder Shi, please continue."

Shi En nodded and continued, "Friend Fang, do you know of this 'Fairy Xuanbing' named Luo Yun?"

Seeing Fang Bai shake his head in confusion, Shi En remembered that he came from the secular world to the three thousand great worlds for not long and didn't know many famous experts in the three thousand great worlds, so he continued, "This Fairy Xuanbing, Luo Yun, has reached the ninefold

Thunder Tribulation Realm, and even a hundred years ago, she was already notorious, being called the foremost ninefold Thunder Tribulation expert of her time, with a power very close to the Demi-Immortal Realm..."

"That Fairy Xuanbing, in her youth, was an exceptionally talented cultivator. She had no sect and was aloof and proud, liking to act alone. It was discovered that she took a new disciple a few years ago, that disciple being named Qin Yaorao, whose age and appearance closely match the Miss Qin you described..."

"After Steward Yang brought back this news to the City Lord Mansion, City Lord Hua immediately sent me to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace to inform you. I believe this news should be credible."

Fang Bai said upon hearing this, "Regardless of whether the news is true or false, I need to see for myself. If by chance I can find Yaorao because of this, it will ease a burden on my heart. Elder Shi, after you return, please tell Steward Yang that if I find Qin Yaorao, I will properly thank her!"

Shi En smiled and said, "Friend Fang is generous, and Steward Yang will surely be very pleased to hear this."

With Qin Yaorao on his mind, Fang Bai, having gotten news of her, decided to set off soon to find her and asked, "Does this Fairy Xuanbing, Luo Yun, have a place of residence?"

Shi En said, "It's said that she always resides at Xuanbing Mountain."

Fang Bai, having traveled through the three thousand great worlds in the past, knew that Xuanbing Mountain lay at the northernmost end of the Western Desolate Continent, separated by a hundred thousand miles of ice sea, facing the Extreme North Continent.

Xuanbing Mountain is the highest place on the Western Desolate Continent, and also the coldest. The peaks there are wrapped in thick snow and ice that never melts for ten thousand years. Cultivators below the Thunder Tribulation Realm did not dare to reside there.

However, because Xuanbing Mountain is near the hundred thousand miles of ice sea, the spiritual energy is extremely pure and rich, thus attracting many Thunder Tribulation experts to seek cultivation resources there, or to go into closed-door cultivation in that area.

However, ever since Fairy Xuanbing settled in Xuanbing Mountain, she designated the five-hundred-mile radius around the Xuanbing Peak she resided on as a forbidden zone. No one was allowed to enter without permission; otherwise, they would face ruthless execution.

Fairy Xuanbing is cold and indifferent, with not the slightest bit of mercy. When she says something, she means it.

It is said that ten years ago, a team of over a hundred people went to find cultivation resources around Xuanbing Mountain, ignoring the stone stele marking the forbidden zone, and forcibly entered the five-hundred-mile forbidden zone set by Fairy Xuanbing, resulting in their complete slaughter by Fairy Xuanbing with a single Xuanbing Sword, not one being spared.

That team of over a hundred were all Thunder Tribulation experts, including several with Sevenfold Thunder Tribulation, with considerable overall strength, thus after that battle, Fairy Xuanbing's fearsome reputation spread far and wide, and no one dared to rashly offend her or enter the forbidden zone.

Thus, Xuanbing Mountain became a mysterious and terrifying place in the eyes of the many experts in the three thousand great worlds.

The Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace is in the central part of the Western Desolate Continent, while Xuanbing Mountain is at the northernmost end, at least tens of thousands of miles apart.

However, for Fang Bai, such a distance is nothing. To find Qin Yaorao, even if it were hundreds of thousands, or millions of miles, he would still go.

Fang Bai and Shi En entered the Palace Master Hall and took their seats. Soon, Xuan Feng Venerable, Granny Yu, Lu Liyu, Xia Chenyu, and other high-level figures came to meet Shi En, and the host and guests conversed happily.

"Fang Bai has always been worried about Sister Yaorao, and now with news of her, at last he can be somewhat at ease."

Xia Chenyu and Qin Yaorao had known each other in the secular world, and their relationship was very close. Fang Bai worried about Qin Yaorao, and she also felt downcast. Now, upon hearing the news about Qin Yaorao from Shi En, her mood suddenly relaxed and a smile appeared on her face.

In the current Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, the vast majority of disciples address Fang Bai as Palace Master, yet Xia Chenyu and the other women either call Fang Bai by his name or "Brother Fang," never using "Palace Master."

In their eyes, calling him "Palace Master" seemed to create a sense of distance from Fang Bai, lacking any sense of closeness.

"Now that there's news of Sister Yaorao, is Brother Fang planning to find her?"

Ye Wumei looked at Fang Bai with her big, charming eyes, showing reluctance in her gaze.

She knew that upon knowing Qin Yaorao's news, Fang Bai would not stay in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace for long, wishing he could set off immediately to bring Qin Yaorao back.

Lately, Fang Bai was busy overseeing the cultivation of palace disciples, so he didn't spend much time alone with Ye Wumei and the other women. Therefore, not only Ye Wumei but also the other women felt reluctant about his impending departure.

But Qin Yaorao was like a sister in their hearts, so they naturally hoped that Qin Yaorao could reunite with everyone in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. Even if they were reluctant to see Fang Bai leave, they still expressed support for him in his search for Qin Yaorao.

"It's urgent, I'll head to Xuanbing Mountain first thing tomorrow. The Emperor's Palace, leave it to the Supreme Elder to look after for now."

Just as Ye Wumei expected, Fang Bai, upon learning news of Qin Yaorao, immediately decided to set off the next day to bring her back.

"Palace Master, can the four of us go with you?"

Rou Fu asked softly.

Chapter 1959: Rou Fu's Thoughts

Fortune's Blessing four sisters had previously followed Fang Bai, Dragon Maiden, Zhuge Lian, and others to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. Although their cultivation levels were not weak and their talents were excellent, and they had known Fang Bai for a long time, Fang Bai appointed them as stewards.

However, the four young girls were as pure as blank paper. Though they had the authority to participate in various core matters of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, they usually just sat quietly on one side listening to others, without expressing their opinions.

The four girls used to only admire Fang Bai, but now they had reached the age when their feelings began to blossom. Fang Bai was the most outstanding man they had met, so their emotions secretly grew, and their hearts stirred.

Despite being quadruplets, the Fortune's Blessing sisters had different personalities; some were lively and outgoing, while others were reserved and introverted. Still, when it came to matters of love, they were all quite shy. Although they liked Fang Bai in their hearts, they dared not express it.

Moreover, in their eyes, Xia Chenyu, Su Linglong, and Ye Wumei had long been acquainted with Fang Bai, and had become close friends with him, each of them was more exceptional than the sisters.

Whenever the four sisters thought about this, they felt unworthy of Fang Bai, becoming greatly dejected.

As a result, although they were captivated by Fang Bai, they could only like him quietly.

Upon hearing that Fang Bai was leaving the Emperor's Palace to search for Qin Yaorao, Rou Fu realized it was an opportunity to be with Fang Bai, and bravely spoke up.

But she feared being alone with Fang Bai, so what she originally intended to say: "Can I go with you?" turned into "Can we four go with you?" as if involving her three sisters would give her more courage.

After Rou Fu spoke, she found everyone turning to look at her, and her fair face immediately turned bright red. She looked down at the ground, nervously twisting her garment's corners, like a startled little rabbit.

Xia Chenyu was extremely intelligent and had already noticed the budding affections of the young girls toward Fang Bai. Seeing Rou Fu's uncontrollable shyness, she couldn't help but laugh and said, "Rou Fu, I'm afraid you won't be able to go this time."

"Ah!" Rou Fu exclaimed, looking up and blinking her eyes, asking, "Sister Chenyu, why?"

Xia Chenyu gestured to Fang Bai with a nod, laughing, "Ask him!"

So Rou Fu's gaze shifted to Fang Bai.

Rou Zhi, Rou Xin, and Rou Ling also looked at Fang Bai, their eyes filled with hope.

Fang Bai saw Xia Chenyu teasing him, exchanging mischievous glances, understanding her intention and silently smiled bitterly.

Having lived two lifetimes, spanning tens of thousands of years, Fang Bai had seen all sorts of human relationships and could surely see the good feelings Fortune's Blessing four young girls had for him.

However, upon receiving news about Qin Yaorao, Fang Bai had already decided to go alone this time without bringing anyone along.

Because according to Shi En's words, he speculated that Fairy Xuanbing Luo Yun might be a stubborn and conventional old woman. Finding her and asking to take Qin Yaorao away wouldn't be easy, and she might even prevent their meeting.

Therefore, they might inevitably face a fierce battle.

And since Fairy Xuanbing Luo Yun was known as the "first in the nine levels of Heavenly Tribulation" in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, her strength should be close to that of a Demi-Immortal realm master.

If Fang Bai went alone, he could fight Fairy Xuanbing without distractions; if he took someone else, he'd have to split his focus, adversely affecting the battle situation.

Though Fang Bai always had a tender heart for the women around him and didn't want to directly refuse Rou Fu, he replied gently, "Rou Fu, you four should stay here this time. Next time I go out for experience, I'll take you along, okay?"

"Oh..."

Rou Fu quietly replied, lowering her head without saying more.

Though disappointed for not being able to go with Fang Bai, having gotten a promise from him offered some comfort.

Moreover, thinking carefully, she realized that traveling with Fang Bai in the future would surely provide plenty of time to be together, which filled her heart with joy.

Rou Zhi, Rou Xin, and Rou Ling also smiled brightly, thinking that when Fang Bai mentioned "take you along", the "you" naturally included them.

Xia Chenyu, Lu Liyu, and others couldn't help but laugh seeing the pure and cheerful expressions of the Fortune's Blessing four sisters.

The four sisters were innocent and charming, warm and friendly, without any deceit, and were liked by everyone in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Despite not wanting more women to join them in sharing Fang Bai, Lu Liyu, Xia Chenyu, and the other women didn't prevent the four sisters from progressing in their relationship with Fang Bai.

Because they knew that if Fang Bai and Fortune's Blessing four sisters had mutual feelings, no one could stop their union.

Rather, letting everything proceed naturally was best.

They also knew that although Fang Bai might be affectionate, he wouldn't abandon any of the women, making competing for his favor meaningless, rather it would cause Fang Bai tiredness and sorrow.

Inside the hall, Yan Muyu and Ye Wumei, the youngest, squeezed onto the same chair.

Upon hearing Rou Fu's intention to travel with Fang Bai, Yan Muyu's spirit lifted, her black eyes darting, planning if Fang Bai agreed to take Rou Fu, she would insist on going too.

However, upon seeing Fang Bai gently refuse Rou Fu, Yan Muyu realized her chances were slim too, resigning herself.

That night, Fang Bai sat cross-legged in the Palace Master Hall, adjusting his mental state to its best condition.

Early the next morning, Xuan Feng Venerable, Granny Yu, Lu Liyu, Xia Chenyu, Su Linglong, Ye Wumei, Tang Wenrou, Dragon Maiden, Baili Mingyue, Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua, Linghu Qianjiao, Linghu Baimi, Zhuge Lian, Shi Xiaolian, Yan Muyu, Fortune's Blessing four sisters, Wu De, Ghost Hand, and others gathered on the plaza in front of the mountain gate.

With the first rays of the sunrise, Fang Bai emerged from the inner hall of the Palace Master, walking from the peak and stepping into the void, gradually descending before Xuan Feng Venerable and others.

“Palace Master, take care!”

“Fang Bai, safe travels!”

“Brother Fang, come back soon!”

...

Exchanging farewells, Xuan Feng Venerable, Lu Liyu, and others cupped their fists and bid Fang Bai goodbye.

“Brother Fang is leaving, who knows when he’ll return!”

Watching Fang Bai step onto the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, turning into a red light and disappearing into the northern sky, Dongfang Ruhua’s eyes reddened, she sniffled and choked up.

Dongfang Rushi stretched out her slender arm, embracing her gently, and whispered, “Don’t worry, Ruhua, Fang Bai is so powerful, once he finds Sister Yaorao, he’ll return soon. Mm, it shouldn’t be too long.”

Xuan Feng Venerable stroked his long beard, pondering, “Fairy Xuanbing Luo Yun, renowned as the first in the nine levels of Heavenly Tribulation across the Three Thousand Worlds, her strength is formidable. Yet Fang Bai can challenge beyond his level, possessing Immortal Artifacts and controlling Spirit Beasts, his combat power is no less than Fairy Xuanbing. As long as he plans carefully, he should manage to bring back Miss Qin smoothly.”

Being the Supreme Elder in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, Xuan Feng Venerable’s prestige was second only to Fang Bai. Hearing his words brought reassurance to everyone, and they hoped for Fang Bai’s successful return with Qin Yaorao.

Chapter 1960: Thinking About Your Man Again?

Amidst the boundless azure sky, a white figure, trailing a blood-red glow, flew towards Xuanbing Mountain at the northernmost point of the Western Desolate Continent.

The white figure was none other than Fang Bai.

And the blood-red glow beneath him was the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade he stood upon.

After leaving the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, Fang Bai flew toward Xuanbing Mountain at a speed of over three thousand miles a day, facing the fierce wind.

Thinking of Qin Yaorao being a disciple under a cold, aloof, harsh, and pedantic old woman, and possibly suffering all kinds of abuse, Fang Bai was anxious, wishing he could fly to Xuanbing Mountain immediately to see Qin Yaorao.

Fang Bai did not travel alone to Xuanbing Mountain after leaving the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Inside his Space Ring, there were also the Lightning Mink and the Bixie Immortal Beast.

Fang Bai brought the two beasts along just in case.

No need to mention the Lightning Mink; the Bixie Immortal Beast was powerful enough to suppress even Half-Immortal Rank experts, even if it couldn't fully exert its strength. Fang Bai could summon it at critical moments to subdue any foe.

Therefore, as long as Fang Bai found Qin Yaorao during this journey to Xuanbing Mountain, he was fully confident of bringing her back.

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In the Xuanbing Mountain Range, the wind roared, snow danced wildly, and thousands of miles were frozen over.

At the edge of the Ice Sea at the northernmost tip of the Xuanbing Mountain Range, a woman in yellow stood alone, gazing into the vast ocean.

The girl in yellow looked to be just over twenty, with brows like spring hills, eyes like autumn water, bright eyes and white teeth, stunningly beautiful, and her skin was as white as the surrounding snow.

At this moment, her beautiful brows furrowed tightly, and soft sighs escaped her tender, rosy lips, as if hiding infinite concerns within her chest.

The bone-chilling cold wind blew from the hundred-thousand-mile Ice Sea, brushing against the woman in yellow. Her thin clothes clung to her body, revealing a graceful and enchanting silhouette.

Although her dress was thin, the woman in yellow did not seem to feel any cold.

"Senior Sister Qin, Master asked me to call you back to cultivate!"

Suddenly, a fourteen or fifteen-year-old girl appeared behind the woman in yellow, calling out crisply.

The girl's attire was the same as the woman in yellow by the sea, clearly indicating that they belonged to the same sect.

The woman called Senior Sister Qin turned around, saw the young girl in yellow, and a faint smile played on her lips as she said, "Xiao Ying, I understand!"

The girl named Xiao Ying skipped over to Senior Sister Qin, her beautiful eyes scanning Qin's pretty face, laughing and saying, "Senior Sister Qin, are you thinking about your man again?"

Among the ten female disciples under Fairy Xuanbing, Senior Sister Qin shared the closest relationship with Xiao Ying, as close as sisters, with nearly no secrets between them.

Senior Sister Qin had once confessed her Martial Dao companion matter to Xiao Ying, making Xiao Ying curious about the man named Fang Bai, who bewitched her senior sister.

Xiao Ying also knew that if nothing hindered her, Senior Sister Qin would come here every day, standing and gazing at the vast, endless hundred-thousand-mile Ice Sea.

Whenever seeing her senior sister deep in thought, with a heavy heart, the perceptive and astute Xiao Ying guessed that Qin was surely missing her man.

"Yes, I'm thinking of him again!"

Without a glimmer of shyness on her face, Senior Sister Qin admitted openly.

"But I've heard that the longer Martial Dao companions are apart, the colder their feelings become. How is it different for you and your man?"

Slightly confused by matters of love and romance, Xiao Ying asked with a puzzled face.

Senior Sister Qin smiled, touching Xiao Ying's head, saying, "Those kinds of Martial Dao companions don't share true love. Xiao Ying, when you truly like someone in the future, you'll understand the longer you're apart, the deeper your yearning grows."

Xiao Ying said, "That's not what Master says! Master says all men are fickle and deceitful, not a single good one among them!"

Senior Sister Qin said, "Perhaps Master was hurt by love in her youth, leading to her extreme views on men. But my man is not like that!"

Xiao Ying stuck out her tongue, her lively eyes darting around before whispering, "Senior Sister Qin, keep your voice down! If Master hears us, we'll be in trouble!"

Senior Sister Qin was indifferent, pouting as she said, "At worst, I'll be punished to meditate on my wrongs at the back mountain. These past years, I've grown used to it!"

"No wonder Master says you're the most disobedient among the ten disciples! You've been punished so many times and still don't change!"

Xiao Ying chuckled and continued, "But in truth, although Master is a bit extreme, she's genuinely good to you. Over the years, no matter what mistakes you made, she at most punished you with three months of meditation. If it were other senior sisters, the punishment would be several times harsher!"

Senior Sister Qin nodded, "Master's treatment of me is faultless. But stopping me from finding my man, she meddles too much!"

She paused, sighing, "Xiao Ying, I only talk about this with you. I wouldn't share it before the other senior sisters."

Xiao Ying earnestly reassured, "Don't worry, Senior Sister Qin, I'll keep our conversation a secret and won't tell anyone, not even Master!"

Xiao Ying was an orphan, picked up and raised by Fairy Xuanbing while still in swaddling clothes.

However, Fairy Xuanbing's cold and aloof, harsh and pedantic nature instilled more fear than reverence in Xiao Ying for her Master.

In contrast, the beautiful, gentle, and understanding Senior Sister Qin felt like family to Xiao Ying, who had long seen her as a true elder sister and shared everything with her first.

Senior Sister Qin had expressed a desire to leave Xuanbing Mountain, and Xiao Ying was willing to follow her, but both of them had a strand of Fairy Xuanbing's aura injected into their bodies. If they strayed far from Xuanbing Mountain, Fairy Xuanbing would know.

Considering the severe punishment they'd face if caught escaping, Senior Sister Qin and Xiao Ying dared not leave rashly.

"I truly hope my power grows soon! Only by surpassing Master can I hope to leave Xuanbing Mountain. Otherwise, I'll never escape Master's clutches in this lifetime!"

Senior Sister Qin sighed helplessly.

This Senior Sister Qin was indeed Fang Bai's sole remaining affectionate companion yet to be found, Qin Yaorao.

Every day, Qin Yaorao gazed at the Ice Sea, hoping one day, Fang Bai, clad in white as snow, would suddenly appear to take her away.

Yet even after years as Fairy Xuanbing's disciple, encountering many experts breaching Xuanbing Mountain, she never received any news of Fang Bai.

She knew that as long as Fang Bai was somewhere in the three-thousand great worlds, he would surely search everywhere for her, but she was unsure of Fang Bai's current cultivation level and whether he dared to enter the so-called forbidden zone of Xuanbing Mountain.

Inside, Qin Yaorao both hoped and feared Fang Bai's arrival, torn by contradictions.