

Doctor 1971

Chapter 1971: Jade Lake · Flood Dragon Venerable

Fang Bai resisted the high-ranking members of Frost Tower with two clusters of Spiritual Fire, using the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade to attack. He didn't hope to defeat them, but merely sought a chance to escape.

The Blood-Drinking Mad Blade had its own spirit, and after acknowledging Fang Bai as its master, it no longer required his mental effort to control and could attack the opponents on its own.

Sure enough, when the blade slashed out, Yu Chao and the other senior members of Frost Tower had to divert their attention to resist, thereby reducing the powerful pressure on Fang Bai considerably.

"Let's go!"

With the pressure relieved, Fang Bai was greatly relieved. He put away the two clusters of Spiritual Fire, grabbed Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying one on each side, and rushed towards the sky.

With a thought, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade suddenly expanded several times, flying swiftly under their feet, carrying them towards the distant horizon, and they were thousands of feet away in an instant.

Yu Chao could never have imagined that his side, with over ten Thunder Tribulation Realm Great Calamity Period experts acting together, could not trap Fang Bai, a mere Thunder Tribulation Seventh Realm expert, causing him extreme humiliation and anger.

Yu Chao knew that while their side battled Fang Bai, many experts inside Ice Dragon City were quietly observing with Divine Sense. If Fang Bai escaped this time, not only would his reputation as Tower Master be ruined, but Frost Tower would also become a laughingstock among the millions of experts in Ice Dragon City.

"Chase!"

Yu Chao's eyes turned blood-red, he shouted fiercely, and took the lead in driving his Spiritual Artifact to follow.

Liu Qianren and other senior members of Frost Tower knew that the outcome of this battle would affect the reputation and prestige of Frost Tower, so they also flew skyward to pursue with full force.

In the sky above Ice Dragon City, a dozen streaks of light flashed like lightning, flying towards the endless mountains thousands of miles away.

Although Fang Bai was flying with the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, he was limited by his own Cultivation Level and couldn't unleash the blade's fastest flight speed. Hence, he couldn't immediately shake off Yu Chao and the others' pursuit.

And though over half of Yu Chao and his group's cultivation were stronger than Fang Bai's, their Spiritual Artifacts were of lower grade than the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, so they couldn't catch up to Fang Bai just yet.

Therefore, the distance between the pursuing and fleeing parties remained at about a thousand feet.

"Brother Fang, can you fly faster, or else we can't shake them off!"

Xiao Ying glanced back, faintly seeing the figures of Yu Chao and his group, fearing they would catch up, and showed an anxious expression.

"Don't worry, Xiao Ying, Brother Fang has his own method!"

Liu Qingqing was initially worried as Xiao Ying was, but seeing Fang Bai's calm face and even a slight smile at the corner of his mouth, appearing very confident, she relaxed and comforted Xiao Ying in turn.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "You two stand firm, I'm taking you to a fun place now!"

With those words, he moved his feet, and the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade changed direction, accelerating towards the northeast.

Seeing Fang Bai suddenly speed up, Yu Chao and the others fully pushed their Spiritual Artifacts to chase.

In the mountains more than two thousand miles from Ice Dragon City, there lay a vast lake of several hundred miles in circumference. Despite the harsh cold weather of the Land of Extreme North, this lake never froze, and even the water temperature reached dozens of degrees, with wisps of white smoke occasionally rising from the surface.

The lake water was emerald green, and from an aerial view, it appeared as a giant oval-shaped piece of jade embedded in the earth, so experts of Ice Dragon City called it "Jade Lake."

The water of Jade Lake was exceptionally deep, though clear, it was hard to see the bottom, and small Spirit Beast could often be seen swimming on the surface.

The surrounding towering snow mountains reflected in the lake, interchanging white and green, creating a stunningly beautiful scene.

The area around Jade Lake was filled with more dense and pure Water Spirit Qi than other regions, thus it was a rare cultivation spot for the strong of Ice Dragon City. Every day, many experts gathered around the lake and on the island in its center, focusing on their cultivation.

Jade Lake was formed many years ago, and it had existed since Fang Bai's previous life when he cultivated there.

While cultivating here years ago, Fang Bai befriended several Flood Dragons residing deep in the lake, some of which ascended to the Immortal Realm with him, while others failed to transform into dragons and remained in Jade Lake.

Flood Dragons have long lifespans, far exceeding those of human experts, but after tens of thousands of years, those Flood Dragons who failed to become true dragons must have already perished; however, their offspring should remain.

Newly born Flood Dragons are at the Thunder Tribulation Realm, and a mature Flood Dragon's might is formidable, fearless of human Thunder Tribulation Ninth Realm experts.

Fang Bai flew over Jade Lake intending to seek aid from the Flood Dragons.

Fang Bai's Five Elements Space Ring contained the Bixie Immortal Beast, a "big weapon," but unless absolutely necessary, Fang Bai did not want to reveal it to avoid shocking the world.

A few Flood Dragons were sufficient to deal with Yu Chao and his group.

"You little ones, this island is claimed by Flood Dragon Venerable, you should go somewhere else to cultivate!"

As Fang Bai landed on a small island at the center of Jade Lake with Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying, a mighty voice called out.

Fang Bai turned towards the voice and saw a strong man in a green robe striding over.

The green-robed man had tiger-like eyes and a broad mouth, an imposing figure taller than two meters, moving with the determination of a small mountain, with each footstep causing the island to quake slightly.

"This Flood Dragon Venerable is actually a Thunder Tribulation Ninth Realm expert, seemingly stronger than Frost Tower's Tower Master, Yu Chao..."

Fang Bai glanced askew at the self-proclaimed "Flood Dragon Venerable," feeling intrigued. He smiled, cupped his fist, and asked, "Flood Dragon Venerable, I wonder if this title relates to the Flood Dragons of Jade Lake?"

Flood Dragon Venerable paused in surprise, stepped in front of Fang Bai, observed him for a few moments, then asked, "How do you know there are Flood Dragons in Jade Lake, little one?"

Fang Bai smiled mysteriously, saying, "Not only do I know there are Flood Dragons in this lake, but I've seen them too!"

"No way! I don't believe it!"

Flood Dragon Venerable shook his head, his voice booming, "I've lived for hundreds of years, watching over Jade Lake for two hundred years, and only glimpsed the Flood Dragons once. How could a young one like you, around seventeen or eighteen, have seen them?"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "If Flood Dragons don't appear, wouldn't you dive into the lake to meet them? That's what I did back then!"

Flood Dragon Venerable opened his mouth wide, laughing loudly, "You cheeky young one, trying to fool me? The Flood Dragon's power is formidable! It's said that back then, two Thunder Tribulation Ninth Realm Artifact Refiners attempted to kill it for its sinew and bones to craft a Spiritual Artifact, only to be devoured by the Flood Dragon! And you dare disturb the Flood Dragon's peace by diving into the lake and still surface alive?"

Fang Bai smirked, saying, "Meeting a Flood Dragon isn't difficult. What if I can do it?"

Flood Dragon Venerable snorted, "Then I, Flood Dragon Venerable, will form a vow of brotherhood with you and call you brother!"

Chapter 1972: White Flood Dragon

As the two were speaking, more than a dozen streaks of light descended from the sky, surrounding Fang Bai, Liu Qingqing, Xiao Ying, and the Flood Dragon Venerable.

The newcomers were Yu Chao and over a dozen other high-ranking members of Frost Tower.

Seeing Fang Bai chatting and laughing with the Flood Dragon Venerable, Yu Chao and the others assumed they were friends. Thus, they also harbored hostility toward the Flood Dragon Venerable, enveloping him in their powerful aura.

The Flood Dragon Venerable, sensing the ill intentions of Yu Chao and the others, frowned and was about to speak when Fang Bai shouted loudly, "Brother Flood Dragon, let's join forces and kill all these people. Then we can split the cultivation resources of Frost Tower!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable was taken aback. Before he could react, Fang Bai had already summoned the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and initiated an attack on Yu Chao and his group.

Seeing this, Yu Chao and the others shouted angrily and cursed, launching a counterattack. Half of them dealt with Fang Bai and his allies, while the other half targeted the Flood Dragon Venerable.

The Flood Dragon Venerable was no fool. He quickly realized Fang Bai deliberately dragged him into the fray and couldn't help but feel amused, though not too angry. He repelled the combined assault of several high-ranking Frost Tower members with a palm strike and laughed, "You little rascal, how dare you set me up like this!"

After a pause, he added, "I'm not interested in killing these people, but I have no problem helping you drive them away. But we have an agreement, you must take me to see the Flood Dragon! If you break your word, I'll throw you into the lake as food for the Flood Dragon!"

Fang Bai chuckled and said, "No problem!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable was a powerhouse of the ninth level of the heavenly tribulation, his combat strength comparable to Fang Bai's. Drawing him into the battle was greatly beneficial for Fang Bai.

Seeing the Flood Dragon Venerable indeed join the fray against Yu Chao, Fang Bai felt secretly pleased.

Though Frost Tower's side had more people, they only had Yu Chao as a powerhouse of the ninth level of the heavenly tribulation; while Fang Bai's side had only two people, they both possessed combat strength of the ninth level of the heavenly tribulation.

By joining forces, even if they couldn't defeat the powerful members of Frost Tower, they could remain undefeated, perhaps even without summoning the Flood Dragon or the Bixie Immortal Beast, they could drive them away.

Facing Yu Chao, an old powerhouse of the ninth level of the heavenly tribulation, the Flood Dragon Venerable dared not be arrogant and likewise summoned his spiritual artifact, fighting with all his might.

Fang Bai noticed that his spiritual artifact was a giant spear, resembling a Flood Dragon, of royal grade superior, and thought that his title "Flood Dragon Venerable" probably originated from this spiritual artifact.

Fang Bai wielded the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, with combat strength comparable to a powerhouse of the ninth level of the heavenly tribulation.

But with Yu Chao aside, the combined strength of Liu Qianren and over a dozen other high-ranking Frost Tower members was also comparable to a powerhouse of the ninth level of the heavenly tribulation. Thus, the two sides fought evenly, and it was difficult to determine the winner in a short time.

While attacking and defending, Fang Bai also had to protect Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying behind him from harm, making it hard to battle freely. Yet even so, he was not at a disadvantage in the intense fight.

This made Liu Qianren and the others increasingly alarmed as the battle went on, thinking that if this kid could free up his hands, they might be the ones unable to hold out in the end.

The battle on Lake Heart Island attracted many strong spectators cultivating around, and the originally calm lake waters were stirred into huge waves.

At this time, apart from Fang Bai, probably no one noticed that at a thousand meters deep at the lake bottom, a giant cave had a few dormant Flood Dragons slowly opening their eyes and beginning to stir restlessly.

A mature White Flood Dragon with two protrusions on its head gleamed with fierce light, silently swimming tens of meters toward the lake surface.

This Flood Dragon, with terrifying combat power and a strong body, even a human powerhouse of the ninth level of the heavenly tribulation would have to cautiously avoid it.

In its movement, it concealed its aura so well that it couldn't be discovered unless one deliberately spread their divine sense to probe it.

While Fang Bai battled Liu Qianren and the others, he pretended to be overwhelmed, retreating toward the edge of Lake Heart Island, while Liu Qianren and the others kept pushing forward, getting closer to the lake surface.

"Splash!"

With a sound of water, a hundred meters from Lake Heart Island, the lake waters suddenly parted, and a White Flood Dragon shot out from the lake like lightning, with no warning, revealing over twenty meters of its upper body and opening its mouth to pounce on Fang Bai and the others.

Fang Bai had long been prepared. As the Flood Dragon emerged from the water, he moved sideways, instantly appearing a hundred meters away.

The over a dozen high-ranking Frost Tower members with Liu Qianren were stunned for a moment. The first few were swallowed by the Flood Dragon, becoming its meal.

"Roar..."

The White Flood Dragon let out a dragon's roar, sweeping its upper body in a horizontal motion, knocking aside several high-ranking Frost Tower members, including Liu Qianren.

Its collision was immensely powerful, and although Liu Qianren and the others had strong bodies, they couldn't withstand it. They were sent flying high by the immense force, blood spraying wildly in midair, grievously injured before falling into the lake, unconscious.

The few Frost Tower powerhouses who luckily escaped were terrified, quickly maneuvering their spiritual artifacts to fly into the air.

For a moment, Fang Bai had no opponents left.

Yu Chao, who was fiercely battling the Flood Dragon Venerable, saw the legendary Flood Dragon suddenly appear, causing heavy losses to his side. His mind was filled with mixed feelings, and he immediately fell into a disadvantage.

Knowing that continuing the battle, Fang Bai and this big man in front of him would certainly defeat him, Yu Chao lost his will to fight.

The Flood Dragon Venerable, knowing Frost Tower was a top sect and not fearing them, didn't want to become arch-enemies with them, so seeing Yu Chao losing his fighting spirit, he retracted his spear and shouted, "I'll spare your life, now leave!"

Yu Chao glared at him resentfully, lightly tapping his foot on the ground, and his figure flew into the air, not daring to linger, fleeing far away with the high-ranking Frost Tower members who escaped the Flood Dragon's attack, not caring to save the grievously injured, unconscious Liu Qianren and others.

"Fang Bai, save godfather..."

Liu Qingqing anxiously said, seeing the White Flood Dragon about to turn and devour the unconscious Liu Qianren in the lake.

Fang Bai chirped several strange, elongated sounds, the White Flood Dragon's body paused, then slowly extended its head toward Fang Bai.

"It's a Flood Dragon...a real Flood Dragon..."

The Flood Dragon Venerable, having waited in the Jade Lake region for a hundred years, was seeing a Flood Dragon for only the second time, and this time he could observe it up close, leaving him both awed and excited.

Seeing the Flood Dragon approach Fang Bai, he wanted to remind Fang Bai to dodge, yet noticed the Flood Dragon had no hostile intent, even seeming to be close to Fang Bai. He couldn't help feeling strange, staring with wide eyes.

As the White Flood Dragon approached, Fang Bai chirped again, the White Flood Dragon blinked, and its gaze toward Fang Bai became more affectionate, even rubbing its huge head against Fang Bai's body.

This left the Flood Dragon Venerable stupefied, finding it incredible, and he couldn't help asking, "Young one, can you communicate with the Flood Dragon?"

Fang Bai replied, "Humans have human language, beasts have beast speech. I understand the Beast Taming Technique and can communicate with all spirit beasts."

After a pause, he added, "Actually, this Flood Dragon is already intelligent and capable of speaking human language, but it simply can't be bothered to converse with humans. If you don't believe me, try saying hello to it?"

Chapter 1973: Flood Dragon's Gift of Treasure

There are many legends about the Flood Dragons in Jade Lake.

The most widespread is that the Flood Dragon in this lake has the bloodline of an Immortal Dragon, capable of transforming into a dragon and ascending to the Immortal Realm in due time.

The legendary Immortal Dragons possess mighty powers that can connect heaven and earth, summon wind and rain, control thunder and lightning, and are powerfully awe-inspiring beings.

In the eyes of the Flood Dragon Venerable, although the battle prowess of the White Flood Dragon before him is comparable to his own, the two small bulges on its head are signs of its impending transformation into a dragon.

Perhaps in a hundred or a thousand years, the two bulges on the Flood Dragon's head will turn into a pair of dragon horns, and its body will be covered with dragon scales, enabling it to rise into the Immortal Domain with wind and clouds.

As such, the Flood Dragon Venerable holds this White Flood Dragon in reverence.

Seeing the legendary Flood Dragon treating Fang Bai so affectionately, as if they were old friends, the Flood Dragon Venerable was marvelously surprised, immediately believing Fang Bai's claim of understanding the Beast Taming Technique and communicating with all Spirit Beasts.

Hearing Fang Bai greet the Flood Dragon himself, the Flood Dragon Venerable felt a bit nervous, but still braved it and waved to the Flood Dragon, respectfully saying, "Greetings, senior Flood Dragon."

The Flood Dragon Venerable knew that the two small bulges on this Flood Dragon's head indicated it had at least a thousand-year lifespan and that its battle prowess exceeded his own, thus he addressed it as "senior."

In the three thousand great worlds, Flood Dragons are undoubtedly among the fiercest and most noble Spirit Beasts. The White Flood Dragon in front of him usually regards human experts as ants and would ignore the Flood Dragon Venerable if not for Fang Bai's presence.

"Hello, human!"

Seeing the Flood Dragon Venerable greet it, the Flood Dragon opened its mouth to speak, nodding slightly, full of pride.

Regardless, the Flood Dragon Venerable still felt surprisingly honored.

After all, there are only a few formidable beings in this world who can converse with Flood Dragons face to face.

After exchanging greetings with the Flood Dragon Venerable, the Flood Dragon ignored him and continued its conversation with Fang Bai.

The person and the beast engaged in a dialogue in a language only they understood. Whatever Fang Bai said, the Flood Dragon became very excited, lowering its head and affectionately rubbing it against Fang Bai.

"This Flood Dragon might transform into an Immortal Dragon one day! I wonder what power this little guy has to make the Flood Dragon so affectionate towards him!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable envied the delightful exchange between the White Flood Dragon and Fang Bai, growing increasingly respectful of Fang Bai.

Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying, intimidated by the powerful aura emanating from the Flood Dragon, dared not approach and stood watching from a distance.

"You two, come and meet Xiao Bai, the Flood Dragon."

Fang Bai waved them over with a smile.

Hearing Fang Bai, the Flood Dragon Venerable chuckled wryly, thinking about how he had just addressed the White Flood Dragon as "Flood Dragon senior," but now, from Fang Bai's mouth, "Flood Dragon senior" became "Xiao Bai, the Flood Dragon."

To his surprise, the White Flood Dragon did not mind being called "Xiao Bai" by Fang Bai; it even seemed to quite like it.

Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying cautiously approached the White Flood Dragon, feeling a bit restrained and nervous, reaching out to touch the head the White Flood Dragon extended towards them before quickly retracting their hands.

The White Flood Dragon possessed great intelligence, seemingly discerning the close relationship between these two human women and Fang Bai, and was much more amicable towards them than towards the Flood Dragon Venerable.

The many powerful beings observing around Jade Lake were shockingly amazed upon witnessing this scene.

They had all heard about the existence of a Flood Dragon in Jade Lake, so they dared not make any noise while cultivating in the area, fearing to disturb the Flood Dragon and attract deadly trouble.

However, seeing the Flood Dragon tame and even allowing humans to touch its head left them incredulous.

Suddenly, the Flood Dragon exchanged some unclear communication with Fang Bai before abruptly diving to the bottom of the lake.

"Brother Fang Bai, why did the Flood Dragon go into the lake?"

Xiao Ying asked in puzzlement, her heart still excited and thrilled from just having touched the legendary Flood Dragon's head, an experience few in the world ever have.

Liu Qingqing looked curiously at Fang Bai as well.

Fang Bai smiled mysteriously at Xiao Ying and said, "The Flood Dragon has many treasures hidden and wants to give them to me."

The Flood Dragon quickly returned, surfaced from the water, and swam to Fang Bai.

Opening its mouth, it sprayed a jet of lake water onto the island. As the water seeped into the ground, Fang Bai and the others were astonished to find over a hundred various Space Rings appearing on the ground.

Most of these Space Rings looked very ancient, evidently having lain at the lake's bottom for countless ages, with some even showing spots of green rust.

"Xiao Bai said that these Space Rings were left by an ancestor of the Flood Dragon tribe who transformed into a dragon and ascended to the Immortal Realm tens of thousands of years ago. The original owners of these rings were all human Venerables at the ninth realm of Heavenly Tribulation, who intended to slay the Flood Dragon tribe for their flesh and bones to enhance their prowess but were instead devoured by powerful Flood Dragons, leaving these Space Rings ownerless..."

"These over a hundred Space Rings are all Royal Grade superior storage Spiritual Artifacts, each containing a substantial amount of precious Cultivation Resources."

Fang Bai picked up a few Space Rings in his palm, showing them to the nearby Flood Dragon Venerable, Liu Qingqing, and Xiao Ying.

Not just Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying, but even the Flood Dragon Venerable was envious upon seeing those ancient Space Rings on the ground, believing that the Cultivation Resources from the artifacts of ninth realm Heavenly Tribulation Venerables must be extraordinary, and the combined number of over a hundred Space Rings would be astounding.

"The promise of sharing means you three can each take some as well!"

As Fang Bai spoke, thirty of the Space Rings rose from the ground, ten suspended before the Flood Dragon Venerable, Liu Qingqing, and Xiao Ying, respectively.

"I... I have them too?"

The Flood Dragon Venerable was greatly surprised. He assumed Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying were Fang Bai's women, so it seemed reasonable for Fang Bai to give them Space Rings, but he had only just met Fang Bai briefly. Why would he bestow such a generous gift upon him?

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Just now, the Flood Dragon helped me fend off formidable enemies; consider this a gesture of gratitude!"

If it were anything else, the Flood Dragon Venerable might not have been interested. But the ten Space Rings of ninth realm Heavenly Tribulation Venerables were something he could not refuse, so he cheerfully said, "In that case, I shall respectfully accept your generous offer."

Saying so, he transferred the ten Space Rings before him into his own Space Ring.

Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying, after a bit of modest refusal, joyfully accepted the Space Rings.

For them, these Cultivation Resources not only came in vast quantities but were also all of Royal Grade superior quality, sufficient for many years of cultivation needs. Being personally gifted by Fang Bai, their hearts were full of joy.

Chapter 1974: Sworn Brotherhood

Fang Bai stroked the head of the White Flood Dragon, speaking softly to it for a long time. As for what he said, Liu Qingqing, Xiao Ying, and the Flood Dragon Venerable listened as if it were heavenly scripture, completely bewildered.

However, the appearance of the White Flood Dragon seemed to be attentively listening, its dragon eyes radiating a captivated glow.

"Little White Flood Dragon, we must leave now! Once you get back, greet the other Flood Dragons on my behalf!"

Fang Bai finally said to the White Flood Dragon.

Upon hearing that Fang Bai was leaving, the White Flood Dragon bit his sleeve, seemingly reluctant to let him go.

Fang Bai laughed and said, "Little White Flood Dragon, we still have matters to attend to back in Ice Dragon City and can't stay any longer. If fate allows, we will meet again in the future!"

Only then did the White Flood Dragon release Fang Bai. It let out a dragon's roar to the sky, churned in the water for a while, and finally slowly submerged to the lake bottom.

"Brother Fang Bai, what did you just say to Little White Flood Dragon? It seemed so happy!"

After the White Flood Dragon disappeared, Xiao Ying curiously asked.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "I just imparted to it a cultivation method specifically for the Dragon Clan. If it cultivates diligently, one day it will transform into a true dragon and ascend to the Immortal Realm. How could it not be happy?"

Xiao Ying exclaimed, her eyes wide open, "A Dragon Clan cultivation technique? Brother Fang Bai, you even know that?"

Liu Qingqing, who had known Fang Bai in the Minor World, was aware that Fang Bai knew many mystical arts, so she was not as surprised as Xiao Ying.

As for the Flood Dragon Venerable, he looked utterly shocked.

When he first met Fang Bai, he was amazed to find that this young man already possessed a cultivation level of seven tribulations under the Heavenly Tribulation.

Later, Fang Bai displayed the ability to challenge those above his level, singlehandedly fighting against over a dozen high-ranking members of the Frost Tower, further proving his extraordinary nature as a rare prodigy.

After that, the fearsome White Flood Dragon behaved tamely and affectionately in front of Fang Bai, causing the Flood Dragon Venerable to see him in a new light, considering him a formidable peer.

And now, hearing that Fang Bai had imparted a cultivation method to the White Flood Dragon, claiming it could help it ascend to the Immortal Rank, the Flood Dragon Venerable was greatly astonished.

To enable a Flood Dragon to ascend to the Immortal Realm, wouldn't that mean Fang Bai had given the White Flood Dragon an Immortal Rank cultivation method?

The White Flood Dragon, having awakened its intelligence long ago, was even smarter than most human experts. It could not fail to discern truth from falsehood. Seeing its captivated expression earlier further proved that the cultivation method Fang Bai imparted was not fabricated from thin air.

"This young man is shrouded in mystery; I wonder where he hails from..."

The Flood Dragon Venerable looked at Fang Bai with a complex expression, already harboring a bit of awe in his heart.

Suddenly struck by a thought, he said to Fang Bai, "Earlier, I mentioned that if you could introduce me to the Flood Dragon, we would become sworn brothers. It's time to fulfill that promise now!"

Fang Bai smiled, "Do we really need to become sworn brothers? Just consider it as a casual remark."

With a stern expression, the Flood Dragon Venerable said, "How could that be? As the Flood Dragon Venerable, I always keep my word and never go back on it! Come, let's vow and become sworn brothers now!"

With that "plop," he knelt down first, disregarding whether Fang Bai agreed or not.

Fang Bai said, "You're kneeling already? You're serious about this?"

The Flood Dragon Venerable replied, "Why, you don't want to? Or do you look down on me, the Flood Dragon Venerable?"

Fang Bai hastily said, "How could I! Becoming sworn brothers with Brother Flood Dragon is something I eagerly desire!"

These words from Fang Bai were genuine, as the Flood Dragon Venerable was a powerful cultivator at the ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation and a loose cultivator. The Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace needed strong individuals like him. If they became sworn brothers, it would naturally pave the way to bring him into the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Right then, Fang Bai knelt beside the Flood Dragon Venerable, and the two of them made a vow of brotherhood.

The Flood Dragon Venerable, his wish fulfilled, couldn't help but laugh heartily, patting Fang Bai's shoulder and saying, "Good brother, from now on, we share blessings and hardships together!"

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Actually, there's something I'd like to ask of you, Brother."

The Flood Dragon Venerable was taken aback, then said, "Speak. Whether I can help or not, I will certainly try my best!"

Fang Bai said, "I've established a sect in the Heaven's Net Realm of the Western Desolate Continent and would like to invite Brother to be an elder there. How does that sound to Brother?"

Being a loose cultivator, the Flood Dragon Venerable was accustomed to living freely and independently. Fang Bai's invitation for him to join a sect made him feel a bit troubled, and he hesitated, scratching his head, "This..."

"Currently, there are already many powerful individuals at my sect, including one whose combat power rivals that of the Half-Immortal Rank!"

Fang Bai continued.

The mention of a Half-Immortal Rank expert piqued the Flood Dragon Venerable's interest, his eyes lighting up, "Who is this Half-Immortal Rank expert?"

Fang Bai replied, "Xuan Feng Venerable. Brother, have you heard of him?"

The Flood Dragon Venerable laughed, "So it's him! Haha, you won't fool me, brother! While traveling across three thousand major worlds, I met Xuan Feng Venerable, and we became good friends. However, his cultivation level is similar to mine and not a Half-Immortal Rank expert at all!"

Fang Bai smiled as well and said, "People change after three days! Xuan Feng Venerable was indeed a ninth-level Heavenly Tribulation expert before, but his combat power rose to the Half-Immortal Rank after meeting me."

The Flood Dragon Venerable, unwilling to believe, shook his head, "Xuan Feng Venerable's talent is on par with mine, and our cultivation levels have reached their limits. Trying to advance further is impossible! You can't deceive me!"

Fang Bai said, "What if Xuan Feng Venerable possessed an Immortal Artifact?"

The Flood Dragon Venerable raised an eyebrow in surprise, "An... an Immortal Artifact? How could he have one?"

Seeing Fang Bai with a smile, he suddenly had a realization, pointing at Fang Bai and saying, "Could it be that you..."

"Indeed! Xuan Feng Venerable's Immortal Artifact was my gift! If Brother doesn't believe it, take a look at my blade..."

Fang Bai summoned the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, gently stroking its blade with his hand, and said, "My Blood Blade is also an Immortal Artifact. Having acquired one Immortal Artifact, I could certainly acquire a second! Xuan Feng Venerable was kind to me in the past, so I gifted another Immortal Artifact to him! Thanks to that artifact, his combat power reached the Half-Immortal Rank realm!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable examined the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in Fang Bai's hand, sensing its overwhelming fiendish aura and intense murderous intent. Being careless for a moment, one might fall into a terrifying illusion. He recalled how Fang Bai singlehandedly fought against more than a dozen experts from the Frost Tower, possibly due to the immortal power of this blade.

"Immortal Artifacts are treasures dreams of by cultivators in the world; you... you are willing to give them away..."

The Flood Dragon Venerable murmured.

Fang Bai smiled, "What's rare about that? If there's a chance to obtain another Immortal Artifact in the future, I'll gift one to Brother as well! Also, Brother mentioned earlier that your cultivation level with Xuan Feng Venerable has reached their limits, but I disagree. To be honest, I possess an Immortal Rank cultivation technique, and if Brother studies and cultivates with it, it isn't a dream to ascend and become an immortal in the future!"

Chapter 1975: Self-Detonation of a Ninth-Tier Heavenly Tribulation Powerhouse

Under Fang Bai's persuasion, the Flood Dragon Venerable, harboring longing for ascending to the Immortal Realm, finally agreed to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and become a member of the palace.

"Frost Tower has suffered the loss of many high-level members this time, significantly weakening its overall strength, and it will surely become the target of various covetous parties. Just in time, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace needs a large number of cultivation resources. We should go and destroy Frost Tower, and take their cultivation resources!"

Fang Bai thought that after the strong practitioners of Frost Tower returned to Ice Dragon City, other sects in Ice Dragon City might seize the opportunity to hit them when they're down, wipe them out, and then divide their cultivation resources.

Rather than letting other sects take advantage, it would be better for Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable to immediately return to Ice Dragon City and claim the cultivation resources of Frost Tower for themselves.

Frost Tower is, after all, a top-level strong sect of the time, and their foundation must be rich. If these cultivation resources are obtained, they can be brought back to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace for the disciples in the palace to use for cultivation in the future.

Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable teamed up and descended on Ice Dragon City, bringing with them the might of severely damaging Frost Tower, which was sure to intimidate the various forces within Ice Dragon City.

The Flood Dragon Venerable had waited on the Lake Heart Island of Jade Lake for a hundred years, making little progress in his cultivation, which inevitably left him with some regret. However, he finally saw the legendary Flood Dragon and thus fulfilled his wish, which was somewhat comforting.

"Let's go!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable said nothing more and flew away from Jade Lake with Fang Bai, Liu Qingqing, and Xiao Ying, back to Ice Dragon City.

Fang Bai promised to teach the Flood Dragon Venerable Immortal Rank cultivation techniques to help him ascend to the Immortal Realm, which had a strong attraction for the Flood Dragon Venerable. Even if Fang Bai were to drive him away now, he would not leave.

When Fang Bai and the other three returned to Ice Dragon City, the city was already in chaos.

Just as Fang Bai expected, the other three major strong sects in Ice Dragon City, upon learning that Frost Tower had been defeated at Jade Lake, believed it was an excellent opportunity to destroy Frost Tower and divide its many years of foundation. They gathered their respective forces and attacked the area controlled by Frost Tower in the northwest of the city.

As the saying goes, "A camel, though skinny, is bigger than a horse."

Despite being seriously injured at Jade Lake, losing much of their overall strength, the Frost Tower, with a millennium-old foundation, did not easily yield. Tens of thousands of disciples in the sect, led by Sect Master Yu Chao, fought against strong enemies with the mindset of facing death.

According to Yu Chao, even if the Frost Tower couldn't escape the calamity of destruction in the end, they wouldn't let the three major sects have an easy time, and they were ready for a life-and-death struggle.

In this battle, although the disciples of Frost Tower suffered severe casualties, the three major sects also paid a heavy price. For hundreds of miles in the northwest of the city, killing intent was rampant, spiritual energy surged, and the scene was one of corpses piled up and oceans of blood, extremely tragic.

When Fang Bai, the Flood Dragon Venerable, Liu Qingqing, and Xiao Ying arrived at Frost Tower, they witnessed such a scene.

For the strong practitioners from the Three Thousand Worlds, they were already accustomed to life-and-death and bloodshed, so what they saw didn't surprise even the youngest, Xiao Ying.

"It's you!"

Yu Chao, being encircled by the Sect Masters of the three major strong sects, had already reached the end of his strength. When he saw Fang Bai and his group of four descending, he suddenly let out a harsh shout, which contained boundless hatred.

Previously, Fang Bai had a fierce battle with the strong practitioners of Frost Tower over Liu Qingqing, which attracted a lot of attention from strong practitioners in Ice Dragon City, so many recognized Fang Bai.

The upper echelons of the three major sects knew that the strong practitioners of Frost Tower had been severely injured at Jade Lake due to Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable joining forces. Now upon seeing them appear in Ice Dragon City, they speculated that they might also be after Frost Tower's cultivation resources, making their feelings instantly complex.

Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable both possessed the power of the ninth layer of the Heavenly Tribulation, and although the three major sects had many disciples, having just fought fiercely with Frost Tower, they suffered considerable losses. If they were to engage in a conflict with Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable after this battle ended, it would be no good for the three major sects.

As for Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying, their strength was too weak to affect the situation, so they were directly ignored by the upper echelons of the three major sects.

"How about we join forces to destroy Frost Tower and then evenly split their cultivation resources?"

The Flying Cloud Pavilion Master, having joined forces with the other sect masters to repel Yu Chao, loudly suggested to Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable.

Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable had yet to respond when Yu Chao roared angrily, "You covetous lot eyeing our sect's cultivation resources, don't think any of you will escape unscathed!"

As he spoke, his clothes rapidly inflated, and the energy within a radius of a thousand feet surged wildly, creating a chaotic and frantic atmosphere. Everyone within this space felt a deadly crisis.

"Not good, he's going to self-detonate!"

The Pavilion Master of Flying Cloud Pavilion shouted, his face showing horror, as he tried to retreat with all his might.

The other two Sect Masters also paled and retreated with all their strength.

The Flood Dragon Venerable and Fang Bai were doing the same, trying to get as far away from Yu Chao as possible.

A strong practitioner at the ninth layer of the Heavenly Tribulation possesses extraordinary strength, and the destructive power at the moment of their self-detonation is several times that of their attack power. No strong practitioner within a thousand feet of the same rank can withstand it, let alone those below the ninth layer.

Yu Chao harbored deep hatred toward Fang Bai, the Flood Dragon Venerable, and the Sect Masters of the three major sects. Seeing Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable appear, he had already prepared to self-detonate, thinking that even if he couldn't die together with them, he would severely injure them, thus dying without regret.

"Boom!"

Within two or three breaths, Yu Chao's body, having prepared fully, suddenly exploded.

A violent shockwave expanded outward at lightning speed, instantly sweeping across a thousand feet, and enveloped Fang Bai, the Flood Dragon Venerable, the three Sect Masters, and numerous strong practitioners from the three major sects in the shockwave generated by Yu Chao's self-detonation.

The violent energy, like autumn wind sweeping away fallen leaves, destroyed everything within a thousand miles. All strong practitioners who failed to withdraw beyond a thousand feet in time were hit by the violent energy, with some falling on the spot.

The Sect Masters of the three major sects, as well as many high-level members, also suffered varying degrees of injuries, reducing their combat power by more than half.

The Flood Dragon Venerable had thought that he and Fang Bai would not escape this disaster, but when the violent energy reached them, he found himself pulled into a dark space by Fang Bai. Then he heard a loud "bang," felt his body quiver slightly, but remained unharmed.

Before he could respond, he found the space brightening as he emerged from that dark space.

In confusion, he immediately looked at Fang Bai, only to see Fang Bai calmly putting away a small cauldron.

The Flood Dragon Venerable, with sharp eyes, immediately saw that the small cauldron was no ordinary spiritual artifact and pointed to it, saying, "Palace Master, did we just take shelter inside this small cauldron?"

Chapter 1976: Sweeping Through Resources

Fang Bai put away the small cauldron, which was the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron.

Originally, Fang Bai could withstand Yu Chao's self-detonation just with his powerful physical body, but considering the safety of Flood Dragon Venerable, he still released the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron and hid inside with the Flood Dragon Venerable before the violent aura swept through everything.

Although with Fang Bai's current cultivation level, he couldn't fully utilize the true power of the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, it was still a divine artifact, one that even immortals in the Nine Heavens Immortal Domain could not damage. Thus, the Flood Dragon Venerable narrowly escaped harm by hiding inside, otherwise he would have been severely injured.

"Indeed, this small cauldron helped us dodge disaster!"

Now, Fang Bai's strength was ever more formidable, and there was no need for him to conceal his treasures anymore, for no strong person could easily snatch anything from his hands.

"A treasure that can withstand the impact of a ninth-level heavenly tribulation expert's self-detonation without a scratch, could it be an immortal artifact?"

The Flood Dragon Venerable remembered Fang Bai's promise to give him an immortal artifact one day, and he couldn't help but feel excited.

However, he previously used a spear and thus favored similar spiritual artifacts, and since Fang Bai hadn't said he would give him the small cauldron, he hoped that someday Fang Bai would find an immortal artifact that suited him.

Then, the Flood Dragon Venerable's focus shifted from Fang Bai to the surroundings, and he gasped.

Within a thousand feet radius, only the two of them were unharmed; the other strong fighters either fell or were severely injured, with cries and wails echoing non-stop.

The sect masters of the three dominant sects were all sitting cross-legged on the ground, eyes closed to recuperate, hoping to quickly recover from their injuries.

However, as their internals were injured, and their Qi Sea was turbulent, trying to regain their combat power was not a feat achievable in the blink of an eye.

Fang Bai and Flood Dragon Venerable exchanged a glance, and a trace of a smile appeared at the corners of their mouths.

With Frost Tower facing near destruction, and the remaining three dominant sects having their high-level members injured from sect master downward, this was a perfect opportunity for Fang Bai and Flood Dragon Venerable to seize the cultivation resources of the four dominant sects.

Fang Bai had the Five Elements Space Ring and had collected hundreds of spatial rings containing the White Flood Dragon's belongings at Jade Lake, providing enough space to take away the cultivation resources reserved by the four dominant sects.

"Let's go!"

They called Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying, heading toward the headquarters of Frost Tower ahead.

Just now, when Fang Bai and Flood Dragon Venerable approached the site of intense battle near the four sects, Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying stayed a few miles away to watch, thus spared from any involvement.

The many strong fighters watching a thousand feet away witnessed Fang Bai and the others disappearing instantly into Frost Tower headquarters like a flash, yet none dared to follow.

Earlier, after Frost Tower Master Yu Chao self-detonated, the high-level members of various sects either died or were injured in the aftermath, and only Fang Bai and Flood Dragon Venerable remained unharmed. The many strong spectators hadn't realized the two had actually entered the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, mistakenly believing their own strength had withstood the blast, thus feeling a sense of fear.

Although there were many fighters in the Three Thousand Worlds who were brave and fearless, none would knowingly face certain death attempting to compete with Fang Bai and Flood Dragon Venerable for cultivation resources.

In the spectators' minds, Frost Tower is rich in foundation and has vast cultivation resources, so how could Fang Bai and the others possibly take everything? Perhaps, they might have an opportunity to share when the time comes.

But within a mere hundred breaths, the spectators saw Fang Bai and the others leaving Frost Tower headquarters, heading toward Flying Cloud Pavilion in the west of the city.

"What do they intend to do?"

"What else? Most likely they intend to 'strike while the iron is hot'!"

"What do you mean?"

"Flying Cloud Pavilion just lost many high-level members, and the Pavilion Master is also severely injured, unable to recover in a short time. If I am correct, they're preparing to scoop some benefits from Flying Cloud Pavilion!"

"Hiss... that's ruthless!"

"Nonsense, if it were me with this level of strength, I would do the same!"

"Enough talk, let's go check out Frost Tower's underground treasure vault, see if there's anything to share."

...

As soon as Fang Bai and the others left, the spectators on site immediately surged forward, fearing they might miss out on anything if they were late.

But they were destined for disappointment, as Fang Bai had already emptied Frost Tower's treasury, not leaving even a single spiritual herb.

By the time the strong fighters arrived at Flying Cloud Pavilion, Fang Bai and the others had already stripped everything from there and were heading to the next destination, Blizzard Manor in the south of the city...

So, the cultivation resources accumulated over ten millennia by the four dominant sects were swept away in one stroke by Fang Bai and the others.

Luckily, the Five Elements Space Ring of Fang Bai was spacious enough; otherwise, it would indeed be difficult to contain such a massive amount of cultivation resources.

"With these cultivation resources, it's enough for the disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace for ten years!"

Fang Bai surveyed the mountain-like accumulation of cultivation resources within the Five Elements Space Ring and contentedly said.

The Flood Dragon Venerable exclaimed, "All the cultivation resources from the four dominant sects only suffice for ten years for our palace's disciples? Isn't our Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace composed of just ten thousand disciples? How could they consume so quickly?"

Fang Bai chuckled, "In our palace, many possess Innate Spiritual Roots, their cultivation expenditure of resources exceeds others, and furthermore, the cultivation technique I impart to palace disciples is unique; although resources are consumed quickly, cultivation progression is swift!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable scratched his head, "I thought these seized resources would last our palace a hundred years, but from what you say, we still have to keep searching! Otherwise, ten years will pass in a blink, and we will then face the dilemma of resource shortage!"

Fang Bai responded, "Leave the matter of cultivation resources to me. You all concentrate on cultivation within the palace!"

Upon Fang Bai mentioning the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, Liu Qingqing thought of her family and impatiently asked, "Brother Fang, when are we going back to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace?"

Xiao Ying chimed in, "We can't return yet! Senior Sister Qin hasn't been found!"

"Oh, damn! I forgot Sister Yaorao!"

Previously, Liu Qingqing heard Xiao Ying mention that Fang Bai came to the Land of Extreme North mainly to find Qin Yaorao, and with Qin Yaorao still unfound, how would he return?

Fang Bai said, "Indeed, our next stop is Cold Flame Sect! Xiao Ying mentioned that Cold Flame Sect Master Hanwei is a half-immortal rank expert, and if we want to rescue Yaorao, there may be a tough battle!"

"With our combined efforts, maybe we can stand a chance for battle!"

Flood Dragon Venerable had previously discussed Qin Yaorao with Fang Bai on their way back to Ice Dragon City, and knowing they would confront a formidable sect with a half-immortal rank expert, he wasn't scared, instead feeling somewhat thrilled.

"Regardless, this time we must rescue Yaorao!"

Fang Bai stated firmly.

For Qin Yaorao's sake, Fang Bai was determined to use all his powers and strategies to confront Cold Flame Sect.

Chapter 1977: Recruitment

In Ice Dragon City, among the four major powerful sects, one fell between dusk and dawn, and the other three suffered significant losses. Various factions reshuffled their powers, engaging in fierce struggles for their own benefits, leaving the entire city in chaos.

However, these matters no longer concerned Fang Bai and his companions. After leaving Ice Dragon City, they embarked on the journey to Cold Flame Sect to rescue Qin Yaorao.

The Cold Flame Sect had risen during the tens of thousands of years since Fang Bai ascended to the Immortal Realm, so he did not know where the sect was located.

As for Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying, these two women had little experience in training, and naturally, knew even less.

The Flood Dragon Venerable, though experienced in the Land of Extreme North and familiar with its major sects, could not easily discover super sects like Cold Flame Sect, which were often hidden in secret locations. He had only heard of Cold Flame Sect and did not know its location.

The four aimlessly flew across the vastness of the Land of Extreme North, constantly inquiring of strong cultivators they encountered. Fang Bai also offered bounties for anyone who could inform them of Cold Flame Sect's location, promising generous cultivation resources in return.

One day, in Ice Flower City within the Land of Extreme North, the four found rest. Soon after Fang Bai's enticing bounty offer was sent out, two strong cultivators quietly came to them, claiming to know where Cold Flame Sect was.

Fang Bai met the two strong cultivators in the courtyard of the inn where they stayed.

Both were of the sixth level of Heavenly Tribulation cultivation, with considerable strength.

Upon meeting Fang Bai, they initially were very tight-lipped, not willing to reveal their identities. Only after learning that Fang Bai and his companions were seeking Cold Flame Sect to rescue someone, and not as allies, did they reveal their identities.

The two cultivators were originally core disciples of Cold Flame Sect. After suffering humiliation from a direct disciple and facing extremely unjust punishment from the sect leaders, they conspired in a fit of anger to lure and kill that direct disciple, then defected from the sect.

Knowing the sect's vast reach, they disguised themselves, assuming false identities, intending to flee to the Extreme South Continent for sanctuary. Passing through Ice Flower City, they saw Fang Bai's bounty.

Fleeing Cold Flame Sect in haste, lacking cultivation resources, Fang Bai's offer promised a wealth of resources that greatly tempted them, prompting them to approach.

Listening to their account, Fang Bai, without changing his expression, used Soul Capturing Heart Refining Technique to probe them, finding truth in their words. The prospect of rescuing Qin Yaorao uplifted his spirits.

"This is half of the cultivation resources; take it first. Once you've led us near Cold Flame Sect, the remaining half will be yours!"

Fang Bai took out a space ring and tossed it to one of the cultivators.

One of the cultivators infused the space ring with a trace of spiritual energy and discovered that its contents exceeded his expectations, showing a look of delight.

"Brother Lin, I'll take these four to Cold Flame Sect. You stay here! If I don't return within ten days, you should leave on your own!"

The cultivator who received the space ring, after verifying its contents, handed it to his companion, speaking to him earnestly.

The implication was clear: if he did not return within ten days, it would suggest danger on the journey, and his companion should leave with the space ring, preventing a total loss.

Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable knew the cultivator's action was to guard against them reneging; worrying they might murder him after finding Cold Flame Sect to save the cultivation resources. They exchanged smiles, thinking if they wanted to kill him, why go through such trouble?

However, they said nothing, understanding that in weaker positions, they might also keep a contingency.

Eager to rescue Qin Yaorao, Fang Bai urged the cultivator to lead the way immediately.

Thus, the five left Ice Flower City, following the former disciple of Cold Flame Sect towards its direction.

On the journey, Fang Bai chatted with the former Cold Flame Sect disciple, learning his name was Shao Qingyun, one of the top ten core disciples of the sect. He had a severe falling out with a direct disciple, aggravated by the sect's biased favor towards the latter, fueling his resentment.

The companion left in Ice Flower City was named Lin Feng, also a core disciple of Cold Flame Sect. He similarly suffered the direct disciple's mockery.

Both harbored anger, and through a secret plan, seized an opportunity during an outside training exercise to trick and kill the direct disciple, then fled.

"After all, Cold Flame Sect is a super sect. If we weren't forced, who would choose to defect?"

Shao Qingyun sighed deeply, reflecting his anger and helplessness.

Their murder of fellow disciples meant facing relentless pursuit by the sect. Being caught could result in severe punishment, a fate worse than death, chilling Shao Qingyun to the bone.

"If you have nowhere to go, why not join my Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace? Once you're disciples of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, you'll receive its protection, freeing you from Cold Flame Sect's pursuit!"

Previously probing Shao Qingyun and Lin Feng, Fang Bai found they had not committed heinous acts, decent enough characters, and sought to recruit them.

The Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace currently had only around ten thousand disciples, below the count of many powerful sects in The Three Thousand Worlds, prompting Fang Bai to recruit strong cultivators from various areas.

With its current overall strength, Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace could scarcely rank among the top sects, with a long way from super sect status.

The Three Thousand World's abundant cultivation resources were for the strongest sects, necessary for ensuring that more palace disciples could ascend to the Immortal Realm someday.

In Fang Bai's long-term plan, once returning to the Immortal Realm, he intended to settle scores with the eight Immortal Emperors who joined forces against him in his past life.

Yet, facing the eight Immortal Emperors—each with powers to upheave oceans and move mountains—and their innumerable followers, exacting revenge alone was implausible, requiring many powerful allies, hence his effort in teaching the disciples immortal level cultivation methods.

"Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace?"

Shao Qingyun, though having traveled across the Three Thousand Worlds and heard of many renowned sects, couldn't place the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace among them.

Fang Bai smiled, "Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace is my creation from a few years ago, so it's not well-known. It's normal you haven't heard of it. But soon, its name will spread across the Three Thousand Worlds, commanding respect from all strong cultivators."

Chapter 1978: If He Says He Can Do It, Then He Can!

At first, Shao Qingyun didn't believe Fang Bai's words, thinking how a newly established sect with no reputation could possibly protect himself and Lin Feng against a super sect like the Cold Flame Sect?

"Kid, don't doubt what the Palace Master said!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable reached out his fan-like large hand and patted Shao Qingyun's shoulder, saying, "Let me tell you, although our Emperor's Palace isn't well-known, right now, we have a Half-Immortal Rank expert in charge; I may not be so capable, but I have the cultivation of the ninth-layer Thunder Tribulation; the Palace Master's combat power is not weaker than mine. With such power, do you think the Emperor's Palace can protect you?"

As he spoke, he released his aura completely, transforming it into pressure that bore down on Shao Qingyun.

Previously, Shao Qingyun only knew that Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable were stronger than him, but he didn't know to what extent. At this moment, feeling the pressure of the Flood Dragon Venerable's might, he was immediately convinced, and he believed in the Flood Dragon Venerable's words to some extent.

"Palace Master, you should also show some real skills, let this kid take a look!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable said to Fang Bai.

Ever since agreeing to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace after Fang Bai's invitation, he had positioned himself in an Elder's role, considering the Emperor's Palace in every way, thinking that if Fang Bai wanted to attract more powerful individuals to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, he must demonstrate his abilities to prove the Emperor's Palace's strength.

Fang Bai understood what he meant and no longer hid his skills. With a faint smile, he silently released his aura, enveloping Shao Qingyun, and suddenly a pressure equal to that of a ninth-layer Thunder Tribulation expert descended.

Shao Qingyun felt a force from Fang Bai even greater than that of the Flood Dragon Venerable, his face turned pale, his body slightly shook, his knees bent, his stance lowered, almost collapsing to the ground.

Seeing this, Fang Bai immediately withdrew his aura and smiled, asking, "Do you believe now, that this Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace can protect you safely?"

How could Shao Qingyun not believe at this moment? With a "thump," he knelt in front of Fang Bai, solemnly saying, "Disciple believes! Disciple is willing to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, I ask for the Palace Master's acceptance!"

Fang Bai raised his hand vaguely, saying, "You may rise! This decision you've made today, you will certainly be grateful for it in the future!"

Shao Qingyun still knelt on the ground, saying, "Lin Feng and I are as close as brothers, I also ask the Palace Master to accept him along with me."

The Flood Dragon Venerable laughed heartily, "You silly boy, didn't you hear what the Palace Master just said? He said 'the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace can protect you,' this 'you' naturally includes Lin Feng!"

"Thank you, Palace Master! Thank you, Palace Master!"

Shao Qingyun kowtowed to Fang Bai several times before standing up joyfully.

Thinking of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace having a Half-Immortal Rank expert in charge, along with Fang Bai and the Flood Dragon Venerable, both ninth-layer Thunder Tribulation experts, and tens of thousands of disciples, even though their overall strength may not match a super sect like the Cold Flame Sect, it wasn't much weaker.

In the future, unless the Cold Flame Sect uses the entire sect's power, it's impossible for them to do anything to Lin Feng and him.

However, with the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace being far away in the Heaven's Net Realm of the Western Desolate Continent, the Cold Flame Sect wouldn't possibly go to such lengths to kill the two of them.

In other words, as long as he and Lin Feng stay obediently within the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, their lives will be safe.

Thinking of this, Shao Qingyun was extremely excited, wanting to roar at the sky to relieve the fear and tension of the past days.

Afterward, Shao Qingyun returned the Space Ring he got from Fang Bai to him, refusing to accept it no matter what.

Fang Bai knew that if he didn't take the Space Ring, Shao Qingyun would feel unsettled, so he casually accepted it, tossing it into the Five Elements Space Ring, and said solemnly, "In the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, disciples are rewarded for merit and punished for faults. Once we return to the Emperor's Palace in the future, I guarantee you will advance to the seventh-layer Thunder Tribulation Realm within a year as a reward for guiding us today."

Even though Shao Qingyun has remarkable aptitude, advancing to the seventh-layer Thunder Tribulation Realm within a year is still considered incredibly fast.

The Flood Dragon Venerable admired Fang Bai greatly now, seeing Shao Qingyun's incredulous look, he said, "The Palace Master is skilled in Alchemy and Artifact Refining, knowledgeable in Beast Taming and Array Setting, his talents are all-encompassing; if he says it can be done, then it certainly can be done!"

Shao Qingyun had no idea that the Palace Master possessed such skills. When he looked at Fang Bai again, he felt as if an aura surrounded him, inducing an impulse to worship him.

The Cold Flame Sect is located in a snowy valley tens of thousands of miles north of Ice Flower City, and that snow valley lies between the snow-covered mountains of ten thousand miles. Without Shao Qingyun guiding them, it would indeed be difficult for the four of them, including Fang Bai, to find it.

"Palace Master, between those two snow peaks is the entrance to the Cold Flame Sect. However, a Concealment Formation and Attack Array have been set up at the entrance. Without a guide, it's impossible to enter; even with one, you might be attacked by the formation..."

The five of them landed on the peak of a snow peak outside the snow valley where the Cold Flame Sect is located; Shao Qingyun pointed at the two thousand-foot-high snowy peaks several miles away and said.

Xiao Ying giggled and said to Shao Qingyun, "You're really silly! Uncle Flood Dragon just said that Brother Fang Bai knows how to set arrays! What Concealment Formation or Attack Array could possibly trouble Brother Fang Bai, right Brother Fang Bai?"

Even though Shao Qingyun was once a Core Disciple of a super sect, possessing the powers of a sixth-layer Thunder Tribulation expert, he was embarrassed, being ridiculed as "really silly" by a little girl just entering the Thunder Tribulation, his face turned beet red.

Fang Bai smiled, releasing his Divine Sense, observing the void between the snow peaks, and indeed discovering two formations set up there, a Concealment Formation followed by an Attack Array.

This kind of interlinked dual formations could trap even a ninth-layer Thunder Tribulation expert who entered suddenly.

"The array set at the entrance of the Cold Flame Sect, although superb, is not beyond me!"

Fang Bai silently observed for a dozen breaths before finally speaking.

Knowing that the Cold Flame Sect has a Half-Immortal Rank expert in charge, Fang Bai did not dare delve too deeply with his Divine Sense, fearing detection by the other side, alerting them and making rescuing Qin Yaorao even more difficult.

"If it can be broken, that's good!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable rubbed his hands eagerly, "To avoid further delays, let's charge in and rescue!"

Shao Qingyun was startled and quickly said, "No way! The Cold Flame Sect is, after all, a super sect, possessing many Great Calamity Period experts of Thunder Tribulation Realm and tens of thousands of

disciples...I'm not underestimating ourselves while overestimating others. We are far too few in number, if the Palace Master wants to rescue someone, we must rely on strategy, not force!"

Fang Bai nodded, "Makes sense! Here's the plan, you four hide in a safe place nearby, I'll enter the Cold Flame Sect to investigate, and then we'll plan our next move."

Liu Qingqing hurriedly said, "You can't go in there alone! It's too dangerous!"

Fang Bai said, "I have my ways! Brother Flood Dragon, Qingqing, Xiao Ying, and Qingyun, I leave these three to you. I'll be back soon!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable knew Fang Bai had numerous tricks; seeing his confidence, he restrained his impulse to charge in and agreed.

Chapter 1979: Infiltration

In the eyes of the disciples of the Cold Flame Sect, the sect's dual formations of concealment and attack are flawless barriers.

This is because, since the establishment of the Cold Flame Sect over tens of thousands of years, there has never been a single flaw.

Even if a cultivator or spirit beast were to occasionally stumble into their concealment formation, they would be instantly shredded by the subsequent attack array, posing no threat to the safety of the Cold Flame Sect.

Therefore, at the entrance of the Cold Flame Sect, though there is no one guarding, the disciples of the Cold Flame Sect feel completely at ease.

Moreover, among the tens of thousands of disciples in the Cold Flame Sect, the weakest are experts of the third level of the Heavenly Tribulation. Any one of them could release their divine sense to scan the entrance, making the presence or absence of guards nearly irrelevant.

However, in Fang Bai's eyes, even an ordinary Immortal Rank Formation does not pose any obstacle to him.

"Huh? Where did Brother Fang Bai go? How did he suddenly disappear?"

After Fang Bai leapt down from the Snow Peak and flew towards the entrance of the Cold Flame Sect, he suddenly vanished, as if evaporating into thin air, making Xiao Ying exclaim in surprise.

Among the four people remaining on the Snow Peak, Liu Qingqing knew Fang Bai the best and explained: "Brother Fang Bai is proficient in concealment techniques that can hide his form and aura, merging with the surrounding scenery. Unless he encounters an opponent much stronger than himself, it is almost impossible to notice his presence."

"For such a young Palace Master to understand such profound cultivation methods and techniques—this is the kind of talent they call a monstrous prodigy, isn't it?"

The Flood Dragon Venerable's eyes shone with admiration as he clicked his tongue in praise.

For the Flood Dragon Venerable, who is already a member of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, the stronger Fang Bai's abilities are, the greater the possibility he could help him ascend to the Immortal Realm in the future, bringing him delight.

"Elder Flood Dragon, even you can't detect the Palace Master's whereabouts?"

Shao Qingyun seeing the Flood Dragon Venerable seemingly searching for Fang Bai, could not help but inquire.

He thought that with the Flood Dragon Venerable having the ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation cultivation, and though Fang Bai is formidable, he is ultimately only at the seventh level of the Heavenly Tribulation, even if tacit in concealment skills, it would be tough to avoid the Flood Dragon Venerable's divine sense detection.

Yet, reality seemed different; strong as the Flood Dragon Venerable was, he too could not locate Fang Bai.

The Flood Dragon Venerable shook his head and said: "The Palace Master's mystical arts are profound and unpredictable; when he hides, I cannot find him."

Xiao Ying originally had some concerns about Fang Bai, worried that he might encounter danger entering the Cold Flame Sect alone, but the words of the Flood Dragon Venerable turned her worry to joy.

"If even Uncle Flood Dragon, a ninth-level Heavenly Tribulation expert, can't find Brother Fang Bai, then the experts of the Cold Flame Sect should also find it difficult, right? So, Brother Fang Bai would be very safe, wouldn't he?"

Xiao Ying asked the Flood Dragon Venerable.

The Flood Dragon Venerable shook his head and replied: "Hard to say. The Cold Flame Sect has elites of the Half-Immortal Rank, and their strength is much more formidable than mine..."

Seeing Xiao Ying show a worried look again, he stroked his beard and smiled cheerfully: "But you don't need to worry too much. The Palace Master is not a reckless person; if he dares to venture alone, he must have full confidence. As long as he is cautious enough, he will surely return safely."

Xiao Ying patted her chest and exhaled a long breath, saying: "Hearing Uncle Flood Dragon say that, I am relieved!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable and others did not know that on his approach to the entrance of the Cold Flame Sect, Fang Bai concealed all his aura, blending swiftly with the scenery. Not to mention the Flood Dragon Venerable, even a Half-Immortal Rank expert would find it hard to sense his presence without coming within a hundred feet of Fang Bai.

Relying on his top-notch concealment techniques, Fang Bai easily reached the entrance of the Cold Flame Sect and, within a dozen breaths, decoded the concealment formation and attack array, entering the Cold Flame Sect.

Without the concealment formation's cover, the Cold Flame Sect is actually several adjoining enormous valleys amidst the infinite, continuous snowy mountains, with each valley housing white buildings as if sculpted from ice and snow.

These structures are varied in height, with some large and others small, all exquisitely crafted and strikingly beautiful, so much so they seem like a fantastic icy and snowy world from afar.

Inside the valley, the temperature is much colder than outside, making it difficult for those below the third level of the Heavenly Tribulation to withstand such extreme cold.

However, the numerous disciples of the Cold Flame Sect, having cultivated the sect's specially inherited methods, have bodies very resistant to cold, allowing them to survive here.

Once inside the Cold Flame Sect, Fang Bai was on high alert, refraining from casually releasing his divine sense to explore his surroundings, for fear of being sensed by the Sect Master of the Cold Flame Sect, Hanwei.

Although Fang Bai is skilled and courageous, he understands that being besieged by formidable individuals from a super sect would make it challenging to escape.

Thus, his venture into the Cold Flame Sect to investigate must be conducted with utmost caution.

Fang Bai held his breath, aligning his state with the surroundings as closely as possible, then slowly approached the gigantic buildings within the valleys, observing them carefully with the naked eye.

"Xiao Ying mentioned that her master, Luo Yun, and Yaorao were both taken by the Cold Flame Sect Master, Hanwei personally, which means Hanwei values them greatly. It seems that to find Yaorao, I must first locate Hanwei!"

Recalling the words Xiao Ying had shared when they met, Fang Bai slowly headed towards the most massive and majestic structure among the enormous valleys.

Typically, in a sect, the largest and most majestic building is the sect's main hall.

And only the sect master has the right to reside in the main hall.

If that building is indeed where Hanwei, the Cold Flame Sect Master, resides, then Fairy Xuanbing, Luo Yun, and Qin Yaorao, whom he personally took, are likely inside the hall, guarded by Hanwei himself.

Fang Bai concealed himself behind a large rock several miles from the Sect Master Hall of the Cold Flame Sect, observing patiently.

For an entire day, the doors of the Sect Master Hall of the Cold Flame Sect remained tightly shut, without any sign of the sect master, Hanwei.

Worried for Qin Yaorao's safety, Fang Bai's patience began waning, prompting him to release his divine sense to probe the movements within the other building complexes of the Cold Flame Sect, temporarily avoiding the Sect Master Hall, to prevent alerting Hanwei and exposing himself.

Suddenly, Fang Bai overheard a conversation between two direct disciples of the Cold Flame Sect in an isolated courtyard.

"It's said that the Sect Master has been diligently cultivating recently, and once he reaches his peak state, he will take those two women as furnace cauldrons for dual cultivation."

"That older woman, though advanced in years, still exudes charm; and the younger one is a stunningly captivating little beauty."

"That's not all! According to a high-ranked member of the sect, the two women that the Sect Master took, both have innate spiritual roots and a primordial Yin physique... hehehe, the Sect Master will certainly enjoy them!"

"Innate spiritual root and primordial Yin physique, they are rare and precious for cultivation. If the Sect Master is satisfied, wouldn't it be great if we could also experience that?"

"Dream on! Above us, there are a dozen high-rank members; we wouldn't have a chance!"

...

The two direct disciples of the Cold Flame Sect were discussing their sect master, the Fairy Xuanbing, Luo Yun, and Qin Yaorao.

Chapter 1980: Immortal Domain

Fang Bai listened to the conversation between the two disciples of the Cold Flame Sect, and the anger in his chest surged, his eyes filled with infinite killing intent.

However, after all, he had experienced tens of thousands of years in his past and present lives and was beyond the age of impulsively rushing forward to fight whenever his head got hot. The bigger the matter, the calmer he became.

His gaze was fixed on the direction of the Cold Flame Sect Master's Hall, his mind racing as he pondered how to rescue Qin Yaorao.

The Cold Flame Sect Master, Hanwei, could easily abduct Fairy Xuanbing Luo Yun, known as the "first under the ninth heaven's thunder tribulation" of the three thousand great worlds, a testament to his formidable strength. Fang Bai knew that even if he and the Flood Dragon Venerable joined forces, they might not be able to defeat him.

Since that was the case, Fang Bai decided to take the risk himself and see if there was a chance to rescue Qin Yaorao.

As for Fairy Xuanbing, Fang Bai learned from Xiao Ying that although she did not have a good attitude toward Qin Yaorao, she did not violently abuse her, at most punishing her by sending her to meditate facing the wall.

Therefore, Fang Bai's resentment towards Fairy Xuanbing was not as deep.

The purpose of Fang Bai's trip was merely to rescue Qin Yaorao, and as for Fairy Xuanbing, he really had no intention of dealing with her.

Of course, if there was an opportunity without much risk, Fang Bai wouldn't mind rescuing Fairy Xuanbing along the way.

Fang Bai was also secretly glad that he arrived quickly enough to catch Hanwei while he was in seclusion. Otherwise, the consequences would have been unimaginable.

The Cold Flame Sect had tens of thousands of disciples, some of whom were possibly out training. The number of disciples remaining in the several massive valleys were only two-thirds of the usual.

But even these two-thirds amount to over 30,000 people. Fang Bai dared not be careless and cautiously approached the Cold Flame Sect Master's Hall step by step.

When he was about three miles away from the Master's Hall, Fang Bai began to release his Divine Sense, slowly spreading it towards the inside of the Master's Hall.

Inside the thick hall walls was a vast hall space. An elderly man with crane-like hair and youthful complexion, his face glowing red, sat high on the highest stone chair inside the hall, his eyes slightly closed, in a cultivation state.

Spiritual Energy enveloped the elder, dense to the point of almost being tangible, wrapping around him so that even by eye, his facial features were vaguely, indistinctly visible.

"Judging by the concentration of Spiritual Energy around him, he should have been in the Demi-Immortal Realm for a long time. Once he takes another small step forward in his cultivation level, he can ascend to become an Immortal. At that time, the Spiritual Energy around him will transform into Immortal Qi, condensing into an Immortal's unique 'domain.'"

The so-called 'domain' refers to a range where an Immortal's thoughts, Divine Sense, will, etc., can exert influence.

Within the scope of the domain, an Immortal has absolute control, able to obliterate any invader within the domain with a single thought.

The size and strength of the domain condensed by an Immortal vary depending on their strength.

In his past life as the Immortal Emperor, Fang Bai's domain extended a thousand miles in every direction, with the life and death of all living beings within it under his control.

Fang Bai's domain was incomparably powerful. In those years, the eight Immortal Emperors would not have been able to break his domain, let alone destroy his physical body, leaving only one thread of remnant soul, had they not launched a sudden joint attack during his weakened state.

The elder in deep cultivation inside the Sect Master Hall was undoubtedly the Cold Flame Sect Master Hanwei, Fang Bai knew.

Hanwei's current cultivation level was at the Half-Immortal Rank Realm, just a small step short of forming a domain.

Even so, in Fang Bai's eyes, he was already powerful enough.

At least, in a direct confrontation, Fang Bai admitted that even with the Flood Dragon Venerable's help, they were no match for him. Being able to retreat intact from his attack would be fortunate enough.

Therefore, Fang Bai had to be doubly cautious, not daring to make the slightest mistake.

Fang Bai's Divine Sense shifted away from Hanwei and immediately discovered Fairy Xuanbing and Qin Yaorao.

It seemed both had their Qi Sea sealed, rendering them powerless, inferior to ordinary people, and they were bound to stone pillars with beast tendons, unable to move or even make a sound.

Their expressions showed no fear, only endless indignation and anger.

This was the first time Fang Bai saw Qin Yaorao since he arrived in the three thousand great worlds.

At this moment, Qin Yaorao's black hair was like clouds, her skin like jade, appearing more beautiful than before, and she had gained an indescribable unique charm.

Qin Yaorao seemed to be aging in reverse; now, her facial features made her look only seventeen or eighteen, completely a beautiful girl with bright eyes and white teeth.

Fang Bai felt at ease knowing she hadn't been harmed.

Fang Bai was unaware that Qin Yaorao had suffered serious injuries when she was taken and later recovered quickly after Hanwei gave her considerable healing Spiritual Medicine.

Otherwise, Fang Bai would have seen a pale, dying Qin Yaorao instead.

Beside her, Fairy Xuanbing, Fang Bai only glanced at her and knew, as Xiao Ying had suggested, that she was a serious and rigid person.

Fang Bai understood that dealing with such a woman would undoubtedly be a headache.

Qin Yaorao and Fairy Xuanbing were in the same hall as Hanwei, and given Fang Bai's strength, attempting to rescue them from under his eye was no ordinary difficulty.

Fang Bai thought for a moment and decided to temporarily leave the Cold Flame Sect and carry out thorough preparations outside to ensure that after rescuing them, he would also have a chance to escape.

He withdrew his Divine Sense and silently returned the way he came. In just a few breaths, he had exited the Cold Flame Sect's mountain gate attack array and Concealment Formation.

"The Palace Master has returned!"

The Flood Dragon Venerable, who was on the Snow Peak, suddenly sensed Fang Bai's presence and was overjoyed.

"Where?"

"Can't see anything!"

Liu Qingqing and Xiao Ying widened their eyes, looking towards the area below the Snow Peak but saw nothing.

Shao Qingyun rubbed his eyes and looked carefully, discovering a line of faint, barely discernible footprints in the snow a few miles outside the Snow Peak. He pointed there and said, "Over there!"

As he spoke, his heart was full of admiration for Fang Bai, amazed that the young Palace Master had such capability.

If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, he would never have believed that someone with just a cultivation level of seven levels of thunder tribulation could infiltrate such a super sect like the Cold Flame Sect alone and return unharmed.

Just as he finished speaking, Fang Bai's figure appeared on the Snow Peak before their eyes.

"Brother Fang, how is it? Did you find Sister Yaorao?"

Liu Qingqing went up to him and asked.

"Is Master and Senior Sister Qin inside?"

Xiao Ying also came close to ask.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Found them. They're fine at the moment."

The Flood Dragon Venerable stepped forward and asked in a low voice, "Palace Master, tell me, how do you plan to rescue them? Now that I'm a member of the Emperor's Palace, I will do my part without hesitation!"

"Palace Master, the Cold Flame Sect is too powerful; we must plan carefully if we want to save them!"

Having previously been a disciple of the Cold Flame Sect, Shao Qingyun naturally knew how strong the Cold Flame Sect was. Forcing their way in to rescue them would only lead to the worst outcome.