

Doctor 2021

Chapter 2021: Sovereign over the World, Supreme above All

A hundred thousand disciples of the Emperor's Palace sat on the square for a full three days.

During these three days, Fang Bai explained the Dao of Cultivation for one day, and then began answering various questions from the disciples of the Emperor's Palace.

In his previous life as the pinnacle Immortal Emperor, Fang Bai not only learned but also created many Immortal Technique Secrets, his chest could be said to encompass all things, knowing everything.

Therefore, no matter how tricky or strange the questions posed by the disciples of the Emperor's Palace, it was not difficult for him.

Often in just a few words, he could make the disciples who asked the questions suddenly understand, excitedly dancing with joy.

Other disciples listening to Fang Bai's answers would also be enlightened.

Some naturally clever disciples were even able to deduce other things from Fang Bai's answers, achieving sudden enlightenment, then leaving the square to find a secluded place for focused cultivation.

Three days later, Fang Bai's teachings to the disciples of the Emperor's Palace concluded formally, and his answers ended.

During this time, one-third of the disciples of the Emperor's Palace left due to sudden enlightenment, each seeking a place for closed-door cultivation.

The remaining two-thirds, although slightly less talented and not enlightened on the spot, were still greatly inspired, though they needed time to slowly digest the things Fang Bai explained.

“Palace Master, it seems the results of these three consecutive days of teaching and solving puzzles are not bad!”

Flood Dragon Venerable said joyfully.

From the rapidly leaving disciples, he sensed restless fluctuations, knowing that a part of the disciples might gradually advance in the coming days.

As long as one-third of the disciples can advance, the overall strength of the Emperor’s Palace will make a qualitative leap again.

At that time, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace would leave all the sects of the three thousand great worlds far behind, leading the way.

After the disciples of the Emperor’s Palace dispersed, Fang Bai still sat cross-legged on the Stone Platform, with his Divine Sense diffused around, exploring those disciples in closed-door cultivation due to enlightenment.

Cultivation is not without risk.

Especially for Thunder Tribulation Cultivators, when advancing, they need to cross the great hurdle of the Thunder Tribulation. Lucky disciples may cross it smoothly, while some unlucky ones may encounter danger during the Thunder Tribulation.

And Fang Bai, is their guardian deity.

If he finds anyone among them encountering a Thunder Tribulation’s power too strong to bear during their tribulation, Fang Bai acts in time to help them through the difficulty.

As Flood Dragon Venerable predicted, in the following days, within hundreds of Baili of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, tribulation clouds gathered, thunder roared, lightning struck, and waves of strong fluctuations diffused around.

Each wave of fluctuation represents a disciple of the Emperor's Palace advancing.

Some nearby sect powers, always keeping an eye on the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, were greatly shocked upon observing this sight.

In recent years, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace has risen rapidly, with its power constantly spreading around.

Some nearby sect powers, worried about their own interests being threatened, formed alliances, posing as if to contend with the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

However, the overall strength of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace advanced by leaps and bounds, changing with each passing day. Its rise far exceeded their imaginations, forming an overwhelming momentum against them.

Originally, these sect powers wanted to bring in external aid to confront the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, but after learning that the Palace was guarded by a Half-Immortal Rank master, all those external aids retreated in the face of difficulty.

Even some Super Sects were unwilling to be enemies with the rapidly rising Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

This time, the large-scale advancement of disciples in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace triggered waves of Thunder Tribulations, shaking all directions, and those sect powers nearby immediately laid down their flags and drums, knowing they were no longer able to contend with the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Thus, while restraining their disciples from provoking the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace in any way, they also sent envoys to meet Fang Bai, expressing their willingness to serve the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace as their master in the future, and to contribute a sum of Cultivation Resources annually in exchange for the safety of their sects.

Fang Bai could not be bothered with this matter, leaving it to Fairy Xuanbing and Xuan Feng Venerable to handle.

After this event, all sects within tens of thousands of Baili of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace followed its orders, looking to it as their leader.

The growing Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace presented a monarch's demeanor of ruling the world with sole supremacy, earning the attention of all sect powers in the three thousand great worlds.

In response, Fang Bai showed no pride or complacency, nor did he slack in cultivation.

Fang Bai's goal is not to dominate the three thousand great worlds, but to break through the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations Realm, ascend to the Immortal Realm, and seek revenge on the Eight Immortal Emperors.

For him, making the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace the strongest sect in the three thousand great worlds is just a new starting point on his long journey ahead.

With his current cultivation progress, ascending to immortality is not difficult, but to kill the Eight Immortal Emperors and avenge his past life is far from easy.

Therefore, Fang Bai dares not slack off in the slightest, instead becoming even more diligent in cultivation, to lay a solid foundation for surpassing his peak strength in his previous life.

Influenced by Fang Bai, the Palace Master, the hundred thousand disciples of the Emperor's Palace, some engaged in painstaking cultivation, while others ventured out for experience, cultivating in various ways to ensure they did not fall behind.

Under Fang Bai's guidance, Xuan Feng Venerable and Fairy Xuanbing finally advanced to the Half-Immortal Rank Realm as they wished, joining the ranks of the top experts of the current age after half a year.

During this period, there were some sect powers that considered themselves powerful and challenged the Emperor's Palace, but all failed.

Among them, some Super Sects from other regions, hearing about the astonishing abundance of Cultivation Resources within the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, secretly connected to attempt to unite and wipe out the Palace to divide its benefits.

However, occupying the advantage of the home ground, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, relying on Fang Bai, Flood Dragon Venerable, Xuan Feng Venerable, Fairy Xuanbing, and various dazzling Offensive and Defensive Great Formations, finally wiped out the invading strong enemies.

Not only that, but the Palace also took advantage of the situation to launch a counterattack, sweeping the headquarters of several Super Sects, and all the Cultivation Resources they had accumulated over the years became the property of the Palace.

After this battle, the fame of the Palace grew even stronger, and its overall strength expanded once again.

It was only after this battle that there was no sect power in the three thousand great worlds that dared to provoke the Palace.

A year passed by swiftly.

Under Fang Bai's orders, Ghost Hand and others who sent invitations to friendly sects in the three thousand great worlds all returned.

According to Ghost Hand and others, the leaders of those friendly sects who received the invitations all gladly agreed to attend the celebration of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, to congratulate Fang Bai and Qin Yaorao, Xia Chenyu, and other women for becoming true Martial Dao companions.

When the news spread, the hundred thousand disciples of the Palace were filled with joy, and under Fairy Xuanbing's arrangement, began to bustle about, decorating the Palace anew to prepare for the celebration.

Meanwhile, Fang Bai was inside the Palace Master Hall, sitting opposite Xia Chenyu, with a helpless smile on his face.

Chapter 2022: Mu Yu Has Grown Up!

“Mu Yu, that little girl, has been acting strange these past few days. Last evening, she went to the small river behind the mountain to cry by herself! Fang Bai, you must know why, right?”

Xia Chenyu asked Fang Bai with a smile at the corner of her mouth.

Fang Bai pinched the bridge of his nose, sighed, and said with a bitter smile, “I know... I know...”

Xia Chenyu couldn’t help but chuckle seeing his troubled expression, and said, “Since you know, what do you think should be done about it?”

Fang Bai shook his head, “It’s not easy!”

“Why is it not easy? I think it’s quite simple!”

Xia Chenyu laughed and said, “Anyway, at this celebration, there are not just one or two who want to become your Martial Dao partners. One more Mu Yu wouldn’t matter, right? Oh, no, there are a few! Hmm, let me think... there’s Qingqing, Xiao Ying, Xiao Lian, the four sisters of Fortune’s Blessing...”

Hearing Xia Chenyu mention these names, Fang Bai couldn’t help but feel even more of a headache.

Fang Bai, having lived two lifetimes and experienced tens of thousands of years, wouldn’t claim to understand everything, but he had more insight into women’s hearts than many others.

Liu Qingqing, Xiao Ying, Shi Xiaolian, and the four sisters of Fortune’s Blessing were all interested in him, which he had naturally noticed a long time ago.

However, these women either never directly expressed their feelings or were still a bit young, so Fang Bai thought it inappropriate to become Martial Dao partners with them.

Especiallly Yan Muyu. Fang Bai has watched her grow from a little girl to her current youthful age, and his affection for her is more protective than romantic. Becoming Martial Dao partners suddenly would feel awkward for him.

As the date for the celebration for Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu and the other women approached, Liu Qingqing, Xiao Ying, Shi Xiaolian, and the four sisters of Fortune's Blessing all felt a bit down. Fang Bai was well aware of the reasons.

But as a man, he naturally couldn't take the initiative to talk to Liu Qingqing and the others.

Now that Xia Chenyu had brought it up, he hoped to convey his thoughts to Liu Qingqing and the others through Xia Chenyu.

After he conveyed this to Xia Chenyu, she shook her head, saying, "The one who ties the bell must untie it. I think you should talk to them yourself about this."

Fang Bai said, "This... isn't very appropriate..."

Xia Chenyu said, "There's nothing inappropriate. After all, you're already familiar with them. Some things are better said openly rather than vaguely. What do you think?"

Fang Bai thought about it and nodded, "You're right. I'll go talk to them."

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At dusk, beside a winding little river behind the main hall of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, a girl in a light yellow dress sat on a smooth stone, with her arms around her knees, staring blankly at the river.

The girl's snowy cheeks still bore traces of tears, as if she had just cried.

Suddenly, the girl picked up a pebble in front of her feet and threw it into the river, causing a splash.

“... Big brother has been busy and ignoring me these days...”

“... He must know what’s on my mind, but he pretends not to know anything...”

“... I’m so sad, yet he doesn’t come to comfort me...”

“... In no time, big brother will become Martial Dao partners with Sister Chenyu and the others...”

“... I really like big brother, but I’m not among his Martial Dao partners...”

“... I’m so sad... What should I do...”

Constantly picking up pebbles and throwing them into the river, the girl muttered to herself with each throw.

Saying this, she grew even sadder, crying softly, her frail shoulders shaking with each sob.

The girl was Yan Muyu.

Since hearing the news that Fang Bai was planning to become Martial Dao partners with Xia Chenyu and the others, she had been downcast for days, unable to focus on cultivation. Every day, she would run to this little river in the back mountain, stare at the water for a while, and then cry for a while.

Even though Yan Muyu was charming and outgoing, she liked Fang Bai very much in her heart, but she was too shy to run directly to him and express her feelings.

For these few days, she had been hoping that Fang Bai would take the initiative to find her and comfort her, so she could muster up the courage to confess her admiration for him, hoping that at the upcoming celebration, she would be one of his Martial Dao partners.

But to her disappointment and sadness, Fang Bai never appeared.

Yan Muyu was even a bit afraid, worried that after Fang Bai became Martial Dao partners with Xia Chenyu and the others, all his thoughts would be on them, forgetting her completely and never paying attention to her again.

She felt that if that were to happen, she would be heartbroken, and her future life would lose its joy.

“No, I can’t let it go on like this! I have to find big brother and ask him directly if he likes me... Yes, Yan Muyu, you’re not a little girl anymore, you can boldly express your feelings! Remember, don’t be shy, be bold!”

Yan Muyu encouraged herself a few times, then clenched her small fists and stood up.

When she turned around, she saw a figure standing a few yards away.

This figure appeared silently and seemed to have been standing there for a while. Yan Muyu jumped in surprise when she saw it.

“Big... Big brother... why are you here...”

When she saw the figure’s appearance clearly, Yan Muyu’s face turned red, and her heart raced as she thought, “The things I was muttering to myself just now, did big brother hear them? Ah, how embarrassing!”

She suddenly covered her face with her hands, thinking that this would prevent Fang Bai from seeing her embarrassment.

Looking at the slender and embarrassed beautiful girl in front of him, Fang Bai couldn’t help but think of the little girl he first met in Peach Blossom Town many years ago.

Back then, that little girl was so adorable and lovable.

But now, the girl in front of him, although still possessing a few traces of her youthful charm, had developed a woman's grace and allure.

"Mu Yu has grown up!"

Fang Bai sighed inwardly, knowing that he could no longer see Yan Muyu as a little girl.

"Mu Yu, sit down, let's have a heart-to-heart."

Fang Bai smiled, walked to Yan Muyu's side, sat on the stone she had been on, and made room next to him for Yan Muyu to sit.

"Oh!"

Yan Muyu came to her senses and then mechanically sat down next to Fang Bai.

"Chenyu mentioned that you've been unhappy these days?"

Fang Bai turned his head slightly, looking at Yan Muyu's profile, and asked.

Seeing the traces of tears still on Yan Muyu's cheeks, he reached out and gently wiped them away for her.

"Ah... No, I'm not..."

Listening to Fang Bai's gentle tone, looking at his concerned eyes, and feeling his gentle touch as he wiped away her tears, Yan Muyu's little grudge and sadness vanished completely, and she shook her head.

Chapter 2023: The Three-Year Promise

"I heard everything you just said."

Fang Bai reached out and touched Yan Muyu's head, his eyes full of affection, and said softly, "I understand your feelings too. It's just..."

"Just what?"

Yan Muyu asked, looking up.

Fang Bai smiled wryly and said, "You're still young, not mature in mind yet. Some thoughts might just be impulsive. Especially when it comes to lifelong matters, which closely relate to your future happiness, you should think more carefully before deciding..."

Yan Muyu understood the meaning behind Fang Bai's words, sniffed, and shook her head resolutely, "I'm almost fifteen years old, not young at all. My affection for Brother Fang is not impulsive. Being with Brother Fang is the happiest thing for me."

After she said this, she didn't know where the courage came from, turning sideways, she opened her arms and hugged Fang Bai tightly.

Fang Bai's body stiffened, the corners of his mouth twitched involuntarily, his hands hovered above, unsure whether to lower them or not.

Yan Muyu rested her head against Fang Bai's chin, her cheeks gently rubbing against Fang Bai's chest, her eyes slightly narrowed, murmuring softly, "Brother Fang, do you believe in fate?"

Fang Bai said, "I believe!"

"Hmm, I believe too!"

Yan Muyu's gaze was dreamy, as if she was lost in memories, speaking softly, "It may sound unbelievable to you, Brother Fang, but the first time I saw you, I felt as if I had known you for a long time... Brother Fang, do you feel the same way?"

Fang Bai nodded and said, "I do. At first glance, it felt like we've known each other for tens of thousands of years..."

When he said this, he couldn't help but think of the Peach Blossom Empress Yan Qingyu who had accompanied him for tens of thousands of years in a past life, and his eyes couldn't help but get a little teary.

"Brother Fang, what's wrong?"

Yan Muyu sensed something unusual in Fang Bai, withdrew from his embrace, fixed her gaze on his face, and saw a faint glimmer in his eyes, feeling flustered, she asked urgently.

Since knowing Fang Bai, her impression of him was either determined and decisive or gentle and modest, never showing such a sorrowful expression.

Fang Bai came to his senses, forced a smile and said, "It's nothing. Just suddenly reminded of an old acquaintance, feeling a bit nostalgic."

"Brother, this old acquaintance of yours must be a very beautiful woman, right?"

Yan Muyu, being sharp-minded, caught on to some clues from Fang Bai's expression and tone, testingly asked.

Fang Bai didn't hide it, nodding, "Yes. She is indeed very beautiful..."

He didn't want to delve into this topic and stopped in time, knowing Yan Muyu's character, she would definitely keep digging for answers.

Regarding his past life, Fang Bai wouldn't let anyone know before regaining his peak strength, including his family in the Secular World, Xia Chenyu, and Qin Yaorao, among his confidants.

It's not that Fang Bai doesn't trust them, but he really can't afford the risk.

In this world, many things are not afraid of a hundred things, just one accident.

Fang Bai knew that if he revealed his past life's identity now, one day when all the disciples from the Emperor's Palace ascend to the Immortal Realm, if anyone unintentionally mentions this, and it's discovered by the eight Immortal Emperors who had joined forces against him, the consequences would be unimaginable.

By then, not only would he be in a place of no return, but all disciples in the Emperor's Palace would face a mad attack from the eight Immortal Emperors and their forces in the Immortal Realm.

That's something Fang Bai would never want to see.

Therefore, for the safety of himself and all disciples in the Emperor's Palace, Fang Bai could only choose to deeply hide this secret in his heart until the power on his side is enough to contend with those eight Immortal Emperors.

Upon hearing Fang Bai admit that the old acquaintance he was missing was a beauty, Yan Muyu couldn't help but feel a bit depressed, softly saying, "I knew it, all the women around Brother Fang are exceptional beauties."

Fang Bai said casually, "Mu Yu is also beautiful! No less than anyone!"

"Really?"

Yan Muyu's face lit up with joy, daringly asked, "Does Brother Fang like Mu Yu?"

Fang Bai said, "How could I not? In my heart, Mu Yu is like a dear sister!"

Yan Muyu's face fell, then she loudly said, "Brother, I don't want you to like me as a sister! I want you to like me like you like Sister Yaorao and Sister Chenyu! How about that?"

She wasn't the type to be shy and introverted, at this point, she decided to be upfront, hugging Fang Bai tightly again, pressing herself against him.

The girl's delicate body was warm and her breath sweet, Fang Bai realized this little girl from the past had grown up, understanding love between men and women, it was no longer possible to deceive or console her.

"Mu Yu, I said earlier, you're still young..."

"I'm not young anymore! Look, I'm already an adult!"

Yan Muyu suddenly stood up, puffing her chest and holding her head high, trying to showcase her figure, to prove she really is a woman now.

Fang Bai smiled wryly and said, "Alright, if you really have this thought, how about we make a pact between us?"

Yan Muyu blinked and asked, "What pact?"

Fang Bai said, "Three years from now, when you turn eighteen, if you still like me, I'll become your Martial Dao partner. During this time, if you develop affection for another man..."

"I won't!"

Yan Muyu interrupted Fang Bai, shaking her head vigorously, with a serious expression, she declared loudly, "Mu Yu swears to the heavens, through countless lifetimes, I'll only love Brother Fang!"

Fang Bai said, "In that case, let's make this pact!"

"Good! I'll listen to Brother Fang!"

Yan Muyu was secretly delighted with Fang Bai's promise.

For Yan Muyu, three years would just be a few training sessions or seclusions, not long at all, she would soon achieve her heart's desire.

After revealing her feelings to Fang Bai, Yan Muyu had no worries and having a rare opportunity to be alone with Fang Bai, she naturally didn't want Fang Bai to leave soon.

Her slender arms hugged Fang Bai, her body like a docile kitten snuggled in his embrace, they watched the sparse stars and new moon in the sky together, listened to the river's flow beside them, her heart felt incredibly sweet and extraordinarily happy.

In the following days, Fang Bai found Liu Qingqing, Shi Xiaolian, Xiao Ying, and Fortune's Blessing sisters, and talked with them, listening to their thoughts.

All the girls had deep feelings for Fang Bai, some were introverted and shy, embarrassed to express it directly; while others were bold and straightforward, expressing their feelings openly.

For Liu Qingqing and the other girls, Fang Bai simply made a three-year pact with them too, as long as by then they still held affection for Fang Bai as they did today, then Fang Bai would also honor them and become their Martial Dao partner.

Chapter 2024: Celebration

Although Yan Muyu and the other women were not destined to participate in this Martial Dao companion ceremony with Fang Bai, they each made a secret three-year pact with Fang Bai, which untangled the knots in their hearts.

As a result, smiles reappeared on their faces, each beautiful in its purity, charm, or allure.

For this grand celebration at the Emperor's Palace, ten thousand disciples paused their cultivation under the command of Fairy Xuanbing to adorn the palace, infusing the place with a rich celebratory atmosphere.

Lu Liyu, the "Chief Steward of the Emperor's Palace" who manages numerous cultivation resources, discussed with Fang Bai and other high-ranking members of the palace, and decided to distribute a generous amount of cultivation resources as "red envelopes" to the palace disciples, which sparked exuberant cheers from them.

As the celebration approached, sect forces from across the three thousand major worlds, friendly with Fang Bai and the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, began arriving successively.

Today, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace enjoys widespread renown as the acknowledged number one powerful sect across the three thousand major worlds, so all sect forces that received Fang Bai's invitation came with their palace masters or leaders personally leading the entourage, giving Fang Bai ample respect.

Meanwhile, some sect forces arrived uninvited, bringing with them generous cultivation resources as gifts.

For these sect forces that were clearly trying to curry favor, the palace conducted a screening process, expelling any with a bad reputation and welcoming the rest into the palace without hesitation.

As the number of guests attending to offer their congratulations exceeded the original estimates, Fang Bai decided to hold the celebration at the square in front of the mountain gate.

After seizing a new body and being reborn, Fang Bai had lived in the secular world of Huaxia for some time, so he incorporated some ancient Huaxia ceremonial elements into the Martial Dao companion ceremony with the women.

Under the watchful eyes of the ten thousand palace disciples and various guests, the entire ceremony was conducted simply, yet grandly.

Before the ceremony began, Fang Bai invited the original parents of the seized body's soul, Fang Gang and Yang Mei, to witness this grand celebration.

Although Fang Gang and Yang Mei were of average talent and not highly cultivated, their special status placed them among the high ranks of the palace.

Fang Bai always harbored a sense of guilt towards them, intending to do everything possible to enable them to ascend to the Immortal Realm, considering it a form of compensation for seizing their son's body.

As for Fang Yun, possessing an Innate Spiritual Root, her current cultivation level was on par with Xia Chenyu and the other women, with the hope of ascending to the Immortal Realm along with Fang Bai and others.

Once the ceremony concluded, Qin Yaorao, Xia Chenyu, and the other women, led by female disciples of the palace, returned to their respective residences.

Fang Bai, however, would engage in dual cultivation with them sometime after the celebration, truly becoming Martial Dao companions.

After the women left, Fang Bai accompanied the various guests to the grand luncheon at the Emperor's Palace.

The cultivators' feast differed greatly from that of ordinary people; instead of rice and vegetables, they consumed spiritual fruits, spiritual wine, spirit beast meat, and other substances imbued with spiritual energy.

This Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace luncheon didn't serve spiritual fruit but did offer spiritual wine and spirit beast meat.

The spirit beast meat was personally hunted by several palace elders from the nearby deep forests, consisting of spirit beasts on par with the Great Calamity Period of the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

Such spirit beast meat, when grilled, not only tasted tender and delicious but also greatly benefited cultivators' cultivation.

The spiritual wine was brewed using a secret formula provided by Fang Bai, incorporating dozens of spiritual flowers and fruits. After drinking a cup, the guests felt spiritual energy coursing through their bodies, comparable to a year's worth of secluded cultivation.

The guests were both delighted and amazed by the miraculous spiritual wine but lamented that each only had one jar, roughly equating to ten cups; otherwise, their trip to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace would have been extremely rewarding.

After the luncheon, Fang Bai invited the various guests to the main hall of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, stating that there was an important matter to discuss.

Curiously, the guests followed Fang Bai to the main hall of the Emperor's Palace, where they seated themselves according to their strength and seniority.

"Palace Master Fang, what matter do you wish to discuss with us?"

Zhongli Tian, the Sect Master of the Green Bamboo Sect and an old acquaintance of Fang Bai, was the first to speak after taking his seat.

Fang Bai smiled, his gaze sweeping over Zhongli Tian and the other guests, and said leisurely, "I have a way to ascend to immortality here; are any of you interested?"

His words were like stones cast into a serene lake, causing waves of excitement.

The sect masters or leaders of the hundred or so powerful and major sects present stirred with excitement, their gazes toward Fang Bai containing a fervent intensity.

Zhongli Tian said, "Palace Master Fang, our ultimate goal as Thunder Tribulation cultivators is to transcend the realm of the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations and ascend to the Immortal Realm. Why wouldn't we be interested?"

“Indeed!”

The eyes of the other hundred or so sect masters and leaders lit up, and they agreed in unison.

The sect masters and leaders present were all seasoned and shrewd powerhouses, knowing that someone of Fang Bai’s stature would not speak groundlessly.

Fang Bai clapped his hands, “It’s good that you’re interested!”

With those words, he clapped his hands, and then Fairy Xuanbing appeared, holding a wooden tray in her hands and standing in the center of the hall.

“On this wooden tray are cultivation techniques representing the Five Elements—Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, Earth, and the Seven Attributes of Wind and Thunder! These techniques I obtained from several celestial ruins...”

Fang Bai pointed to several scrolls made of unknown materials on the wooden tray held by Fairy Xuanbing, explaining slowly.

Upon hearing the phrase “celestial ruins,” the breathing of the hundred or so sect masters and leaders in the hall instantly became heavy, their eyes widening in astonishment.

They realized that Fang Bai’s words were likely true.

Ever since Fairy Xuanbing appeared in the hall, they had been sensing the formidable pressure emanating from the scrolls on the wooden tray.

The pressure was so immense that even those who were Thunder Tribulation Ninefold or Half-Immortal Rank powerhouses found it nearly unbearable.

They knew those scrolls were extraordinary but hadn't expected them to be the legendary Immortal Rank cultivation techniques.

"I plan to share these Immortal Rank cultivation techniques with you all!"

Ignoring the intense emotions of the sect masters and leaders, Fang Bai continued, "However, I have one condition!"

"What condition, Palace Master Fang, just say it!"

One sect master from a super sect couldn't wait to speak.

This sect master had been at the Half-Immortal Rank Realm for more than six decades, yet had been unable to make further breakthroughs. Seeing that his lifespan would reach its limit in several decades, he was more anxious than others.

His super sect didn't lack cultivation resources, but what they truly lacked were higher-level techniques. If he could obtain an Immortal Rank cultivation technique, he might comprehend some of the Great Dao Principles and find a shortcut for his future cultivation.

Other sect masters or leaders shared the same thoughts, though they were unsure of what condition Fang Bai would present.

Chapter 2025: Two Conditions

For the majority of cultivators in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, Immortal Rank cultivation techniques are considered legendary Supreme Techniques, seldom seen and even rarer to be practiced.

Even if a cultivator happened upon an Immortal Rank cultivation technique within some Immortal family relic, they would never reveal it to others but rather keep it secretly and practice in private.

Someone like Fang Bai, who shares several Immortal Rank cultivation technique scrolls and is even willing to offer them to others, is unheard of and hard to believe.

If other sects dared to act this way, it would surely provoke greed for the Immortal Rank techniques, leading to disaster and the annihilation of their sect.

But with the current strength of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, no one dares to entertain such thoughts unless they wish to die.

The hundred guests in the Emperor's Palace Hall firmly believe that there is no such thing as a free lunch, and thus, they speculate whether Fang Bai's generous gesture comes with extremely harsh conditions next.

Fang Bai glanced at the guests' faces, seemingly reading their thoughts, and smiled as he said, "Rest assured, my conditions are quite simple, and I believe all of you can fulfill them. Of course, after I present the conditions, you may deliberate and decide for yourselves. I will not force anyone!"

Zhongli Tian, Sect Master of the Green Bamboo Sect from the Extreme South Continent, stood up, cupped his hands toward Fang Bai, and said loudly, "Palace Master Fang, what are the conditions? Speak quickly; we're getting a bit impatient!"

Among the hundred guests, Zhongli Tian was one of the closest to Fang Bai, which gave him the courage to urge him. Other sect masters or leaders wouldn't dare.

Fang Bai smiled slightly and said, "There are two conditions. First, anyone wishing to practice my Immortal Rank cultivation techniques must offer a portion of cultivation resources to my Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace... As for the amount, let's say one-tenth of your sect's total cultivation resources... If you agree with this first condition, we may continue the discussion. If you find it difficult, there's no need for me to mention the second condition."

Upon hearing this, the hundred guests began whispering among themselves.

One-tenth of the total cultivation resources of a powerful and prestigious sect is a substantial amount, and this seems like Fang Bai is asking for a lot.

However, for those cultivators eager to break through the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations and ascend to the Immortal Realm, if they can trade these cultivation resources for an Immortal Rank cultivation technique, they are willing to do so.

This is akin to the wealthy in the secular world, who, when afflicted with a difficult-to-cure disease, would not hesitate to exchange all their wealth for health.

"Palace Master Fang, trading cultivation resources for Immortal Rank techniques is agreeable, but could you reduce the amount? After all, one-tenth of a sect's cultivation resources is no trivial matter!"

A sect master from a top-tier sect in the Western Desolate Continent clasped his hands and spoke.

Upon his statement, other sects and leaders nodded in agreement.

For them, contributing a smaller portion means securing more benefits for their sect.

Fang Bai smiled and shook his head, "No! Cultivation resources can be replenished, but Immortal Rank techniques are rare treasures, hard to find and seek. Consider carefully!"

Zhongli Tian didn't hesitate much and nodded, "I agree!"

He was one of the few super sect masters in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, possessing a Half-Immortal Rank cultivation level beyond the reach of most cultivators, so when he agreed, others remained silent.

"Palace Master Fang, please state your second condition!"

Gu Feng, Giant Clan Leader, spoke solemnly.

The other guests sat upright and listened attentively.

Everyone could reluctantly accept Fang Bai's first condition. As long as the second condition is not too demanding, it's likely the guests will not object, making it possible to obtain the Immortal Rank techniques.

Rumor has it that above the Immortal Realm, Immortal Sects are also widespread, where power prevails, making the situation even more complex than in the Three Thousand Great Worlds..."

Fang Bai did not directly state the second condition but instead introduced the situation in the Immortal Realm briefly.

The guests present initially thought the Immortal Realm was a utopia free from worldly strife, but hearing Fang Bai's description of its dangers made their faces change in concern.

"How does Palace Master Fang know about the affairs of the Immortal Realm?"

A sect master questioned.

Other guests had the same doubt, looking towards Fang Bai.

Pointing at the scrolls of Immortal Rank techniques in the wooden tray, Fang Bai said, "Alongside discovering the Immortal family relic, I also found some messages left by immortals, thus gaining some initial understanding of the Immortal Realm. To my surprise, the Immortal Realm is not the paradise and utopia imagined!"

Upon his words, the guests no longer doubted.

Though the Immortal Realm is perilous, it does not deter the passion of these guests to seek the Dao, and none fear nor retreat because of it.

Fang Bai continued, "In the future, perhaps all of us may hope to ascend to the Immortal Realm. However, in the Immortal Realm, as a loose cultivator without strong backing, one may face all sorts of bullying and oppression. Hence, my second condition is to hope that all of you, once ascending to the

Immortal Realm, will join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, uniting together to protect our interests!"

In his past life, Fang Bai had numerous acquaintances across many realms but understood that after his demise, the Eight Immortal Emperors would systematically eliminate forces close to him.

Now Fang Bai has reincarnated and seeks to return to the Ninefold Heavenly Domain to exact revenge on the Eight Immortal Emperors, knowing he cannot do it alone, but must gather a powerful force of his own.

The hundred sect masters or leaders in the hall, all possessing outstanding talent, if taught Immortal Rank cultivation techniques by Fang Bai, would likely ascend to the Immortal Realm and become part of its inner circle.

These individuals are the targets Fang Bai wishes to recruit.

As Fang Bai mentioned, new arrivals in the Immortal Realm, without powerful allies, cannot avoid being bullied by other immortals. By joining affiliated Immortal Sects, they can consolidate strength and collectively resist external threats.

Not only in the Immortal Realm, but in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, survival of the fittest also exists, and most cultivators choose to seek refuge in sects for protection, with loose cultivators being the minority.

Therefore, Fang Bai believes his condition will not be rejected by the guests present.

Indeed, as soon as Fang Bai spoke these words, Zhongli Tian, Hua Yanqing, and Gu Feng were the first to express, "If we can ascend to the Immortal Realm, we are willing to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace!"

The three of them were self-aware and knew that given their talents, if they could ascend to the Immortal Realm, it would be extremely fortunate, never having thought of establishing their own sect there.

After ascending, by joining the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, their combined strength would gather in one place, thus providing mutual warmth and unity to resist external threats — a wise choice.

...

Chapter 2026: Torn Between Hope and Fear

After Zhongli Tian, Hua Yanqing, and Gu Feng expressed their stances, the other hundreds of guests had no objections and all nodded in agreement to the two conditions proposed by Fang Bai.

To them, the first condition proposed by Fang Bai was barely acceptable, and the second one was only beneficial with no harm. Refusing would be foolish.

Then, they once again looked at the few Immortal Rank cultivation techniques on the wooden tray held by Fairy Xuanbing, each person's gaze filled with anticipation.

Fang Bai took in their expressions and said with a smile, "Rest assured, I, Fang Bai, am a man of my word. Since you have agreed to my two conditions, I will also allow you to peruse these Immortal Rank cultivation techniques. But..."

Upon hearing the word "but," the guests suddenly tensed up.

Fang Bai continued, "But you cannot take these cultivation techniques away. If you wish to comprehend and cultivate them, you must stay in my Emperor's Palace."

The guests, hearing this, thought they understood and secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Fang Bai's words were within their expectations.

After all, the Immortal Rank cultivation techniques in Fairy Xuanbing's hand were only a few, while they numbered in the hundreds, so taking the techniques away for individual cultivation was simply impossible, and the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace would not be so generous.

"The Palace Master allows you to cultivate in the Emperor's Palace for your own good!"

At this moment, Fairy Xuanbing, who was holding the tray, spoke coldly, "Do you think cultivating an Immortal Rank technique is that easy? It's not that I'm underestimating everyone here, but with your talents and aptitudes, if you were to comprehend and cultivate these Immortal Rank techniques on your own, you might not understand even one-tenth of them in a hundred years..."

As she spoke, her gaze swept over the guests, and she continued, "And by cultivating in our Emperor's Palace, if there is any confusion or questions, you can always consult the Palace Master. Our Palace Master is knowledgeable and his guidance presents you with a golden opportunity!"

Though Fairy Xuanbing's words were harsh, not a single guest dared to refute.

Fairy Xuanbing, now a Half-Immortal Rank powerhouse, stood there holding the tray, exuding immense pressure, making those guests feel a great burden.

Even Zhongli Tian, the experienced Half-Immortal Rank Sect Master of the Green Bamboo Sect, felt that Fairy Xuanbing's cultivation level might surpass his own slightly.

Furthermore, they had all heard before that Fairy Xuanbing managed to advance from the ninth level of Heavenly Tribulation to the Half-Immortal Rank Realm rapidly after joining the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace because she cultivated an Immortal Rank technique and received guidance from Fang Bai.

Hearing Fairy Xuanbing's words now, they realized the rumors they had previously heard were likely true.

Before them stood Fang Bai, who founded the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace; his exceptional talent and peerless aptitude, despite only having the eighth realm of Heavenly Tribulation, could easily crush them, even those at the ninth level of Heavenly Tribulation or the Half-Immortal Rank.

Fang Bai's ability to guide Fairy Xuanbing in cultivating the Immortal Rank technique showed he understood those techniques more profoundly; his insight and comprehension were abundant enough for guiding them, the cultivators, with ease and confidence.

Then, under Fang Bai's guidance, perhaps the path for these cultivators to ascend to the Immortal Realm might truly be opened.

"Palace Master Fang, I will return to the Green Bamboo Sect immediately to hand over the Sect Master's position to another disciple. Then I will bring along a package of cultivation resources and settle down in the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace for cultivation!"

Zhongli Tian, the Sect Master of the Green Bamboo Sect, stood up and said a few words to Fang Bai before leaving hurriedly with a few disciples.

Zhongli Tian, being advanced in age and having limited longevity, had an even greater urgency for comprehending the Heavenly Dao and ascending to immortality. Since cultivation at the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace held hope for achieving this lifelong dream, he didn't want to wait any longer.

Many other guests shared the same ideas as Zhongli Tian, and seeing him leave, they were afraid of falling behind themselves, so they too bade farewell to Fang Bai, intending to return to their sects to make proper arrangements before coming to the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Fang Bai had Flood Dragon Venerable and Xuan Feng Venerable see the guests off from the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, then asked Fairy Xuanbing to return the few Immortal Rank cultivation techniques to the treasury.

Those Immortal Rank cultivation techniques were basic ones, and Fang Bai left them in the Emperor's Palace for the disciples to cultivate. This way, even after he ascends to the Immortal Realm, the remaining Emperor's Palace disciples can rely on these techniques to achieve ascension.

By evening, although the guests had left, the entire Emperor's Palace was still immersed in a festive atmosphere.

To celebrate his union with several ladies as martial partners today, Fang Bai specially ordered that the hundred thousand disciples of the Emperor's Palace enjoy a grand celebration.

Thus, the hundred thousand disciples of the Emperor's Palace plunged into revelry.

They drank Spiritual Wine heartily, devoured Spirit Beast Meat in large mouthfuls, and at times, exchanged insights on the Dao of Cultivation, making noise until the middle of the night before dispersing.

Once everyone had left, some waiting menial servant disciples quickly appeared to clean up the mess.

Thus, the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace quickly restored its original state.

After night fell, Fang Bai left the Palace Master Hall and went straight to find Su Linglong.

Among the ladies, Qin Yaorao was the first woman Fang Bai saw after seizing and being reborn.

Besides that, Su Linglong was the one who had known him the longest.

Thinking of that beautiful class leader back in the mundane world, who has now become his martial partner, Fang Bai couldn't help but feel emotional, while also guessing what Class Leader Su might be thinking at this moment.

The courtyard where Su Linglong resides, comparable in scale to the others, is situated in an elegant and tranquil valley filled with flowers and plants, located a hundred miles east of the Palace Master Hall.

Su Linglong liked this valley and courtyard very much, so she named it "Linglong Residence" after herself.

After the ceremony of formally becoming martial partners with Fang Bai during the day, Su Linglong returned to Linglong Residence in advance in the company of four female disciples from the Emperor's Palace, waiting there.

In her heart, of course, she hoped that Fang Bai would come to her place tonight.

However, since it wasn't just her who became martial partners with Fang Bai today, she wasn't sure where Fang Bai would end up staying.

In fact, before today's ceremony was held, Su Linglong, Qin Yaorao, and the others discussed that whoever Fang Bai didn't visit by midnight could rest on their own.

According to Qin Yaorao, since they were already martial partners with Fang Bai, it didn't matter if they spent a day sooner or later together; they would achieve their union sooner or later.

For Su Linglong, however, if Fang Bai were to come to her place tonight, it would surely make her happy.

Although it was already dark, it was still early before midnight, yet Su Linglong's heart fluttered, unable to find peace.

Chapter 2027: I've Waited So Long for This Day

"There's nothing much here, you can leave now."

Su Linglong got up and walked outside the courtyard, seeing four female disciples from the Emperor's Palace still guarding there, she waved her hand and said.

She herself was already a powerful cultivator at the seventh stage of the Heavenly Tribulation, and with the numerous formations personally set up by Fang Bai surrounding the small courtyard, even if a Demi-Immortal rank cultivator attacked, they would not pose a threat to her, so there was no need for anyone to guard her.

The four female disciples bowed and accepted the order, quickly leaving, thus leaving only Su Linglong in and around the courtyard, making it even more serene and quiet.

"Will he come here tonight?"

Su Linglong gazed at the distant night sky, feeling somewhat melancholic. She initially wanted to release her Divine Sense to track Fang Bai's whereabouts, but after thinking about it, she deemed it inappropriate, so she decisively gave up.

Outside the courtyard gate, she gazed longingly in the direction of the Palace Master Hall, but Fang Bai's figure was nowhere to be seen.

"Sigh..."

Su Linglong sighed softly, the light in her eyes dimming, as she prepared to return to the courtyard.

Just as she turned around, she heard the gentle sound of the wind in her ear, and then her soft waist was suddenly held tightly, embraced from behind by someone's arms.

Su Linglong was shocked, her Spiritual Energy running wildly through her body, instinctively ready to counterattack.

"Linglong, it's me."

A voice as gentle as a spring breeze sounded in Su Linglong's ear.

Hearing this voice, Su Linglong's tense nerves immediately relaxed, and her eyes suddenly lit up.

"Why did you sigh just now? Were you a bit disappointed, thinking I wouldn't come to see you tonight?"

The person behind her brought their mouth close to Su Linglong's ear, and the warm breath from their words caused Su Linglong's body to soften, as the surging Spiritual Energy within her instantly calmed down.

"Fang Bai!"

The next moment, Su Linglong turned around with infinite joy, wrapping her hands around Fang Bai's body.

"I thought you were going to spend the night with the other sisters and wouldn't come!"

Su Linglong pressed one cheek tightly against Fang Bai's chest, listening to his steady and powerful heartbeat, and murmured with a happy expression.

Fang Bai laughed and said, "What, you don't want me to come? Then I'll go find Rushi and Ruhua!"

Su Linglong knew he was teasing her intentionally, yet she still tightly hugged him and said, "No! Ah..."

Before she could finish her sentence, she was lifted off the ground, scooped up by Fang Bai around the waist.

"Haha, I'm just teasing you! Even if you send me away now, I won't leave! Linglong, let's go inside and talk!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily, holding Su Linglong's soft, supple body horizontally, striding briskly through the courtyard and into the newly arranged house.

The courtyard gate and house door behind them closed slowly under Fang Bai's Divine Sense control, one after the other.

In the new room, there were Spirit Stones specially used for lighting, making the spacious area bright and clear.

"Linglong, you're truly beautiful tonight!"

Fang Bai placed Su Linglong on the large bed in the room, seeing her beautiful eyes flowing, her cheeks flushed, her shapely body outlining enchanting curves, with her faint fragrance silently spreading at the nose, like a blooming flower. Remembering every little moment since meeting her, he spoke softly.

As he spoke, his hands roamed and caressed Su Linglong's supple, boneless, soft body.

Su Linglong's body grew soft, her cheeks burning, already moved by emotion. Hearing Fang Bai's words, she suddenly hooked her hands around his neck, parted her cherry lips gently, and said, "Fang Bai, I've waited so long for this day. Tonight, let's become true Martial Dao companions!"

Her dewy red lips parted slightly, leaning toward Fang Bai's lips for a kiss.

The two lovers, who had known and loved each other since mundane times, body to body, heart to heart, fell into endless gentle entanglement, everything seemed to flow naturally.

In a courtyard ten miles away, Tang Wenrou sat cross-legged on the bed in the new room, already entering a state of cultivation.

Of course, she also had expectations about where Fang Bai would stay tonight.

However, she maintained a peaceful mindset, unwilling to compete or fight. If Fang Bai came to her tonight, she would be naturally delighted, but if not, she wouldn't be disappointed and would focus on cultivation instead.

Having already become Martial Dao companions with Fang Bai, merging cultivation was just a matter of time, no need to rush it.

Among the women waiting for Fang Bai tonight, many shared the same mindset as Tang Wenrou. They didn't wait for Fang Bai deliberately but used focused cultivation as a way to pass the idle time.

Of course, there were also those like Su Linglong, who were anxious and expectant.

As the night reached its peak, the women who didn't see Fang Bai's arrival, after initial disappointment, instead could focus on their cultivation.

As Tang Wenrou and the others imagined, their disappointment was temporary.

Afterward, Fang Bai would visit one of his Martial Dao companions approximately every ten days, enjoying the union of shared cultivation and exploring the Great Dao principles together.

Fang Bai, being a Chaos True Body, and the women, all possessing Innate Spiritual Roots, many even having a Primordial Yin Physique, during their united cultivation, the blend of heaven and earth, yin and yang complement each other, causing Spiritual Energy to cycle continuously through both bodies, cleansing meridians, improving physique, and breaking through barriers.

Each session of united cultivation brought immense benefits to both parties.

Relatively, because Fang Bai was a Chaos True Body and had a higher cultivation level, the women gained even more benefits from it.

And Fang Bai, through repeated sessions of united cultivation, continuously accumulated Spiritual Energy, causing the seven different elemental Primordial Spirits suspended in his Qi Sea to become increasingly substantial.

More than a year later, Zhongli Tian, Hua Yanqing, Gu Feng, and over a hundred sect leaders or heads from various major sects once again gathered at the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

They all relinquished their positions as sect leaders or heads to focus on cultivation at the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, bringing with them one-tenth of their sect's cultivation resources, hoping Fang Bai would honor his promise to teach them the Dao of Cultivating Immortal Rank Cultivation Techniques and help them ascend to immortality.

The cultivation resources brought by over a hundred sect leaders or heads combined were astonishing in quantity. Fang Bai accepted a portion of them to deposit in the Emperor's Palace treasury for the future needs of Emperor's Palace disciples, and let the sect leaders or heads keep the rest.

Although most of these over a hundred sect leaders or heads were at the Ninth Stage of the Heavenly Tribulation or Half-Immortal Rank in cultivation, ascending to immortality was not easy. They required Fang Bai's guidance as well as ample cultivation resources.

Fang Bai initially asked them to bring one-tenth of their sect's cultivation resources, which seemed substantial, but ultimately, half of it would be used for their cultivation.

"Palace Master Fang, we've handed over the cultivation resources, so when can you teach us the Immortal Rank cultivation techniques?"

In the Palace Master Hall, Zhongli Tian, Sect Master of Green Bamboo Sect, represented the over a hundred sect leaders or heads present, asking eagerly. They were highly motivated, eager to start cultivation immediately, striving to ascend to the Immortal Realm as soon as possible.

Chapter 2028: The Great Seclusion

"Everyone, please wait for several dozen days. I plan to enter closed-door training for a period of time. Well, when I emerge, we can discuss the Immortal Rank Cultivation Techniques together. How does that sound?"

"Palace Master Fang, you... are you going to break through again?"

Zhongli Tian looked Fang Bai up and down, sensing an extremely powerful and restless spiritual energy within him, and exclaimed in surprise.

He still remembered over a year ago, when he came to attend the celebration of Fang Bai and Qin Yaorao becoming Martial Dao companions, Fang Bai had just advanced to the Eighth Level of the Thunder Tribulation Realm. He did not expect that he was showing signs of breaking through again now.

This speed of advancement is so miraculous that even 'miracle' is too weak a word to describe it.

Hearing Zhongli Tian's exclamation, the other cultivators present also examined Fang Bai, their eyes full of shock.

A cultivator, when reaching the Great Calamity Period of the Thunder Tribulation Realm, faces even greater difficulty in advancing. Even with extremely high talent and aptitude, advancing another level without decades or even centuries is nearly impossible.

Some cultivators spend their entire lives unable to take even one more step forward.

Yet, Fang Bai, after reaching the Eighth Level of the Thunder Tribulation, showed signs of advancement again in just over a year. How could this not shock Zhongli Tian and the others?

Some sect masters or leaders looked at Fang Bai with reverence in their eyes.

When Fang Bai was at the Eighth Level of the Thunder Tribulation, his combat strength could rival that of a Half-Immortal Rank expert. If he advances to the Ninth Level, wouldn't he be able to easily crush even a Half-Immortal Rank expert?

Besides the shock, there was joy and excitement.

They believed that the stronger Fang Bai's abilities, the deeper his understanding of those Immortal Rank Techniques. By then, when he teaches and guides them, their cultivation would progress with half the effort.

With these thoughts, the hundreds of sect masters or leaders present no longer questioned Fang Bai's decision to enter closed-door training.

Fang Bai had Emperor's Palace disciples arrange lodging for Zhongli Tian and the others, and then he, along with the women, went to a valley in the back mountain to begin seclusion and training.

This time, the signs of advancement were not limited to Fang Bai alone.

Su Linglong, Ye Wumei, and the other women, due to having practiced with Fang Bai multiple times and with his detailed explanations of the Immortal Rank Techniques over the past year, coupled with rich cultivation resources, were showing signs of advancement as well.

Fang Bai planned to use this opportunity in seclusion to assist the women with his Chaos Spirit Qi so they could advance with him.

In doing so, they were one step closer to their goal of ascending to immortality together.

The news of the palace master about to advance spread, and the 100,000 disciples of the Emperor's Palace were all excited and eagerly monitoring the movements on the back mountain.

Zhongli Tian and others were also attentive, praying internally for Fang Bai to successfully weather the Heavenly Tribulation and advance.

It's important to know that Thunder Tribulation Realm Great Calamity Period experts, when advancing, must face eighty-one trials of the Heavenly Tribulation. This process is extremely hazardous.

Should Fang Bai unfortunately fall during the Heavenly Tribulation, then the efforts of these cultivators would have been wasted, and their hope of ascending to the Immortal Realm might be lost.

This was something none of them wanted to see.

A month later, much to everyone's anticipation, large tribulation clouds began to form above the valley where Fang Bai and the women were in seclusion.

Between the thick clouds, thunder rumbled, lightning snakes darted, and terrifying energy was rapidly brewing.

"Boom!"

"Crack!"

Finally, bolts of lightning struck from the tribulation clouds, their target being the valley where Fang Bai and the women were training.

"Judging by the power of this Heavenly Tribulation, it doesn't seem like the Palace Master is advancing!"

Zhongli Tian, standing atop a mountain dozens of miles away, looked on and said.

He was a Half-Immortal Rank expert, having gone through the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations himself, knew Fang Bai's advancement would be more dramatic than his own.

Judging from the imposing force of the Heavenly Tribulation, he guessed that the one advancing might be one of Qin Yaorao and the women.

As Zhongli Tian predicted, after eighty-one Heavenly Tribulations, a strong wave pulse spreading from the valley indicated the birth of an Eighth Level Thunder Tribulation expert.

Moments later, a figure shot out from the valley, landing on a mountain peak not far from Zhongli Tian and the others—it was Qin Yaorao.

Clearly, it was Qin Yaorao who had advanced just now.

After advancing, Qin Yaorao immediately left the valley, to avoid being affected by the shockwaves from the others' advancement.

With Qin Yaorao's successful advancement, this wave of lightning dissipated, and the tribulation clouds dispersed.

Yet, within less than a hundred breaths, another wave of tribulation clouds and lightning emerged.

Thus, every so often, one of the women would advance through the Heavenly Tribulation, all being Martial Dao companions brought by Fang Bai for closed-door training.

"The more than ten Martial Dao companions Fang Bai brought, none failed, all successfully advanced! Remarkable!"

Watching more and more women shooting out from the valley and gathering beside Qin Yaorao until all were reunited, Zhongli Tian couldn't help but marvel.

Now, the only one yet to face the tribulation was Fang Bai himself.

Zhongli Tian waited for a long time without any movement from the back mountain valley and grew somewhat restless. He flew across the air, hovering in front of Qin Yaorao and the women, cupped his hands, and asked: "Is Palace Master Fang alright?"

Qin Yaorao smiled slightly and said: "No worries. He exhausted quite a bit of spiritual energy helping us advance, and needs some time to recover before attempting his own tribulation. Please be patient, Sect Master Zhongli."

Only then did Zhongli Tian feel at ease, laughing, "No rush! No rush!"

A few hundred breaths later, the sky above where Fang Bai was in the valley finally stirred with activity; tribulation clouds formed once more, and lightning descended again.

"This..."

Seeing massive tribulation clouds and hearing the thunderous roars of the lightning, far more powerful than when he faced the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations himself, Zhongli Tian was left speechless and worried for Fang Bai.

He anticipated Fang Bai's Ninefold Heavenly Tribulation would be tougher than his own back then, but did not imagine it to be so perilous.

Although a Half-Immortal Rank expert himself, Zhongli Tian felt that if faced with such a tribulation, even if not all eighty-one bolts of lightning struck, he couldn't withstand even ten or eight.

"Palace Master Fang, you must hold on! Should anything happen to you, and with us Thunder Tribulation Ninth Level and Half-Immortal Rank cultivators, it would be hopeless to think of ascending to immortality after this."

Zhongli Tian dared not watch the scene in the valley any longer, so he closed his eyes, clasped his hands, muttering prayers for Fang Bai.

“Boom...”

“Crack!”

“Crack!”

“Crack!”

Suddenly, blinding flashes of light illuminated the heavens and earth within hundreds of miles, followed by several thick bolts of lightning simultaneously striking Fang Bai.

Chapter 2029: Ninth Layer of Heavenly Tribulation

A wave after wave of thunder, like the Thunder God’s hammer ceaselessly chiseling, crashed down on Fang Bai.

Fang Bai used the seven types of spiritual energy: metal, wood, water, fire, earth, wind, and thunder, to form seven layers of different colored defense qi shields around him, to resist the lightning strikes.

However, his seven layers of defense qi shields couldn’t hold out for long under the continuously escalating power of the lightning strikes. After enduring the might of forty-nine heavenly thunders, they finally shattered abruptly.

Thus, he had to directly face the lightning strikes with his physical body.

"Crack!"

"Boom!"

When the fiftieth lightning strike descended upon Fang Bai, his body writhed as if struck by a massive hammer weighing ten thousand pounds. His entire being trembled violently, and his clothes and sweater were instantly turned to nothing.

In just a few short breaths, the fifty-first lightning strike followed closely.

This strike left Fang Bai's skin broken and flesh torn, causing blood to gush from the wounds, turning him into a blood-drenched figure in an instant.

"Crack!"

"Boom!"

Under the fifty-second lightning tribulation, there was no longer an intact part on Fang Bai's body. Between the burst open flesh, white bones faintly revealed themselves, making him gasp continuously from the excruciating pain.

"Crack!"

"Boom!"

After the fifty-third lightning tribulation, all of Fang Bai's internal organs were injured, with blood oozing from his seven apertures, which appeared extremely terrifying.

"Ah!"

Fang Bai let out a tremendous roar towards the sky that suppressed the rolling thunder above, venting the extreme pain as if his body was being torn apart.

Before this, every tribulation that Fang Bai endured was always accompanied by unimaginable suffering.

This time the advancement through the ninefold tribulation was several times more powerful than before. Fortunately, Fang Bai's physical body was robust; otherwise, under these dozens of lightning strikes, he would already have been reduced to ashes, his body annihilated.

Fang Bai knew that with each lightning strike, the power would increase a bit, so from the moment the defense qi shield was shattered, he frantically circulated the cultivation technique, using the chaos spirit qi in his qi sea to traverse his entire body, rapidly repairing the injuries suffered by his body.

But each lightning strike came less than a few breaths apart, often leaving previous injuries unhealed as new injuries arose. This accumulation of wounds became increasingly severe.

Fang Bai's will was strong, and his Dao-heart unwavering. Despite being severely injured, his heart held not a trace of fear.

He intended to leverage the might of the thunder and lightning from heaven and earth to force out the potential within him as much as possible, to achieve the purpose of advancing to the ninefold lightning tribulation.

As long as he could smoothly pass through the lightning tribulation and advance successfully, his strength would increase to at least seven times what it was before.

Fang Bai realized that he had still underestimated the power of this lightning tribulation.

When the sixtieth lightning strike descended, aside from some vital parts of his body, the rest was entirely shattered by the lightning, with bloody flesh hanging from the exposed white bones, making it a frightening sight.

For any other cultivator in such a state of injury, they would already be on their last breaths, their life force feeble.

Yet Fang Bai remained mentally invigorated, his fighting spirit soaring, eyes sparking with electric light, his expression unyielding.

For Fang Bai, as long as his heart pulse continued, his qi sea wasn't destroyed, and his divine sense was immortal, no matter how severe his injuries, he wouldn't fall. Once the lightning tribulation was over, his chaos true qi would swiftly restore his body to its original state.

In fact, Fang Bai possessed many means to resist lightning strikes, avoid the tribulation, and achieve smooth advancement.

For example, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, the Soul Loss Bell, the Bixie Immortal Beast... if Fang Bai summoned them, he could stand against the descending lightning strikes.

However, unless confronted with deadly peril, Fang Bai would not resort to these bottom-line methods to save his life, as doing so would somewhat compromise the cultivation effect.

When the seventieth lightning tribulation arrived and Fang Bai felt he could barely hold on, the World Tree within his Five Elements Space Ring began to release an unending stream of wood spirit qi capable of stimulating life potential.

The current World Tree had already reached a height of thirty meters, with lush foliage covering a range of ten thousand square meters.

Fang Bai could sense that ever since the World Tree "revived," it continuously evolved, and the pure and rich wood spirit qi it released now almost matched the chaos true qi in Fang Bai's qi sea.

The unending wood spirit qi, like a surging river, flowed vigorously out of the Five Elements Space Ring, infusing into Fang Bai's meridians, blood vessels, and every part of his body.

Thus, Fang Bai's nearly shattered body due to the lightning strikes began to recover more rapidly, almost at the pace of the destruction.

For Fang Bai, who was suffering severe injuries and struggling to maintain, this was akin to a potent stimulant.

"Ah!"

Feeling the increasingly abundant and powerful energy within him, Fang Bai let out a roar towards the sky, his voice piercing through the clouds.

After enduring a few more lightning strikes, Fang Bai felt that his physical tempering was about sufficient, and so he began to circulate the Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra, guiding the subsequent lightning strokes from his body into the ground.

Consequently, the valley where Fang Bai was cultivating suffered.

The formidable power of the lightning, led into the earth by him, caused the entire valley to shake, with dozens of surrounding peaks trembling incessantly as if an extensive earthquake had occurred.

From the mountaintop afar, Zhongli Tian and others, as well as the upper echelons of the Emperor's Palace, witnessed this astonishing celestial phenomenon.

"What's going on? Could Brother Fang be in trouble?"

Su Linglong said with a worried expression.

Dongfang Ruhua said, "Brother Fang is so formidable, he should be fine, right?"

Baili Mingyue suggested, "Why don't we go and check it out?"

Dragon Maiden shook her head, "No way! The power of that lightning tribulation area is far beyond what we can withstand, whoever goes in will die!"

Qin Yaorao nodded, "Dragon Maiden is right! You shouldn't worry too much either. With Fang Bai's aptitude, the commotion during advancement should be much greater than that of other experts of the same realm! Moreover, we already have a spiritual connection with Fang Bai, if he encounters a life-threatening danger, we will surely feel it from our side."

Hearing this, the girls finally calmed down.

Just as Qin Yaorao said, they all had a spiritual connection with Fang Bai. If Fang Bai encountered anything short of a life-threatening predicament, they would only feel anxious and tense. If Fang Bai really fell, as Fang Bai had mentioned before, they might feel heart-wrenching pain.

At this moment, a strong shockwave suddenly spread out from the valley, encompassing a radius of a hundred miles, causing the surrounding mountains to tremble once more before the ominous clouds in the sky quickly dissipated.

"Quick, look, the tribulation clouds have cleared!"

"Brother Fang successfully got through the lightning tribulation!"

"Wonderful! Our Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace has another ninefold tribulation expert!"

"Not just that! With Brother Fang's combat power, even Demi Immortal Rank experts aren't his match!"

"Big Brother is mighty!"

...

The ladies knew that Fang Bai had smoothly passed through the ninefold tribulation and were overjoyed.

When they used their divine sense to search for Fang Bai, they discovered that his entire body was enveloped in layers of spiritual energy, resembling a massive cocoon, making it impossible to see his form clearly.

Unbeknownst to them, Fang Bai, due to the severe injuries he sustained earlier, was in the process of self-repair at that moment.

Chapter 2030: Unattainable

Three days later, Fang Bai flew out from the back mountain and appeared in front of everyone.

His white robes fluttered, black hair danced in the wind, exuding an ethereal aura, and he seemed like a whole new person, giving off a sense of returning to simplicity and authenticity.

In the eyes of Zhongli Tian and others, as well as Fairy Xuanbing, Xuan Feng Venerable, Flood Dragon Venerable, and these other Half-Immortal Rank powerhouses, Fang Bai appeared to be an ordinary person without the strength to truss a chicken, entirely unassociateable with a cultivator of the ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation.

But precisely because of this, Zhongli Tian and others knew that Fang Bai, after advancing, possessed combat power that was extremely terrifying, beyond the reach of themselves, these Half-Immortal Rank cultivators.

"Palace Master Fang, forgive my presumptuousness in asking: what realm has your current cultivation level reached?"

Zhongli Tian couldn't help but ask.

Fang Bai smiled slightly, said nothing, and released a wisp of aura that silently pressed toward Zhongli Tian.

Zhongli Tian felt his breath choke, his body swayed, his face flushed red, and sweat flowed profusely, soaking his clothes.

"No, no, I can't hold on!"

In just a few breaths, Zhongli Tian suddenly cried out, collapsing to the ground in a heap without any semblance of dignity.

Once Fang Bai retracted that wisp of aura, Zhongli Tian let out a long breath of relief.

"Terrifying... truly terrifying..."

Zhongli Tian murmured to himself, his gaze towards Fang Bai filled with awe.

In his lifetime, Zhongli Tian had never been impressed by anyone, but for the present Fang Bai, he was awestruck.

"The pressure from just a wisp of aura made even a Half-Immortal Rank expert like Zhongli Tian unable to withstand it. Such combat power is likely not far from the legendary realm of an Immortal, is it?"

The other powerhouses present saw Zhongli Tian withstand Fang Bai's pressure for only a few breaths before they were secretly shocked.

They had predicted that after this advancement, Fang Bai's combat power might surpass theirs, but never expected Fang Bai would not just "surpass" but far exceed them.

"At this speed of advancement, maybe it won't be long before he can ascend to the Immortal Realm, right?"

Zhongli Tian and others thought this in their hearts.

They had lived for hundreds of years, hearing various legends of cultivation geniuses, but no one could compare to Fang Bai.

"Give me three to five more days to consolidate my realm. After that, I'll await you all in the Palace Master Hall to begin explaining the Immortal Rank cultivation technique."

Fang Bai glanced over Zhongli Tian and others, smiled, and said.

How could Zhongli Tian and the others dare to refuse? They all said, "Of course! Of course!"

Before their words fell, they saw a blur before their eyes, and upon looking again, Fang Bai's figure was several miles away, as if he had performed an instantaneous movement.

This speed was astonishingly fast, leaving all present cultivators in the dust.

"Palace Master Fang has just advanced to the ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation, and he only needs three to five days to consolidate his realm?"

A sect master of the ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation looked in the direction Fang Bai had disappeared and said incredulously.

Hua Yanqing remarked, "As far as I know, Sect Master Fang has always kept his word. He said three to five days, so let's just wait."

The sect master who spoke earlier sighed and said, "I remember that after advancing to the ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation, it took me a full five years to fully stabilize my realm. If Palace Master Fang only needs three to five days... he truly is an unparalleled genius!"

Zhongli Tian glanced at him and said, "Isn't Palace Master Fang already an unparalleled genius? Advancing from the eighth to the ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation within a year, how many in the world can do that?"

With this statement, all the powerhouses agreed, feeling infinite emotion, lamenting the vast distance between people.

Five days later, Zhongli Tian and others were indeed summoned by Fang Bai, and over a hundred sect masters or leaders from major sect forces across the three thousand great worlds once again gathered in the Palace Master Hall of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace.

Fang Bai didn't waste words, and once Zhongli Tian and others were gathered, he began to explain the Dao of Cultivation for Immortal Rank techniques.

Over a hundred sect masters or leaders, naturally, cultivated techniques with different attributes, so Fang Bai explained each attribute's cultivation technique in detail several times.

Over the next three days and nights, time was spent with Fang Bai's explanations.

Those cultivators who found insight after listening to Fang Bai's explanations were so delighted they could barely contain themselves, eager to return to their residences to immerse themselves in comprehension and practice.

While those who were confused surrounded Fang Bai, humbly asking for guidance.

Fang Bai did not put on any airs, and for every inquirer, he explained more patiently and meticulously, trying to make it as simple as possible.

These over one hundred sect masters or leaders, none of them were ordinary, only varying in talent and aptitude. After Fang Bai's explanation, they all gained insight and went off to cultivate.

In this way, every three to five months, Fang Bai would explain the Dao of Cultivation for Immortal Rank techniques to these over a hundred sect masters or leaders in the Palace Master Hall, and then let them comprehend and cultivate on their own.

Of course, Fang Bai did not neglect the disciples of the Emperor's Palace.

During this time, whenever he had free time, he gathered all the disciples of the Emperor's Palace in the large plaza before the mountain gate to continue imparting the Dao and resolving doubts for them.

With the Immortal Rank techniques taught by Fang Bai, the abundant cultivation resources in support, and their own diligent cultivation, every day at the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, there would be more than one disciple advancing in rank.

It was imaginable that in a few years, the overall strength of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace would be of a completely different level.

To Fang Bai's surprise, yet expectedly, Dongfang Ruhua, who had an Innate Thunder Spirit Root, advanced rapidly in cultivation level after receiving a large amount of Thunder cultivation resources, overtaking others to become the foremost martial companion and close confidante by Fang Bai's side.

Next, in slightly weaker strength, were the Linghu Qianjiao and Linghu Baimi sisters.

The sisters both had Dual Attribute Innate Spiritual Roots, with top-notch talent and aptitude among the women, and furthermore, the sisters had a mutual understanding, helping each other during joint cultivation, greatly benefiting their improvement in cultivation levels.

What delighted Fang Bai the most was the beautiful young girl Yan Muyu in her youth.

The Immortal Rank cultivation techniques Fang Bai explained, she understood immediately, comprehended instantly, and when she cultivated, she progressed rapidly, far surpassing other cultivators of the same level. If Fang Bai hadn't seen it with his own eyes, he would have suspected Yan Muyu had previously practiced similar Immortal Rank techniques.

"No way! I cultivate quickly because I'm smart!"

When Fang Bai asked Yan Muyu, she boasted about herself.

Fang Bai scrutinized Yan Muyu's increasingly exquisite face, which overlapped with the visage of the Peach Blossom Empress Yan Qingyu from his past life, thinking to himself, "I could reincarnate by seizing another's body, perhaps she can too? But... to reincarnate again in the Yan family, that's just too coincidental, isn't it?"

He thought further, "If Yan Muyu, this girl, is truly the reincarnation of the Peach Blossom Empress Yan Qingyu, then she shouldn't ignore some of the techniques I've shown. Hmm, it seems all this is just my imagination."