

## Doctor 2151

### Chapter 2151: Unparalleled Five Elements Formation

Fang Bai knew that the graceful female immortal was a descendant of the Emperor's Palace. Although she had concealed her cultivation level at the moment, her demeanor was naturally extraordinary due to her cultivation of the Emperor's Palace Immortal Technique Secrets.

Among these five hundred immortals, many came from the same immortal sect or had a few close friends, forming alliances to fight together, demonstrating exceptional strength.

Although the female immortal was of the first-grade Immortal Venerable Realm, she was solitary with no assistance. While self-preservation wasn't an issue, obtaining the Buddha Fruit in the end would be quite challenging.

However, considering she was a descendant of the Emperor's Palace, Fang Bai decided to help her at a crucial moment, preventing her from leaving empty-handed.

After the five descendants of the Emperor's Palace left Sumeru, Fang Bai planned to reunite with them.

Fang Bai believed that those five descendants of the Emperor's Palace wouldn't exist in isolation. They should know other descendants or immortals connected to the Emperor's Palace.

Dozens of Buddha Fruits hung among the dense branches and leaves of the Buddha Fruit tree, emitting threads of Immortal Qi, silently tempting the five hundred immortals who were eager and poised to try.

It was said that the Buddha Fruit, about the size of a fist, provided great benefits to cultivation if just a bite was consumed, rather than the whole fruit.

Thus, at previous Buddha Fruit festivals, any immortal sect or sect fortunate enough to obtain a Buddha Fruit would share it among several of their most talented and gifted disciples to maximize its benefits.

"Fellow immortals, please align yourselves according to the attributes of your Innate Spiritual Roots and stand around the Buddha Fruit tree in five directions, then await my command to prepare for a joint attack."

The strongest among the five Buddhas of Sumeru Temple, a short and thin Buddha, spoke.

His voice was like muffled thunder, resounding in the ears of five hundred immortals, pulling their attention away from the Buddha Fruits.

Many of the five hundred immortals revealed expressions of embarrassment, thinking that the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation was yet to be cracked, but they were already thinking about the Buddha Fruit, indeed a bit too hasty.

The Unparalleled Five Elements Formation is not an ordinary Immortal Array. Wanting to break it now poses great risks, as even the slightest carelessness could result in certain death or serious injury, so no one dared to be complacent.

The five Buddhas were the first to stand at five different positions around the Buddha Fruit tree, while the five hundred immortals followed their commands, standing from left to right in the order of Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth attributes, behind the five Buddhas.

In other words, behind each Buddha stood one hundred immortals with the same attribute Innate Spiritual Root, all brandishing Immortal Artifacts in their hands, sending out their aura, fully alert and ready to attack upon command.

The collective aura of more than five hundred immortals was concentrated in the thousand-foot radius of Mount Sumeru Summit, creating an immense Immortal Might that seemed to solidify the surrounding Immortal Qi.

The giant Buddha Fruit tree appeared to sense the overwhelming external pressure, prompting more Immortal Qi to be released from beneath its roots, within the Five Elements Earth.

Five streams of different attributes of Immortal Qi formed colorful ribbons, weaving into a dense net, protecting the Buddha Fruit tree and isolating the Immortal Might of more than five hundred immortals.

The net enveloping the Buddha Fruit tree was imbued with Taoist Rhyme, nurturing infinite power, causing some of the immortals with weaker cultivation levels to feel intimidated and want to retreat.

"Fellow immortals, prepare to strike!"

The short and thin Buddha, whose cultivation was at the peak of the Immortal King Realm, knew that they couldn't hesitate any longer; otherwise, the five hundred immortals behind him could have their fighting spirit and momentum crushed by the supreme Taoist Rhyme released by the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation. He shouted loudly.

His shout was like thunder piercing the ears, temporarily dispelling the fear in the hearts of the immortals, causing several hundred immortals' fighting spirit and momentum to rise rapidly, and hundreds of streams of Immortal Qi converged into five different attributes of immortal power, targeting the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation ahead, ready to unleash a formidable blow.

"Attack!"

The short and thin Buddha's eyes widened, and he shouted violently.

With his shout, five streams of pent-up immortal power charged towards the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation from five different directions with a roar.

At the same time, the five Buddhas also made their moves, with the same target as the grand array ahead.

More than five hundred immortals launched a simultaneous attack with such powerful force that within the thousand-foot space on the summit, Immortal Qi roared and Immortal Might weighed heavily, darkening the space atop Mount Sumeru as if the end times had arrived.

The Unparalleled Five Elements Formation was remarkably subtle with no solution, leaving the Buddhas of Sumeru Temple unable to find a method to break it, only able to invite immortals from various sectors to forcibly break it with sheer force.

Experience had repeatedly proven the effectiveness of this approach, as previous Buddha Fruit festivals had successfully achieved this.

However, even though they could break the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation, it would quickly repair itself in just ten breaths, returning to its initial state.

Thus, the Buddhas of Sumeru Temple could only use this short window of opportunity to rush into the formation, get close to the Buddha Fruit tree, and pick the Buddha Fruits from it.

This approach carries considerable risk, as any delay in retreating could result in being sealed within the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation, only to be crushed into a mist of blood by the immense Immortal Might within the formation.

"Boom!"

Amidst the gigantic roar, five streams of different attributes of immortal power collided with the giant net formed by the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation from five directions.

The giant net trembled violently, denting inward by several feet, yet did not collapse.

"Fellow immortals, beware of the recoil force!"

The short and thin Buddha's eyes gleamed with vitality, shouting harshly and adopting a defensive posture.

The other four Buddhas similarly prepared themselves for a formidable adversary.

The five hundred immortals behind them, whether or not they had participated in previous Buddha Fruit festivals, were aware of the tremendous recoil force of the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation, which was the main cause of immortal casualties at previous Buddha Fruit festivals. Therefore, they all displayed tense expressions, with Immortal Artifacts held in front of them, ready to resist the counterattack from the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation with their strongest posture.

"Do not worry, we can withstand it!"

Fang Bai observed that the disciple, Great Sage Sun, showed no fear and had not even manifested the iron staff, though Qingzhu Fairy appeared somewhat anxious, so he transmitted reassuring words.

Qingzhu Fairy, who had already summoned her Immortal Artifact, the Bamboo Flute, felt warmth in her heart upon hearing Fang Bai's transmission, involuntarily moved closer to him, feeling at ease.

"Buzz!"

Along with a buzzing sound, this entire area seemed to tremble briefly, and immediately, the dented part of the giant net swelled outwardly, returning the full force of hundreds of immortals' attacks back to them.

Before the five Buddhas could speak, the five hundred immortals behind them, as if with a tacit understanding, exerted all their strength to unleash their immortal power, forming a gigantic Defense Qi Shield in front of the five Buddhas, to contend with the recoil force of the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation.

Chapter 2152: Breaking the Formation Is No Easy Task

In fact, many immortals know that the method to crack the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation is simple: continuously attack the formation and break it by force.

It is said that with each attack on the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation, its defensive power weakens slightly, and eventually, a few gaps will appear under the combined assault of five hundred immortals.

Subsequently, a few Buddhas from the Sumeru Temple will take the opportunity to pass through the gaps, approach the Buddha Fruit tree, and pick the divine fruit.

However, this process is not smooth sailing; it is fraught with peril, as five Buddhas and five hundred immortals will face the formidable shockwave force of the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation.

Immortals who can withstand the shockwave force will continue to join forces with others to execute the next attack.

Those who cannot withstand the shockwave force will either be injured and withdraw in frustration or meet with tragic fatalities.

The powerful and terrifying shockwave force radiates from the center of the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation in all directions, distorting and deforming the space in a thousand-foot radius around the Mount Sumeru Summit.

"Boom!"

The scattered shockwave force crashes into the five defense Qi Shields formed by the five hundred immortals, erupting in an Immortal Qi Shockwave that is as brilliant as fireworks.

The five defense Qi Shields cannot withstand the shockwave force, suddenly collapsing inward several feet, then shattering like glass.

The immortals hiding behind the defense Qi Shields suffer varying degrees of impact from the shockwave force, with the dozen immortals at the forefront knocked backward.

Among them, those with high cultivation levels land heavily wounded, struggling to retreat to a distant spot, sitting cross-legged to consume Immortal Pills for healing and replenishing.

The weaker ones find their bodies torn apart mid-air, their Sea of Divine Sense shattered, falling on the spot.

This time, the injured or fallen are mainly Heavenly Immortal Realm experts, while those in the Immortal Venerable Realm remain unharmed.

Qingzhu Fairy was shielded by Fang Bai and Great Sage Sun, narrowly avoiding the shockwave force unscathed.

"Nine immortals severely injured, five immortals fallen! And this is just the first strike!"

An immortal quickly calculated in their heart, inevitably feeling a bit gloomy.

It is said that to open a few gaps in the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation, five hundred immortals with Innate Spiritual Root above Heavenly Immortal Realm need to execute at least twenty attacks.

In other words, these five hundred immortals must withstand more than twenty shockwave force impacts from the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation.

If each attack costs a dozen immortals, how many will remain unscathed after twenty attacks?

Many immortals pondered this, feeling emotionally stirred.

Yet not a single immortal regretted, even those who have withdrawn wounded, feel the journey worthwhile.

In the minds of those immortals, there may be some regret in not obtaining the divine fruit this time, but they can accumulate experience for the opening of the Buddha Fruit Ceremony a thousand years later.

"Are you alright?"

Fang Bai turned to see Qingzhu Fairy behind him, looking like a startled deer with clenched fists, pale face, and a frightened look, and couldn't help but ask.

Qingzhu Fairy was attending the Buddha Fruit Ceremony for the first time, lacking experience, but standing behind Fang Bai and Great Sage Sun gave her confidence and courage, though witnessing a far more powerful immortal than herself fall due to the shockwave force left her frightened.

"No... It's nothing..."

Qingzhu Fairy shook her head, took several deep breaths, trying to adjust her emotions, while feeling a bit ashamed.

"Even if I can't help them, I mustn't become a burden!"

Thinking this, Qingzhu Fairy's fighting spirit rekindled, her gaze becoming resolute again.

"Don't worry, we're here for everything!"

Fang Bai smiled and turned back to face the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation.

"Attack again!"

The five Buddhas from Sumeru Temple, accustomed to such life-and-death scenes, remained calm and shouted again.

Thus, over four hundred immortals, just like before, regrouped their formations, concentrated their power, and launched the second strike.

At this moment, tens of thousands of immortals gathered on the giant plaza in front of Sumeru Temple on the mountainside, each releasing Divine Sense to investigate the situation at the summit.

They could detect the events occurring at the summit with Divine Sense.

Every attack by the immortals against the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation could elicit their astonishment.

Immortals who saw their own being injured would utter sighs of regret.

Immortals who "witnessed" their own falling would grieve endlessly.

Immortals who detected their own successfully resisting the shockwave force of the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation unharmed would burst into cheers.

All the immortals hoped to see the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation breached, five Buddhas picking the divine fruit—if only to glimpse the divine fruit up close—it'd be worth the trip.

In the blink of an eye, two hours passed, with earth-shattering sounds emanating from the summit intermittently, indicating hundreds of immortals continuously wrestling with the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation.

Powerful Immortal Qi Shockwaves persistently spread from the summit into the surrounding space, accompanied by tens of thousands of five-color rays soaring into the sky, dazzling and eye-catching.

On the summit, after one attack after another, the number of five hundred immortals noticeably decreased, with only half remaining.

The defensive power of the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation also gradually weakened, with many immortals estimating that it won't take many more attacks before gaps appear in the formation.

Qingzhu Fairy, shielded by Fang Bai and Great Sage Sun, remained unharmed. However, her keen senses detected that Fang Bai and Great Sage Sun's immortal power was slightly weaker than before, clearly due to previous assaults and having to protect her, leading to significant consumption.

But then Qingzhu Fairy realized Fang Bai and Great Sage Sun's immortal power was recovering at an astonishing rate.

Especially Fang Bai, whose recovery speed left Qingzhu Fairy speechless and incredulous.

"Senior Fang's rapid recovery speed nearly equals having a continuous supply of immortal power in fights with other immortals, making him virtually invincible among immortals of the same realm!"

Qingzhu Fairy thought inwardly, feeling increasingly admiring of Fang Bai.

"Fellow immortals, whether we can crack this Unparalleled Five Elements Formation depends on this final strike! Everyone must give their all, no holding back!"

A short, thin Buddha at the peak Immortal King Level from Sumeru Temple emitted the loudest cry since ascending, holding a golden Zen Staff in his right hand.

This Zen Staff is an Immortal King Level Immortal Artifact with extraordinary power. With this artifact's aid, the thin Buddha's combat strength can enhance by at least threefold.

The other four Buddhas similarly brandished their Zen Staves, preparing for a full-power strike.

Qingzhu Fairy's Bamboo Flute, Great Sage Sun's Iron Rod, and Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade were also tightly held, along with other immortals who had unsheathed their Immortal Artifacts, awaiting the word from the thin Buddha.

Chapter 2153: Targeting the Five Elements Earth

"The final strike... attack!"

A few breaths later, the short and thin Buddha finally spoke.

Immediately, several hundred immortals, holding immortal artifacts and ready to strike, unleashed their strongest blow since reaching the summit using the immortal artifacts as support.

The attacks from several hundred immortal artifacts converged into five currents of supreme immortal power in front of the five Buddhas, roaring deafeningly, crashing towards the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation.

"Boom!"

The five currents of supreme immortal power collided with the defense barrier of the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation, shaking the entire world slightly, and then some immortals started shouting like mad: “It’s broken! It’s broken! The Unparalleled Five Elements Formation is broken!”

At the very instant the immortals cried out, five figures dashed forward like lightning, rushing through five openings.

The five Buddhas of Sumeru Temple with Immortal King Cultivation Realm, experienced and quick-reacting, immediately charged towards the Buddha Fruit Tree the moment the openings were blasted.

Although the Buddha Fruits were right in front, within reach, the five Buddhas were cautious, not daring to pick directly with their hands, instead using hooks made of Wood Immortal Stone they had long prepared to cut the stems, letting the Buddha Fruits fall into immortal bags woven from Water Immortal Grass leaves.

With this method, the Buddha Fruits would remain fresh and not wither quickly.

If an uninformed immortal picked the Buddha Fruits directly by hand, they would soon shrink after being picked, greatly losing the immortal power within, making the Buddha Fruits useless.

The five Buddhas from Sumeru Temple, who had suffered losses before, were well prepared this time, and within a few breaths, they had each picked at least two Buddha Fruits.

“Go!”

Eight breaths later, with a decisive shout from the strongest short and thin Buddha, the other four Buddhas dared not linger, resisting the temptation of the many Buddha Fruits on the tree, and with the harvested Buddha Fruits, swiftly exited through the slowly healing openings.

The hundreds of immortals who witnessed the five Buddhas picking the Buddha Fruits cheered earth-shatteringly as they saw them emerging safely.

“This time we harvested eleven Buddha Fruits, the most ever in the history of Buddha Fruit Festivals!”

“Indeed! Remember a thousand years ago during the Buddha Fruit Festival, we paid an even higher price and only got nine Buddha Fruits!”

“This is the result of all of us immortals working together!”

“According to the old rules, Sumeru Temple takes five Buddha Fruits, we can compete for the remaining six!”

“Hopefully, luck favors us, and we get one!”

“There are quite a few Immortal Venerable Realm experts this time, getting one Buddha Fruit will be very challenging!”

...

The immortals surrounded the five Buddhas, staring at the immortal bags in their hands, imagining the appearance of the eleven Buddha Fruits inside, their eyes heated with desire, almost wishing to grab them.

But with the five Buddhas holding Immortal King level strength, they dared not invade, knowing the consequences would be disastrous.

“Fellow immortals, this trip was quite smooth, we picked a total of eleven Buddha Fruits! We’ll return to Sumeru Temple for now, see you at the War Immortal Platform tomorrow morning!”

The short and thin Buddha said with rare joy on his face.

Sumeru Temple has a War Immortal Platform, where the final battle for Buddha Fruits at each Buddha Fruit Festival takes place.

The immortals, thinking about tomorrow's battle at the War Immortal Platform that will decide the fate of six Buddha Fruits, felt anxious yet excited, responding and following behind the five Buddhas, heading slowly towards the mid-mountain Sumeru Temple.

Meanwhile, the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation surrounding the Buddha Fruit Tree had already self-repaired. To pick the Buddha Fruits again, they would have to wait for another thousand years for the next Buddha Fruit Festival.

As for the immortals remaining at the Mount Sumeru Summit to heal, they would naturally descend the mountain once recovered.

Fang Bai, Great Sage Sun, and Qingzhu Fairy walked behind the hundreds of immortals, and before descending the mountain, Fang Bai turned to glance at the Five Elements Earth that nurtured the Buddha Fruit Tree, thinking to himself, "That Five Elements Earth is extremely magical, surely a rare treasure of the Immortal Realm. If I could move some to sprinkle under the World Tree and Peach Tree within the Five Elements Space Ring, surely those two immortal fruits would grow faster and better!"

In his leisure time, Fang Bai would use his Divine Sense to observe inside the Five Elements Space Ring, discovering that the World Tree was growing very fast by itself, whereas the Peach Tree was growing slowly, causing him anxiety.

Although Peaches are slightly inferior to Buddha Fruits, they are still rare immortal fruits in the Immortal Realm.

In his previous life, Fang Bai tasted Peach at a fellow immortal's place, knowing that under normal circumstances, a Peach Tree flowers every three thousand years, bears fruits every three thousand years, and then matures to be eaten after another three thousand years.

Thus, it takes nearly ten thousand years from planting the Peach Tree to consuming the Peach.

Though the Peach Tree planted inside the Five Elements Space Ring would halve the time compared to growing outside, it is still too slow for Fang Bai, who now cherishes every moment.

Fang Bai thought since the Five Elements Earth could nurture a treasure like the Buddha Fruit Tree in the Immortal Realm, it must also positively promote the growth of the Peach Tree. If some could be moved in, it would be perfect.

Having this thought, Fang Bai couldn't suppress his desire, but he understood that with his current cultivation level, breaking the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation to acquire some Five Elements Earth was a very difficult task.

"If there's a chance, I must give it a try! My physique now is much stronger than in my previous life, and I have two divine artifacts in hand, maybe it's possible?"

Fang Bai thought to himself.

"Master, what happy things are you thinking about?"

Great Sage Sun noticed his master's somewhat mysterious smile and couldn't help but ask curiously.

Qingzhu Fairy also noticed the unusual smile on Fang Bai's face, her eyes falling on him, wanting to inquire.

Fang Bai laughed heartily, pointing at the five Buddhas walking ahead: "I was thinking... if the three of us each get an immortal fruit on tomorrow's War Immortal Platform, it would be perfect!"

Great Sage Sun said proudly: "Master and I can reserve two fruits!"

Both Great Sage Sun and Fang Bai were Immortal Venerables with formidable strength to challenge beyond their level. Surrounded by immortals, they were confident of overcoming obstacles and laughing last.

Qingzhu Fairy noticed Great Sage Sun's regretful and sympathetic look at her, as if skeptical of her potential, she smiled bitterly: "I... I will do my best..."

Although Fang Bai had previously transmitted a strand of immortal power into her, greatly increasing her strength, her cultivation level was still only in the Heavenly Immortal Realm, making her unsure about standing until the end.

Fang Bai said seriously: "Great Sage, I've taught you the Combined Assault Formation, meditate on it further when you return. Qingzhu, come to my courtyard tonight, I'll teach you some Immortal Technique Secrets."

Qingzhu was delighted, thanking, "Thank you, Senior Fang."

Great Sage Sun, looking at Qingzhu Fairy's delight, felt a bit envious, knowing his master's Immortal Technique Secrets tonight would surely be incredibly powerful, greatly enhancing her strength—a great opportunity and fortune.

Chapter 2154: The Five Immortals of Ice Valley

The celestials returning from the summit of Mount Sumeru received a warm welcome from hundreds of thousands of immortals anxiously waiting in the giant plaza before the Sumeru Temple.

Fairy Haoyue and the immortals of Jade Bamboo Mountain, seeing Fang Bai, Great Sage Sun, and Fairy Qingzhu return safely, surrounded them with smiles of joy.

"The battle to break the Unparalleled Five Elements Formation was fierce this time, with far more immortals lost than in the last convening!"

Fairy Haoyue's gaze wandered across the plaza, seeing both joy and sorrow among the Immortal Sects who participated in the battle, and she couldn't help but sigh.

After all, if their own immortals were injured or fallen, they too would be filled with sorrow and grief.

Whether the disciples of the Immortal Sects participating in the Buddha Fruit festival can have the last laugh and acquire the Buddha Fruit depends not only on cultivation level and strength but also on luck and opportunity.

In the previous battle at the summit of Mount Sumeru, it wasn't just experts at the Heavenly Immortal Realm who fell; even a few at the Immortal Venerable Realm did. Their strength was formidable, but with unfortunate luck, they were at the forefront and bore the brunt of the massive shockwaves, tragically killed.

Conversely, some Heavenly Immortals at the first and second grades were incredibly lucky in the battle, returning to the Sumeru Temple unscathed without so much as a scratch.

The female immortal descended from the Emperor's Palace, whom Fang Bai always had an eye on, displayed combat power far surpassing those of the same rank and emerged from the battle unharmed.

After all, she was his own disciple's progeny; seeing her unscathed, Fang Bai felt happy for her.

"As long as none of us are harmed, the more the immortals lose, the better for us! This way, there will be fewer competitors in tomorrow's Buddha Fruit contest!"

Tu Mo grinned wickedly, gloating.

Though his voice wasn't loud, the surrounding immortals heard him clearly.

The disciples of the Immortal Sects who had immortals fall glared at him angrily; if not for the rule prohibiting private duels during the Buddha Fruit festival at the Sumeru Temple, some immortals might have already challenged Tu Mo.

"Why are you looking? I'm not the only one thinking this way!"

Tu Mo sneered fearlessly, his eyes glaring bigger than those of the immortals.

Great Sage Sun stood alongside Tu Mo, also glaring back at the immortals.

The two of them, towering in stature and sharing a similar fearless personality, faced the countless angry immortals without a trace of fear.

"You two, be careful not to incite public anger!"

Fang Bai lightly scolded upon seeing Great Sage Sun and Tu Mo standing with their hands on their hips, ready to fight at any moment, though there was no anger on his face.

In the past Immortal Realm, Fang Bai was famously protective of his own.

To Fang Bai, though Tu Mo's words were somewhat inappropriate, they weren't intentionally provocative. After all, many disciples from various Immortal Sects had the same thought; Tu Mo was merely straightforward and vocal about it.

Said what he said, nothing too big; if any immortal dared to move against Tu Mo for it, Fang Bai would undoubtedly step in to protect him.

Not far away, the five descendants of the Emperor's Palace glanced over at Fang Bai and the others, feeling an inexplicable sense of kinship and finding it strange.

They murmured among themselves briefly and then approached.

Upon noticing this, Fang Bai raised an eyebrow and smiled subtly, knowing they must have sensed a similar aura to theirs from Tu Mo, Great Sage Sun, Fairy Qingzhu, and other immortals.

Though Fang Bai had taught Tu Mo, Great Sage Sun, Fairy Qingzhu, and other immortals the secret technique to conceal their aura, they were still beginners and couldn't fully hide their aura; some inevitably leaked out, allowing those five descendants of the Emperor's Palace to detect it.

Fang Bai suspected that the purpose of those five descendants might be similar to his own—to find immortals with ties to the former Emperor's Palace—and so they came over to converse.

"Greetings, fellow immortal."

The strongest among the five descendants, a thin elder in a black robe, perceived Fairy Haoyue's respected status among the immortals as they stood behind her, assuming she was the leader, greeted her first.

"We are the 'Five Immortals of Ice Valley' from Myriad Miles Ice Valley, hoping to make friends with you."

The black-robed elder smiled as he introduced himself, scanning the immortals of Jade Bamboo Mountain.

Though he was a fifth-grade Immortal Venerable, his age surpassed several millennia. Fang Bai and Great Sage Sun behind Fairy Haoyue, remarkably young though their cultivation was far inferior to his, had both entered the Immortal Venerable Realm, surprising him and acknowledging them as geniuses.

Since arriving at Mount Sumeru, Fairy Haoyue's attention had mostly been on Fang Bai, Great Sage Sun, and Fairy Qingzhu, barely noticing the 'Five Immortals of Ice Valley.' Upon seeing them engage in conversation with a friendly demeanor, she attentively studied them.

"Oh, we are immortals from Jade Bamboo Mountain. Pleased to meet you."

Having sensed a faintly familiar aura from the Five Immortals of Ice Valley, Fairy Haoyue returned the greeting with a slight tremor of emotion.

Myriad Miles Ice Valley, located at the far western reaches of the Central Heavenly Domain in the Immortal Realm, is distant from Mount Sumeru. Fairy Haoyue had only heard of it but never ventured there.

Despite the term "Myriad Miles," the valley spans an area of a hundred thousand miles, with extremely cold temperatures, ice mountains, and valleys everywhere, a gem for immortals cultivating Water System Immortal Techniques.

In other immortals' eyes, though not siblings, the Five Immortals of Ice Valley were akin because all were Immortal Venerable Realm experts, boasting formidable combined strength and an incredible joint formation that few dared to provoke them.

Because of feeling a familiar aura in the Five Immortals of Ice Valley, Fairy Haoyue associated them with the imperial disciples, prompting uneasy excitement and a slightly quavering voice.

The feelings were mutual for the Five Immortals of Ice Valley.

However, the term "Emperor's Palace" remains highly sensitive in today's Immortal Realm; should identities be revealed, it might invite the pursuit by the Eight Immortal Emperor factions, a consequence too devastating to imagine.

Thus, both Fairy Haoyue and the Five Immortals of Ice Valley were merely testing the waters, not daring to reveal their true identities easily.

"Are you cultivating the Azure Sea Immortal Scripture or the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art?"

Fang Bai suddenly transmitted his voice to the Five Immortals of Ice Valley, his gaze like lightning, waiting for their response.

Their expressions shifted, killing intent flaring as the five released powerful immortal might, enveloping and locking onto Fang Bai.

Fang Bai looked at them calmly, with a touch of a smile. Though their immortal might was formidable, it seemed to have no effect on him.

Chapter 2155: I Know More Than You

Fang Bai had already noticed that the Immortal Techniques and secret techniques cultivated by the Ice Valley five immortals before him were all created by him in his past life. Thus, when they used their Immortal Might to suppress him, it was like a flame encountering a cluster of Origin Fire, no matter how large or fierce the flame was, it could not threaten the Origin Fire.

Therefore, facing the five forces of Immortal Might released by the Ice Valley five immortals, Fang Bai remained composed and fearless.

"Immortal friend... who exactly are you?"

The eldest of the Ice Valley five immortals, a black-robed immortal, saw Fang Bai calmly withstanding the Immortal Might from their five Immortal Venerable Realm experts without showing any sign of difficulty. This made him gasp and look at Fang Bai as if he were seeing a ghost, his face full of alertness and vigilance.

"How does this immortal know the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art? If I don't get answers today, even if it means risking being expelled from the Buddha Fruit Festival by the Sumeru Temple, I must subdue and eliminate him to prevent future trouble!"

Every immortal among the Ice Valley five immortals had such thoughts in their minds as they tightly fixed their gaze on Fang Bai.

Tu Mo, Great Sage Sun, Haoyue Fairy, Qingzhu Fairy, and the immortals of Jade Bamboo Mountain sensed the hostility of the Ice Valley five immortals towards Fang Bai. Although they did not know the reason, they still stood beside Fang Bai, releasing their Immortal Might to confront the Ice Valley five immortals.

For a time, the parties who were originally exchanging pleasantries became tense and on the verge of conflict.

Hundreds of thousands of immortals on the giant square in front of the Sumeru Temple noticed the suddenly intensifying Immortal Qi and turned their eyes towards this side.

A Buddha with an Immortal King Cultivation Realm from the Sumeru Temple, with every step forming a lotus, glided toward them.

"What's going on? Are you trying to break the rules set by the Sumeru Temple?"

The Buddha arrived close, releasing Immortal Might to suppress the aura of both sides, and asked in a stern tone with an unfriendly expression.

"Just a misunderstanding, it's nothing..."

Fang Bai said with a smile.

The Buddha saw that he was just a new entrant into the Immortal Venerable Realm, facing an Immortal King expert like himself without any reverence, not even respect, and couldn't help but secretly feel strange.

"Really nothing?"

The Buddha cast a long look at Fang Bai and then looked towards the Ice Valley five immortals opposite.

"Mm, it is indeed a misunderstanding..."

The eldest of the Ice Valley five immortals, the black-robed immortal, nodded in agreement.

Although he was a fifth-grade Immortal Venerable Realm expert, he dared not show any disrespect like Fang Bai did in front of this Buddha, responding respectfully.

"If it is a misunderstanding, it's fine... Remember, no matter who it is, if you break the rules set by my Sumeru Temple, don't blame me for being ruthless and expelling you from the Buddha Fruit Festival, and you will not be allowed to participate again in the future!"

After leaving these words, the Buddha returned the way he came.

"If the immortal friend cannot disclose your origin and how you know about the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art, we, the Ice Valley four immortals, will not let it go easily!"

Seeing the Buddha leaving, the black-robed immortal transmitted a message to Fang Bai.

Although he no longer released Immortal Might and the pervasive killing intent vanished, his gaze towards Fang Bai still emitted a dangerous glow.

The other four immortals of Ice Valley also temporarily retracted their Immortal Might, looking intently at Fang Bai. The positions they stood in changed quietly, blocking all of Fang Bai's escape routes.

Fang Bai observed all this but did not speak; instead, his smile grew even wider.

"My origin will be revealed to you after the Buddha Fruit Festival ends. For now, you only need to know that we share the same origin, friend rather than foe. As for the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art... I know more than you..."

Fang Bai transmitted a message to the Ice Valley five immortals and even slowly explained a few sentences of the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art.

When Fang Bai mentioned the four words "same origin," the Ice Valley five immortals displayed different expressions, some joyful, some puzzled.

However, when Fang Bai went on to explain a few lines of the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art, the Ice Valley five immortals, who had cultivated this Immortal Law for over a thousand years, transformed their initial joy and doubt into shock.

"This... you... how did you..."

The black-robed immortal, eyes widened, looked at Fang Bai, his lips trembling, struggling to speak.

"How do I know the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art and explain it so simply, right?"

Seeing the black-robed immortal nod repeatedly, Fang Bai laughed and transmitted, "I mentioned, we share the same origin. Therefore, what you know, I know!"

The black-robed immortal took a deep breath, trying to calm his mind, his gaze scrutinizing Fang Bai's face as if trying to see through him. After confirming that Fang Bai's words were not false, he transmitted back, "Does the immortal friend have deep ties with our Emperor's Palace?"

Instead of answering, Fang Bai questioned, "You finally admit that you are descendants of the Emperor's Palace?"

The black-robed immortal remained expressionless, neither confirming nor denying.

Fang Bai gave the black-robed immortal an impression of being unfathomable, difficult to see through, yet without any hostility, rather a natural sense of closeness.

It was precisely this feeling that led the black-robed immortal to trust Fang Bai somewhat and not risk taking action to subdue him.

"I am well acquainted with your master, the Fan Hai Immortal King..."

Fang Bai only revealed this one sentence and then, ignoring the utterly shocked Ice Valley five immortals, continued to transmit, "Tomorrow we will be competing for the Buddha Fruits on the War Immortal Platform... We are both here for the same goal, so we must work together to strive to obtain four out of the six Buddha Fruits! Do you have confidence?"

The Ice Valley five immortals looked at each other, all displaying bitter smiles.

This time, the Sumeru Temple joined forces with various immortals to obtain eleven Buddha Fruits. Aside from the five that the Sumeru Temple kept, the remaining six Buddha Fruits were available for the immortals to compete for.

Among the immortals eligible to participate in tomorrow's Buddha Fruit competition, there were still two or three hundred, including nearly a hundred Immortal Venerable Realm experts.

Even though most of those Immortal Venerable Realm experts were first or second-grade, there were also some renowned third-grade Immortal Venerable Realm experts considered strong contenders for the six Buddha Fruits.

Adding up Fang Bai's side and the Ice Valley five immortals' side, only Fang Bai, Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and the weakest of the Ice Valley five immortals, the female immortal, could participate in the Buddha Fruit competition tomorrow.

Fang Bai's target was to obtain four Buddha Fruits, meaning the four immortals would need to pass through every challenge and emerge victorious.

This difficulty was not ordinary!

In the view of the Ice Valley five immortals, among the four immortals participating in the Buddha Fruit competition from Fang Bai's side, only Great Sage Sun had the best chance of obtaining one Buddha Fruit.

Fang Bai and that female immortal would have to rely entirely on luck.

As for the Heavenly Immortal Realm Qingzhu Fairy, there was little hope.

"What is your name?"

Fang Bai pointed at the weakest immortal among the Ice Valley five, the yellow-robed female immortal, and asked with a smile.

His tone was somewhat authoritative, but the yellow-robed female immortal did not feel any displeasure.

After all, Fang Bai had already said they shared the same origin, and he recognized their master, the Fan Hai Immortal King. He could explain the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art more clearly and simply than their master ever could.

This showed how deep Fang Bai's ties with the Emperor's Palace were.

Chapter 2156: He Is the Grandmaster

Facing Fang Bai's inquiry, the female immortal in the yellow dress hesitated for a few breaths before reporting her name.

She was named Bingyun, and because her immortal artifact was a pair of Ice Swords, she was respectfully called "Ice Fairy."

Ice Fairy was the youngest among the Five Immortals of Ice Valley, and her cultivation level was currently the weakest, but she was the only one among the Five Immortals with an Innate Spiritual Root, which gave her the greatest potential in the Immortal Dao.

"Bingyun, is it? Your aptitude is quite good, but unfortunately your master, Fan Hai, is not very adept at teaching disciples; otherwise, your cultivation level would far surpass what it is now!"

Fang Bai transmitted to Ice Fairy, seeing her eyebrows lift and lips move as if she wanted to defend her master. He smiled, waved his hand, and said, "This is not the place to talk. You should follow me later; we will talk about matters regarding the Emperor's Palace!"

Upon hearing the words "Emperor's Palace," Ice Fairy's expression became solemn, and she transmitted to her four companions.

The Five Immortals of Ice Valley quickly exchanged a few words and, with tacit understanding, chose not to speak further, thinking it would be good for Bingyun to accompany Fang Bai, to hear what connection he had with the Emperor's Palace.

A moment later, the hundreds of thousands of immortals gathered in the giant square before the Sumeru Temple dispersed, returning to their places to prepare for tomorrow's Buddha Fruit Competition.

The Buddha Fruit Competition will be held simultaneously tomorrow on several War Immortal Platforms at the Sumeru Temple, with over three hundred immortals from various places participating.

At that time, these esteemed geniuses with Innate Spiritual Roots will display their talents and employ their skills on the War Immortal Platforms, relying on strength and luck to decide the final destination of six Buddha Fruits.

Once you step onto the War Immortal Platform, life and death are no longer concerned.

This is the rule of the Buddha Fruit Festival.

In other words, on tomorrow's War Immortal Platform, to fight for the Buddha Fruit, any immortal can use any means to defeat their opponents, even if it means putting them to death, and no immortal will intervene.

Therefore, immortals who lack the courage to ascend the War Immortal Platform can choose to withdraw and let others have the opportunity to compete for the Buddha Fruit.

Immortals are concerned with face.

In previous Buddha Fruit Festivals, there has never been an immortal who voluntarily withdrew, even if they knew they were no match for their opponent; they would valiantly step forward.

Better to lose one's life than lose face.

Since those participating in the Buddha Fruit Competition are geniuses from various Immortal Sects and Immortal Gates, and after the competition, some immortals will fall on the War Immortal Platform, the Buddha Fruit Festival is seen as the "graveyard" of these esteemed geniuses.

"Let's go!"

Fang Bai led Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and Bingyun, along with over three hundred immortals participating in tomorrow's Buddha Fruit Competition, towards the Immortal Cave provided by the Sumeru Temple for them.

For some reason, as Bingyun followed Fang Bai and looked at his towering back, she felt an intangible pressure, her heart becoming involuntarily uneasy.

“The feeling is like listening to the teachings of my master... Why would I feel this way?”

Bingyun shook her head, smiled wryly to herself, then tried to relax.

“You three, sit down!”

Although the Immortal Cave was not large, it could comfortably hold over a dozen immortals. After entering, Fang Bai first sat cross-legged and motioned for Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and Bingyun to sit too.

Bingyun observed that Great Sage Sun, a second-grade Immortal Venerable Realm expert, and Qingzhu Fairy, newly entered the Heavenly Immortal Realm, both showed great respect towards Fang Bai, like juniors facing elders, increasing her curiosity about Fang Bai’s identity and origin.

Qingzhu Fairy might be understandable, as a newly entered Heavenly Immortal realm immortal showing respect to Fang Bai, a first-grade Immortal Venerable Realm expert, was natural.

But Great Sage Sun’s cultivation was clearly much stronger than Fang Bai’s, yet his respectful attitude seemed even more profound than Qingzhu Fairy’s, which was puzzling.

Recalling Fang Bai’s previous remark about knowing her master, Fan Hai Immortal King, Bingyun believed him a bit more.

She knew Fang Bai must have extraordinary traits; otherwise, he wouldn’t command the obedience of a second-grade Immortal Venerable Realm Immortal Beast.

With a curious mind, Bingyun sat down, her eyes not leaving Fang Bai, preparing to hear him reveal his identity and explain his connection with the Emperor’s Palace.

“Is your master, Fan Hai Immortal King, still well?”

Seeing Bingyun seated, Fang Bai waved his hand to erect an Isolation Formation inside the Immortal Cave, preventing sounds from escaping, then asked seriously.

Bingyun, hearing him mention her master again, revealed a trace of sorrow in her expression and countered: "Immortal friend has yet to tell me who you are..."

Her meaning was clear: Without knowing his identity, how could she open up completely?

Fang Bai, perceiving the fleeting sorrow in Bingyun's demeanor, felt a bit dim even though he had anticipated it, and solemnly said: "Your master should have fallen under the pursuit of the Eight Immortal Emperors... He fell defending the Emperor's Palace; I will avenge him someday!"

After pausing, seeing Bingyun's puzzled look, he sighed lightly: "Your master Fan Hai Immortal King's entire cultivation was taught by me. You... should know who I am by now?"

Bingyun froze for a moment, her eyes suddenly wide, staring at Fang Bai in shock and trembling uncontrollably, she stammered: "You... You... You are..."

Bingyun, who once entered Fan Hai Immortal King's tutelage to cultivate the Immortal Dao, had the fortune to see the Emperor's Palace Master once. At that time, the Master of the Emperor's Palace was titled War Emperor, dominating the Immortal Realm, looking down upon all immortals, with unmatched prestige, and the immortal before her differed significantly from the former War Emperor, making it hard to connect the two.

Fang Bai knew if Fan Hai Immortal King were present, just a few words would convince him of Fang Bai's identity.

But disciples of disciples like Bingyun, who had fewer chances to meet him in the past life, knew little about him, making it difficult to convince them with simple remarks.

A thousand years ago, the War Emperor fell, and the Emperor's Palace was overthrown; this was common knowledge among immortals across the nine heavenly domains, making no one think that the former War Emperor's soul survived, eventually seizing another body to be reborn and return to the Immortal Realm.

“Who you think I am, that is who I am!”

Fang Bai observed Bingyun’s shocked and startled look, smiled serenely, and said softly: “Explaining my story would take a long time; we’ll talk more about it in the future. For now, you should temporarily believe in me. To rejuvenate the Emperor’s Palace, we must unite, work together, and strive to win as many Buddha Fruits as possible!”

After her initial shock, Bingyun carefully reviewed Fang Bai’s explanation of the Azure Sea Giant Wave Art; its clarity surpassed her master’s teachings, prompting her to believe a bit more.

“He is the master ancestor... He is the master ancestor...”

Bingyun trembled slightly, her heart racing, longing to rush out and share this news with the other Four Immortals from Ice Valley.

Chapter 2157: Making Preparations Before the Storm

Bingyun’s current mood is very complex, both excited and nervous, yet still somewhat confused.

The excitement is because the young immortal before her could truly be the Invincible War Emperor, the Emperor’s Palace Master, her ancestor.

The anxiety is, if this young immortal really is her ancestor, how should she face him? Previously, the Ice Valley Five Immortals were in a tense standoff with the ancestor’s faction; would he be angry?

The confusion is, how did the ancestor become like this, and why is his cultivation level greatly reduced compared to his peak period?

Fang Bai saw her expression changing unpredictably, knowing she was having an internal conflict, but did not force her to recognize him as her ancestor. He smiled and said, "Put other matters aside for now. Tonight, I’ll lend you all a helping hand, hoping your cultivation level can improve again! This way, tomorrow’s Buddha Fruit battle will have more assurance!"

Upon hearing this, Great Sage Sun was thrilled to the point of scratching his ears and turning a somersault inside the Immortal Cave. After landing, he excitedly said, "Master, can I break through again?"

Previously, he had acknowledged Fang Bai as his master, listening to Fang Bai's explanations of Immortal Technique Secrets, experiencing an Ambrosia Baptism, achieving a realization, and raising his cultivation level from first rank Immortal Venerable Realm to second rank Immortal Venerable Realm.

Currently, his second rank Immortal Venerable Realm has just stabilized; he thought it would take three to five years to have another breakthrough, but unexpectedly, his master has given him hope again, which made him extremely excited.

Great Sage Sun admired Fang Bai deeply, knowing that since his master said so, there was a high likelihood.

"What, you don't believe the words of your master?"

Fang Bai glared at Great Sage Sun and said somewhat grumpily.

"I believe! I believe! Disciple just asked casually!"

Great Sage Sun scratched his head and laughed.

Qingzhu Fairy's heart was actually as excited as Great Sage Sun's, but her personality was more reserved, and even when excited, she wouldn't become as unrestrained as Great Sage Sun. Seeing Great Sage Sun turn somersaults in urgency, she couldn't help but cover her mouth and laugh lightly.

Qingzhu Fairy, too, had received Fang Bai's assistance to advance to the Heavenly Immortal Realm. She had never thought of breaking through again in such a short time, but Fang Bai's words gave her hope.

"Regarding tomorrow's Buddha Fruit battle, I will say this... both I, Great Sage Sun, and Bingyun have a good chance of making it to the end. However, Qingzhu's cultivation level is relatively weak, and against Immortal Venerable Realm experts, she isn't a match..."

Fang Bai said this while looking at Qingzhu Fairy. Seeing her face fall, somewhat dejected, he smiled and continued, "However, in the Buddha Fruit battle, you can use any means, leveraging external forces as well. Qingzhu is behind other immortals in cultivation level, so she must compensate using other methods..."

Qingzhu Fairy's beautiful eyes sparkled; she bit her lip and said, "Please teach me, elder. I will give my all tomorrow."

Bingyun looked at Fang Bai, thinking if he truly is her ancestor, he must have countless means and ways to increase Qingzhu Fairy's combat power in a short time, gaining results in tomorrow's Buddha Fruit battle.

Fang Bai had a smile on his lips; he extended his right palm, and with a thought, a small bell appeared in his palm.

"This is an extraordinary Immortal Artifact!"

Great Sage Sun's eyes widened at the small bell in Fang Bai's palm, feeling that the Immortal Might it released wasn't much weaker than his own iron staff.

"This is at least an Immortal Venerable-level Immortal Artifact, right? But Qingzhu Fairy's cultivation is too weak to unleash its full power. Its effect on enhancing her combat power is limited, still unable to defeat a genuine Immortal Venerable Realm expert!"

Bingyun thought silently.

Qingzhu Fairy's beautiful eyes examined the little bell carefully but was somewhat excited.

An Immortal Venerable-level Immortal Artifact is a rare treasure for her now. If she obtains it, she is confident to contend against fourth-rank Heavenly Immortal Realm experts.

However, to achieve combat power equivalent to Immortal Venerable Realm, she's still far off!

"This bell is the Soul Loss Bell, capable of confusing an opponent's mind, undermining their fighting spirit, similar to your Bamboo Flute. After I re-refined it, it's suitable for fifth-rank Immortal Venerable Realm experts. You hold onto it; when facing a strong enemy, you can use it in conjunction with your Bamboo Flute, achieving unimaginable effects."

Fang Bai said as he erased all his marks from the Soul Loss Bell and then let Qingzhu Fairy perform a blood recognition of the artifact for her use.

Fang Bai now possessed several Divine Artifacts. The Soul Loss Bell seemed rather redundant, not much use if kept, but wasteful if discarded, so he simply gave it to Qingzhu Fairy.

"Here, take this Water of Life; each of you receives a drop. After swallowing it, find a place near the Immortal Cave for focused cultivation."

Fang Bai said as he took out three drops of Water of Life, which were now floating towards Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and Bingyun.

The Water of Life came from the depths of the Endless Abyss of the Forest of Ten Thousand Trees, reportedly transformed from the blood of a Supreme Emperor, containing terrifying immortal power. With Fang Bai's Chaos True Body, he dared only to drink a big gulp initially, enduring pain and torment, ultimately persisting and advancing as a result.

But Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and Bingyun's constitution were far inferior to Fang Bai's, so Fang Bai dared not let them drink too much at once.

Don't underestimate this tiny drop; Fang Bai believed it would be enough to transform them completely and advance their cultivation rapidly.

"Water of Life? So little? Not even enough for a gap between the teeth!"

Great Sage Sun looked at the small, green bean-sized drop of Water of Life floating towards his mouth. Though he didn't know what it was, he thought his master wouldn't harm him, so he swallowed it without hesitation.

Qingzhu Fairy likewise swallowed her drop.

Bingyun hesitated slightly; seeing Fang Bai smiling at her, she blushed before slowly opening her mouth and swallowing the drop of Water of Life.

"Go then, find a place in the Immortal Cave area to cultivate, strive to advance a small realm before tomorrow's Buddha Fruit battle. Hmm, I'm stepping out to find some support for Qingzhu and will return soon to protect you all!"

Fang Bai said this and disappeared from the Immortal Cave.

Fang Bai recalled that there were numerous fierce Immortal Beasts in the Immortal Mountains around Mount Sumeru, many of Immortal Venerable Realm, and even some Immortal King Realm Immortal Beasts roamed.

In just two hours, Fang Bai leisurely emerged from one of the Immortal Mountains, already having captured a fifth-rank Immortal Venerable Realm Fire Cloud Leopard in his Five Elements Space Ring.

This Fire Cloud Leopard had been completely tamed by Fang Bai, who planned to gift it to Qingzhu Fairy upon returning.

Prior to this, Fang Bai had already transferred a strand of Chaos Immortal Qi into Qingzhu Fairy's body, along with her Bamboo Flute and the Soul Loss Bell Fang Bai had given her as two auxiliary Immortal Artifacts. With this Fire Cloud Leopard's assistance, Fang Bai believed that even against a sixth-rank Immortal Venerable Realm expert, Qingzhu Fairy could fight and win.

Besides, Fang Bai had carefully observed; among those participating in tomorrow's Buddha Fruit battle, the number of fifth-rank Immortal Venerable Realm was few, so Qingzhu obtaining a Buddha Fruit shouldn't be an issue.

Back in the Immortal Cave of Mount Sumeru, Fang Bai found Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and Bingyun all already in a deep cultivation state, so he sat in meditation within the Immortal Cave to protect them from being disturbed by other immortals.

## Chapter 2158: Advancement · Helpers

In the early morning hours, when the sky was just beginning to brighten, hundreds of thousands of immortals on Mount Sumeru were still mostly immersed in their cultivation state.

At that moment, several intense auras rippled out, followed by the sound of rocks collapsing and rolling down with a thunderous roar.

"An immortal has ascended in rank!"

All the immortals were startled by the noise, breaking away from their cultivation state.

Some released their divine senses to investigate, while others directly rushed out of their immortal caves to look toward the source of the sound.

They wanted to see which immortal had managed to break through and ascend in rank at this time.

For any immortal, being able to break through before the Battle for the Buddha Fruit was good news, as it not only boosted confidence and morale but also increased the chances of gaining more opportunities in the battle.

Great Sage Sun, Bingyun, and Qingzhu Fairy each ingested a drop of the Water of Life gifted by Fang Bai and, after nearly a night of focused cultivation, ascended in rank one after another.

After their ascension, stifling the joy in their hearts, they took a short moment to adjust their breathing before flying to the front of Fang Bai's immortal cave.

When it was discovered that among the three immortals who had ascended, two were Immortal Venerable Realm experts, those watching them showed solemn expressions, silently committing their appearances to memory, thinking that if they encountered them in battle for the Buddha Fruit the next day, they must be extra cautious.

Because, in this tense atmosphere leading up to the Battle for the Buddha Fruit, immortals who could still focus on cultivation and break through in rank were absolutely not to be underestimated, and certainly not comparable to ordinary immortals.

"Come in!"

Fang Bai seemed to have been waiting for them, and when they reached the front of the immortal cave, his voice sounded from within.

Great Sage Sun, Bingyun, and Qingzhu Fairy exchanged glances and entered the immortal cave one after another.

At the moment they stepped into the cave, the isolation formation that Fang Bai had originally set up reactivated, sealing off all sounds within the cave.

"Master, I've ascended another minor realm; I'm now at the third rank of the Immortal Venerable Realm!"

Great Sage Sun exclaimed excitedly upon seeing Fang Bai.

"With your aptitude, if you couldn't ascend, I would be greatly disappointed! Yes, ascending is good! In today's battle, as long as you give your all, you should be able to obtain a Buddha Fruit!"

Fang Bai smiled as he spoke to Great Sage Sun.

Though Great Sage Sun was an immortal beast, his intelligence and comprehension were not inferior to any disciple of Fang Bai's past life, perhaps even surpassing them, and Fang Bai had high hopes for him, knowing that with proper guidance, he would be a great asset in the future.

"I was lucky enough to also ascend a minor realm; I'm now at the second rank of the Immortal Venerable Realm! This ascension was thanks to the immortal item bestowed by the senior; I am grateful for your guidance!"

Bingyun suppressed the excitement in her heart and respectfully thanked Fang Bai.

She was still not entirely sure that the youthful immortal before her was her grandmaster, so she addressed him as senior and herself as a junior to avoid being disrespectful.

Fang Bai knew she still harbored doubts but was not bothered by it, smiling lightly, he said, "The second rank of the Immortal Venerable Realm is not weak, but compared to Great Sage Sun, your gap is still considerable. Obtaining a Buddha Fruit might be difficult. However, that's not a problem; I'll lend you an immortal weapon, and with it, your chances of acquiring a Buddha Fruit will significantly improve!"

As he spoke, a flash of light appeared from between his brows in his sea of consciousness, and a blood-colored long blade appeared before Bingyun.

Though Bingyun couldn't tell the grade of this blood blade, she knew it was far superior to any immortal weapon she currently wielded, and in her excitement, she reached out and grasped the handle of the blood blade, eager to see what peculiarities this immortal weapon held.

As soon as she held the blood blade, a strong, terrifying evil qi emanated from the blade, enveloping her. In a moment of distraction, Bingyun fell into an illusory realm filled with corpse mountains and blood seas, endless slaughter.

"Hey!"

Seeing Bingyun's pupils contract, a look of fear on her face as her body shivered uncontrollably, Fang Bai knew she was affected by the evil qi and immediately shouted.

"Phew..."

Awakened by Fang Bai's shout, Bingyun was instantly freed from the illusion and, with a sigh of relief, realized that in those brief few breaths of time, she had broken out in a cold sweat.

"Such formidable evil qi! This blood blade is a treasure!"

Bingyun gazed down at the blood blade in her hand, her expression complex yet tinged with excitement.

She, a second-rank Immortal Venerable with an innate spiritual root, couldn't resist the blood blade's fiendish aura. Using this blood blade in battle, even facing a stronger opponent, if that opponent was distracted for just a moment, her chances of victory would increase greatly.

Fang Bai instructed Bingyun to mix a strand of her divine sense with her vital essence and drip the vital essence onto the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, allowing her to temporarily wield it.

One day later, the blood and divine sense Bingyun infused into the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade would completely dissipate, and the blade would return to recognizing Fang Bai as its master.

With the assistance of this immortal weapon, Bingyun's confidence surged, and overjoyed, she stepped aside, gently slashing and swinging the blade, wanting to quickly familiarize herself with it to prepare for the upcoming battle for the Buddha Fruit.

"Qingzhu has ascended two minor realms! Very good! Very good!"

Fang Bai looked at the radiant Qingzhu Fairy standing in front of him, her aura transformed and elevated, a smile warming his face even more.

The Water of Life is the supreme treasure of the Immortal Realm; the lower the cultivation level of the immortal who consumes it, the better the effects. Therefore, while Great Sage Sun and Bingyun only ascended one minor realm, Qingzhu ascended two.

This was something Qingzhu Fairy hadn't expected at all.

Flushed with mild embarrassment at Fang Bai's praise, Qingzhu Fairy said shyly, "My ability to ascend is partly due to the insights from listening to the senior's teachings and partly because of the miraculous immortal water bestowed by the senior."

Pausing cautiously, she added, "Senior, I'm still a little worried..."

Fang Bai asked, "Worried about what?"

Qingzhu Fairy replied, "Worried about holding everyone back!"

Although she had ascended two minor realms and her strength had grown rapidly, her cultivation level was still only at the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, far from the Immortal Venerable Realm.

On the other hand, Fang Bai had previously promised to provide her with additional support, which she had been quietly hoping for.

Fang Bai said, "Considering your strength, obtaining a Buddha Fruit is almost impossible. But the Contest for the Buddha Fruit isn't solely about strength; if you have tactics, you should certainly deploy them! Mmm, I just stepped out for a moment to find you a helper..."

"A helper?"

Qingzhu Fairy blinked, saying, "I thought the Contest for the Buddha Fruit didn't allow for two-against-one?"

Fang Bai laughed, "It prohibits two immortals from teaming up against one immortal but doesn't say anything about using an immortal beast to assist in battle!"

Qingzhu Fairy raised her brows in delight, exclaiming, "You mean..."

Fang Bai chuckled, "I tamed an immortal beast, a Fire Cloud Leopard with a fifth rank Immortal Venerable Realm cultivation. With its help, even if you confront a sixth rank Immortal Venerable Realm expert, you can emerge victorious!"

"Master, where is the immortal beast?"

Upon hearing this, Great Sage Sun turned to Fang Bai, asking with keen interest.

Chapter 2159: The Power of the War Immortal Platform Revealed

On the enormous plaza flanking the east and west sides of the Sumeru Temple lie the War Immortal Platforms, built specifically for the Buddha Fruit Festival. Despite many Buddha Fruit Battles, they remain as sturdy as ever.

There are two War Immortal Platforms, allowing for two duels to occur simultaneously.

Since the Buddha Fruit offers little benefit to Immortal King Realm experts, all sorts of immortals participating in the Buddha Fruit Battle are from the Heavenly Immortal Realm and Immortal Venerable Realm.

At dawn, as the Golden Crow rose, Mount Sumeru was enveloped in a spectacular display of colorful auspicious clouds.

Hundreds of thousands of immortals had already gathered on the enormous plaza, whispering and chatting noisily about various topics.

Observant immortals might notice that among the three hundred immortals qualified to participate in the Buddha Fruit Battle, some had a new Immortal Artifact in hand, others had an additional Immortal Beast beside them, and some even had a sudden surge in aura...

Evidently, immortals from various Immortal Sects and immortal sects were pulling out all the stops, employing every means possible to obtain a Buddha Fruit, as long as they did not break the rules set by the Sumeru Temple.

The process of these duels was agreed upon by all immortals and the Buddhas of the Sumeru Temple and is considered quite fair.

The Buddha Fruit Battle takes place simultaneously on the two War Immortal Platforms, where immortals of equal cultivation levels face off, ensuring that half of the immortals are eliminated in the first round.

Following this, the victors compete against each other in subsequent rounds.

As rounds progress with continuous eliminations, the top five of the Buddha Fruit Battle emerge, with each winner receiving one Buddha Fruit.

Although the number of participants in the Buddha Fruit Battle is limited, some duels are so closely matched that they can't be quickly resolved, making the total duration of the event uncertain, lasting at least three to five days.

Nevertheless, this doesn't dampen the enthusiasm of the immortals watching the event. Even those who are eliminated stick around to see which immortals will ultimately win the Buddha Fruits.

While the Buddha Fruit Battle doesn't concern life or death, the dueling immortals generally prefer not to kill each other unless there's a deep vendetta, and instead choose to heavily injure their opponent to avoid new feuds.

On the plaza, Bingyun saw the other four members of the Five Immortals of Ice Valley, and with Fang Bai's permission, communicated with them using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission technique.

Upon learning from Bingyun that Fang Bai might be their ancestral teacher, the Four Immortals of Ice Valley immediately turned their gaze to Fang Bai, faces flushing red and filled with excitement.

Fang Bai glanced at them with a calm demeanor, using the Voice Transmission Technique to advise them to stay composed and calm.

Before the Buddha Fruit Battle began, the three hundred participating immortals underwent another round of cultivation level testing, during which Fang Bai, Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and Bingyun each received a token issued by a disciple of the Sumeru Temple.

This token would declare when they would take the stage to face off against another immortal of equal cultivation level.

Immortals observing the duels on the War Immortal Platform couldn't see them, only knowing the outcome once the battles concluded and the defensive array's Qi shield on the platform dissipated.

After a moment, immortals began ascending the War Immortal Platform, commencing the Buddha Fruit Battle.

Although unable to witness the duel proceedings on the War Immortal Platform, this didn't prevent the immortals on the plaza from discussing and speculating about each combatant, some acting conceited while engaging in vivid, spirited analysis of their victory prospects from various perspectives.

The plaza was filled with such fervent commentary and discussion, creating a very lively atmosphere.

In the early duels, even though the immortals had equal cultivation levels, the disparity in combat prowess meant the winner was determined in no more than a thousand breaths of time.

"My turn!"

"Mine as well!"

As some Sumeru Temple disciple called out the number corresponding to their token, both Great Sage Sun and Qingzhu Fairy stood up simultaneously.

Great Sage Sun was eager, energized.

Qingzhu Fairy appeared somewhat reserved, yet her face showed no fear.

"Go forth! Overwhelm your opponents with force!"

Fang Bai knew with confidence that given the cultivation levels of Great Sage Sun and Qingzhu Fairy, they were practically unrivaled among immortals of the same realm, hence he had no worries about the first round of duels.

Fang Bai anticipated they would defeat their opponents in under a hundred breaths and enter the next round triumphantly.

As expected, Fang Bai's prediction held true—as soon as Great Sage Sun and Qingzhu Fairy began their duels on the War Immortal Platform, the defense Qi shield vanished amidst the astonished gasps of onlookers in less than fifty breaths.

Great Sage Sun and Qingzhu Fairy stood unscathed, while their adversaries lay on the ground, clearly heavily injured and struggling to rise.

"Well done!"

Tu Mo and Jade Bamboo Mountain immortals with Fang Bai expressed their delight, spirits lifted.

This bout, where Great Sage Sun and Qingzhu Fairy smoothly defeated their opponents, exceeded many immortals' expectations, drawing even more attention toward them.

Shortly thereafter, it was Bingyun's turn to take the stage, one of the Five Immortals of Ice Valley.

"Go Bingyun!"

"Crush your opponent!"

"Securing a Buddha Fruit rests on your shoulders!"

"Just do your best, no pressure! If it doesn't work out this time, there's always next time!"

The four immortals of Ice Valley shouted encouragingly, standing up to support Bingyun as she prepared for her duel.

Bingyun waved to them, then glanced toward Fang Bai, who had raised a thumb in acknowledgment. Remembering the intensely evil Qi-ridden Blood-Drinking Mad Blade he lent her, she felt reassured, resolutely stepping up to the War Immortal Platform.

Bingyun's opponent was a tall, brawny man, brimming with explosive strength. Standing face-to-face with him, she seemed fragile and delicate, standing half a head shorter, easily giving the impression that the man could crush her with a single punch.

Many immortals on-site also thought that Bingyun was unlikely to defeat the burly man.

Only the immortals with Fang Bai and the Four Immortals of Ice Valley possessed unshaken faith in Bingyun's victory.

The War Immortal Platform's defensive array activated, causing Bingyun and the burly man's figures to instantly vanish.

"Finish it within fifty breaths!"

Great Sage Sun watched intently at the War Immortal Platform where Bingyun and her opponent stood, declaring confidently.

Fang Bai shook his head, remarking, "I lent her my Blood-Drinking Mad Blade; if she can't wrap it up in thirty breaths, I'll be very disappointed!"

"Thirty breaths? Ha..."

An immortal nearby scoffed, casting a disdainful glance at Fang Bai with a look that seemed to say "You're bluffing".

In this immortal's opinion, Bingyun had a higher chance of losing, and Fang Bai's claim that she could triumph in thirty breaths was utterly impossible.

Great Sage Sun glared at the scoffing immortal, saying fiercely, "Your words sound so spiteful, you annoy me! Don't think I won't crush you with a single strike!"

The immortal sneered, "Dare to try me?!"

Their exchange was brief, with twenty breaths passing swiftly.

"The duel has ended!"

An immortal suddenly shouted, prompting Great Sage Sun and the scoffing immortal to simultaneously turn their gaze to the War Immortal Platform.

The next moment, Great Sage Sun burst into laughter, while the scoffing immortal stood stupefied.

Chapter 2160: Ten Breaths

The defensive array surrounding the War Immortal Platform disappeared, and all the Immortals' gazes focused on the platform.

Bingyun Fairy, clothed in a yellow dress, tightly gripped a blood blade that seemed out of place with her demeanor, staring at her opponent who lay several yards away, a hint of excitement and thrill in her expression.

Her breath remained steady, as if this battle had not exhausted much of her immortal power, and she had easily dealt with her opponent.

The man who fought against her now lay on his back on the War Immortal Platform, his immortal artifact fallen to the side, his body bloodied and weak-breathed, clearly severely injured.

"They have the same cultivation level, and both possess Innate Spiritual Roots, how can this be?"

"Ending the battle in twenty breaths, the difference in combat power is too vast!"

"This Female Immortal is not simple!"

"The blood blade in her hand seems to contain strong evil qi, it's an extraordinary immortal artifact!"

"One should be careful fighting on the same platform with her!"

...

The spectators, looking at Bingyun Fairy on the War Immortal Platform, grew wary of this seemingly delicate Female Immortal.

"So, do you concede? Heh, my Master has extraordinary insight, how could you, a mere little Immortal, question it? With your cultivation level, you're not even fit to carry my Master's shoes!"

Great Sage Sun looked sideways at the Immortal he was bantering with, mocking him.

"You..."

That Immortal glared at Great Sage Sun, his face flushing red, so angry he wanted to spit blood, but he was helpless.

The battle Great Sage Sun had just experienced was resolved within dozens of breaths; that Immortal knew he had no confidence to fight and win, so he could only swallow his anger.

Bingyun Fairy stepped down from the War Immortal Platform, and the four immortals from Ice Valley waiting for her below eagerly surrounded her. Seeing her completely unscathed, they all breathed a sigh of relief and beamed with excitement.

They hadn't expected that Bingyun, initially the weakest among the five immortals of Ice Valley, would not only advance a small realm after a night's tutoring by Fang Bai but also demonstrate such formidable combat power.

"Could it be that young Immortal is truly the rebirth of our founding master?"

Before the Buddha Fruit Competition began, Bingyun had communicated with the four immortals from Ice Valley through sound transmission, revealing Fang Bai's true identity to them.

However, the news was so shocking that the four immortals of Ice Valley were skeptical.

But at this moment, their doubts had considerably lessened.

After all, the master's knowledge of myriad things and profound skills in the past, only a celestial prodigy like him could transform Bingyun so dramatically in such a short time.

Thinking about the master's return and the hope of revitalizing the Emperor's Palace, the four immortals of Ice Valley trembled with excitement. If not for Bingyun's specific instructions not to recognize Fang Bai with their Emperor's Palace disciple identity, they might have already gone up to pay great homage to Fang Bai.

After Bingyun Fairy descended from the War Immortal Platform, two disciples from Sumeru Temple immediately went up to carry down the severely injured man, preventing an impact on the next battle.

So far, Great Sage Sun, Qingzhu Fairy, and Bingyun Fairy had all stepped onto the War Immortal Platform and achieved three consecutive victories, only Fang Bai had yet to take the stage.

"Master, it's your turn!"

An hour later, Great Sage Sun heard the loud call for the code on Fang Bai's card from the Sumeru Temple disciple, immediately jumped up, and spoke to Fang Bai.

Tu Mo, Haoyue Fairy, and other immortals from Jade Bamboo Mountain, along with Bingyun and the other four immortals from Ice Valley, stood up with Great Sage Sun, all setting their sights on Fang Bai.

The objective Fang Bai set for this Buddha Fruit Conference was to win four Buddha Fruits, meaning none of the four immortals participating could afford to lose even one match.

And Fang Bai's upcoming battle was the most crucial one in determining whether they could achieve this goal.

Haoyue Fairy and the five immortals from Ice Valley already knew Fang Bai's true identity, and had unprecedented confidence in him. Seeing Fang Bai take the stage, there was a spark in their eyes, not even considering the possibility of defeat.

Under the gaze of reverence and admiration from Great Sage Sun and other immortals, Fang Bai, clad in snow-white attire, with a calm smile at his lips, stepped onto the War Immortal Platform.

On the War Immortal Platform, a Grade One Immortal Venerable Realm expert with the same cultivation level as Fang Bai was already waiting for him.

That Immortal was dressed in a gray robe, his hair and beard gray, not tall, slightly hunchbacked, with a fierce gaze. Seeing him, Fang Bai immediately thought of the fierce and bloodthirsty Immortal Wolves in the Immortal Realm.

"Master, can you defeat him in ten breaths?"

Before the War Immortal Platform's defensive array activated, Great Sage Sun asked with a wide grin.

As soon as he spoke, the surrounding immortals were in an uproar, all thinking this Immortal Beast spoke too arrogantly.

In their view, Fang Bai and the gray-robed Immortal had comparable cultivation levels, both with the ability to challenge higher levels, so their combat power should not differ much. Even if Fang Bai possessed powerful trump cards, wouldn't the gray-robed Immortal also have some means of response?

Therefore, it seemed unlikely for either of them to defeat the other in ten breaths.

However, some immortals had different thoughts, believing that a Grade Two Master Realm Immortal Beast like Great Sage Sun addressing Fang Bai as Master indicated that Fang Bai undeniably had extraordinary strength capable of subjugating Great Sage Sun, otherwise, how could he make an Immortal Beast of formidable combat power submit willingly?

To Great Sage Sun's question, Fang Bai neither confirmed nor denied, he merely extended his right hand and made a victory gesture that Great Sage Sun did not understand.

Subsequently, the War Immortal Platform's defensive array activated, and Fang Bai and Great Sage Sun's figures disappeared from the immortals' view.

"Senior Brother Tu, what did Master's gesture mean just now?"

Watching his Master's figure disappear, Great Sage Sun turned his head, puzzled, asking Tu Mo beside him.

Tu Mo thought for a long time but couldn't figure it out, so he asked Haoyue Fairy.

Haoyue Fairy was also confused and smiled bitterly, "Fang... Immortal Friend's action must have profound meaning! Forgive my ignorance, I cannot understand it!"

The nearby Qingzhu Fairy pondered for a moment and softly said, "Seeing Senior Fang's confident and composed demeanor, maybe he was trying to tell us through that gesture that defeating the opponent within ten breaths is not a problem..."

After hearing this, Tu Mo and other immortals nodded in deep agreement, then focused intently on the War Immortal Platform where Fang Bai was, holding their breath in anticipation.

The ten breaths of time passed in the blink of an eye.

"The outcome should be determined..."

Great Sage Sun silently calculated the time and murmured to himself.

As soon as he finished, the War Immortal Platform's defensive array disappeared, and the immortals only saw a blur as Fang Bai, clad in white, walked quickly off the War Immortal Platform.

Behind him, the gray-robed Immortal swayed a few times and then fell with a thud. Although not dead, his breath was now extremely weak.

"Haha, exactly ten breaths! Master, mighty and domineering!"

Great Sage Sun laughed loudly without restraint, wave after wave of sound waves reverberating, causing the ears of the surrounding immortals to buzz "hum hum."

The color on those Immortals' faces changed drastically, thinking this Immortal Beast is truly formidable, hoping not to encounter him on the War Immortal Platform next.