

Doctor 2191

Chapter 2191: Warm-Hearted Falling Snow Mountain Disciples

After meeting with the Sect Master, the Ice Sword Immortal, Dongfang Rushi and the other six new disciples of Falling Snow Mountain were escorted by Fairy Mu Xue to their assigned living quarters within the Sect.

There were not many Immortal Halls on Falling Snow Mountain, and only a select few high-ranking individuals were privileged to reside within them.

The other disciples of Falling Snow Mountain lived in various Immortal Caves scattered across the mountain.

These Immortal Caves varied in size and elevation; some were exquisitely furnished, while others were relatively simple.

Those situated at higher altitudes housed the more senior disciples of Falling Snow Mountain and had a richer concentration of Immortal Qi.

Meanwhile, the younger or lower-ranked disciples could only settle in the lower-elevation caves, where Immortal Qi was comparatively sparse.

Every disciple at the bottom of Falling Snow Mountain's hierarchy was diligently cultivating, striving to move into better Immortal Caves and enjoy a superior cultivation environment.

Generally, newly inducted disciples of Falling Snow Mountain began as menial servants and gradually relocated their Immortal Caves as their strength grew.

However, as disciples possessing Innate Spiritual Roots, Dongfang Rushi and Su Li naturally received some privileges, being directly assigned to a row of Immortal Caves meant for external courtyard disciples.

“I possess an Innate Spiritual Root and can challenge ranks above mine. Why should I have to live with external courtyard disciples?”

The other five Immortals who joined Falling Snow Mountain alongside them envied the treatment Dongfang Rushi and Su Li received, but Su Li was filled with resentment, feeling wronged by the arrangement.

In contrast, Dongfang Rushi maintained a calm demeanor, not revealing any emotion.

“Just settle down for now. In some time, our Falling Snow Mountain will hold a disciple competition where you can challenge any member of the sect. If you triumph, you can take their place,”

Fairy Mu Xue said with a smile, seemingly noticing Su Li’s discontent.

“Really? That sounds good!”

Su Li finally felt satisfied, thinking that he could choose an Inner Court disciple to challenge, defeat them, and thus gain entry into the Inner Court, where all sorts of benefits would be improved.

“Senior Sister Dongfang, with our strength, it will be easy to challenge and defeat Inner Court disciples. Let’s enter the Inner Court together and cultivate and progress together!”

Su Li cheerfully struck up a conversation with Dongfang Rushi.

Dongfang Rushi remained silent, merely casting a cold glance at him, exhibiting a demeanor that kept people at a distance.

Su Li felt secretly annoyed but could only cough awkwardly to cover his embarrassment.

For now, Dongfang Rushi, Su Li, and the other five new disciples settled down on Falling Snow Mountain.

Soon, the tens of thousands of disciples on Falling Snow Mountain learned of the seven newcomers, including a man and a woman with Innate Spiritual Roots.

According to two Mountain Guarding Disciples, these two disciples with Innate Spiritual Roots were extraordinarily handsome and extraordinarily beautiful, and both appeared very young. This excited the many unmarried male and female disciples of Falling Snow Mountain, prompting them to visit the vicinity of Dongfang Rushi and Su Li's Immortal Caves for a look.

They imagined that if they found one another appealing, they might initiate contact and potentially develop a relationship.

Learning about the results of their inquiries left the disciples excited and enthusiastic.

Dongfang Rushi's absolutely beautiful appearance and aloof, singular temperament captivated many of the male disciples of Falling Snow Mountain.

Meanwhile, the handsome and carefree Su Li captured the hearts of many female disciples.

As a result, the area near Dongfang Rushi and Su Li's Immortal Caves became bustling, with male and female disciples frequently appearing to chat with them.

Dongfang Rushi maintained a cold demeanor towards any male Immortal, offering only the bare minimum of polite conversation before ignoring them.

Thus, in the eyes of many male Immortals, Dongfang Rushi acquired the nickname "Ice Mountain Fairy."

However, Dongfang Rushi's icy attitude only made the male Immortals of Falling Snow Mountain more eager to pursue her.

This led to many female Immortals without Immortal Artifacts feeling envy and jealousy towards Dongfang Rushi, while also cursing those male Immortals as being shameless.

In contrast to Dongfang Rushi, Su Li treated every female Immortal with friendliness, occasionally exchanging insights on Immortal Technique Secrets, earning him a good reputation among the female Immortals.

Thus, Su Li became the sworn enemy of many male Immortals on Falling Snow Mountain who did not yet have Immortal partners.

The next day, an Elder of Falling Snow Mountain summoned Dongfang Rushi and Su Li, stating that he would personally teach them Immortal Technique Secrets.

This Elder, known as the Ice Blade Immortal, was said to be the brother of the current Sect Master, the Ice Sword Immortal, possessing a seventh-grade Human Immortal Realm Cultivation Level, making him an existence above ten thousand others, second only to a true Immortal.

In the eyes of the disciples of Falling Snow Mountain, receiving instruction from the Ice Blade Immortal was an extreme honor, indicating they had attracted the attention of the sect. If nothing unexpected occurred, they might clamber into the sect's upper echelons.

The Ice Blade Immortal, unabashedly, told Dongfang Rushi and Su Li, "I am passing on these Immortal Technique Secrets to you under the Sect Master's command! With your Innate Spiritual Roots, your talents and aptitude are tremendously high. As long as you cultivate diligently, your future in the Immortal Dao will undoubtedly be boundlessly bright. In the coming years, positions as Stewards or Elders of Falling Snow Mountain may well count you among their ranks!"

Upon hearing this, Su Li could barely contain his excitement.

But Dongfang Rushi showed no interest in any positions as Stewards or Elders. She simply wished to focus her cultivation at Falling Snow Mountain for a time, achieve a certain level of self-protection, and then seize an opportunity during training to search for Fang Bai along with her sister Dongfang Ruhua.

Su Li listened keenly as the Ice Blade Immortal conveyed the Immortal Technique Secrets, asking detailed questions afterward. The Ice Blade Immortal showed no impatience, carefully explaining the details.

Dongfang Rushi appeared to listen attentively, but her thoughts had already drifted away from the Ice Blade Immortal.

It was not that she did not want to listen, but having learned the Water System Immortal Technique Secrets left by Fang Bai, hearing the Ice Blade Immortal's teachings felt childish, arousing little interest.

Nonetheless, out of respect for the Ice Blade Immortal, Dongfang Rushi maintained the appearance of listening carefully.

"That's all for today's lecture. As for how much you can comprehend, that depends on yourselves. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me. Also, tomorrow the Treasure Pavilion will distribute cultivation resources to the disciples, and you are eligible to receive them—you can claim them with your disciple ID badge."

After explaining to Dongfang Rushi and Su Li, the Ice Blade Immortal got up and left.

Once the Ice Blade Immortal left, Su Li wanted to say a few words to Dongfang Rushi, but she rose to leave without looking at him, as if he were invisible.

The next day, Dongfang Rushi went to the Treasure Pavilion, used her disciple ID badge to collect some cultivation resources, and officially began her cultivation journey at Falling Snow Mountain.

As the Falling Snow Mountain's disciple competition drew near, in the hope of moving into better Immortal Caves and acquiring more cultivation resources, the seven new disciples, including Dongfang Rushi, immersed themselves in diligent cultivation, not daring to slacken for a moment.

Chapter 2192: The Day of the Grand Tournament

"Dong..."

"Dong..."

"Dong..."

...

The deep and melodious sound of the bell echoed within a radius of several hundred miles around Falling Snow Mountain.

Upon hearing the bell, the disciples of Falling Snow Mountain quickly withdrew from their cultivation state, left their Immortal Caves, and transformed into streaks of light, flying towards the Practice Battle Arena at the back of the mountain.

Within the span of a hundred breaths, the vast Practice Battle Arena was already crowded, a hubbub of activity.

Falling Snow Mountain is said to have tens of thousands of disciples, but in reality, the true number of disciples is only around ten thousand.

However, the gathering of ten thousand disciples together is still quite a formidable sight.

In the center of the Practice Battle Arena, there are five War Immortal Platforms, where each competition of Falling Snow Mountain takes place.

“I hope we can achieve good results in today’s competition!”

Many Falling Snow Mountain disciples stood around the War Immortal Platforms, clasping their hands together, quietly praying.

The competition, which occurs every five years, determines whether Falling Snow Mountain disciples can receive better treatment in the next five years, so every disciple values it highly.

During each competition, menial servant disciples hope to defeat External Courtyard disciples, replacing them to enjoy the treatment of an External Courtyard disciple.

The External Courtyard disciples, on the other hand, hope to become one of the Inner Court disciples.

As for the Inner Court disciples, they aim to join the ranks of the Core Disciples...

The disciples of Falling Snow Mountain understand that falling behind in even one step means falling behind every step; if they can't make progress in this competition, they will be left further behind their peers on the Immortal Dao in the future.

Dongfang Rushi stood gracefully among a group of female External Courtyard disciples. While the senior sisters around her were discussing today's competition, she was reflecting on her cultivation journey since joining Falling Snow Mountain.

On the day she joined Falling Snow Mountain, the sect allotted her a portion of cultivation resources, said to be enough to meet her needs for a year's cultivation.

However, in just a short two-month period, the cultivation resources in her Space Immortal Ring were almost depleted.

This meant that until the next allotment of cultivation resources, she would face several months without available resources, which troubled her somewhat.

Since entering Falling Snow Mountain, Dongfang Rushi had been staying in the Immortal Cave to cultivate, rarely going out, so she was not familiar with most of her fellow disciples and felt shy about asking them how to acquire more cultivation resources.

Dongfang Rushi initially thought of finding Fairy Mu Xue to inquire about the resources, but Fairy Mu Xue had left to continue guarding Fuxi Mountain shortly after bringing them to Falling Snow Mountain.

"It seems I have no choice but to challenge an Inner Court disciple and take their place in order to obtain more cultivation resources!"

Dongfang Rushi, reserved by nature, didn't originally wish to fight with other immortals. But to improve her cultivation and meet Fang Bai soon, she reluctantly decided to participate in this Falling Snow Mountain disciples competition.

In a group of male disciples in the distance, Su Li squinted slightly, looking at the slender and graceful Dongfang Rushi with fiery, greedy eyes.

Although he had repeatedly shown goodwill towards Dongfang Rushi, she paid him no attention. But his desire to become her immortal partner did not waver. He hoped to take this competition opportunity to showcase his prowess and make this elegant and aloof senior sister see him in a new light.

He believed that the reason Dongfang Rushi looked down on him was that he wasn't strong enough. If someday he could overwhelm her with his power, she would definitely willingly submit to him.

"The disciple competition, held every five years, now officially begins! I hope all disciples give their all, demonstrate their abilities, and achieve good results!"

When a steward ascended the War Immortal Platform and detailed the rules, the five-year disciple competition officially commenced.

The five War Immortal Platforms could host five matches simultaneously. As the competition began, five Falling Snow Mountain disciples immediately flew to the platforms to issue challenges.

Among these five Falling Snow Mountain disciples were menial servant disciples, External Courtyard disciples, and Inner Court disciples. They challenged senior brothers and sisters with higher cultivation levels.

"External Courtyard disciple Hu Gao challenges Inner Court Senior Brother Li Qi!"

Dongfang Rushi's gaze fell on the closest War Immortal Platform, where an external squat disciple eagerly eyed an Inner Court disciple below, loudly issuing a challenge.

As soon as the words were spoken, the scene burst into an uproar, with hundreds of mocking gazes fixed on him, seemingly thinking he was overestimating his abilities.

Senior Brother Li Qi ranked tenth in strength among the Inner Court disciples, a level of power capable of crushing any External Courtyard disciple.

Hu Gao, on the other hand, was an unknown figure within the External Courtyard. Nobody expected him to challenge one of the lower-ranked Inner Court senior brothers, yet he challenged Li Qi, who ranked tenth in the Inner Court. It's no wonder no immortal thought highly of him.

"That External Courtyard Senior Brother Hu must have some powerful trump card and technique to be so confident!"

Dongfang Rushi assessed the squat, external disciple named Hu Gao, thinking to herself.

Dongfang Rushi also had a trump card, namely the Immortal Technique Secrets taught by Fang Bai. With her current cultivation level, she was unrivaled among her peers in Falling Snow Mountain and had formidable abilities for overcoming higher levels. Without these trump cards, she surely wouldn't abruptly challenge an Inner Court disciple.

"Hahaha..."

Amidst the hearty laughter, the Inner Court disciple named Li Qi flew up to the War Immortal Platform, standing before Hu Gao.

"Junior Brother Hu, if I recall correctly, you have only been in Falling Snow Sect for eight years, right? In those eight years, your cultivation level remains at the first rank of the Human Immortal Realm. How can you be my match? You're too impatient!"

Li Qi said with a half-smile.

Hu Gao shed his usual honest demeanor and smiled proudly, pointing at Li Qi, “Senior Brother Li, let’s cut the nonsense! Starting today, the tenth place on the Inner Court disciple power rankings will be mine!”

Li Qi’s expression turned cold, and he said indifferently, “Since you insist on not listening to advice, then... I’ll show you just how vast the gap is between you and the Inner Court disciple power rankings tenth place!

He soared high into the air, then raised his right arm, using his palm as a blade, and slashed down fiercely.

A blade of immortal qi several meters long, with his rapid descent, whistled towards Hu Gao’s body.

“No wonder he’s the tenth-ranked senior brother on the Inner Court disciple power rankings; this Palm Blade is formidable!”

“If it were me, I couldn’t block it!”

“Indeed, just this one move could lead to defeat!”

“I bet Hu Gao can’t withstand this move!”

“Let’s see...”

...

As soon as Li Qi attacked on the War Immortal Platform, discussions broke out below the platform.

And amidst the clamorous noise, Li Qi’s Palm Blade was already less than three feet from the top of Hu Gao’s head.

“He doesn’t even have a chance to dodge!”

The immortals below the War Immortal Platform all thought the same; they had foreseen that under this strike, Hu Gao would likely suffer a severe injury and lose his ability to fight.

No immortal felt sorry for Hu Gao, as they all believed that Hu Gao’s challenge to Li Qi was asking for trouble.

Chapter 2193: It’s Time to Take the Stage!

“Boom!”

With the deafening sound of Immortal Qi clashing, the piercing cold turned into a strong shock wave, expanding around the War Immortal Platform.

Wherever the shock wave passed, a layer of white frost immediately formed on all objects.

The disciples from Falling Snow Mountain watching around the War Immortal Platform, those with slightly weaker strength, felt the cold invade their bodies, involuntarily shivered, and had to retreat backward.

Those from Falling Snow Mountain with stronger strength had to circulate their Immortal Laws to withstand the chill brought by the shock wave.

After the shock wave dissipated, the disciples of Falling Snow Mountain looked at Hu Gao on the War Immortal Platform, whose aura surged and who had a cold smile, then glanced at Li Qi, who was shaken and retreated over ten zhang with a face of shock, all found it quite unbelievable.

“Such a strong aura! When did Hu Gao’s cultivation level advance to the second rank of the Human Immortal Realm?”

“No wonder he would directly challenge Senior Brother Li Qi of the Inner Court, turns out he’s already advanced!”

“In these five years, he must have had some great opportunity that allowed him to advance!”

“He hid it very deeply!”

“It seems Hu Gao wants to amaze everyone with a single move!”

...

Looking at Hu Gao who suddenly became much stronger on the War Immortal Platform, the disciples of Falling Snow Mountain showed complex expressions, especially those who had just mocked him for overestimating himself, their faces turned red, feeling as if they had been slapped.

“Senior Brother Li, I’ve said, starting today, the tenth position on the Inner Court’s combat power ranking is mine! Admit defeat!”

Having shaken off Li Qi, Hu Gao’s confidence increased greatly, right hand grasped in the air, a zhang-long ice spear appeared in his palm, the tip filled with icy aura pointing directly at Li Qi’s chest.

Although Li Qi was over ten zhang away from Hu Gao, he could still feel the sharpness and chill from that ice spear.

“The Immortal Artifact in his hand...is a higher grade than mine!”

Looking at the ice spear in Hu Gao’s hand, Li Qi’s expression slightly changed.

Immortal Qi surged around Hu Gao, with heavy Immortal Might, since he summoned the ice spear, his prestige and momentum surpassed Li Qi.

The balance of victory in this battle seemed to already tilt towards Hu Gao.

“If you want my position, beat me first!”

Li Qi knew at this moment, he must not be faint-hearted, otherwise his Dao heart would be disturbed, once his Dao heart is disturbed, his combat power would weaken, and he would inevitably be defeated.

He slowly extended his hands, and a pair of ice axes appeared in them.

The disciples of Falling Snow Mountain saw them each summon their Immortal Artifacts, knowing they were preparing to fight fiercely, couldn't help but feel excited, ready to see who would win or lose.

If Li Qi won, it would be as expected among the immortals.

But if Hu Gao won, he would become the dark horse of this disciples competition, and might even attract the attention of the higher-ups from then on.

“Senior Brother Li, since you are obstinate, don't blame me for being merciless!”

Hu Gao, eager for victory, lacking patience, roared as he charged forward, the ice spear in hand like a venomous snake, piercing the air towards Li Qi's chest.

He wanted to win with one strike, thus this spear gathered all his strength, holding nothing back.

Seeing the rapidly enlarging spear tip in his eyes, feeling the formidable power wrapped in the ice spear, Li Qi couldn't help but show a look of awe, gritted his teeth, crossed the pair of ice axes before him, prepared to block Hu Gao's strike.

“Break for me!”

Hu Gao's eyes flashed with fierce light, amid his roar, the cold on the spear tip intensified, speeding up by a few degrees.

“Dang!”

The crisp sound of metal clashing reverberated, shaking the eardrums of the disciples around the War Immortal Platform so much they seemed about to crack, but they ignored this, one by one staring with wide eyes, eagerly watching the scene on the War Immortal Platform.

“Senior Brother Li actually lost...”

When they saw the immortal axe in Li Qi’s hands shattered, his tiger’s mouth cracked, while the tip of Hu Gao’s ice spear had already tightly pressed against the skin of his chest, all the watching disciples of Falling Snow Mountain knew, Li Qi had not only lost, but was defeated miserably.

If Hu Gao hadn’t stopped in time, the ice spear in his hand would have already pierced through Li Qi’s body, and even if Li Qi didn’t die then, he would inevitably be heavily injured, possibly requiring several years or even longer to fully recover.

Although Hu Gao clearly could have severely injured Li Qi to enhance his own prestige, he showed mercy, thus earning quite a bit of goodwill from fellow disciples.

“I lost...lost...”

Li Qi looked at Hu Gao as he slowly withdrew the ice spear, murmuring blankly, his mind a blank.

Although being defeated by Hu Gao only meant his ranking fell by one place, this loss, however, left his reputation in tatters, his face disgraced, making it difficult for him to hold his head up high in the Inner Court from now on.

“Good!”

“Junior Brother Hu is mighty!”

“Congratulations on entering the Inner Court, Junior Brother Hu!”

“Don’t forget to support the brothers and sisters in the External Courtyard in the future!”

“Junior Brother Hu, welcome to the Inner Court!”

“Let’s exchange ideas more in the future!”

...

After Hu Gao flew down the War Immortal Platform, many disciples from the Inner and External Courtyards gathered around him, offering congratulations, the sound of applause and cheers were endless.

Hu Gao responded with a fist salute and a smile to the enthusiasm of his fellow brothers and sisters, feeling a bit elated in his heart.

“Li Qi, get off the War Immortal Platform quickly, don’t affect other disciples’ competition!”

Seeing Li Qi standing on the stage not coming down, a steward urged.

Li Qi raised his head and responded, only then did he walk off the War Immortal Platform in a daze, returning to his original position.

Previously many Inner Court disciples stood alongside and chatted with him cheerfully, but now, beside him seemed much cooler, those Inner Court disciples were deliberately or unintentionally distancing themselves from him.

“This is the result of failure...”

Li Qi came to his senses, seeing this situation, couldn’t help but smile bitterly, but felt no resentment towards Hu Gao.

After all, his battle with Hu Gao was fair and square, a win is a win, a loss is a loss, only blame himself for lacking strength.

Su Li watched Hu Gao being treated like a revered star after his victory, eyes glowing, heart excited, thinking if he could smoothly enter the Inner Court, it would surely cause a sensation too.

After all, he ascended from the Lower Realm as an immortal, starting at a lower cultivation base than immortals native to the Immortal Realm, and spent only two months in the External Courtyard, if he could break into the Inner Court like this, it would shock all disciples of Falling Snow Mountain.

Moreover, considering his aptitude, he has an Innate Spiritual Root, better than Hu Gao's, promising a brighter future in the way of the Immortal Dao, then not only would many disciples of Falling Snow Mountain vie to curry favor, even the higher-ups would pay more attention to him.

"I wonder if she will challenge the Inner Court disciples."

Su Li glanced at Dongfang Rushi, seeing her seemingly wandering, apparently indifferent to the competition on the War Immortal Platform.

Disciples from Falling Snow Mountain continuously flew onto the War Immortal Platform, challenging their senior brothers and sisters, with results naturally bringing joy to some and sorrow to others.

Those who won challenges were joyful and exuberant.

Those who were defeated were downcast, like mourning for deceased parents.

"It's time to step onto the stage!"

Seeing two fellow disciples finish their fight on the War Immortal Platform, Su Li immediately flew up, eyes scanning the bustling scene, feeling a surge of unrivaled heroism in his heart.

Chapter 2194: Disdain

Ever since Su Li entered Falling Snow Mountain and learned that the five-year disciple competition was approaching, he began researching all the inner court disciples.

In his view, only by knowing oneself and the enemy could he clearly identify his challenge target and then win the battle.

Su Li's target was Yan Fei, ranked fifth on the inner court disciples' power ranking.

There are over a thousand inner court disciples. If Su Li could defeat Yan Fei and take his place, his brilliance would overshadow Hu Gao, who just achieved the tenth position on the inner court disciples' power ranking, becoming the center of attention at Falling Snow Mountain.

Su Li possesses the innate spiritual root, and before ascending to the Immortal Realm, he had extraordinary encounters. Having carefully studied Yan Fei's cultivation and combat power, he has strong confidence in defeating Yan Fei.

"External Courtyard Disciple Su Li challenges Inner Court's Senior Brother Yan Fei!"

After flying onto the War Immortal Platform, Su Li set his sights on a handsome male immortal among the inner court disciples, initiating his challenge.

"That guy is crazy, actually challenging Senior Brother Yan!"

"Senior Brother Yan is ranked fifth on the inner court power ranking!"

"After joining Falling Snow Mountain, Hu Gao endured for five years before daring to challenge Senior Brother Li. But that guy, he's been in Falling Snow Mountain for only two short months, yet he dares to challenge Senior Brother Yan? Who gave him the courage?"

"Hmm, he seems to not know the height of the sky or the depth of the earth!"

"But... what if, like Hu Gao, he suddenly displays amazing strength and becomes an overnight sensation?"

...

As soon as Su Li's words fell, all the disciples around the War Immortal Platform gasped.

However, with Hu Gao's previous experience, not all Falling Snow Mountain disciples believed that Su Li had no chance of winning.

"His strength is formidable, and he hides it even more deeply than Hu Gao. He might very well defeat Senior Brother Yan! But, if I faced him, I am confident I could defeat him!"

Dongfang Rushi glanced at Hu Gao on the War Immortal Platform and thought secretly.

Before ascending to the Immortal Realm, Fang Bai had almost imparted everything to Dongfang Rushi and other immortals to ensure they could protect themselves after ascension. This included secret techniques to probe an opponent's true strength. Therefore, however deeply Su Li concealed himself, he could not hide from Dongfang Rushi.

With a snort, and a flicker of shadows, Yan Fei, ranked fifth on the inner court disciples' power ranking, landed on the War Immortal Platform.

With a graceful demeanor and a refined appearance, Yan Fei was quite popular among female disciples at Falling Snow Mountain, and seeing him take the platform, some female disciples couldn't help cheering and screaming.

In the past, Yan Fei would usually smile and respond to the enthusiasm of his fellow senior and junior sisters, but today, he ignored it and instead looked at Su Li across from him with a vigilant gaze.

He knew that for Su Li to still wear a smile while knowing his true strength, it either meant Su Li was ignorantly arrogant, or he had a strong confidence capable of defeating him.

With Hu Gao's previous battle, Yan Fei had to remain fully alert, without the slightest carelessness.

Among the inner and external courtyard disciples of Falling Snow Mountain, Yan Fei had many admirers. But ever since Su Li, who was no less than him in appearance and surpassed him in talent, entered Falling Snow Mountain, many topics among those admirers began to involve Su Li.

This made Yan Fei quite displeased, wanting to find an opportunity to put Su Li in his place.

However, if he acted impulsively, it would tarnish his name with accusations of bullying the weak and using power against the powerless, and it might also bring him negative repercussions with the higher-ups, so he refrained from acting.

Yan Fei never expected that Su Li would actively challenge him in the disciple competition. Initially, he thought it was a good opportunity to teach Su Li a lesson, but when actually facing him, he couldn't help but feel a bit nervous.

Yan Fei knew that his nervousness was because he couldn't afford to lose this battle.

In the eyes of Falling Snow Mountain's disciples, it was normal for Su Li to lose, but if he, Yan Fei, were to lose, the result would be more dismal than Li Qi's.

"Senior Brother Yan, please."

Compared to Yan Fei's vigilance and nervousness, Su Li appeared much calmer, smiling as he cupped his fist toward Yan Fei.

"Junior Brother Su, please."

Yan Fei returned the gesture with a smile, although it was obviously stiff.

After exchanging pleasantries, Yan Fei and Su Li's figures rapidly advanced and clashed fiercely.

Amidst the rumbling sound, immortal qi surged, imposing pressures on each other. The two Falling Snow Mountain disciples gathered immortal qi in fists and palms, locking pressure on their opponent, and unleashed an intense battle.

"Their victory or defeat will probably be decided within a hundred breaths!"

Dongfang Rushi watched the fierce battle on the War Immortal Platform between Yan Fei and Su Li for a while, and made a judgment in her heart.

Her gaze wandered among the inner court disciples not far away, and finally settled on Ling Yun, who was ranked first on the inner court disciples' power ranking.

On the surface, Ling Yun appeared to be in his early thirties, somewhat slim, with a consistently solemn and unsmiling expression. To many inner and external courtyard female disciples, this senior brother seemed dull and uninteresting.

But if any immortal presumed him to be easily bullied, they would be gravely mistaken. When provoked, he would act like a sharp sword, piercing through his opponents.

"Senior Brother Ling, I'm sorry, but in this competition, I will challenge you! Only by taking your position can I obtain more cultivation resources and then use those cultivation resources to enhance my cultivation level and strength..."

Dongfang Rushi silently apologized while looking at Ling Yun, who stood like a javelin.

Given Dongfang Rushi's character, if not for the desire to gain more cultivation resources to enhance her strength, she really didn't want to confront any of Falling Snow Mountain's disciples.

"Boom!"

After a hundred breaths, the War Immortal Platform in front of Dongfang Rushi trembled, accompanied by the booming sound of a massive clash of immortal qi, as Su Li and Yan Fei each flew back over a dozen yards.

Su Li's hair was in disarray, his clothes untidy, but his figure stood straight, and his gaze remained sharp.

Yan Fei's nose and mouth bled, his body swayed as if about to fall, with a few traces of pain in his expression.

"Senior Brother Yan, well fought!"

Su Li cupped his fists with a victorious smile.

Yan Fei's face was unsightly, his eyes dimmed, and he suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood mist, his figure collapsing on the War Immortal Platform..

This battle concluded with Su Li's victory and Yan Fei's defeat.

Su Li successfully joined the ranks of the inner court disciples and became the fifth-ranked disciple on the power ranking.

"Junior Brother Su, congratulations!"

Seeing Su Li standing on the War Immortal Platform, many inner and external courtyard disciples offered their congratulations.

This battle made Su Li's fame soar, and many inner and external courtyard disciples looked forward to his future at Falling Snow Mountain, starting to curry favor.

However, Su Li's gaze turned to Dongfang Rushi at this moment.

He had thought that after defeating Yan Fei, Dongfang Rushi would show a look of shock, but to his disappointment and even anger, Dongfang Rushi was looking down, seemingly lost in thought.

"Dongfang Rushi, in your eyes, am I Su Li nothing worthy of concern?"

Su Li forcibly suppressed his anger, and his fists clenched involuntarily within his sleeves.

Chapter 2195: I'm Confident I Can Defeat You!

The Falling Snow Mountain's five-year disciple competition was continuously underway.

Menial servant disciples challenged the external courtyard disciples, the external courtyard disciples challenged the inner courtyard disciples, the inner courtyard disciples challenged the core disciples, and the core disciples challenged the direct disciples...

Those who succeeded in the challenges were at times reserved, at times excited, and many were also moved to tears of joy.

As for those who failed, most were dejected and disheartened, with a few pounding their chests and crying bitterly, becoming the laughingstock of many.

"Junior Sister Dongfang, aren't you going to give it a try? Su Li, who entered Falling Snow Mountain with you, has already made it to the inner courtyard. I think you can do it too! And if you miss this competition, you'll have to wait five more years!"

Encouraged a female disciple from the external courtyard standing next to Dongfang Rushi.

This female disciple lived in an Immortal Cave next to Dongfang Rushi's, and after exchanging a few words with her, she considered herself Rushi's friend.

"Mm, I know."

Dongfang Rushi nodded her head. Seeing that one of the War Immortal Platforms was vacant, she stepped into the air, descending gracefully onto the platform.

"Look quickly, Junior Sister Dongfang went up!"

“Seeing her usually so calm and indifferent, I wouldn’t have thought she would make a move!”

“Nonsense! If the challenge is successful, she can be allocated more cultivation resources. Any Immortal would want to give it a try, right?”

“I wonder which disciple from the inner courtyard she will challenge!”

“She entered Falling Snow Mountain together with Su Li, both having Innate Spiritual Roots and have attracted attention from the higher-ups. Su Li challenged Senior Brother Yan, ranked fifth in the inner courtyard’s combat power rankings. She should at least challenge someone in the top ten, right?”

“I really hope she doesn’t win!”

“Why?”

“Because if she wins, she’ll leave our external courtyard. It’ll be even harder for us to see her again.”

“Ha, with your qualifications, dreaming of becoming cultivation partners with Senior Sister Dongfang? Wishful thinking!”

...

Since entering Falling Snow Mountain, Dongfang Rushi became the most attention-catching Female Immortal amongst the male disciples, often having them wander near her Immortal Cave hoping to catch a glimpse or exchange a few words.

Unfortunately, Dongfang Rushi rarely left her Immortal Cave, and even when she did, she would quickly return, not giving the Falling Snow Mountain male disciples any chance to strike up a conversation.

This time during the Falling Snow Mountain competition, Dongfang Rushi appeared for a long time, but since she was standing among a group of female disciples, those male disciples eager to approach her could only watch from afar.

At this moment, seeing Dongfang Rushi ascend the War Immortal Platform, the enthusiasm of the male disciples was instantly ignited, chattering to see whom she would challenge.

Ling Yun was also watching Dongfang Rushi.

When Dongfang Rushi gazed at him from afar, he had a hunch that this newly entered junior sister might battle him.

Ling Yun had sat atop the inner courtyard's combat power rankings for more than ten years, having undergone two disciple competitions and remained undefeated, unchallenged by any peer.

Yet, Ling Yun never grew complacent or arrogant, exercising constant diligence in his cultivation, aware that among the tens of thousands of disciples on Falling Snow Mountain, hidden talents abound, each with their own opportunities, and any disciple competition could see a junior defeating him, dethroning him from first place.

Watching Dongfang Rushi standing gracefully on the War Immortal Platform, expression as cold as his own, Ling Yun's right eyelid suddenly twitched violently.

This was an ominous premonition.

This feeling unsettled Ling Yun.

"External courtyard disciple Dongfang Rushi challenges inner courtyard Senior Brother Ling Yun."

On the War Immortal Platform, Dongfang Rushi's crisp and melodious voice rang out.

"Wow!"

All disciples turned their gaze towards Ling Yun.

“Did I hear wrong? She’s actually challenging Senior Brother Ling Yun?”

“Oh my, she’s even more... daring than Hu Gao just now!”

“Do you think she stands a chance?”

“Senior Brother Ling has dominated the inner courtyard’s combat power rankings for over ten years. Defeating him isn’t that easy!”

“Hard to say! Look at Junior Sister Dongfang’s calm demeanor, she doesn’t seem worried about this fight at all!”

“I hope Junior Sister Dongfang can pull Senior Brother Ling down. Such a competition would be exciting to watch!”

...

Hearing the discussions of his fellow disciples, Ling Yun forcibly suppressed the chaotic thoughts within him, striving to calm himself.

He nodded towards Dongfang Rushi on the platform, then leaped up, landing across from her.

“Senior Brother Ling, I need more cultivation resources to enhance my strength, so... I apologize in advance...”

Dongfang Rushi said with a calm demeanor.

Ling Yun was taken aback, then chuckled, saying, “Junior Sister Dongfang, judging by your tone, it seems you are certain of defeating me?”

Dongfang Rushi remained noncommittal.

Ling Yun chuckled again and said, “Actually, I, like you, once considered challenging a core disciple for more cultivation resources but gave it up due to lack of confidence...”

Dongfang Rushi replied firmly, “I won’t give up! Because... I am confident I can defeat you!”

Ling Yun’s pupils contracted slightly as he carefully observed the Dongfang Rushi before him.

She really didn’t seem like she was boasting.

What trump card does she have to be so sure of defeating me?

Is it the unique ability of Innate Spiritual Root to challenge across levels?

But her cultivation level is only first-level Human Immortal Realm, whereas I’m just a step away from entering the third-level Human Immortal Realm. The gap is significant; her chance of defeating me is minimal!

These thoughts flashed through Ling Yun’s mind.

“Senior Brother Ling Yun, please brace yourself!”

Dongfang Rushi’s voice rang out once again, followed by her launching an attack on Ling Yun.

At that instant, the Immortal Qi surged furiously around her, the pressure increased immensely, reaching a level equivalent to second-level Human Immortal Realm in an instant.

“Just like Hu Gao and Su Li, Junior Sister Dongfang hid her strength too!”

A disciple shouted loudly.

The other Falling Snow Mountain disciples showed expressions of “indeed”, thinking that if Dongfang Rushi didn’t have the corresponding strength, how could she dare challenge Ling Yun, whose cultivation was a full realm above hers?

Dongfang Rushi’s jade palms continuously shot out, as the torrential Water Immortal Qi condensed into giant waves, crashing towards Ling Yun like a tidal wave.

Stacking Waves Palm!

It was a water-system attack secret technique taught to Dongfang Rushi by Fang Bai. Though not high-ranked, its power was not to be underestimated.

“Such strong energy!”

Seeing the surging waves of Immortal Qi, Ling Yun felt unprecedented pressure, knowing it wasn’t easy to withstand. Thus, he summoned his Immortal Artifact, swinging it repeatedly, weaving a shield of Immortal Qi before him, barely blocking the waves.

However, before he could breathe a sigh of relief, Dongfang Rushi collected her hands, rapidly forming Immortal Seals with her right hand in front of her.

The Falling Snow Mountain disciples around watched in a daze as the Immortal Seals formed by Dongfang Rushi’s hands layered upon each other, growing stronger in power.

Chapter 2196: Number One on the Inner Court Disciple Power Rankings

“The technique Dongfang Rushi is using is not one taught by our Falling Snow Mountain! Could it be that she had some great fortune before her ascension?”

Seeing Dongfang Rushi continuously form immortal seals, with the immortal power accumulating in her right hand becoming increasingly grand and powerful, far exceeding her own cultivation level, everyone from Falling Snow Mountain, including the Ice Sword Immortal, exchanged glances in utter amazement.

Dongfang Rushi had only entered Falling Snow Mountain for two short months, during which she had never left even once, and the Immortal Technique Secrets taught to her by Falling Snow Mountain were not nearly as formidable as this, thus leading the high-ranking members of Falling Snow Mountain to speculate that she must have obtained a great fortuitous encounter in the world below.

“Ling Yun is going to lose!”

The Ice Sword Immortal murmured to himself, his expression somewhat peculiar.

Ling Yun was a disciple he held in high regard, and he originally thought Ling Yun could break into the Human Immortal Realm within ten years and thus become a Core Disciple, but if Ling Yun loses to Dongfang Rushi in today’s battle, it could badly affect his mindset.

However, victory and defeat are common in the Falling Snow Mountain disciple tournament, so the Ice Sword Immortal did not intend to intervene.

In his perspective, even if Ling Yun loses to Dongfang Rushi in this battle, it might not be entirely detrimental; after this experience, it might be beneficial for his future cultivation.

Ling Yun seemed to know that Dongfang Rushi was about to unleash a major move, and his expression turned serious, as he prepared himself with utmost focus.

“Chaos Heavenly River Finger!”

Having completed the seal with her right hand, Dongfang Rushi silently recited these words in her heart, and then extended her slender index finger towards Ling Yun.

“Rumble...”

With a sound like thunder, the void above Ling Yun's head trembled uncontrollably, soon after which a gigantic finger pierced through the swirling Auspicious Clouds, descending swiftly from the sky like a mountain.

Ling Yun immediately felt an enormous pressure increase on him, and his previously upright body, as straight as a spear, gradually bent under the weight of the enormous finger.

"Ah!"

Ling Yun shouted loudly, lifting both his hands to form a Defense Qi Shield above his head to counter the massive finger descending with overwhelming Immortal Might.

Being the top-ranked disciple on the combat power list of the Inner Court, Ling Yun had his pride. Although he was already aware that Dongfang Rushi was an exceptionally formidable opponent, he was unwilling to concede just like that.

His face flushed red, clearly exerting all his strength.

Dongfang Rushi's demeanor was cool and cold, but there was also a hint of heaviness on her face.

The Chaos Heavenly River Finger was a secret technique taught to her by Fang Bai before his ascension, and with her current cultivation level, it was somewhat difficult for her to execute it, far from unleashing its true power.

Despite that, the might of this finger was something Ling Yun could not withstand.

"He won't hold out past twenty breaths at most!"

Ice Sword Immortal had already discerned the outcome with just a glance, sighing for Ling Yun and marveling at Dongfang Rushi.

He sighed because, as the top of the Inner Court disciple combat power list, Ling Yun had been defeated so swiftly, and he would unavoidably be discouraged for some time after this tournament.

He marveled because Dongfang Rushi's performance in this battle had far exceeded his expectations, even overshadowing Su Li entirely.

For Falling Snow Mountain, having such an exceptional disciple is a blessing. As long as they are willing to invest cultivation resources in her future training, she will surely shine brightly on the path of the Immortal Dao.

"Pfft!"

Just as the Ice Sword Immortal anticipated, after a dozen breaths of stalemate between Ling Yun and Dongfang Rushi, Ling Yun suddenly coughed up a mist of blood, and his bent back arched a bit more.

At this rate, unless he concedes voluntarily, he wouldn't last another twenty breaths before being pressed humiliatingly against the Immortal Platform by the immense finger.

Clenching his teeth tightly and with sweat pouring like rain, Ling Yun, whose back was already bent at ninety degrees, still refused to concede.

The observing disciples of Falling Snow Mountain already knew the outcome of this battle. Some were excited, some were sad, some were silent, and some were gloating...

"Huh?"

In the next moment, Ling Yun suddenly felt the pressure vanish, and as he exhaled a long sigh of relief and straightened up, he saw Dongfang Rushi already turning away, flying down from the War Immortal Platform.

"I lost..."

Under the watchful eyes of countless spectators surrounding him, Ling Yun stood in a daze on the War Immortal Platform for a moment, then gave a self-mocking smile and cupped his hands in the direction of Dongfang Rushi before leaping down from the platform himself.

Once he landed, not wanting to linger even a moment longer on the Practice Battle Arena, he strode away towards his Immortal Cave.

In this disciple tournament, he had suffered a crushing defeat, leaving him feeling rather dejected and resolved to go back to engage in deep reflection and immerse himself in cultivation. The outcomes of subsequent battles were no longer of any concern to him.

This year's Falling Snow Mountain disciple tournament spanned three full days, with Hu Gao, Su Li, and Dongfang Rushi delivering the most spectacular performances.

Especially Dongfang Rushi, who directly challenged the first-ranked Ling Yun on the Inner Court disciple combat power list and defeated him, quickly becoming the leading figure among the Inner Court disciples.

Compared to Dongfang Rushi, the performances of disciples Hu Gao and Su Li, although commendable, were completely overshadowed by her, to the extent that nearly ten thousand disciples within Falling Snow Mountain discussed nothing other than Dongfang Rushi, ignoring their existence.

Hu Gao did not mind this much, but Su Li felt both ashamed and despondent.

He was ashamed because, in this tournament, he defeated Yan Fei to claim the fifth position on the Inner Court disciple combat power list, thinking it might earn Dongfang Rushi's attention. However, he did not anticipate that her strength surpassed his, claiming the top spot instead.

He was despondent because, after this battle, it seemed like a chasm between him and Dongfang Rushi grew ever wider, making her even harder to approach.

"My talent is not inferior to Dongfang Rushi's; she just had better opportunities! Just wait; there'll be a chance to surpass her in the future!"

Su Li thought to himself.

Dongfang Rushi did not become complacent because she was first on the Inner Court disciple combat power list. After the tournament concluded, she collected her deserved cultivation resources and retreated to her Immortal Cave, immersing herself once again in a cultivation state.

The high-ranking members of Falling Snow Mountain, upon learning this, considered Dongfang Rushi's humble and dedicated attitude after a significant victory to be rare, increasing their regard for her.

...

Months later, several dozen disciples from Falling Snow Mountain, led by the Elder the Ice Blade Immortal, ventured outside for training.

The training location was Blood Dragon Valley, tens of thousands of miles away from Falling Snow Mountain.

These dozens of disciples mostly came from the Inner and External Courtyards of Falling Snow Mountain and were among the elite.

Among them were the outstanding performers from the recent disciple tournament, including Hu Gao, Su Li, and Dongfang Rushi.

Since becoming the first on the Inner Court combat power list, Dongfang Rushi found herself admired by many around her, particularly female disciples.

During this training journey, many female disciples flew around Dongfang Rushi on Auspicious Clouds, engaging her in conversation, with tones and expressions filled with flattery and reverence.

Although Dongfang Rushi maintained a cool demeanor, she did not act too aloof, occasionally responding with a few words, which greatly excited the female disciples.

Occasionally, when male disciples bravely approached to curry favor with Dongfang Rushi, they were directly ignored by her, then teased by the other female disciples, leaving them nothing to do but fly away awkwardly.

Chapter 2197: Blood Dragon Valley

Blood Dragon Valley, where rivers crisscross and torrents roar, with lush flowers, grasses, and trees.

Within the valley, countless Immortal Birds and beasts lurk, alongside ancient ruins left behind by powerful immortals from times long past.

These ruins, many already desolate, are overgrown with immortal herbs, and Immortal Beasts lie in wait.

However, in some of the ruins, offensive and defensive formations set by the powerhouses of ancient times still exist, some of which can still function despite the passage of time.

Over millions of years, numerous immortals and Immortal Beasts have dared to venture into these formation-covered ruins, hoping to seize opportunities, only to accidentally activate the formations and meet an untimely demise.

Many immortals, drawn by the Blood Dragon Valley's secrecy, have sought it as a place to settle personal vendettas, resulting in countless life-and-death duels and subsequent fatalities.

The clashes between immortals and Immortal Beasts, as well as among the beasts themselves, have led to a massive accumulation of immortal and beast remains over millions of years. The area is thick with Evil Qi, creating a terrifying scene.

This intense Evil Qi can even affect the minds of those who enter Blood Dragon Valley, driving them into a frenzy of madness and self-loss.

As a result, in the Immortal Realm's Xiantian Domain, Blood Dragon Valley is seen as both a cultivation paradise and a perilous land.

Regions like Blood Dragon Valley are highly attractive to immortals, drawing many from various Immortal Sects and Loose Cultivators each year for training.

Spanning over a hundred thousand miles, Blood Dragon Valley is not small, but in the vastness of the Xiantian Domain of the Immortal Realm, it is just a drop in the ocean.

The name Blood Dragon Valley is derived from a few Immortal Dragons.

It is said these dragons belong to an Immortal Dragon Clan, with scales as red as blood, lurking at the riverbed most of the time, occasionally surfacing to play or cultivate by expelling or absorbing energy with their Dragon Balls.

Dragon Balls are the essence of the Blood Dragons, able to absorb and store Immortal Qi from the Immortal Realm, functioning similarly to an immortal's Qi Sea.

Should an immortal obtain a Dragon Ball and absorb its Immortal Qi, their cultivation level could experience a tremendous boost.

Hence, many immortals visiting for training are drawn to the Blood Dragon Clan, hoping to capture a Blood Dragon and acquire its Dragon Ball.

However, these Blood Dragons are agile and powerful; no immortal has managed to capture one yet.

It was the twilight period of the Immortal Realm, with a giant Golden Crow setting obliquely in the west.

In Blood Dragon Valley, there were still numerous immortal figures wandering around.

These immortals came for training; despite the perils of the valley at night, they did not intend to leave but chose a place to rest for the night.

At this moment, Dongfang Rushi and other Falling Snow Mountain disciples entered Blood Dragon Valley.

“The Evil Qi here in the valley is intense, with numerous fierce Immortal Beasts, everyone be cautious!”

Ice Blade Immortal advised gravely.

Most of the Falling Snow Mountain disciples were visiting Blood Dragon Valley for the first time, more filled with curiosity than apprehension.

After entering Blood Dragon Valley, they no longer flew but moved forward cautiously, holding Immortal Artifacts and forming a defensive formation.

Ice Blade Immortal led the way at the front of the group, with two Direct Disciples and two Core Disciples guarding the sides and rear, while a few dozen less powerful disciples were in the middle, protecting against sudden beast attacks.

Hu Gao, Su Li, and Dongfang Rushi, the three standout disciples in the recent competition, were among those protected within the group.

“It’s said that the Dragon Ball of the Blood Dragon is significantly beneficial for immortal cultivation; I wonder if I’ll have the opportunity to obtain one!”

Hu Gao scanned around excitedly, rubbing his hands as he spoke.

“Without sufficient strength, encountering a Blood Dragon is a path to death, so what opportunity could there be?”

Su Li cast a disdainful glance at Hu Gao, as if to say that he lacked the capability to acquire a Dragon Ball.

“If you’re so capable, why didn’t you take the top spot on the Inner Court disciple combat leaderboard?”

Though Hu Gao's cultivation level was similar to Su Li's, his combat power was slightly inferior, and while he originally felt some trepidation about Su Li, he couldn't resist retorting as Su Li's tone was tinged with mockery.

In the previous disciple competition, Su Li had been outshone by Dongfang Rushi, feeling embarrassed and sensitive about others bringing it up in his presence. Hu Gao's remark pierced him like a thorn, causing a slight change in Su Li's expression, as a cold gleam appeared in his eyes when looking at Hu Gao.

"Junior Brother Hu, you're quite... quite something."

Su Li stared at Hu Gao for a moment and then turned his head away, ignoring him.

Some observant disciples noticed Su Li's twitching eye corner and his clenched fist hidden in his sleeve.

The disciples knew a rift had formed between these two new disciples of Falling Snow Mountain after their brief verbal clash.

However, none wanted to get involved, fearing future repercussions.

Dongfang Rushi extended her Divine Sense, nothing escaping her detection. She showed no interest in the dispute between fellow disciples Hu Gao and Su Li, continuing to proceed silently with the group.

"There are Immortal Beasts! Be cautious!"

Suddenly, Ice Blade Immortal, walking at the forefront, warned sharply.

With his shout, two gigantic Flame-tailed Leopards leaped from the dense northern underbrush with a foul wind and a wave of heat, attacking from above.

The two Flame-tailed Leopards had cultivation comparable to Third Grade Human Immortal Realm, with combat power approaching Fourth Grade Human Immortal Realm. Their sudden charge was

overwhelming, causing many Falling Snow Mountain disciples to panic, with a few female disciples shrieking in fright.

“Stay put! I’ll drive them back!”

Ice Blade Immortal roared, moving like lightning towards the two Flame-tailed Leopards, simultaneously launching two massive water spheres at them.

Despite their strength, the Flame-tailed Leopards were no match for the Seventh Grade Human Immortal Realm expert Ice Blade Immortal. The huge water spheres blasted them back dozens of feet into the dense thicket, severely injuring them.

“Elder Ice Blade, mighty indeed!”

The Falling Snow Mountain disciples cheered as Ice Blade Immortal swiftly defeated the powerful Flame-tailed Leopards.

Amidst the cheers, Ice Blade Immortal saw the injured Flame-tailed Leopards trying to flee and moved in to capture their Beast Cores.

He pursued several hundred feet, ready to strike them down when a strong sense of danger struck him.

Instinctively turning, he looked back at the disciples and saw a Flame-tailed Leopard comparable to Fifth Grade Human Immortal Realm had appeared before them, raising a massive surge as it pounced on the terrified, stunned disciples.

Chapter 2198: Sisters Reunited

"Cunning beast!"

The Ice Blade Immortal realized he had fallen for the Flame-tailed Leopards’ "lure the tiger away from the mountain" trap. Filled with both anger and urgency, he roared hoarsely and flew back swiftly, hoping to stop the attack before the Flame-tailed Leopard could harm the Falling Snow Mountain Disciples.

Once the Five-grade Human Immortal Realm Flame-tailed Leopard goes berserk, even the Ice Blade Immortal, a strong figure himself, wouldn't dare face it head-on, let alone the majority of Falling Snow Mountain disciples whose cultivation level is only at the first or second grade of the Human Immortal Realm?

The Ice Blade Immortal understood that even if he exerted all his strength, he couldn't be faster than that Flame-tailed Leopard.

Therefore, before he gets back, dozens of Falling Snow Mountain disciples might fall under the sharp teeth and claws of that Flame-tailed Leopard if they're unlucky.

"May our ancestors protect, Hu Gao, Su Li, Dongfang Rushi, these prodigious disciples, they must not come to harm! Otherwise, I would become a sinner of Falling Snow Mountain!"

The Ice Blade Immortal secretly prayed in his heart.

Although the disciples who came to Blood Dragon Valley for training from Falling Snow Mountain are mostly elites from internal and external courtyards, compared to Hu Gao, Su Li, and Dongfang Rushi, the importance of other disciples is far less.

Hence, as long as Hu Gao, Su Li, and Dongfang Rushi are safe, the Ice Blade Immortal can breathe a sigh of relief. Otherwise, upon returning to Falling Snow Mountain, he would face punishment from the Sect.

In any Immortal Sect, the importance of a prodigious disciple often surpasses that of thousands of ordinary disciples. At times, to ensure the safety of prodigious disciples, the high-levels of the Immortal Sect would rather sacrifice hundreds or thousands of ordinary disciples.

This might seem cruel, but in the ruthless Immortal Realm, it's a commonplace phenomenon.

"Boom!"

Just as the Flame-tailed Leopard was about to pounce onto the Falling Snow Mountain disciples, a sudden thunderclap echoed in the sky, followed by a lightning strike hitting the Flame-tailed Leopard.

With a "Roar", the Flame-tailed Leopard somersaulted from the hit, letting out a howl.

But its thick skin and flesh, coupled with tough defense, rendered the lightning attack insufficiently powerful to cause any harm.

"Sister, I'm here!"

Following a voice as melodious as a meadowlark and as gentle as flowing spring, two figures swiftly landed on the ground. One of them rushed to Dongfang Rushi, tightly holding her arm.

The girl still carried traces of lightning aura on her, clearly indicating she launched the recent attack.

Although her strike did not harm the Flame-tailed Leopard, it saved many Falling Snow Mountain disciples from doom.

As soon as the Flame-tailed Leopard was knocked back, the Ice Blade Immortal arrived at the forefront, engaging the Five-grade Human Immortal Realm Flame-tailed Leopard in a fierce battle.

The Seven-grade Immortal Realm Ice Blade Immortal and the Five-grade Immortal Realm Flame-tailed Leopard clashed, causing sweeping shock waves that flattened everything, forcing Falling Snow Mountain disciples to hastily retreat, fearing harm from the collision.

Dongfang Rushi had sensed the girl's aura before her arrival; thus, her appearance did not surprise Rushi, but a hint of joy did appear on her face.

"Ruhua? How come you're here?"

After the disciples withdrew several dozen meters, Dongfang Rushi inquired.

Earlier, when the Five-grade Human Immortal Realm Flame-tailed Leopard suddenly launched an attack, the other disciples panicked and turned pale, whereas Dongfang Rushi remained calm and composed.

Even though she lacked the ability to kill the Flame-tailed Leopard, the creature would still find it extremely difficult to harm her.

"I came here to train too! Sister, I was thinking of visiting Falling Snow Mountain to talk with you after this training, were you planning the same?"

The girl clinging to Dongfang Rushi's arm asked sweetly.

Her figure was perfectly proportioned, her appearance beautiful and unmatched, bearing a seventy to eighty percent resemblance to Dongfang Rushi, she was indeed Dongfang Rushi's sister, Dongfang Ruhua.

After joining the Profound Thunder Sect, Dongfang Ruhua and her sister Dongfang Rushi were separated by distance, often missing each other. However, to improve their skills, both sisters immersed themselves in cultivation without rushing to reunite.

"Yes. I was intending to find you after this training too. Didn't expect we would meet here."

Gently stroking her sister's smooth hair, Dongfang Rushi nodded with a smile.

Witnessing Dongfang Rushi's first smile, many Falling Snow Mountain male disciples found it as captivating as a frozen river melting into a bloom of flowers, their breath stilled, leaving them somewhat dazed.

"Dongfang Rushi's sister's personality is quite the opposite of hers. She has never shown me kindness, maybe I could find another path to approach her sister? Her sister also has an Innate Spiritual Root, being immortal companions wouldn't be bad!"

Su Li observed the playful and adorable Dongfang Ruhua, with an uncertain gaze, privately plotting, his heart lit anew.

He prided himself on having keen eyesight, believing Dongfang Ruhua to be a pure-hearted Female Immortal, easy to deceive with his looks and aptitude. Given the chance to approach her, he might win her heart.

Dongfang Rushi seemed to sense something, turned abruptly, casting a cold glance towards Su Li's direction.

That look sent chills down Su Li's spine, he immediately lowered his head, feeling a layer of cold sweat on his back.

"Boom!"

At that moment, another thunderous crash resounded, the battling Ice Blade Immortal and Flame-tailed Leopard collided once more.

"Roar..."

After the collision, the Flame-tailed Leopard let out a wail, turning to flee with its injured body.

"Wretched beast, you flee swiftly! Otherwise, I would have torn you to pieces!"

The Ice Blade Immortal shouted fiercely towards the escaping Flame-tailed Leopard's direction, then sheathed his jade-like translucent ice blade.

The ice blade, his personal Immortal Artifact, highly formidable, and if not for its sharpness, he couldn't have injured the thick-skinned Flame-tailed Leopard.

The Ice Blade Immortal also had some injuries, but they weren't severe. After consuming some healing Immortal Pills, he would soon recover.

"Fairy Leiyun, thank you!"

The Ice Blade Immortal approached the Female Immortal who accompanied Dongfang Ruhua, expressing his gratitude with clasped fists.

The Female Immortal was an Elder of the Profound Thunder Sect, known as Fairy Leiyun, sharing the same Seven-grade Human Immortal Realm cultivation level as the Ice Blade Immortal.

After Dongfang Ruhua joined the Profound Thunder Sect, Fairy Leiyun found her temperament quite agreeable, thus taking her as a disciple to pass on Immortal Technique Secrets.

This time heading to Blood Dragon Valley for training, Fairy Leiyun only brought Dongfang Ruhua along, demonstrating her liking and high regard for Dongfang Ruhua.

They, as a mentor-disciple pair, had only arrived at Blood Dragon Valley shortly before, when they witnessed the Five-grade Human Immortal Realm Flame-tailed Leopard's ambush on Falling Snow Mountain disciples.

Seeing her sister Dongfang Rushi among the Falling Snow Mountain disciples, Dongfang Ruhua hurried to assist.

However, her cultivation wasn't strong enough, hence she couldn't repel the Flame-tailed Leopard, but managed to buy a moment's vale for the Ice Blade Immortal to successfully drive away the Flame-tailed Leopard, saving the Falling Snow Mountain disciples.

"Ice Blade, it's my disciple who aided you, if you must express thanks, you should thank her! Oh, my disciple lacks Cultivation Resources, if it's no trouble for you, you could gift her some!"

Fairy Leiyun remarked with a smile, pointing towards Dongfang Ruhua standing with Dongfang Rushi.

She and the Ice Blade Immortal were long-time acquaintances, hence their conversation carried no formalities.

Chapter 2199: The Cultivation Team from Ice Emperor City

"Haha, Fairy Leiyun, you never forget to seek benefits for your disciples!"

The Ice Blade Immortal didn't feel embarrassed by Fairy Leiyun's teasing. He glanced over to Dongfang Ruhua and said with a smile, "Thanks to your disciple's timely intervention this time, otherwise my Falling Snow Mountain disciples would have suffered some casualties. Well then, I shall give her some cultivation resources as a way to form a good relationship!"

He was naturally generous, so he immediately took out a Space Immortal Ring and beckoned Dongfang Ruhua.

"Our Elder Ice Blade is calling you over!"

Dongfang Rushi whispered to Dongfang Ruhua.

Dongfang Ruhua held her hand and said, "Let's go together!"

Without waiting for Dongfang Rushi's consent, she led her by the hand to the Ice Blade Immortal.

"Little girl, you're quite good! These cultivation resources are my gift to you, take them!"

The Ice Blade Immortal flicked his fingers, sending the Space Immortal Ring flying steadily in front of Dongfang Ruhua.

"This... Master..."

Dongfang Ruhua looked at the floating Space Immortal Ring, her tiny face showing a conflicted expression. Not knowing whether to take it, she looked to Master Fairy Leiyun for help.

"The Ice Blade Immortal is always generous. Such cultivation resources are nothing to him. Just accept it!"

Fairy Leiyun said with a laugh.

So Dongfang Ruhua no longer hesitated and accepted the ring, then scanned it with her Divine Sense, discovering a substantial amount of cultivation resources inside. She then bowed to the Ice Blade Immortal, gratefully saying, "Thank you, Upper Immortal!"

Although the cultivation resources given by the Ice Blade Immortal were all water-attributed, Dongfang Ruhua could take them to the nearby Ice Emperor City and exchange them for thunder-attributed cultivation resources, making them useful for her.

The Ice Blade Immortal observed Dongfang Ruhua with interest, nodded, and said, "Since the last time we parted at the Teleportation Array, this little girl's strength has improved a lot, comparable to her sister. Haha, excellent! Excellent! You two sisters are rare prodigies!"

Dongfang Rushi maintained a calm expression, while Dongfang Ruhua beamed with joy, thinking to herself that a prodigy is a commendation for young female immortals with extraordinary talent. This white-bearded Old Immortal really knows how to speak.

After meeting her sister, Dongfang Ruhua refused to leave immediately, leaving Fairy Leiyun no choice but to accompany her and the Falling Snow Mountain disciples as they continued their cultivation in Blood Dragon Valley.

Subsequently, both sides worked together to hunt several Immortal Beasts, and they harvested many Immortal Elixirs, causing everyone great joy.

Unknowingly, they arrived beside a large river. Dongfang Ruhua saw the water was blood-red, and couldn't help being very curious.

"It's said that a Blood Dragon secretes sweat that dyes the surrounding river blood-red. It seems a Blood Dragon is present in this river."

The Ice Blade Immortal gazed intensely at the blood-red river water, evidently excited, thinking that obtaining a legendary Blood Dragon's Dragon Ball would make this trip perfect.

However, the Blood Dragon is extremely powerful and rarely surfaces, and in the water, it is the absolute ruler, so few Immortals dare to provoke it.

Occasionally, bold but overconfident Immortals dive into the river hoping to provoke the Blood Dragon, only to become its meal.

"It's said that a Blood Dragon's Dragon Ball is equivalent to a small Immortal Stone Vein. Though this might be an exaggeration, it illustrates the abundant Immortal Qi contained within the Dragon Ball."

Fairy Leiyun spoke softly, her eyes lighting up as she looked at the Blood River.

"Look, along both banks of the Blood Dragon, there are many Immortals like us also roaming around! Their goal should also be the Blood Dragon's Dragon Ball, right?"

Dongfang Ruhua glanced around, observing, and spoke crisply.

The Falling Snow Mountain disciples looked and indeed found on both sides of Blood Dragon Valley many Immortals wandering around in groups, numbering not ten thousand but at least eight thousand, and every Immortal kept their gaze fixed on the Blood Dragon River surface, fully vigilant.

Some Immortals even summoned their Immortal Artifacts, sitting cross-legged at the Blood Dragon River banks, keeping their eyes on the water surface, ready to attack the moment the Blood Dragon moved.

"Acquiring the Dragon Ball isn't easy! Not only must you slay the Blood Dragon, but also face the competition from many eager rivals!"

Fairy Leiyun's gaze swept over those Immortals, noticing some stronger Upper Immortals among them, she sighed softly.

She had visited Blood Dragon Valley many times, and although she witnessed Immortals fighting Blood Dragons each time, her strength was insufficient, so she always remained a distant observer.

Just then, a team of Immortals flew in from high above, slowly landing on the northern bank of Blood River, near the Falling Snow Mountain disciples.

"Is that the Upper Immortal from Ice Emperor City?"

Feeling the chilling aura radiating from that Immortal team, colder than the Falling Snow Mountain disciples', Fairy Leiyun's expression changed slightly, and she immediately restrained her aura and bowed her head.

Ice Emperor City is a massive Immortal City nearby, controlled by the Ice River Immortal Emperor's forces, hosting Alchemists, Artifact Refiners, Beast Tamers, and Array Masters from various Heavenly Domains, bustling and lively; Immortals from hundreds of thousands of miles around prefer to exchange cultivation resources within Ice Emperor City.

During her past training, Fairy Leiyun had once had a conflict over exchanging cultivation resources with a menial servant from Ice Emperor City. Although eventually she was allowed to leave under the public eye, she always worried about the menial servant's revenge.

After all, Ice Emperor City is under the Ice River Immortal Emperor's influence, and even a menial servant's strength surpasses hers greatly. If they insisted on revenge, not only she but the entire Profound Thunder Sect couldn't bear it.

And among this Ice Emperor City team, Fairy Leiyun unexpectedly recognized that menial servant whose aura had become much stronger than before, indicating their cultivation level now far exceeded back then, which filled Fairy Leiyun with fear, prompting her reaction, hoping to avoid detection.

But, the more she feared something, the more it seemed to happen.

Even though she had restrained her aura, that Ice Emperor City menial servant still sensed her presence and glanced at her with a playful smile.

This glance made Fairy Leiyun feel an icy chill throughout, her face turning pale instantly.

"Master, are you alright?"

Dongfang Ruhua saw her master's expression was off and asked with concern.

Fairy Leiyun forced herself to calm down, revealing a bitter smile, and shook her head, "It's nothing..."

"That's not true..."

Dongfang Ruhua muttered to herself, then looked around and finally met the gaze of the menial servant from Ice Emperor City.

She saw that the menial servant's gaze towards her master was filled with murderous intent, realizing they might have a vendetta, and her master seemed somewhat afraid. So she stepped forward, blocking that Immortal's view of her master, then defiantly waved her fist at that Ice Emperor City menial servant.

Chapter 2200: Blood Dragon Emerges from the Water

The menial servant disciple from Ice Emperor City, who once shared a similar cultivation level with Fairy Leiyun, is now a Heavenly Immortal Realm expert, having made remarkable progress and gained recognition from the upper echelons of Ice Emperor City, thereby earning the opportunity to venture into Blood Dragon Valley with the team.

Upon sensing Fairy Leiyun's aura, memories of the past confrontation with her surged in his mind.

During that verbal clash, although he was infuriated, he chose to let Fairy Leiyun go to avoid gaining a reputation for bullying in front of everyone, yet he never ceased to hold a grudge.

Now, after so many years, encountering Fairy Leiyun here and noticing that her cultivation level had significantly lagged behind his, he couldn't help but feel smug and contemplated how to teach her a lesson and make her aware of the consequences of provoking disciples of Ice Emperor City.

However, to his surprise, Fairy Leiyun showed fear on her face, avoiding eye contact, while the small Human Immortal Realm fairy beside her boldly dared to meet his gaze and even made provocative gestures.

This left him somewhat astonished, and then he cracked a grin, a sinister smile forming on his face.

"Ruhua, let's go!"

Fairy Leiyun knew her disciple's pure heart yet audacious nature, and seeing her provoke the disciple from Ice Emperor City startled her greatly, prompting her to urgently transmit a message to her, trying to lead her away from this place of contention.

"Master, who is that immortal? How rudely he's glaring at us!"

Dongfang Ruhua withdrew her gaze from the Ice Emperor City disciple and spoke angrily.

Though simple-minded, she wasn't foolish at all. Seeing her master communicating through the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique, she realized it was to prevent other immortals from hearing, so she too used the same technique to speak.

Despite not looking at the Ice Emperor City disciple, Fairy Leiyun knew he had firmly locked onto their master-disciple duo and feared they could not leave. She had to temporarily abandon the plan and looked for another opportunity to escape.

"He is an adversary of your master, much stronger than me. Even if we join forces, we're still no match for him! Ruhua, stay calm, and don't act impulsively!"

Worried that Dongfang Ruhua might provoke him out of impulse and bring disaster, Fairy Leiyun urgently transmitted her voice.

Minutely absorbing her master's command, Dongfang Ruhua refrained from looking at the Ice Emperor City disciple further, albeit her little face showed anger, hard to conceal.

Dongfang Rushi, keenly observant, saw her sister's state and lightly parted her cherry lips to communicate with her, learning everything from her mouth.

Shortly thereafter, Dongfang Rushi discussed this matter with Ice Blade Immortal, who, upon hearing, showed a surprised expression, pondered briefly, then signaled Dongfang Rushi not to act rashly.

Under the influence of the Ice River Immortal Emperor, Ice Emperor City governs a territory stretching tens of thousands of miles around its core, boasting numerous disciples, each having impressive strength, making weaker Immortal Sects like Profound Thunder Sect and Falling Snow Mountain appear as insignificant as ants.

The grudge between Fairy Leiyun and the Ice Emperor City disciple was personal, and in case of conflict, Ice Blade Immortal, considering Falling Snow Mountain's interests, neither could nor dared to intervene.

His greatest concern was that Dongfang Rushi might assist Profound Thunder Sect for her sister, Dongfang Ruhua's sake.

In such a case, he would have to sever ties with Dongfang Rushi immediately and expel her from the sect, otherwise, Falling Snow Mountain would inevitably be dragged into a calamity.

This scenario was one Ice Blade Immortal was most reluctant to witness.

Therefore, he transmitted a message to Dongfang Rushi, hoping she would restrain herself at the critical moment, not bringing catastrophe to Falling Snow Mountain.

However, seeing Dongfang Rushi's concerned demeanor, he realized this might be hoping for too much, and he sighed silently.

Fortunately, the Ice Emperor City disciple soon withdrew his gaze from Fairy Leiyun and her disciple, and along with his fellow disciples, started glancing towards Blood River, pointing and chatting as if they had forgotten about Fairy Leiyun and Dongfang Ruhua.

Nevertheless, Fairy Leiyun, sensing the powerful auras surrounding her master-disciple pair, knew that the opponent had no intention of letting them go, thinking anxiously of a way to escape.

"The opposing forces are numerous and strong; even if I self-detonate, I cannot ensure Ruhua's escape!"

Fairy Leiyun, feeling pessimistic, discovered that no matter what, she could hardly protect Dongfang Ruhua's life, a sense of despair appearing in her eyes.

Glancing at Ice Blade Immortal and other immortals from Falling Snow Mountain, she realized that even if they were willing to help, they could only mildly inconvenience the Ice Emperor City disciples, to no avail.

"Look at the water in Blood River!"

A certain immortal suddenly shouted, attracting the eyes of countless immortals on both banks of the vast, deep Blood River.

The previously roaring river water suddenly slowed its flow, forming an enormous vortex.

"This is the sign of a Blood Dragon surfacing..."

One experienced immortal from Ice Emperor City said excitedly.

Thus, all immortals from Ice Emperor City became alert, fully prepared to launch an attack once the Blood Dragon surfaced.

Should they acquire the Blood Dragon's Dragon Ball and present it to the City Lord, his pleased guidance with some Immortal Technique Secrets would bring them immeasurable benefits.

Although they could directly ingest the Dragon Ball upon acquisition, from a long-term perspective, the City Lord's guidance would far surpass the benefits of consuming the Dragon Ball.

Not only the Ice Emperor City immortals but also the tens of thousands of immortals along Blood River's banks began gathering their immortal power, ready to hunt as soon as the Blood Dragon surfaced.

According to the usual rules in the Immortal Realm, when numerous immortals besiege an Immortal Beast, the one who delivers the fatal blow to the beast owns the Dragon Ball.

However, the immortals understood that the Blood Dragon was formidable, making its slaying no easy feat; otherwise, the Blood Dragon clan within Blood Dragon Valley would have been extinct long ago over the millennia.

The vortex in Blood River grew larger and deeper, causing tens of thousands of immortals along its banks to feel increasingly tense.

"Boom!"

A loud explosion resounded as the blood-colored river water surged into the sky, raising huge waves over dozens of feet high.

"The Blood Dragon emerges!"

Amidst the immortal's exclamations, a colossal creature about several yards thick and nearly twenty yards long surged into mid-air with those massive waves.

The immortals raised their eyes and saw that the massive creature was indeed an Immortal Dragon covered in blood-red scales. Its scales gleamed eerily under the daylight, while dense Evil Qi emanated around its powerful body.

The Blood Dragon hovered mid-air, its dragon eyes looking at the countless immortals along both banks of Blood River with a human-like disdain and indifference, as if the immortals were mere ants.