

Doctor 221

Chapter 221: Astonishing Secret

"Haha..."

Dongfang Leiming was obviously in a good mood, and after letting out a hearty laugh, he then loudly said, "Divine Doctor Fang, long time no see! What brings you to call this old man?"

"Old Master, your granddaughter might be in trouble..."

Fang Bai did not beat around the bush with Dongfang Leiming; as soon as Dongfang Leiming's voice fell, he got straight to the point.

"What?"

Dongfang Leiming's smile stiffened as his face became serious.

Seeing her grandfather's expression, Dongfang Rushi knew something serious must have happened and gently set down the chess pieces she was holding.

"Ruhua is in trouble..."

A moment later, Dongfang Leiming ended his call with Fang Bai and recounted the situation to Dongfang Rushi, saying gravely, "This matter is probably not simple! I hope that Ruhua girl will be safe!"

"Is Divine Doctor Fang at the scene?"

Dongfang Rushi's expression remained as calm as ever as she asked lightly.

"Mm, Divine Doctor Fang happened to pass by there and encountered Ruhua's teachers and classmates looking for her, from which he inferred that Ruhua might be in trouble..."

"Grandfather, let me handle this matter!"

Dongfang Rushi's pretty face turned frosty, and after saying these words, she stood up and walked outside, leaving Dongfang Leiming sitting in his original spot, deep in thought and silent.

Dongfang Lu cast a glance at Dongfang Rushi's retreating figure, a flash of cold light passing through his eyes.

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After calling Dongfang Leiming, Fang Bai told the two female teachers to stay put and wait for someone from the Dongfang Family to arrive; he himself headed westward, concentrating his vision and listening keenly, searching for Dongfang Ruhua following the direction she had left.

Fang Bai's current realm was comparable to a Martial Artist of Profound Level Perfection in this world; if it came to strength, even if he encountered an Earth Level Martial Artist, he would have the power to fight.

At that moment, he released his breath outward, so within a few hundred meters, even the slightest rustle of the wind or movement of grass couldn't escape his perception.

It was just unfortunate that he hadn't yet developed Divine Sense, otherwise his search and sensing range would have increased manyfold.

According to what the two female teachers said, Dongfang Ruhua had gone to play behind a hill to the west, guarded by two bodyguards. However, when Fang Bai climbed over the hill, he didn't find any trace of her.

Fang Bai extended his search area, and with his meticulous search, he finally discovered a useful clue.

Near a cluster of disorderly rocks, Fang Bai minutely observed that the green grass on the ground was more disheveled than elsewhere, as if it had been trampled by people.

Most importantly, Fang Bai sensed two strands of different Essence Energy fluctuations in the air around this area.

This indicated that not long before, two Martial Artists had stayed here.

Relating this to what the two female teachers had said, Fang Bai deduced that those two strands of Essence Energy belonged to the two bodyguards who had been with Dongfang Ruhua.

With these two strands of Essence Energy, Fang Bai's previously grave expression eased significantly.

As long as he followed these two strands of still-lingering Essence Energy, he would have hope of finding the two bodyguards from the Dongfang Family and, subsequently, Dongfang Ruhua.

Following the two strands of Essence Energy, Fang Bai put his movement technique to use and streaked at full speed towards the western mountains.

Climbing several steep peaks, Fang Bai found two men in black suits lying on their backs next to a stream flowing through a densely vegetated valley, motionless and with an unknown fate.

Fang Bai's heart skipped a beat, and a bad premonition rose within him.

He sped to the two men's side and crouched down to examine them—he found their pupils dilated, their faces blackened, and they were no longer breathing.

"These two should be bodyguards from the Dongfang Family. Strange, how could they, with their skills, have been attacked and killed by venomous snakes?"

Fang Bai found clear bite marks on both men's hands and could tell at a glance that they were attacked by venomous snakes.

What confounded Fang Bai was that based on the Essence Energy fluctuations at the scene, the two dead men should be mid-level Martial Artists of the Yellow Level; how could ordinary venomous snakes harm Martial Artists of such strength?

Yet, the two men before him had indeed suffered attacks from venomous snakes and died from the resulting toxin.

Although Fang Bai was filled with myriad doubts and confusion, his concern for Dongfang Ruhua prompted him to begin searching the vicinity.

Finally, in a shallow trench in the northwest corner of the valley, Fang Bai found Dongfang Ruhua covered in weeds and dirt.

Dongfang Ruhua was still wearing her signature twin ponytails, her clothes were somewhat disheveled, revealing a small section of her slender and soft waist. However, a faint blackness had already appeared on her otherwise snow-white skin.

Clearly, like the two men, Dongfang Ruhua had also been bitten by a venomous snake.

Fortunately, she had been poisoned for a shorter amount of time and the venom hadn't spread throughout her body with her blood. Her heartbeat and breathing were still present, though so faint it was nearly undetectable.

Fang Bai grabbed Dongfang Ruhua's left hand and indeed saw clear venomous snake bite marks on her wrist.

There was no time to lose; saving her was imperative!

Fang Bai immediately jumped into the trench, lifted the barely alive Dongfang Ruhua, and laid her on a flat patch of grass.

After hesitating for a few seconds, Fang Bai proceeded to remove Dongfang Ruhua's pink T-shirt and jeans, leaving her in her underclothes, then positioned her body face-up on the ground.

The Space Ring flashed, and Five Elements Needles of white, blue, black, red, and yellow appeared between Fang Bai's fingers, which he then swiftly inserted into several key acupoints on Dongfang Ruhua's body.

Fang Bai took a deep breath and began to circulate True Yuan, continuously transferring strands of True Yuan through the Five Elements Needles, into Dongfang Ruhua's body.

As the True Yuan passed through the needles, it transformed into five different attributes of True Yuan, which started to circulate in Dongfang Ruhua's body according to the principles of mutual generation between the Five Elements.

All things in the universe are inseparable from Yin Yang and the Five Elements, and the human body is no exception.

Using the method of mutual generation between the Five Elements, Fang Bai was both detoxifying Dongfang Ruhua and treating her body.

With Fang Bai's current ability, as long as Dongfang Ruhua had a breath left in her, he could cure her and soon have her back to her original state.

Ever since Fang Bai had developed his Qi Sea and birthed a strand of True Yuan, a profound secret had formed in his mind.

Whenever Fang Bai thought of this secret, he couldn't help but tremble with excitement.

After Fang Bai rebirthed into this body through possession, he originally thought that its frail and mediocre form, even if re-cultivated, would hardly reach the peak strength of his former self.

However, after Fang Bai had developed his Qi Sea, he was shocked to discover that this weak body was, in fact, the extremely rare "Chaos True Body," prized in both the Cultivation World and the Immortal Realm.

Chapter 222: You're Awake?

According to Fang Bai's knowledge, in the Cultivation World and the Immortal Realm, based on the number of Innate Spiritual Roots a cultivator possesses, they can be divided into Innate Spirit Body, Extraordinary Holy Body, Great Luo Immortal Body, Desolate Ancient Divine Body, and Chaos True Body.

Each of these physiques is stronger than the last, and on the path of cultivation, they also symbolize the potential for ever greater achievements in the future.

A martial artist possessing any one of the Five Elements Spiritual Root is known as an "Innate Spirit Body," and such martial artists can easily step into the Innate Realm.

A martial artist possessing any two of the Five Elements Spiritual Root is known as an "Extraordinary Holy Body," and such martial artists can achieve Core Formation and Nascent Soul Transformation, possessing infinite potential.

A martial artist possessing three to four of the Five Elements Spiritual Root is known as a "Great Luo Immortal Body," and such martial artists are destined to ascend to the Immortal Realm, becoming one of its members, and it's even possible for them to achieve the status of Immortal Emperor.

And a martial artist possessing all five of the Five Elements Spiritual Roots is known as a "Desolate Ancient Divine Body," these martial artists are extremely rare and are expected to break open the Boundary Gates of the Immortal and Divine Realms and attain divinehood.

As for the "Chaos True Body," it embodies all kinds of Innate Spiritual Roots, including the Five Elements and Wind Thunder, also known as the "All-Thing Spirit Root Body." Such martial artists are rare throughout the ages, and if one appears, they are destined to sweep across thousands of realms, shocking all realms.

In his previous life, Fang Bai possessed all of the Five Elements Spiritual Root, belonging to the extremely rare "Desolate Ancient Divine Body," and had it not been for the joint attack by the eight Immortal Emperors, he might have already attained divinehood.

What Fang Bai never expected was that the body he now possessed after seizing it was even rarer than the "Desolate Ancient Divine Body" of his past life, the "Chaos True Body"; this could be considered a blessing in disguise.

Martial artists with the "Chaos True Body" are not only incredibly strong, but they also get twice the results with half the effort when cultivating any Cultivation Technique.

Fang Bai is currently cultivating the "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique," a Cultivation Technique he created when he obtained the title of "War Emperor" in the Immortal Realm and reached the pinnacle of his strength. It is suitable for martial artists with various physiques to cultivate.

In his previous life, as a "Desolate Ancient Divine Body," when he cultivated the "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique," it derived the Five Elements True Essence of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth.

Now, cultivating the "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique" with the "Chaos True Body," what's derived is the Chaos Origin Energy encompassing the Five Elements, wind, and thunder.

Therefore, Fang Bai's combat power is much stronger than martial artists of the same realm.

It's just that currently Fang Bai's realm is not high enough, so the ball of Chaos Origin Energy that has emerged in his Dantian is a mix of all kinds of True Essence including the Five Elements, wind, and thunder, much like an embryo that is still gestating.

One day, when Fang Bai's realm advances, the True Essence of the Five Elements, wind, and thunder in his Dantian will separate and become distinct, each with its own function, forming a miraculous Minor World.

It is because he possesses the "All-Thing Spirit Root Body," with all kinds of Spiritual Roots, that Fang Bai is able to carry out "bone-touching" for Su Linglong, Tang Wenrou, Baili Mingyue, Ye Wumei, and others, easily discerning which type of Spiritual Root they possess.

When treating Dongfang Ruhua for poison, Fang Bai only utilized the Five Elements True Essence within the Chaos Origin Energy. As the Five Elements generate each other continuously, this allowed Dongfang Ruhua's life functions, severely damaged by the poison, to quickly recover and rebalance.

Moments later, drops of black blood tinged with red trickled down from the Five Elements Needles to the ground, releasing a thick, nauseating smell of fetidness and fishiness.

"This is the scent of the 'Red Scorpion Snake' venom!"

A hint of surprise flashed in Fang Bai's eyes as he thought, "I had assumed that such a highly toxic creature only existed in the Cultivation World. I would've never expected to find it in this world as well. Fortunately, this is only a low-level toxic creature; otherwise, Dongfang Ruhua would've been long dead."

The "Red Scorpion Snake" is entirely red and usually only one or two feet long. It is so named because of a scorpion-like stinger at the end of its tail.

The venom of the "Red Scorpion Snake" is incredibly toxic and acts very quickly; just a tiny drop can kill several strong oxen within a minute.

If an ordinary person were to smell the venom from close range, they would feel dizzy and nauseated, and experience severe vomiting. However, Fang Bai, with his profound strength and being the Invincible War Emperor who proved his way through medicine, was utterly unfazed.

Once the black blood had ceased and fresh blood began to flow, Fang Bai withdrew the Five Elements Needles, dressed Dongfang Ruhua in her T-shirt and jeans once again, and then sat cross-legged beside her to rest and wait for her to awaken from her unconscious state.

Some fifteen minutes later, Dongfang Ruhua's eyelids twitched, and she slowly opened her eyes.

"Where am I?"

Looking at the now grim sky, Dongfang Ruhua's gaze was filled with confusion.

"Little beauty, are you awake?"

Seeing Dongfang Ruhua waking up, Fang Bai stood, smiling as he asked, "How do you feel now?"

"Big brother? Is that you?!"

At the sound of Fang Bai's voice, Dongfang Ruhua looked up, and upon seeing his face clearly, joy and astonishment overcame her, prompting her to stand up from the ground.

Her body had just been rid of the severe poison, and her organs were still recovering. She felt weak, and upon standing up hastily, she experienced a bit of dizziness and weakness in her legs, causing her to stagger.

Fang Bai reached out to support her by the arm, expressing concern, "You were bitten by a snake and passed out. I've just managed to expel the poison. You should rest right here for a while, and don't move around just yet!"

"Ah!"

Clearly terrified of snakes, Dongfang Ruhua paled at the mention of being bitten and let out an alarmed cry. Clinging tightly to Fang Bai's arm, she glanced around frantically, fear evident in her large eyes.

"Don't be scared; the snake that bit you has probably slithered away."

Fang Bai felt Dongfang Ruhua's body trembling slightly, and he gently patted her hand to comfort her, then continued, "I came to the mountain today for something and ran into your teacher and classmates searching for you, so I joined them. I found you here..."

Pausing, he pointed toward the two bodies not far away, sighing lightly, "You were poisoned a bit later than they were, and your body's resistance to the poison was stronger. So when I found you, you were still alive. But they weren't as lucky as you, I arrived to find they had already stopped breathing..."

Dongfang Ruhua followed the direction of Fang Bai's gesture and saw the two men in black lying on the ground. Her delicate frame shook, and her large eyes quickly filled with tears.

"They were your bodyguards, weren't they?"

Fang Bai asked.

Dongfang Ruhua nodded.

"How were you bitten by the snake?"

Fang Bai inquired further.

"I... I don't know... I asked Uncle Zhang and Uncle Wang to accompany me here to have some fun. Suddenly, there were shouts and cries of alarm from them, and then everything went dark, and I lost consciousness..."

Dongfang Ruhua said tremblingly, as her large eyes blinked, and the tears finally spilled over.

Chapter 223: Lingnan Poison Venerable

The "Uncle Zhang" and "Uncle Wang" Dongfang Ruhua spoke of were bodyguards specially assigned to her by Dongfang Leiming, charged with her personal safety. Their deaths deeply grieved Dongfang Ruhua.

"It was my fault that Uncle Zhang and Uncle Wang died. If I hadn't insisted that they take me here to play, they would still be alive... I... I... sob sob..."

The more Dongfang Ruhua spoke, the sadder she became; tears fell like broken strings of pearls.

In a wealthy family like the Dongfang Family, it was common for bodyguards to get injured or killed, and few people would grieve for them. Seeing Dongfang Ruhua crying her heart out over the death of two bodyguards, Fang Bai knew that she was a girl of deep feelings and loyalty, and he couldn't help but secretly admire her.

"Crying too much is bad for your health; you should take a nap first!"

Fang Bai whispered in Dongfang Ruhua's ear and then lightly pressed a finger on her body. She felt her eyelids growing heavier, and with Fang Bai's support, collapsed to the ground, quickly falling into a deep sleep.

Fang Bai took out his phone, about to contact Dongfang Leiming to have someone come over to take Dongfang Ruhua away and deal with the bodies of the two bodyguards, when suddenly he became alert.

He stood up, looked towards the eastern side of the valley, and saw a figure in a black robe appearing on a mountain ridge hundreds of meters away.

One stood on the mountain ridge and the other in the valley, facing each other from a distance.

Even though they were far apart, Fang Bai could still vaguely sense a cold and intense killing intent coming from the man in the black robe.

"It's a High Rank Martial Artist of the Profound Level!"

The man in the black robe was one of the strongest individuals Fang Bai had encountered since his rebirth. His appearance was sudden, and with the killing intent he carried, coupled with the incident involving the "Red Scorpion Snake" and Dongfang Ruhua's mishap, Fang Bai surmised the man in the black robe was likely related to this affair.

The man's hair was long and unkempt, as if it had never been combed, almost covering most of his face. His small, triangular eyes emitted a sinister light, looking down at Fang Bai and the sleeping Dongfang Ruhua in the valley.

When Fang Bai's gaze fell on the man in the black robe, he looked serious, and his eyes flashed sharply. He slowly raised his hands and put the bamboo flute to his mouth, gently blowing into it.

The sound of the bamboo flute was sharp and lingering, echoing through the mountains.

Fang Bai frowned, noting that the melody of the black-robed man's flute bore a slight resemblance to his own "Beast Taming Scripture".

Less than ten seconds after the flute began to play, Fang Bai heard a "sss" sound near his ear. He looked closely and saw a small, two-foot-long red snake with a scorpion-like tail, swiftly approaching, with vegetation withering as it passed.

"It looks like this Red Scorpion Snake is the one that bit Dongfang Ruhua!"

Fang Bai watched the rapidly approaching Red Scorpion Snake, his eyes gleaming coldly.

Suddenly, the sound of the flute became more urgent, and the Red Scorpion Snake's speed also increased.

Just two yards away from Fang Bai, the Red Scorpion Snake suddenly sprang into the air and lunged at Fang Bai, so fast that only a red blur was visible.

"No wonder the two bodyguards of the Dongfang Family died, with the Red Scorpion Snake moving this fast, they wouldn't have had the time to react before being bitten and poisoned," Fang Bai thought. As the Red Scorpion Snake reached him, he sneered, flicked his right hand, and a bright glimmer appeared—it was a one-yuan coin.

The Red Scorpion Snake was fast, but not compared to the coin flicked by Fang Bai.

Swish—

With a soft sound, the coin flew out with a whistling noise, piercing through the Red Scorpion Snake's triangular head and body, cutting it cleanly in two.

The head and body of the Red Scorpion Snake fell to the ground, and after twitching a few times, it lay motionless.

Seeing the death of the Red Scorpion Snake, which he had painstakingly raised with all his energy and effort, the man in the black robe standing on the distant ridge let out a heartrending howl.

"A mere snake dares to bully me? How presumptuous!"

Fang Bai sneered, strode over to Dongfang Ruhua, bent down slightly, reached out with his left hand to grab her and tucked her under his arm, then marched toward the mountain ridge where the man in the black robe stood.

Witnessing Fang Bai's speed, the man in the black robe's eyes revealed a look of shock as he blew the bamboo flute once again.

Following the flute's sound, a countless number of poisonous snakes, scorpions, hornets, frogs, and other poisonous creatures emerged from the grass and trees in Fang Bai's path, as if all the venomous creatures in the mountain had been gathered there to block his way.

"Insignificant trickery, daring to embarrass yourselves before me!"

Fang Bai did not stop his footsteps and let out a series of high and low-pitched howls—the "Beast Taming Scripture" he used to subdue and command the creatures of the earth.

The venomous creatures in the mountains, previously ready to strike Fang Bai under the command of the flute's sound, now turned and rushed toward the man in the black robe upon hearing Fang Bai's howls.

The man in the black robe was drenched in cold sweat as he watched the venomous beasts swarming from all directions.

He now realized that he, the "Lingnan Poison Venerable" renowned in the Ancient Martial World, had met his nemesis.

Seeing the speed of Fang Bai's movements, the man in the black robe knew he was no match for Fang Bai in terms of martial power and had also fallen behind in controlling the venomous creatures. This left him with no chance of turning defeat into victory.

With his life at stake, the man in the black robe had no choice but to flee.

As an expert in using poison, he feared Fang Bai's strength, but not the venomous creatures around him.

He thrust his hands forward, scattering handful after handful of pink smoke. Wherever the smoke touched, the venomous creatures scattered, making way for him.

The man in the black robe leaped through the heavy encirclement of venomous creatures and escaped toward the deep mountains, his broad black robe rustling in the oncoming strong wind.

Although Fang Bai was carrying someone under his arm, his sprinting speed was still much faster than that of the man in the black robe, and his feet barely touched the ground, as if flying through the air.

If there had been a martial artist present, they would have been shocked to witness such a scene.

In this world, many martial artists with Cultivation Levels reaching the Profound Rank were capable of treading on snow without leaving a trace or even striding through the air for a short time, but someone like Fang Bai maintaining such a long duration of air tread without touching the ground was extremely rare.

The Chaos Origin Energy that Fang Bai cultivated in the Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique, although not yet achieving the realm of everlasting and inexhaustible, was several times more profound and enduring than the True Yuan of martial artists at the same rank. It was precisely with the support of this powerful True Yuan that he was able to tread through the air without touching the ground.

The man in the black robe had not yet reached the foot of the mountain when he suddenly saw a blur in front of him. Fang Bai, who had been hundreds of meters away, ghostly appeared right in front of him, blocking his escape route.

The man in the black robe inhaled sharply, his eyes flashing with ferocity. As he lunged forward, his right hand flicked, and out shot a black spherical object from his hand.

Boom—

The black spherical object exploded a zhang in front of Fang Bai, enveloping him in a pitch-black smoke, like ink.

Chapter 224: Take People's Money, Remove Their Calamities!

The cloud of poisonous smoke was crafted by the man in the black robe from the extract of over a dozen toxic substances, so virulent that even a slight touch could be fatal.

Some of the grass and trees around Fang Bai were affected by the toxic smoke, as if their vitality had been instantly drained away, turning a dull yellow.

Fang Bai possessed the "Chaos True Body," a physique so extraordinarily rare and powerful that it was hardly seen even in the Cultivation World or the Immortal Realm, with a robust physique almost invincible, protected by the Chaos Origin Energy within him, naturally immune to all poisons.

Fang Bai transferred a wisp of his True Yuan into Dongfang Ruhua's body to protect her from the poison, then he gradually stepped out from the encroaching cloud of toxic smoke.

"If you have any more tricks up your sleeve, bring them on now, otherwise you'll have no chance!"

Fang Bai looked at the man in the black robe with a mocking expression and said with a sneer.

"Who are you?"

The man in the black robe took a few steps back, eyeing Fang Bai with the cold gaze of a venomous snake, and asked in a hoarse voice.

The man in the black robe was confident in his strength, unparalleled in poison arts, reigning supreme in the Ancient Martial World, rarely encountering a match. He could not fathom that this young man with a fair face, not only a martial artist but also stronger than he was, was utterly baffling to him.

"You don't need to worry about who I am! What I really want to know is, who are you?"

Fang Bai retorted with a question of his own.

"I am the Lingnan Poison Venerable!"

The man in the black robe, now aware that Fang Bai was more powerful than he was, spoke with much more humility, showing a sense of wariness.

Having had limited contact with characters from the Ancient Martial World, Fang Bai was unfamiliar with the title "Lingnan Poison Venerable," though it struck fear in the hearts of those in the Ancient Martial World.

"Does this young lady have a grievance with you?"

Fang Bai looked down at the unconscious Dongfang Ruhua, his tone carrying a chill of killing intent.

If he had arrived a moment later, Dongfang Ruhua might now have been lifeless, much like the two bodyguards from the Dongfang Family, reduced to a cold, black corpse.

"No grievance whatsoever."

The Lingnan Poison Venerable answered earnestly.

"If there is no grievance, then why did you try to kill her?"

"To take the wealth and relieve others of their calamities!"

"Whose wealth did you take? Whose calamity are you relieving?"

"That... I am afraid I cannot say!"

Though the Lingnan Poison Venerable was powerful and unrivaled in his use of poison, there were rules to be followed in his line of work. If he dared to betray the one behind the curtains, his reputation would be completely ruined, and who would hire him after?

Seeing the murderous intent in Fang Bai's eyes, the Lingnan Poison Venerable was terrified, hastily suggesting, "We are practitioners of a similar path. If you can show mercy today and let me go, I will transfer the entire ten million bounty to you, and we can be friends. How about it?"

Although ten million was a sizable sum, Fang Bai certainly didn't care about it.

"Indiscriminately killing without asking right from wrong, martial artists with such a malicious nature like yourself, do you really think you're fit to be my friend? If I allowed you to continue living in this world, who knows how many more people would suffer at your hand! Now, let me be the one to eradicate evil and protect the righteous!"

No sooner had Fang Bai finished speaking, he reached out with his right hand towards the empty space behind him, and the scattered poisonous smoke in the wind suddenly condensed back together into a mass of almost solid black fog, which he hurled straight at the Lingnan Poison Venerable.

His skill in Telekinesis and Condensing the Intangible into Solid was nearly as proficient as the Immortal Family Secret Technique, leaving the Lingnan Poison Venerable astonished once more.

However, what shocked the Lingnan Poison Venerable even more was yet to come.

The cloud of poison instantly hit the ground in front of the Lingnan Poison Venerable and then spread out, enveloping him completely.

The Lingnan Poison Venerable had no time to ingest an antidote, so he could only protect himself with Protective True Essence, hoping to keep the poison fog at bay and avoid contact with his body, then wait for it to dissipate on its own.

In the past, when the Lingnan Poison Venerable used Protective True Essence, he could remain unscathed by wind and rain. However, the cloud of poison emitted by Fang Bai's hand was like it could

penetrate everything, rapidly dissolving his Protective True Essence and causing his body to lose its defensive barrier, leaving him directly exposed to the assault of the poison fog.

The toxicity of this cloud of poison was more than ten times more intense than that of the Red Scorpion Snake. Without an antidote and having lost the protection of True Essence, the moment the Lingnan Poison Venerable's body came into contact with the poison fog, his skin turned blackish-green, and he began to rot at a speed visible to the naked eye, exuding the smell of burnt flesh.

"Save me... save me... save..." he managed to cry out.

The Lingnan Poison Venerable's eyeballs bulged out in despair as he screamed, scratching frantically at his body.

Soon, his black robe was torn to shreds, and there was not a single intact spot on his skin, which he scratched until bloody, presenting a shocking sight.

At first, fresh blood flowed from his body, but later it turned black.

Fang Bai watched everything unfold before him with cold eyes, showing not a hint of pity or sympathy.

To him, those who killed the innocent had already lost their humanity and deserved death.

In just one minute, the Lingnan Poison Venerable's agonized screams went from high to low, growing ever fainter until they finally ceased.

Fang Bai strode over to the Lingnan Poison Venerable's mangled corpse and casually sent it flying with a palm strike, landing it several meters away in a distant ditch to prevent Dongfang Ruhua from being frightened upon waking up and seeing it.

The already gloomy sky was now even darker, and suddenly the wind picked up. Thunder began to rumble between the thick clouds.

A long-brewing downpour descended from the heavens.

With Fang Bai's current cultivation level, as long as he circulated True Essence to create a Qi Shield around himself, he could prevent raindrops from touching him. He would not even get a single spot wet on the way back to the courtyard from the valley.

However, now there was Dongfang Ruhua, who was still unconscious and in need of consideration. If Fang Bai used an Essence Energy Shield to protect them both at the same time, the consumption of True Essence would double. They might not have left the mountainous region before Fang Bai's True Essence was exhausted.

If that happened, they would end up drenched by the rain.

Fang Bai, with his unique body and formidable flesh, would be unharmed by a heavy downpour. But Dongfang had just been rid of a serious poison, and her body was in a state of weakness. She could potentially become seriously ill because of the rain.

Thus, at the moment the downpour began, Fang Bai decided to first find a place to take shelter from the rain. It would not be too late to continue once the rain stopped or the intensity lessened.

Fang Bai created an Essence Energy Shield with True Essence to temporarily protect himself and Dongfang Ruhua from getting wet. Then, he looked around, hoping to find a place that could provide protection against wind and rain.

To Fang Bai's pleasant surprise, there was a secluded cave on the north side of the valley. Its entrance was concealed by several thick vines and some weeds, making it difficult to spot without close inspection.

Fang Bai picked up Dongfang Ruhua, his form as swift as lightning. He shot through the heavy curtain of rain, crossing hundreds of meters in an instant, and entered the cave.

The cave was spacious and deep, and it was unclear where it led.

Seeing a clean and flat rock inside near the entrance, Fang Bai took out two pieces of clothing from his Spatial Ring. He spread the thicker one on the rock and gently laid Dongfang Ruhua down on it, then casually placed the other one over her body.

Chapter 225: Mudslide

The storm was ferocious and showed no signs of stopping anytime soon.

Fang Bai, having nothing better to do, sat cross-legged next to Dongfang Ruhua, circulating his Cultivation Technique, and tried to recover his cultivation.

Before long, Dongfang Ruhua woke up again.

After a brief sleep, her spirit had visibly improved, and her body didn't feel as weak as before.

This time, Dongfang Ruhua did not cry, but sat there with reddened eyes and clenched fists, listening as Fang Bai recounted the events that took place while she was unconscious.

When she learned that Fang Bai had killed the Lingnan Poison Venerable, who had murdered her two bodyguards, Dongfang Ruhua's tightly clenched fists slowly relaxed, but her little face still wore an expression of deep sorrow.

"Alright, you should eat something first. Once the rain stops, we'll leave the mountain!"

Fang Bai comforted Dongfang Ruhua with a few words, took out some stored food and water from his Spatial Ring, and placed them in front of her.

Seeing Fang Bai produce a pile of food and water seemingly out of thin air, Dongfang Ruhua was amazed, but she was too saddened by the death of the two bodyguards to inquire about it.

"Big brother, thank you. You not only avenged Uncle Zhang and Uncle Wang by killing that Lingnan Poison Venerable, but you also saved me once again!"

After eating something and drinking a few sips of water, Dongfang Ruhua felt strength return to her body, stood up, and said to Fang Bai gratefully.

Fang Bai waved his hand and said, "That Lingnan Poison Venerable seemed to be targeting you specifically. Think about it, have you offended anyone recently?"

"Ah? Me... I haven't!"

Although Dongfang Ruhua came from a noble family, she was as innocent as a blank sheet of paper. Whether at home or at school, she was obedient and never caused trouble. Even when she was wronged, she seldom complained or cried to others.

When Fang Bai asked her if she had offended anyone, she truly couldn't think of anyone.

"Then it must be your Dongfang Family that has offended someone. Otherwise, why would someone spend a fortune to hire an expert like the Lingnan Poison Venerable to kill you!"

Fang Bai guessed that this incident might involve a feud between noble families. He wondered if intervening this time could bring trouble upon him, but he did not regret his actions and would do the same if he were to face a similar situation again.

Boom—

Just then, a loud noise came from outside the cave, followed by something that seemed to pour down suddenly, completely blocking the entrance.

Fang Bai was startled and, with his left hand, he wrapped around Dongfang Ruhua's soft waist, swiftly whisking her deeper into the cave.

After rushing for several dozens of meters, Fang Bai stopped and looked back, only to see that the place where they had been standing was now completely covered by the mudslide.

"That was close!"

Seeing the massive amount of mudflow pouring into the cave, Fang Bai couldn't help but break out in a cold sweat.

Although Fang Bai was powerful, he was not yet capable of contending with the might of nature. Facing a mudslide, he had no choice but to flee.

If Fang Bai had reacted even a bit slower, both he and Dongfang Ruhua could have been swallowed by the torrential mudflow.

If they had been swallowed by the mudslide, even if Fang Bai could have used his special powers to escape, Dongfang Ruhua would have undoubtedly perished.

The light inside the cave was already poor, and now that the entrance was completely blocked off, the interior was pitch-black; to an ordinary person, it was as if one couldn't see their own fingers.

Dongfang Ruhua clutched Fang Bai's arm tightly, like a startled rabbit, and said with a trembling voice, "Big brother, what happened? I... I can't see anything! I... I'm so scared..."

"It might be because the rainstorm triggered a mudslide that blocked the cave entrance... Don't worry, with big brother here, everything will definitely be alright!"

Fang Bai felt Dongfang Ruhua's body shivering intensely and knew that, as an ordinary girl in such an environment, it was impossible for her not to be afraid. Feeling a sense of pity, he wrapped one arm around her, gently patted her back, and comforted her with a soft voice.

Dongfang Ruhua held an almost blind worship and trust in Fang Bai, and hearing him say this, she also felt much more at ease.

Her little head nestled against Fang Bai's chest, her arms tightly wrapped around his waist, breathing in the scent coming off of him. Whether it was nervousness or shyness, her heart thudded rapidly, a sound she could hear clearly herself.

Dongfang Ruhua firmly believed Fang Bai could lead her safely out of there, but Fang Bai's heart was filled with bitterness.

If the cave had been blocked by rubble, Fang Bai could have used his robust True Yuan to clear the stones little by little, but a mudslide was highly fluid. If you cleared a bit away, more might just pour in, making it impossible to clear.

Now, the two of them had only two ways to get out: the first was to wait for someone to clear all the mudslide from outside; the second was to find another way out.

Given that they were already deep in the mountains, where large machinery couldn't reach, the first method was out of the question; that left them with finding another way out.

But did this cave have another exit?

Fang Bai glanced into the deeper parts of the cave and then, taking Dongfang Ruhua's small hand, slowly groped forward, all the while praying silently in his heart.

If they couldn't find a way out, he and Dongfang Ruhua could only wait to die in this cave.

Fang Bai wasn't afraid of death, but he couldn't bear the thought of a girl in the flower of her youth like Dongfang Ruhua withering away.

Dongfang Ruhua followed closely by Fang Bai's side, her hands gripping his left hand tightly, afraid that if she let go even for a second, Fang Bai would vanish into the darkness.

The cave was a blanket of darkness, she could not even make out Fang Bai's silhouette. Her heart suspended in trepidation, every few steps she would call out "Big brother," and only after receiving Fang Bai's response would she feel assured.

The cave seemed to have no end; they turned left, right and walked for more than an hour without seeing the exit.

Outside was the peak of summer, unbearably hot, but the cave was exceptionally cold, and the deeper they went, the more unbearable it became, as if reaching deep into the earth's core.

At first, Dongfang Ruhua didn't feel very cold, but later on, she felt the chill penetrating her, and she couldn't help but shiver uncontrollably.

Fang Bai transferred a strand of his Chaos Origin Energy into Dongfang Ruhua, which contained the Fire System of the Five Elements True Essence, effectively driving away the cold.

Dongfang Ruhua felt a stream flow through her palm and into her body, warming her thoroughly, an indescribably comfortable feeling.

She guessed that this must be Fang Bai helping her in secret, and her admiration for him deepened.

Another few hundred meters ahead, Fang Bai's ears perked up as he faintly heard the "gurgling" sound of water flow.

Heaven hadn't abandoned them after all!

Overjoyed, Fang Bai once again wrapped his arms around Dongfang Ruhua's waist and rushed forward with her.

Where there's water flow, there's an exit. As long as they followed the direction of the water, there was a chance they could escape to the outside world.

Chapter 226: Ruhua is not afraid!

"Big brother, can we get out now?"

Although Fang Bai did not speak, Dongfang Ruhua could feel his joy, and so her mood also improved.

"Yes, we can get out now!"

Overcome with delight, Fang Bai couldn't help but let out a long howl and accelerated forward.

The further forward they went, the louder the sound of the water became. A moment later, an underground river several meters wide lay before them.

The river wasn't very deep, and some rocks even jutted out from the center, making loud "whooshing" noises as the rushing water struck them. With the echoes off the walls, the sound of the water would continuously reverberate in their ears.

Fang Bai checked the direction of the water flow and led Dongfang Ruhua down the riverbank in the direction of the river's downstream current.

Although the riverbank was extremely slippery and littered with pebbles, making it difficult to navigate, Fang Bai moved as if he were flying, as though he were treading on flat ground.

They did not know how much time passed when suddenly the riverbank ahead declined steeply, and a loud rumbling noise reached them. Upon approaching, they discovered a magnificent underground waterfall.

Dongfang Ruhua couldn't see the surroundings clearly; her face turned pale as she heard the roaring water, and she clung to Fang Bai even tighter.

Below the waterfall was a huge pool. Fang Bai saw that water was pouring into it incessantly, but the pool always stayed at the same level, indicating there must be another world beneath, possibly connected to some river outside.

"Ruhua, do you trust me?"

Fang Bai turned his head and asked Dongfang Ruhua using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission method.

"Mhm."

Despite the roar of the water, Dongfang Ruhua heard Fang Bai very clearly. Although she did not understand why he was asking this, she nodded vigorously.

"Good, listen, the terrain ahead is a bit complicated. I'll go and scout ahead first, and then come back to lead you through. Will you stand here and not move until I return, okay?"

While speaking, Fang Bai placed his hands on Dongfang Ruhua's shoulders with an encouraging tone, "I know you're a brave, strong, and fearless girl! Right? Now say loudly to yourself: 'Ruhua, don't be afraid!'"

Fang Bai knew Dongfang Ruhua was timid and would be scared being left alone, but to find the exit more smoothly, he had to explore the way first.

If Dongfang Ruhua had been a Martial Artist, Fang Bai might have taken her with him, but she was just a fragile, ordinary girl. Taking her along might only distract him should they encounter any danger.

When Dongfang Ruhua heard Fang Bai was going to leave her behind, she was so scared she almost cried. But Fang Bai's last few words gave her some courage. She thought if she appeared very scared, Fang Bai might look down on her, and then he wouldn't like her.

Fang Bai was Dongfang Ruhua's ultimate idol, and the power of an idol is limitless.

In the darkness, Dongfang Ruhua puffed out her budding chest, and her bright eyes radiated a firm light.

"Ruhua...isn't afraid..."

Although her voice trembled, Dongfang Ruhua still managed to say these four words.

"Very good!"

To alleviate the fear in Dongfang Ruhua's heart, he gently caressed her cute nose and said with a smile, "After we get out this time, I will give you a few more Luminous Pearls..."

As he spoke, he suddenly slapped his thigh and exclaimed, "Oh no, how could I forget the Luminous Pearls!"

In the darkness, a faint light streaked from the Spatial Ring, followed by two luminous pearls, each the size of a chicken egg, appearing in Fang Bai's hands. Instantly, the area within a dozen yards brightened as if it were daylight.

The two luminous pearls were taken out of Fang Bai's Spatial Ring. Just moments ago, when they encountered a mudslide, Fang Bai was so eager to find a way out that he forgot that the luminous pearls could be used for lighting.

Moreover, luminous pearls have a characteristic: the darker the place, the brighter the light they emit, making them perfect for illumination in this pitch-black and chilly cave.

"You hold onto these two luminous pearls for the time being. Once we get out, they'll be yours!"

Fang Bai looked at Dongfang Ruhua's delicate and beautiful small face illuminated by the glow of the luminous pearls and smiled as he stuffed the two pearls into her small hands.

Dongfang Ruhua was afraid of the dark, but now with the light, she could clearly see the surroundings, and her expression relaxed markedly.

The pearls also contained a trace of spiritual energy, so when she held them, it was as if bathing in a hot spring, driving away all the chill.

Perhaps it was Fang Bai's smile that emboldened her, but Dongfang Ruhua suddenly mustered great courage and said, "Big brother, I'll wait here for you. You must come back quickly, alright?"

"Ruhua, well done!"

Fang Bai gave Dongfang Ruhua a thumbs up, had her sit on a flat area of ground far from the waterfall's cliff edge, left her with some food and drink, then took a deep look at her before turning and walking to the edge of the waterfall's cliff, where he leaped down.

The waterfall's cliff was nearly thirty meters above the water pool below, and jumping from this height into the water was extremely dangerous for an ordinary person, but for Fang Bai, it posed not a single problem.

Splash—

Fang Bai jumped from the thirty-meter-high waterfall's cliff, and when his figure entered the water, he caused only a small splash. Then his form dived into the depths of the water pool, vanishing in an instant.

Dongfang Ruhua, after all, was just a fifteen-year-old girl. Strong and brave before Fang Bai left, but once his figure disappeared, the courage she had just gathered suddenly vanished.

The icy coldness of the mountain walls around her, the roaring of the water in her ears, and the endless darkness in the distance made her feel an unprecedented loneliness, and once again fear crept up on her.

She clutched the luminous pearls tightly in her hand, huddled into a ball, and her large, clear eyes swept around restlessly, fearing that some terrifying thing might suddenly emerge.

"Ruhua isn't afraid... Ruhua isn't afraid... Ruhua isn't afraid..."

Dongfang Ruhua murmured, self-encouraging, but tears were already forming in her eyes.

Dongfang Ruhua felt as though a very long time had passed and Fang Bai had still not returned. Tears had unintentionally filled her eyes, and she held them back from falling.

"Big brother said he would definitely come back! He won't lie to me!"

Dongfang Ruhua kept repeating to herself in her heart.

Whoosh—

A figure soared like an arrow from the water pool beneath the waterfall, abruptly shooting out and gently landing in front of Dongfang Ruhua.

"Big brother!"

Dongfang Ruhua, seeing the longed-for figure, rubbed her eyes in disbelief, then called out with overwhelming joy, dropped the two luminous pearls in her hand, and, like a little bird returning to its nest, dove into Fang Bai's embrace.

In that moment, the tears in her eyes could no longer be controlled, falling down her cheeks in a relentless stream.

Chapter 227: Seeing the Light of Day Again

Fang Bai knew that leaving a delicate fifteen-year-old girl here alone required her to overcome a great deal of psychological fear in order to manage it, the fact that she had held back her tears until now was already quite remarkable.

"Ruhua, I have some good news..."

Embracing the slender figure of the girl in his arms, allowing her to cry for a while, and waiting until her sobs subsided, Fang Bai then spoke in a warm voice, "I've found a way out, we can escape now!"

"Really?"

Dongfang Ruhua stopped crying, stepped out of Fang Bai's embrace, and looked up at him with her pretty face, her expression filled with indescribable joy.

Dongfang Ruhua liked the sunshine, and the colorful world. Having been stuck in this dark and damp environment for an extended period had made her feel oppressed and gloomy.

"Really. But..."

Fang Bai nodded solemnly and said, "We need to take a water route to escape, and it will involve diving deep underwater, the process is a bit long... Can you swim?"

"I can!"

Dongfang Ruhua blinked her eyes, saying, "I learned to swim at a swimming pool before. I'm really good at it, neither my sister nor my mother could catch up with me."

Upon hearing those words, Fang Bai secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Since Dongfang Ruhua had learned to swim, she at least wouldn't be afraid of the water, otherwise, leading someone who had never touched water before would significantly increase the difficulty.

"That's good. From now on, you do as I say. Understand?"

"Mhm."

Seeing the seriousness in Fang Bai's face, Dongfang Ruhua couldn't help but feel a bit nervous as she nodded vigorously.

"Close your eyes, you can only open them when I tell you to!"

Fang Bai said in a deep voice.

Thinking of what Fang Bai had just said, Dongfang Ruhua obediently closed her eyes and then felt Fang Bai's arm gently wrap around her waist.

"Big brother tells me to close my eyes and embraces me, what does he want to do?"

As Dongfang Ruhua pondered, her body slightly warmed, her little face involuntarily blushing, and her heart began to harbour faint anticipation.

Suddenly, Dongfang Ruhua felt her feet leave the ground as if she floated into the air and then slowly descended towards a certain spot.

With Fang Bai by her side, Dongfang Ruhua no longer felt fear, on the contrary, she felt a bit of excitement and anticipation, thinking that she would dare to venture through mountains of knives or seas of fire with big brother.

Splash—

There was a light sound of water, and Dongfang Ruhua felt her body suddenly immersed in water, causing her to be slightly startled.

However, she always remembered Fang Bai's words. Although she was incredibly amazed, she didn't open her eyes, entrusting her safety fully into Fang Bai's hands.

"Next, we may have to swim underwater for some time. You hold my hand, just keep your eyes closed, and don't panic. Everything will be alright with me here. Adjust your breathing now, and when I count to three, take a deep breath and hold it..."

Fang Bai's voice rose next to Dongfang Ruhua's ear, as she quietly listened and began to adjust her breathing.

"One... two... get ready... three..."

When Fang Bai said the words "get ready," Dongfang Ruhua closed her mouth and held her breath.

When Fang Bai counted to "three," Dongfang Ruhua only felt her right hand tightening as she was pulled by Fang Bai. Her entire body submerged into the water and swiftly descended toward the deeper parts.

She didn't know how long had passed, but Dongfang Ruhua felt the water pressure gradually increasing, the water temperature starting to drop, and there was a slight feeling of suffocation in her chest, causing a little panic to flicker in her heart.

Just then, she sensed a stream of energy flowing from the palm that held Fang Bai's. That stream rapidly spread throughout her body; the pressure of the water and the sensation of suffocation in her chest vanished in an instant.

Dongfang Ruhua felt as if she had transformed into a fish, swimming swiftly forward following Fang Bai. If not for Fang Bai's earlier admonition, she would have really liked to open her eyes to see the surroundings.

It felt as though a long century had passed when the feeling of chest congestion attacked Dongfang Ruhua once again. Suddenly, the water pressure quickly reduced, and then her head emerged above the water surface.

Although she remembered Fang Bai's words and kept her eyes closed, Dongfang Ruhua could already feel the sunlight shining down on her.

"It's okay now, Ruhua, you can open your eyes,"

Fang Bai's gentle voice rang in her ears.

Upon hearing this, Dongfang Ruhua rapidly opened her eyes.

Perhaps because she had spent too long in the pitch darkness of the cave, her eyes couldn't adjust to the intense sunlight at first—they stung, and she felt a swelling sensation, forcing her to close them again.

"It's alright now,"

Fang Bai said, smiling while gently massaging her Taiyang Acupoints on both sides.

Gradually, Dongfang Ruhua reopened her eyes, and the first thing she saw was Fang Bai's face, bright with a sunny smile.

Then, she looked around and saw that she and Fang Bai were in the middle of a small river, surrounded by towering mountains. The setting sun was peeking through the gaps in the mountains, shining on her face, still feeling somewhat hot.

Having escaped the darkness, coldness, and dampness, and returning to a world full of sunshine, Dongfang Ruhua's tears once again flowed.

But this time, they were tears of joy and happiness.

After the two of them reached the shore, they exchanged glances, Dongfang Ruhua didn't think there was anything inappropriate, but Fang Bai coughed lightly and turned his back on her.

Dongfang Ruhua's light pink T-shirt was originally quite thin, and now with her body wet, the clothes clung tightly to her skin, outlining the mature shape of her chest and the rounded curves of her hips, even her close-fitting pink bra was clearly visible, presenting a visual impact.

If he were facing an adult woman, Fang Bai wouldn't mind taking a good look at her attractive figure and graceful posture, but since Dongfang Ruhua was only a fifteen-year-old girl, he felt it improper to stare.

"Go behind that big rock and change out of your wet clothes, wear this one of mine for now!"

Fang Bai casually took out a set of clean, spare clothes from his Spatial Ring and handed them to Dongfang Ruhua with his back turned, then walked a bit farther away with his hands behind his back.

Seeing Fang Bai suddenly turn his back, Dongfang Ruhua was initially puzzled, but upon glancing down at her own body, her face flushed red.

"Thank you, big brother!"

After taking the clothes from Fang Bai, Dongfang Ruhua, like a startled rabbit, quickly ran behind a large rock not too far away. She took off her wet clothes and put on the ones given by Fang Bai.

Although Fang Bai's clothes were somewhat large, they were clean and neat, emitting a scent of sunshine, making Dongfang Ruhua feel incredibly comfortable wearing them.

She lowered her head and sniffed the clothes, seemingly detecting that unique intoxicating scent of Fang Bai, which made her face turn even redder.

"Big brother, I've changed..."

When Dongfang Ruhua shyly walked out from behind the big rock wearing Fang Bai's clothes, Fang Bai couldn't help but be taken aback by the sight before him.

Chapter 228: Leading by Example

Dongfang Ruhua's figure was slender and tall, with curves in all the right places. Although she was covered by Fang Bai's oversized clothing, it did not look bulky or unattractive on her. She had tied up the sleeves and pant legs, revealing segments of her fair arms and lower legs, which looked dazzling and charming under the sunlight—a style all her own.

"Do I look... ugly in these clothes?"

Seeing Fang Bai's gaze roaming over her, Dongfang Ruhua bit her lip and asked softly.

Fang Bai shook his head, admiringly saying, "You look great! You're beautiful and have a great figure; you look good in anything!"

Dongfang Ruhua had been worried that he might laugh at her. But when he said this, her eyes lit up, and her joy was clearly written across her face.

"It's getting dark; we should hurry back. You've been missing for half a day, your family must be very worried."

Looking at the sky, Fang Bai estimated that in about an hour, night would fall.

He had intended to use his mobile phone to call Dongfang Leiming and tell him that Dongfang Ruhua was safe, but when he took out the phone from the Space Ring, he found that the battery was dead. He couldn't help but shake his head and chuckle, then tossed the phone back into the Space Ring.

"Big brother, do you have some kind of treasure that can hold things?"

Dongfang Ruhua saw Fang Bai's phone suddenly appear and disappear and couldn't help but ask a question that had been on her mind for a long time, her eyes wide with curiosity.

Along the way, whether it was food, drink, a luminous pearl, or clothes, Fang Bai would simply pull them out as needed. Dongfang Ruhua had initially thought he was a magician, but magicians needed props for their tricks, and Fang Bai clearly didn't have anything on him.

The only odd thing Dongfang Ruhua noticed was that whenever Fang Bai pulled something out or made something disappear, a faint light would flash briefly on the black ring he wore on his left hand.

"This ring is the treasure that can hold things."

Fang Bai raised his left hand and pointed to the Space Ring, smiling as he spoke.

When he had previously detoxified Dongfang Ruhua, Fang Bai had confirmed that this innocent and beautiful girl had a Thunder Spirit Root, even rarer than a Wind Spirit Root, and he intended to lead her onto the path of Martial Dao Cultivation. Thus, he didn't conceal anything from her.

"But... how can a ring hold things?"

Dongfang Ruhua's eyes widened as she curiously examined the Spatial Ring on Fang Bai's finger, her tone a mix of disbelief and curiosity.

"Because it's a Spatial Ring. It might seem ordinary on the outside, but inside, there's a space as big as a house. It can contain a lot of things."

"Wow, that's amazing!"

Dongfang Ruhua's eyes sparkled with light, and she said with envy, "Big brother, can you tell me where you bought your ring?"

Bought? This was a storage Spiritual Artifact, crafted from Space Stones, Fine Gold, and spatial formations. How could it be acquired with mere worldly money?

When Fang Bai found this Spatial Ring in the Mysterious Pit, it contained not a few Space Stones and Fine Gold. But since his Cultivation Level was still low and he had not yet developed a Divine Sense, he had the skills to craft various Spiritual Artifacts but no ability to actually do so.

"This is an extremely rare treasure. No matter how much money you have, there's nowhere to buy it. And even if you could, you wouldn't be able to use it," Fang Bai said with a smile.

"Why is that?"

Dongfang Ruhua blinked, puzzled as to why Fang Bai could use it, and she could not.

However, she had a kind of blind trust in Fang Bai. Since he said it was so, there must be a reason.

"Because you are not a Martial Artist, nor do you understand spatial formations... Ah, you wouldn't understand these things even if I explained them to you now."

"Oh..."

Dongfang Ruhua felt somewhat disappointed.

"Tell big brother, do you like martial arts?"

Fang Bai looked at Dongfang Ruhua with anticipation. If Dongfang Ruhua nodded, he could immediately impart a Martial Dao cultivation method to her.

In his previous life as the Invincible War Emperor, Fang Bai's mind housed thousands of various cultivation techniques, including the Thunder Techniques suitable for Thunder Spirit Root martial artists.

"I... I don't like it..."

Dongfang Ruhua was a well-behaved girl who had always resisted violent and murderous activities, and she shook her head at the suggestion.

"Why don't you like it? Don't you think having powerful martial arts skills is very impressive?"

"I think... violence and killing are very cruel and violent..."

"But sometimes, martial arts can also be used to help others and do many good deeds!"

Fang Bai felt it was necessary to guide this simple and kind-hearted little girl, spoke seriously, "Do you still remember the time you and your grandfather were attacked in the heavy rain? If I hadn't known martial arts, I wouldn't have been able to save you. What would have happened to you and your grandfather then?"

Dongfang Ruhua was taken aback and turned slightly pale as she recalled the incident, clearly still traumatized.

During that incident, their convoy was ambushed by gunmen, and she witnessed the bodyguards being killed one by one. Dongfang Ruhua felt a sense of despair as if doomsday had arrived. Then Fang Bai

arrived like a god descending from the heavens, defeated the gunmen, and threw them into the river, saving her and her grandfather's lives.

It was certain that if Fang Bai had been just an ordinary person without martial arts knowledge, not only would her grandfather and she have died, but Fang Bai himself would not have survived.

"Take today's incident, for example. If you had formidable martial arts skills, perhaps your two bodyguards wouldn't have died. Right?"

Fang Bai continued to gently persuade Dongfang Ruhua.

Dongfang Ruhua was a rare Thunder Spirit Root owner, and he really did not want to miss out on such a Martial Dao genius cultivator.

After giving it some thought, Dongfang Ruhua found Fang Bai's words very reasonable. She hesitated for a moment before asking, "Big brother, if I study martial arts, can you teach me?"

Fang Bai had been waiting for her to say this. He smiled and nodded, "Of course, I can. When you become a martial artist, and I can refine spiritual artifacts, I will give you a ring like this one."

"It's a promise then!"

Dongfang Ruhua jumped up with joy. A magical ring that could store things was still very attractive to her.

After that, Fang Bai demonstrated several times how to retrieve and deposit items from and into the Spatial Ring, which left Dongfang Ruhua staring in amazement and excitement. Her initial resistance to martial arts shifted to an eager desire to learn.

"Let's leave the mountains first and contact your family so they won't worry. As for teaching you martial arts, we'll talk about that after we get out."

Seeing that he had successfully sparked Dongfang Ruhua's interest, Fang Bai could not help but feel overjoyed internally.

For Fang Bai, although this world contained the Ancient Martial World and numerous Ancient Martial Cultivators, the martial arts they practiced were fundamentally different from his own Martial Dao.

Without like-minded cultivators, Fang Bai felt lonely in this world, until he gradually discovered some owners of Innate Spiritual Roots, which made him realize that he was not alone in his path.

Fang Bai decided to lead these owners of Innate Spiritual Roots into the halls of Martial Dao, so that his long cultivation journey ahead would not be too lonely and boring.

Chapter 229: A Hidden Paradise

In front of Dongfang Ruhua, Fang Bai no longer hid his real power. Holding her small hand, he swiftly skimmed along the river, hoping to leave the mountainous area and meet up with the people of the Dongfang Family before dark.

As they passed by a narrow canyon, Fang Bai suddenly sensed a strong fluctuation of True Yuan. Filled with surprise, he led Dongfang Ruhua into the canyon.

"Big Brother, there's no more road ahead!"

After entering the canyon and walking more than a hundred meters, Dongfang Ruhua pointed at the stone wall ahead and spoke.

Fang Bai stared at the stone wall that blocked their way, his eyes twinkling with excitement, "It's not that there's no road, but someone has set up a Formation. What you see as a mountain wall is merely an illusion... heh heh, how could this mere Formation stop me?"

He pulled a confused Dongfang Ruhua to the stone wall. After observing carefully for a moment, his face showed a look of realization. He began to circulate his True Yuan and his fists constantly hammered the stone wall.

Dongfang Ruhua watched as Fang Bai's formidable and fierce fists struck the stone wall, yet they seemed to hit a soft pile of cotton, sinking deeply into the wall. Moreover, there were booming sounds continuously coming from within the wall, leaving her dumbfounded, unable to comprehend what was happening.

With Fang Bai's most forceful punch, Dongfang Ruhua felt the ground beneath her suddenly shake, and the stone wall in front of her eyes miraculously vanished, revealing a huge valley.

Before Dongfang Ruhua could even cry out in surprise, she was already being pulled by Fang Bai into the valley.

The vast valley was full of flowers and trees, arranged in a natural and picturesque manner.

Colorful butterflies fluttered through the flowers; cute little animals appeared and disappeared among the weeds; the sounds of unknown birds came joyfully from the branches in the distance; on the distant cliffs, one could see cascading waterfalls...

A small green bamboo house stood elegantly on the high ground at the center of the valley, surrounded by a faint mist that wafted and floated around it.

The most surprising thing was that upon entering the valley, the high temperatures were no more, the scorching heat gone, as if one had stepped from the peak of summer into the world of spring.

To Dongfang Ruhua, this valley was simply a paradise.

But for Fang Bai, this valley was a cultivation spot left behind by a cultivator.

The abundant flowers and plants were actually precious Spiritual Medicines, with the youngest being over a hundred years old, and a considerable portion had reached two to three hundred years in age.

The small animals that roamed amongst the weeds might often nibble on these Spiritual Medicines, and they too possessed some spiritual intelligence. Seeing people enter, they were not afraid and even gathered around the two of them.

The faint mist floating around the small bamboo house was Heaven and Earth Origin Energy condensed there. Because someone had set up a Formation in the valley, that Origin Energy was locked within, gathering without dispersing.

If one could sit in the bamboo house for cultivation, absorbing the surrounding Heaven and Earth Origin Energy and consuming the Spiritual Medicines from the valley, it would be a dream come true for any Martial Artist.

If this had been his previous life, such a cultivation spot wouldn't have held any appeal for Fang Bai. But now, he was overjoyed.

The Cultivation Resources in his Space Ring were nearly exhausted. He had thought that his cultivation would enter into a period of slow growth. However, by a chance discovery, he had found an excellent cultivation spot here.

If he could keep cultivating here in the future, he would surely achieve results much faster.

"Am I dreaming?"

Dongfang Ruhua stood amidst the flowers and plants, vigorously rubbing her eyes. She looked around at this beautiful Minor World that seemed to exist only in dreams and muttered to herself.

Suddenly, she felt an itch at her feet. When she looked down, it was a snow-white rabbit affectionately nuzzling her leg.

"Wow, what a cute little bunny!"

Dongfang Ruhua squatted down and held the little white rabbit in her arms, happily playing with it.

Dongfang Ruhua blended in with the small animals of the valley and was thoroughly enjoying herself, whereas Fang Bai's gaze had fallen on the small bamboo house at the center of the valley.

From that small bamboo house, he too sensed fluctuations of Essence Energy and guessed that there must be some treasures inside.

Usually, when a cultivator leaves their training place, they would leave behind some cultivation resources for those fated to find them.

For example, Fang Bai in his previous life, in the process of becoming the Immortal Emperor, left many cultivation resources in the Cultivation World before ascending, as well as in the Immortal Realm after his ascension—Essence Stones, Spiritual Artifacts, Elixirs, Cultivation Techniques, etc., for those with destiny.

After reincarnating in this world through seizing a new body, Fang Bai had even thought that if one day he could return to the Cultivation World and Immortal Realm, he would definitely follow his previous life's memories to search for those items.

Items that could be casually discarded in his past life were now seen by Fang Bai as invaluable treasures.

Glancing over at Dongfang Ruhua, who was still frolicking and chasing the small animals joyfully, Fang Bai couldn't help but laugh softly and strode towards the small bamboo house.

The bamboo house contained only a bamboo chair, a bamboo table, and a bamboo bed—very simple, but spotlessly clean.

On the bamboo table were placed several bottles of Elixirs and a few Cultivation Methods, as well as a note.

After reading the note, Fang Bai discovered that the valley was the cultivation place of an Innate Martial Artist.

That Innate Martial Artist had left this place over five hundred years ago during the troubled times when the spiritual energy of the world grew thin and the laws of the world changed, in search of the legendary Cultivation World.

The few bottles of Elixirs left by the Innate Martial Artist were respectively a bottle of "Gathering Spirit Pill," a "Creation Pill," and a "Marrow Cleansing Pill."

All three bottles contained mid-grade elixirs, which were much more effective than the low-grade Spirit Pills Fang Bai had obtained before.

The several Cultivation Methods were also powerful and formidable Innate Techniques.

In this world, the techniques cultivated by the martial artists in the Ancient Martial World are all Acquired Techniques, which compared to Innate Techniques, were as different as heaven and earth, not comparable at all.

One could imagine that if an Innate Technique were to appear in the Ancient Martial World, it would surely cause a frenzy among martial artists, resulting in a bloody storm.

However, Fang Bai's mind was filled with powerful techniques; taking out any one of them would far exceed the few Innate Techniques on the bamboo table.

Therefore, he didn't even glance at those techniques and casually threw them into his Spatial Ring, to be given away later.

Those few bottles of Elixirs, however, were very useful for Fang Bai, who was eager to improve his cultivation level, especially the "Gathering Spirit Pill," which he treasured as if it were a priceless gem.

As implied by the name, the "Gathering Spirit Pill" is an elixir meant for consolidating a martial artist's Divine Sense.

Divine Sense refers to spiritual awareness, and for a martial artist, its importance is no less than True Yuan.

Once Fang Bai developed his Divine Sense, he could do many things that were previously impossible, such as refining Spiritual Artifacts, Elixirs, inscribing charms and talismans, etc., and it would also allow his senses to extend to a much farther range.

Chapter 230: Thunder Fruit

Under normal circumstances, a martial artist could only condense divine sense after their cultivation level reached the Innate Realm, but Fang Bai was the Immortal Emperor reborn through possession, and his spiritual consciousness was much stronger than his current cultivation realm and level.

With the aid of the "Gathering Spirit Pill," Fang Bai was confident he could condense a strand of divine sense.

And with the assistance of that bottle of mid-grade "Creation Pill," Fang Bai also firmly believed that his cultivation level could climb to the next rung.

As for the mid-grade "Marrow Cleansing Pill," it was of little use to Fang Bai, who possessed the "Chaos True Body," but for ordinary people or martial artists, it could greatly improve their physique.

Fang Bai stored the three bottles of elixirs in his spatial ring and then stepped out of the bamboo house. Seeing Dongfang Ruhua playing joyfully with a group of small animals, he didn't go over to disturb her. Instead, he wandered around the valley, admiring the various spiritual medicines.

The valley was filled with a multitude of spiritual medicines of all kinds, with tens of thousands of them, which dazzled Fang Bai. He thought that if he had discovered this place earlier, he wouldn't have needed Baili Zhan to risk his life going to the Hidden Sect to pick the "Man-Eating Flower."

In the northern part of the valley, near a cascading waterfall, Fang Bai found a three-hundred-year-old "Thunder Fruit."

This "Thunder Fruit" was over three feet tall, with a very peculiar shape and color. Its branches were black, its leaves white, and its fruit purple.

Nine fist-sized fruits had already matured, hanging from the sturdy branches and leaves, emanating a rich fruity aroma that was exhilarating just to smell.

"Thunder Fruit" in both the Cultivation World and the Immortal Realm, was considered a very rare spiritual medicine. Unfortunately, it was only suitable for martial artists with a Thunder Spirit Root. If other martial artists consumed it, those with weaker strengths could suffer from meridian explosion, with unimaginable consequences.

As one with an "All-Thing Spirit Root Body," nearly all spiritual medicines were edible for Fang Bai. Therefore, upon seeing those nine fist-sized purple "Thunder Fruits," his eyes lit up with delight.

He picked all nine "Thunder Fruits" and placed them into his spatial ring, then headed back toward the small bamboo house.

"Ruhua, come here," he called.

Standing in front of the small bamboo house, Fang Bai waved towards Dongfang Ruhua.

Dongfang Ruhua put the little white rabbit she was holding on the ground and hopped over to Fang Bai, sweetly saying, "Big brother, do you need me for something?"

Fang Bai glanced at the sky and said, "It's getting dark, let's stay here for the night, and we can leave tomorrow, okay?"

"Okay!"

Dongfang Ruhua, who was happily playing with a group of spirited and adorable small animals, naturally didn't want to leave, and cheered at the suggestion.

"If you want to become a martial artist, then come inside the house with me!" Fang Bai said, turning to enter the bamboo house.

Although Dongfang Ruhua really wanted to play with the animals a little longer, she worried Fang Bai might get angry and reluctantly waved goodbye to the animals, following closely behind Fang Bai into the bamboo house.

"First, go sit cross-legged on the bamboo bed," Fang Bai instructed pointing at the bamboo bed.

Dongfang Ruhua blushed at the thought of something, but still obediently walked over to the bamboo bed, took off her shoes, sat cross-legged, and then looked up at Fang Bai with wide eyes.

"You have a rare Thunder Spirit Root, a martial arts prodigy. But before you can begin cultivating a technique, you must first undergo Marrow Cleansing to change your physique, and then you'll be able to cultivate the method I'll teach you... Here, take this pill and eat it!" Fang Bai said, handing a mid-grade "Marrow Cleansing Pill" to Dongfang Ruhua.

Though she didn't understand what "Thunder Spirit Root" or "Marrow Cleansing" meant, out of absolute trust in Fang Bai, Dongfang Ruhua did not hesitate to accept the pill and swallowed it in one gulp.

The sun set in the west, and evening was approaching.

In the valley's small bamboo house, Dongfang Ruhua sat cross-legged on the bamboo bed, her entire being entering into a state of trance-like meditation.

Her entire body was slowly oozing out a kind of black substance that resembled oil stains, which nearly covered her snow-white and delicate skin.

This was the effect of her body's impurities being forcefully expelled by the medicinal power after consuming the "Marrow Cleansing Pill".

Once the impurities within her body were completely eliminated, her body would undergo a transformation, extraordinary compared to ordinary people.

Moments later, Dongfang Ruhua let out a sigh of relief as she emerged from her meditative state.

Yikes—

When she looked down and saw a layer of black impurity covering her arms and legs, she couldn't help but scream at a high pitch.

That scream was within Fang Bai's expectations. Not to mention someone like Dongfang Ruhua, who came from a noble family and was somewhat fastidious about cleanliness, any woman seeing such a scene for the first time would be alarmed.

"Don't worry, these are the impurities expelled from your body after taking the elixir. Just go and wash them off,"

Fang Bai said with a smile to a clearly frightened Dongfang Ruhua.

"Big brother, where can I go to wash?"

Dongfang Ruhua was so anxious that she almost cried, wanting desperately to get rid of the sticky substance on her body.

"There's a pool under the waterfall... Come with me!"

Knowing that Dongfang Ruhua wouldn't be able to focus on anything else until she was clean, Fang Bai led her to the pool beneath the waterfall in the northern side of the valley.

"After you clean up, change into these clothes. I'll be waiting for you in the bamboo house."

Having several sets of spare clothes in his Space Ring, Fang Bai took out another set, placed it on a clean stone beside the pond, then turned his back and walked back to the small bamboo house. He sat down on a bamboo chair with his eyes closed, quietly waiting for Dongfang Ruhua.

Dongfang Ruhua watched Fang Bai enter the bamboo house and then, with a blushing face, took off her clothes and stepped into the pond with hesitant steps.

She had expected the layer of filth on her body to be difficult to wash off, but to her surprise, it was swept away by the water as soon as she touched it, revealing skin white as snow and smooth as frost.

"Huh?"

Having cleaned herself, Dongfang Ruhua stepped out of the pool, looked down at her body, and found that her skin was as smooth and tender as if it had been washed with milk, delicate to the touch, and even emanating a faint body fragrance.

Seeing the sky grow dim, Dongfang Ruhua quickly put on the clean clothes left by Fang Bai and hurried back to the bamboo house.

"All cleaned up?"

Fang Bai, noticing Dongfang Ruhua's skin grown even whiter and smoother, with an even more outstanding demeanor after undergoing the Marrow Cleansing, couldn't help but light up his eyes and asked with a smile.

Dongfang Ruhua blushed and nodded her head, thinking that she and Fang Bai were the only ones in this secluded valley and that they would be spending the night there, which made her heartbeat quicken.

"After taking the 'Marrow Cleansing Pill', your physique will be much stronger than that of an average person. From now on, you will be immune to all kinds of illnesses, and you will retain your youth. Even without practicing any martial arts cultivation methods, you could easily live past a hundred years old."

"Is it really that miraculous?"

Shimmering with anticipation in her big eyes, Dongfang Ruhua said dreamily, "Then if I practice martial arts cultivation methods, will I become even more powerful than I am now?"