

Doctor 2221

Chapter 2221: Duel at the War Immortal Platform

Seeing the long queue of immortals in front of the stall, Xiao Ping felt dizzy with happiness.

She hurriedly traveled between the stall and the pill room, delivering alchemy and artifact refining materials to Fang Bai, while envisioning her bright future.

Fang Bai's business flourishing meant she was going to receive a considerable amount of cultivation resources, and perhaps if Fang Bai was pleased, he might even reward her with additional cultivation resources.

With these cultivation resources, she could continue cultivating the inheritance left by her parents, further advancing her strength.

Moreover, Fang Bai's extraordinary alchemy and artifact refining skills would soon make him highly respected among the immortals in Ice Emperor City, at which point Gu He would fear Fang Bai and dare not easily retaliate against her.

For several days, Fang Bai's business grew better day by day. Due to his alchemy and artifact refining speed and success rate far exceeding others, he earned a large number of cultivation resources.

As a result, the businesses of other alchemists and artifact refiners, including Gu He, drastically declined.

Blocking someone's path to wealth is akin to killing their parents.

Fang Bai's rise caused the businesses of alchemists and artifact refiners in the Cultivation Resource Exchange Market to be greatly affected, each harboring intense hatred towards Fang Bai.

Yet, they dared not team up against Fang Bai, for that would anger the many Ice Emperor City immortals waiting for Fang Bai's help in alchemy and artifact refining.

The most despairing for those alchemists and artifact refiners was that a Deputy City Lord of Ice Emperor City, having heard Fang Bai's reputation, came personally to visit him, expressing hopes that Fang Bai would join the City Lord Mansion as a Tribute.

Although Fang Bai declined the City Lord Mansion's invitation, rumors spread that he did so very tactfully, leading the immortals to speculate that he was merely using the opportunity to raise his reputation, and would join once the City Lord Mansion offered better terms.

Five days later, Gu He finished alchemy for an immortal and emerged, but by then Fang Bai was already famous throughout Ice Emperor City, overshadowing him.

"Is Fang Bai really that formidable?"

After leaving seclusion, Gu He listened to his subordinates talk about Fang Bai's recent exploits, staring in disbelief.

He had assumed that during his days of secluded alchemy, Fang Bai would have no customers, perhaps being forced out of Ice Emperor City by the time he emerged.

Yet the situation now was the complete opposite of what he envisioned. Not only was Fang Bai's business booming, but he had also established his footing and even attracted the favor of the City Lord Mansion.

Gu He's greatest reliance was the City Lord Mansion, and if Fang Bai became its Tribute, that would be his nightmare.

He had once threatened Fang Bai, and if Fang Bai gained power, how could he spare him?

"Ancient Alchemy Master, Fang Bai is indeed very powerful! We saw it with our own eyes, we wouldn't deceive you!"

A subordinate said with a worried face.

Running errands for Gu He for years, he had benefited from considerable rewards from Gu He, and if Gu He's business failed, he would be directly affected.

Gu He released his Divine Sense, observing near Fang Bai's stall, then looked at his own deserted stall, unable to deny it. Imagining having offended Fang Bai, he wondered how he could have a foothold in Ice Emperor City if Fang Bai gained power.

"Watch over the stall for me, I'm going to the City Lord Mansion!"

Gu He, disturbed, left a message to his subordinates and hurriedly departed.

He planned to go to the Ice Emperor City City Lord Mansion to inquire with familiar immortals, to see if the Mansion truly intended to recruit Fang Bai.

If so, he must quickly think of a countermeasure to avoid Fang Bai's revenge.

"Upper Immortal, Gu He went to the City Lord Mansion. He must be plotting something ill against you!"

Xiao Ping took the opportunity to deliver alchemy materials to Fang Bai, entering the pill room and speaking to him.

The pill room was surrounded by a formation, isolating all noise, so they weren't worried about being overheard by other immortals.

Fang Bai smiled indifferently and said, "Don't worry about him! No matter how he struggles, he won't make any waves!"

Fang Bai not only practiced both alchemy and artifact refining, but in alchemy, both speed and success rate completely crushed Gu He. The City Lord Mansion of Ice Emperor City would be foolish to antagonize him, a promising alchemist and artifact refiner, for Gu He.

Seeing Fang Bai's confidence, Xiao Ping also felt at ease.

Indeed, two hours later, Gu He returned dejectedly, glancing towards Fang Bai's stall with hatred in his eyes.

The enmity between Fang Bai and Gu He spread from Chiyu Immortal Venerable's mouth, and overnight, all the immortals knew.

One was an old alchemist with stagnant cultivation and alchemy skills, while the other was Fang Bai, skilled in both alchemy and artifact refining, with limitless potential. It seemed a simple choice whom to favor.

Thus, most immortals in Ice Emperor City shunned Gu He and turned to flatter Fang Bai instead.

Gu He harbored hatred but dared not show it. Seeing his business decline daily, and worrying about Fang Bai's retaliation, he decided to leave for another immortal city to try again.

He vowed to acrimoniously return to Fang Bai someday to reclaim today's humiliation.

"Ancient Alchemy Master, where are you planning to go?"

While packing up his belongings, Gu He heard a voice and turned around abruptly, only to see Fang Bai smiling at his stall.

From afar, some immortals were watching with strange expressions.

Gu He, most worried about Fang Bai causing trouble for him, felt his heart tighten but feigned calmness, saying, "Where I go, what is it to you?"

Fang Bai said, "Where you go isn't my concern! But I'm short on cultivation resources, and I'd like to borrow some from Ancient Alchemy Master. Given your generosity, you surely won't disappoint me, right?"

"You..."

Gu He, experienced and cunning, understood Fang Bai was trying to pressure him at the height of his momentum to surrender some cultivation resources, angrily asserting, "Don't count on it!"

Fang Bai said, "Not willing, huh? Then today, you might not leave Ice Emperor City safely!"

Gu He laughed angrily, "With just you? Can you stop me?"

Fang Bai shrugged, "You can try! Oh, you wanted to challenge me on the War Immortal Platform, right? Now, I'm willing to play with you! Do you dare?"

Gu He hadn't expected Fang Bai to challenge him proactively, and was overjoyed, blurting out, "Dare! How could I not dare?"

He believed his cultivation level was superior to Fang Bai, yet was unwilling to openly kill Fang Bai. But on the War Immortal Platform, it was a matter of life and death.

He thought if he could put Fang Bai to death on the platform, then all problems would be solved, and he wouldn't need to leave Ice Emperor City in disgrace, and his business would quickly recover.

Xiao Ping, guarding Fang Bai's stall, overheard the conversation and was utterly shocked, urgently transmitting, "Upper Immortal, you... you're too impulsive! Gu He is very powerful, even possessing an adept Immortal Artifact that can contend with a sixth-grade Immortal Venerable Realm expert. Your duel with him on the War Immortal Platform... is extremely perilous!"

Chapter 2222: Victory Through Battle

Xiao Ping couldn't understand why Fang Bai, who obviously could use his influence to pressure Gu He into handing over some cultivation resources, would still take the initiative to propose a battle at the War Immortal Platform with him.

Although Fang Bai's previous display of strength suggested he could contend with Gu He, Xiao Ping still felt his actions were far too reckless and were akin to gambling with his life.

Of course, Xiao Ping had her own private concerns, as if Fang Bai were to fall at the War Immortal Platform, the happy life she envisioned would vanish, and what would follow would be Gu He's revenge, leading to a tragic end for her.

Xiao Ping also had unresolved vengeance for her parents and did not want to fall to that fate. So she looked at Fang Bai with eyes nearly pleading, hoping he would retract his words.

In fact, it wasn't just Xiao Ping. Other immortals also couldn't understand why Fang Bai wanted to battle Gu He at the War Immortal Platform.

The only reason they could think of was that Fang Bai wanted to kill Gu He to seize all his cultivation resources.

But, if Fang Bai couldn't kill Gu He and was instead killed by him, that would be stealing the chicken only to lose the rice.

Hearing Xiao Ping's transmission, Fang Bai did not turn back; he only raised his right hand, lifted it over his shoulder, and made a victory gesture toward Xiao Ping.

"What... what does he mean by this?"

Xiao Ping stared blankly at Fang Bai's gesture, not understanding its meaning, with a confused look on her face.

"Lead the way, to the War Immortal Platform!"

Under the eyes of all the immortals, Fang Bai spoke again, addressing Gu He.

Seeing that Fang Bai was intent on fighting, Gu He's excitement grew, and he let out a long whistle skyward before shooting up into the sky, turning into a stream of light heading toward the War Immortal Platform.

Fang Bai's lips curved into a mocking smile before he too flew toward the War Immortal Platform.

"Xiao Ping, watch the stall. I'll kill Gu He for you, so you won't have to worry about his revenge in the future!"

Fang Bai had flown several miles away before this sentence reached Xiao Ping's ears.

"Let's go and see what happens!"

The immortals present, who all loved a spectacle, wouldn't miss a duel between two great alchemists at the War Immortal Platform, so they called out to their friends and flew away together.

Seeing the immortals leave, the cultivation resource exchange market quieted down. Xiao Ping had a fleeting thought: if she took the chance to flee Ice Emperor City and hide in a secret place, Gu He wouldn't find it easy to take revenge.

However, the thought barely arose before she suppressed it.

Because Fang Bai's transmission made it clear he was battling Gu He on the War Immortal Platform to eliminate her future troubles, leaving like that would be a disservice to Fang Bai, and even if she survived, she'd live with guilt and unease.

So Xiao Ping gritted her teeth and continued guarding Fang Bai's stall, facing the War Immortal Platform direction and silently praying.

Several of Gu He's subordinates remained, casting fierce glances at Xiao Ping, watching her like hawks.

Though they were certain Gu He would kill Fang Bai, they dared not act against Xiao Ping before Gu He's return.

Both Fang Bai and Gu He wanted a quick fight, so after flying to the War Immortal Platform, they wasted no time and immediately started battling.

How long would this battle take? Who would walk off the War Immortal Platform?

As the platform's defensive barrier enveloped Fang Bai and Gu He, the onlooking immortals began to speculate, with some even opening betting pools.

The immortals of Ice Emperor City, who had long dealings with Gu He and knew his cultivation level was a stage higher than Fang Bai's, mostly favored Gu He, making up nearly seventy percent.

The remaining thirty percent who put their faith in Fang Bai didn't really believe in him; they were merely gambling for luck.

If Fang Bai won, this thirty percent would receive huge rewards.

"For Alchemist Fang to dare to challenge Gu He, he must have some ace up his sleeve. It's hard to say who will win!"

Chiyu Immortal Venerable from Phoenix City was one of the few betting on Fang Bai to win.

"Just because Alchemist Fang might have an ace, doesn't mean Ancient Alchemy Master doesn't. I think Ancient Alchemy Master will definitely win!"

Rebutted an immortal who favored Gu He.

"Alchemist Fang is being a bit impulsive! He's a genius in alchemy and artifact refining; if he falls in this battle, it would be a real pity!"

Some immortals lamented, feeling that Fang Bai had great potential and shouldn't risk it by challenging Gu He.

A hundred breaths passed in the blink of an eye.

Amidst the discussions among the immortals, they suddenly noticed that the defensive barrier of the War Immortal Platform was trembling, signaling the end of the battle between Fang Bai and Gu He, and their gazes fell upon the platform.

As the platform's defensive barrier slowly disappeared, a white silhouette shot into the sky, turned into a stream of light, and flew back to the original Cultivation Resource Exchange Market.

On the War Immortal Platform, only a cloud of blood mist remained, which dispersed when the wind blew.

"The one who flew away was Alchemist Fang! The one who fell was Ancient Alchemy Master!"

Some immortals with keen eyesight saw that the white silhouette was indeed Fang Bai, who evidently didn't want to linger after his victory and directly flew back to the exchange market.

"With fourth-grade Immortal Venerable Realm cultivation, Fang Bai defeated a fifth-grade Immortal Venerable Realm expert, achieving a reversal victory!"

"So formidable at such a young age, if given another hundred years, could he not be expected to become an Immortal King Realm expert?"

"If Alchemist Fang advances to the Immortal King Realm, wouldn't he be capable of refining King Grade Immortal Pills?"

"Alchemist Fang has boundless prospects, when is a better time to build good relations with him than now?"

"I'm going to ask Alchemist Fang to refine an Immortal Pill for me!"

"I'll also ask if this Immortal Artifact I have can be upgraded!"

...

The immortals gazed toward where Fang Bai disappeared, and then, clamoring, they followed his trail back to the exchange market.

In the cultivation resource exchange market, Xiao Ping was praying for Fang Bai with her eyes closed at his stall.

Suddenly, she sensed a familiar presence, opened her eyes, and saw Fang Bai smiling in front of her.

“Alchemist Fang!”

Seeing Fang Bai return unharmed, Xiao Ping’s nose tingled, tears suddenly welled up, and she called out with a trembling voice, finally setting her anxious heart at ease.

“Gu He has been killed by me, you won’t need to worry about his revenge anymore. It seems you received quite a few materials just now? Let’s continue with our alchemy and artifact refining!”

Fang Bai said casually before returning to the Pill Room, and then signaled for Xiao Ping to bring in the gathered materials.

Xiao Ping gave a heavy “Mm,” wiping her red and tear-filled eyes, and with an indescribable joy in her heart, brought the sorted materials into Fang Bai’s Pill Room and then exited to continue guarding his stall.

Moments later, the immortals returned to the exchange market, and soon, thousands of immortals gathered in front of Fang Bai’s stall.

Fang Bai’s reputation soared after his hundred-breath victory against Gu He on the War Immortal Platform, drawing immortals to his stall – some to request the refinement of Immortal Pills and Immortal Artifacts, and others just hoping to exchange a few words with Fang Bai.

Meanwhile, Xiao Ping, running errands and doing chores for Fang Bai, suddenly found herself an object of favor with the immortals, all hoping she might put in a good word for them with Fang Bai.

Xiao Ping, paying no mind to those immortals, stood there gracefully, once again envisioning a beautiful future.

Chapter 2223: Wild Lion Immortal

Alchemist Gu He, has been refining Immortal Pills for various immortals in Ice Emperor City for over a century, and has gained significant fame there. After the news spread that he was slain by Fang Bai, many immortals in Ice Emperor City were shocked.

Moreover, many immortals knew that Gu He would annually tribute a portion of the cultivation resources he acquired from alchemy to Ice Emperor City, thus receiving its protection.

With Ice Emperor City Lord Mansion as his backing, Gu He dared to openly act without restraint in the Cultivation Resource Exchange Market, oppressing and suppressing other peers.

After Gu He was slain by Fang Bai, the eyes of those immortals turned towards the City Lord Mansion, curious about how its higher-ups would react.

The majority of immortals believed that Fang Bai's alchemy technique was far superior to Gu He's, and his potential in various aspects was incomparable to Gu He's. Thus, after weighing the pros and cons, the City Lord Mansion would likely not hold Fang Bai accountable, and more probably would attempt to recruit him.

However, a Deputy City Lord from the City Lord Mansion had previously visited Fang Bai to express an intention to recruit, but Fang Bai declined. Whether Fang Bai would agree if the City Lord Mansion extended goodwill again was uncertain.

Yet, many immortals, after analyzing, felt Fang Bai might agree this time.

After all, the patience of the City Lord Mansion is limited; not only did Fang Bai reject their first recruitment attempt, he also slew Gu He, who had been tributing cultivation resources to them. If he

still refuses to become a tribute of the City Lord Mansion this time, he would be seen as unappreciative, and the City Lord Mansion may turn against him.

If Fang Bai were an Immortal King, he could still be tough with the City Lord Mansion, but he is merely a Fourth-Grade Immortal Venerable. Even with the titles of Alchemist and Artifact Refiner, he can't afford to offend the cloud of experts in the City Lord Mansion.

"Alchemist Fang, why not simply come with me to Phoenix City! My master is the Phoenix City Lord, who can offer all kinds of conveniences for alchemy and artifact refining there, and will never force you to do anything you dislike!"

One day, Chiyu Immortal Venerable found Fang Bai and said to him.

Recently, Chiyu Immortal Venerable frequently visited Fang Bai, often asking him to help refine Immortal Pills. Over time, they became quite familiar.

As a disciple of the Phoenix City Lord Mansion, Chiyu Immortal Venerable feared not the Ice Emperor City Lord Mansion. He felt Fang Bai was an extraordinary talent in the Immortal Realm, better to bring him to Phoenix City, and then appeal to emotions and reason; perhaps convincing him to join Phoenix City.

In response, Fang Bai politely declined.

Chiyu Immortal Venerable did not lose heart, continuing to visit frequently, persistently persuading Fang Bai.

Xiao Ping was extremely happy in recent days, feeling that she hasn't been this happy since her parents' demise.

Because Fang Bai had paid her part of her remuneration in advance, an amount she couldn't have imagined before.

Moreover, Fang Bai gifted Xiao Ping several bottles of Immortal Pills, upgraded her existing Immortal Artifact, and even taught her a set of Immortal Technique Secrets said to suit her cultivation well.

The Immortal Pills were of Immortal Venerable grade, the Immortal Artifact as well, and as for the Immortal Technique Secrets, Fang Bai didn't mention the grade, but Xiao Ping knew they must be extraordinary.

Immortal Venerable grade Immortal Pills, Immortal Artifacts, and Immortal Technique Secrets may mean little to an Immortal Venerable Realm Expert, but to Xiao Ping, who only reached Fifth-Grade Heavenly Immortal Realm, they were dreamlike desires.

Plus, Fang Bai said, not only would there be more cultivation resources for her in the future, but if he had time, he would also offer her guidance.

With the cultivation resources provided by Fang Bai and his guidance, Xiao Ping felt her cultivation level could soon break through, increasing her hope of avenging her parents.

Thus, Xiao Ping's heart was full of gratitude towards Fang Bai, feeling he was the kindest immortal in the entire Immortal Realm.

"It's the immortals from the City Lord Mansion!"

"The leading one seems to be Deputy City Lord Wild Lion Immortal!"

"It was he who visited Alchemist Fang last time!"

"He must be here because of Gu He, right?"

"I think he's more likely here to recruit Alchemist Fang again!"

"What do you think, if Alchemist Fang refuses the City Lord Mansion's recruitment again, what would be the consequences?"

"It's hard to say, let's just wait and see!"

...

That day, Fang Bai was busy refining Immortal Pills and Artifact Refining for immortals in the Pill Room, when several imposing immortals came striding from afar. The immortals queued in front of Fang Bai's stall whispered in low voices upon seeing them, with a look of reverence in their eyes.

Especially the leading immortal, with eyes like tigers, wide mouth, and sturdy build, walking with a gust of wind, his hair and beard thick like a lion.

Almost all immortals on site recognized this sturdy immortal, knowing he was one of the two Deputy City Lords of Ice Emperor City Lord Mansion, titled Wild Lion Immortal, with a Half-Step Immortal King Realm cultivation.

Those unfamiliar with Wild Lion Immortal might see him as a bold and generous immortal, but those who truly understood him knew he was narrow-minded, harboring grudges.

"Everyone move aside! I have matters to discuss with Alchemist Fang! Anyone blocking the way will taste my punch!"

Wild Lion Immortal surged forth, reaching Fang Bai's stall, seeing many immortals around it, his face darkened, shouting fiercely.

His voice was like thunder, the sound wave spread, space trembled, and the immortals present felt dizzy, barely standing.

For Wild Lion Immortal's savage and domineering act, every immortal was internally displeased, but they dared not provoke the bad-tempered, vengeful Deputy City Lord of Ice Emperor City, thus backed away, staying far.

Xiao Ping, being too weak, was internally injured by Wild Lion Immortal's shout, a stream of blood seeped from her mouth corner, yet she refused to retreat, seeing Wild Lion Immortal intending to cross the stall, intrude Fang Bai's Pill Room, immediately spread her arms, blocking his path.

"Alchemist Fang is refining pills, if you have matters, you can tell me, and I will convey to Alchemist Fang afterwards!"

Xiao Ping had seen Wild Lion Immortal once, knowing his identity, at this moment facing him, saying not fearing him would be false, but thinking of Fang Bai's kindness, she mustered the courage to block his path.

"You little fairy, dare block my way? Courting death?"

Wild Lion Immortal glared with tiger eyes, prepared to unleash immortal might, wishing Xiao Ping great suffering.

"Stop!"

At this moment, the Pill Room door opened, Fang Bai walked out expressionless.

"Swallow this Healing Pill and recuperate behind me."

Fang Bai seeing Xiao Ping injured, flicked a Healing Pill to her, then coldly gazed at Wild Lion Immortal, said: "Not sure why Wild Lion Immortal visits, what business do you have?"

Wild Lion Immortal chuckled, then solemnly stated: "Alchemist Fang, our City Lord sincerely invites you to join the City Lord Mansion as a tribute. Agree or not, please reconsider!"

Chapter 2224: Tribute

Before arriving here, the Wild Lion Immortal had already discussed with the senior members of the City Lord Mansion, deciding that if Fang Bai rejected their invitation again, they would threaten him with Gu He's death. If Fang Bai still refused to join the City Lord Mansion, they would expel him from Ice Emperor City and then secretly kill him.

Since they were prepared for a confrontation, the Wild Lion Immortal no longer spoke to Fang Bai with the same politeness as before.

All the surrounding immortals could sense a hint of firmness in the Wild Lion Immortal's tone, feeling a sudden concern for Fang Bai.

"I have already made up my mind..."

Fang Bai looked at the Wild Lion Immortal with a calm expression, and just as everyone expected him to refuse, he suddenly smiled and said, "The City Lord Mansion has sincerely invited me twice; wouldn't it be ungrateful to refuse again?"

The Wild Lion Immortal thought he misheard and was momentarily stunned before asking, "What... what did you say?"

Xiao Ping, who was about to sit cross-legged to recover from her injuries, also opened her eyes at this moment and looked at Fang Bai in astonishment.

She didn't expect Fang Bai to agree to join Ice Emperor City, and felt a pang of sadness in her heart.

Fang Bai said, "I said... I am willing to serve as a tribute for the City Lord Mansion."

The Wild Lion Immortal finally understood, exhaling loudly and laughing heartily, "Good! Splendid! On behalf of the City Lord Ice Peak Immortal King, I welcome Alchemist Fang's addition!"

After a pause, he added, "We've already arranged a residence for Alchemist Fang on the City Lord Mansion's side. Would you like to move in now?"

Fang Bai said, "There's no time like the present. Let's do it now!"

The Wild Lion Immortal nodded, saying, "Then I will return to the City Lord Mansion and await Alchemist Fang's arrival!"

With a hearty laugh and accompanied by a few individuals from the City Lord Mansion, he turned and left.

Fang Bai watched them leave, the smile on his face turning cold, his lips curling into a mocking smile.

However, the change in his expressions was brief, and none of the other immortals noticed.

"Alchemist Fang, are you... truly going to join the City Lord Mansion?"

Xiao Ping's timid voice came from behind Fang Bai.

Fang Bai turned around, looking at the pale-faced Xiao Ping, and suddenly said, "Xiao Ping, come with me to the Pill Room; I have something to say."

Xiao Ping watched Fang Bai walk into the Pill Room hesitantly before following him inside.

The Pill Room was isolated from the outside by a formation, so no one knew what Fang Bai and Xiao Ping discussed within it. However, after leaving the Pill Room, Xiao Ping's expression showed both worry and excitement.

That day, Fang Bai quickly packed his things, returned his rental stall, and arrived at the City Lord Mansion gate with Xiao Ping.

"Haha, Alchemist Fang has indeed arrived as promised! Welcome! Welcome!"

At the gate of the City Lord Mansion, the Wild Lion Immortal led numerous high-ranking members of the City Lord Mansion, welcoming Fang Bai and showing him considerable respect.

Fang Bai, a dual-skilled Alchemist and Artifact Refiner with boundless prospects, indeed warranted such a grand reception.

"Our City Lord has affairs elsewhere, or he'd personally greet you! Forgive him, Alchemist Fang!"

The Wild Lion Immortal smiled at Fang Bai.

Fang Bai asked calmly, "May I ask what business the Ice Peak Immortal King is attending to? When will he return? Oh, I have always admired the Ice Peak Immortal King's reputation and wish to meet him; hence my inquiry."

The Wild Lion Immortal's face displayed a sinister smile, saying, "Recently, some disciples of Ice Emperor City discovered a few remnants of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. The City Lord went to capture them personally with some immortals. Hehe, if we catch those palace remnants and offer them to the Ice River Immortal Emperor, it would be a significant achievement!"

"Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace?"

Fang Bai's heart tightened, surprised to learn information about the palace disciples here. Hearing the Wild Lion say 'capture' rather than 'slaughter' gave him some relief.

His expression unchanged, he didn't continue to inquire about the matter to avoid suspicion from the Wild Lion Immortal and other immortals of Ice Emperor City. He turned to point at Xiao Ping behind him and said, "This female immortal, I have grown accustomed to using her. In the future, let her stay by my side to handle errands."

Xiao Ping's gaze quickly swept over the immortals of Ice Emperor City, lingering on one steward's face for several moments, then lowered her head to look at the ground, filled with hatred.

But she hid it well, and none of the other immortals of Ice Emperor City noticed anything unusual.

The Wild Lion Immortal glanced at Xiao Ping with disdain, saying, "Alchemist Fang, you will join us as a tribute in Ice Emperor City. This female immortal's cultivation level is not great, nor is she particularly beautiful. Having her by your side might lower your status! We have many outstanding female immortals with both cultivation and appearance. How about I select a few for you?"

Fang Bai hurriedly said, "Thank you for the Deputy City Lord's kind offer. However, I have grown accustomed to her help, and suddenly changing to other female immortals would make it difficult to adjust quickly. So... let's leave it as it is!"

The Wild Lion Immortal didn't think much of it, nor did he want to dispute with Fang Bai over such matters. He waved his hand, saying, "Alright, as you wish! Let this female immortal accompany you! Come, let's take a look at the accommodations and the Alchemy Room I've arranged for you. If you're not satisfied, I'll make other arrangements!"

He walked side by side with Fang Bai, with Xiao Ping closely following behind, and the other immortals of Ice Emperor City proceeded onward.

To enlist and retain Fang Bai, Ice Emperor City provided excellent conditions. Were it not for Ice Emperor City's backing by the Ice River Immortal Emperor, with whom Fang Bai held deep resentment, he might truly have settled here, refining pills and artifacts for them and earning cultivation resources for his own training.

Fang Bai joined Ice Emperor City not for the tribute position, but to find an opportunity to eliminate the Ice Peak Immortal King and even the entire City Lord Mansion, while seizing the vast cultivation resources Ice Emperor City had accumulated over the years.

Eliminating the Ice Peak Immortal King and the City Lord Mansion would deal a small blow to the Ice River Immortal Emperor, causing panic among his subordinate forces.

Fang Bai knew that avenging the eight top Immortal Emperors was not something achievable in a day and required a long-term effort.

He planned to slowly weaken the eight top Immortal Emperors' wings as his power grew, letting them experience pain and fear, before finally confronting them with his formidable return.

From that day, Fang Bai officially became a tribute for Ice Emperor City, refining immortal pills and artifacts for Ice Emperor City.

In return, Ice Emperor City provided Fang Bai with a large amount of ingredients for alchemy and artifact refining; most he kept for himself and gifted some to Xiao Ping, using only a small portion to produce immortal pills and artifacts for Ice Emperor City.

Several days later, Fang Bai successfully discovered the storage location of Ice Emperor City's cultivation resources, preparing for how to take them away in the future, while patiently waiting for the return of the Ice Emperor City Lord, Ice Peak Immortal King.

Chapter 2225: Encountering Emperor's Palace Disciples Again

Ice Emperor City is rich in heritage, with various cultivation materials continuously sent to Fang Bai, where he refines them into Immortal Pills and Immortal Artifacts for the disciples to use.

From nothing to abundance, Fang Bai quickly amassed a significant amount of cultivation resources in his Five Elements Space Ring, even Xiao Ping's Space Immortal Ring is full to the brim.

Fang Bai is not the only tribute for Ice Emperor City, and each tribute's task is to refine a set quantity of Immortal Pills and Immortal Artifacts monthly for Ice Emperor City.

For other tributes, completing the monthly task usually takes about twenty to twenty-five days, and the remaining time, whether for cultivation or rest, can be freely arranged without interference from Ice Emperor City.

For Fang Bai, however, he completed a month's task in just three to four days, storing the refined Immortal Pills and Immortal Artifacts and waiting to hand them over to Ice Emperor City at the end of the month, with the rest of the twenty-plus days being at his leisure.

Of course, Fang Bai wouldn't idle. In these twenty-plus days, he would first spend a day instructing Xiao Ping on the Immortal Technique Secrets, then use Divine Sense to observe the dynamics of Ice Emperor City's disciples, and finally enter the Pill Room for secluded cultivation.

Though the City Lord Mansion only has a few hundred disciples, their overall strength is exceptional, with about half being Immortal Venerable Realm Experts, a testament to their might.

However, Fang Bai knows that if he could eliminate the dozen high-ranking officials in the City Lord Mansion, including Ice Peak Immortal King, the mansion would collapse and cease to exist.

But thinking of eliminating the dozen high-ranking officials of Ice Emperor City, including Ice Peak Immortal King, is easier said than done, even though Fang Bai now possesses the power to kill a First Grade Immortal King Realm Expert, he wouldn't boast recklessly.

Fang Bai already has a meticulous plan in mind, intending to lure all the high-ranking officials in the City Lord Mansion to a location once Ice Peak Immortal King returns to the mansion, and then deliver a thunderous strike to kill them all.

Thus, upon arriving at the City Lord Mansion, Fang Bai did not rush to act, instead constantly observing the situation of the mansion's high-ranking officials to know both himself and the enemy.

Although Fang Bai had previously killed the four battlefield generals of the City Lord Mansion, among the current high-ranking officials, besides the City Lord Ice Peak Immortal King, there are two Deputy City Lords of Half-Step Immortal King Realm, four Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm elders, and ten Seventh Grade Immortal Venerable Realm stewards.

The combined strength of these high-ranking officials can match a Third Grade Immortal King Realm Expert in a battle, and if considering their trump cards, their overall strength is even greater.

Therefore, Fang Bai hopes his cultivation level will improve before Ice Peak Immortal King returns, ensuring greater confidence.

After secluded cultivation in his Pill Room, Fang Bai took a solitary trip outside Immortal Emperor City, with no one knowing what he went to do.

Under Fang Bai's guidance, coupled with ample cultivation resources, Xiao Ping advanced from Fifth Grade Heavenly Immortal Realm to Sixth Grade Heavenly Immortal Realm in less than a month.

Though Sixth Grade Heavenly Immortal Realm strength might be insignificant to those Immortal Venerable Realm experts, it greatly excites Xiao Ping.

Because before, lacking cultivation resources and having average aptitude, she had little hope for advancing in a short time.

Ever since meeting Fang Bai, everything began changing swiftly.

"If you devote yourself to cultivating the Immortal Technique Secrets I imparted, combined with sufficient cultivation resources, advancing to Immortal Venerable Realm within three to five years isn't a problem."

Whenever Fang Bai's words echoed in her mind, Xiao Ping couldn't help but tremble with excitement.

"It should be Ice Peak Immortal King returning! You continue cultivating here, I'll go take a look!"

One day, while Fang Bai was instructing Xiao Ping, he suddenly sensed a powerful aura approaching, landing at the City Lord Mansion.

The powerful aura belonged to a First Grade Immortal King Realm Expert, familiar to Fang Bai and similar to Ice River Immortal Emperor, so he knew it must be Ice Peak Immortal King returning.

Additionally, Fang Bai sensed four other auras varying in strength; the stronger ones belonged to two high-ranking officials of Ice Emperor City, while the weaker auras were faint yet made Fang Bai thrilled.

Because the owners of those two faint auras clearly cultivated the Immortal Technique Secrets from Emperor's Palace, confirming they were indeed disciples of the palace.

Despite Emperor's Palace having a multitude of ten thousand disciples in bygone years, Fang Bai couldn't recognize everyone, but he could ascertain that the masters of those faint auras were once his direct disciples.

This meant that the owners of those faint auras belonged to Fang Bai's lineage of Immortal grandchildren.

Recalling how Deputy City Lord Wild Lion Immortal previously mentioned Ice Peak Immortal King and his subordinates capturing the remnants of Emperor's Palace, Fang Bai realized these two Emperor's Palace disciples of his lineage must have been captured by Ice Peak Immortal King and his two subordinates.

"These two Emperor's Palace disciples are only Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm, otherwise capturing them would have been challenging for Ice Peak Immortal King? Who knows how Ice Peak Immortal King plans to deal with them; if he intends to kill, I must intervene to rescue them and then fight my way out!"

Fang Bai strides out of the Pill Room, heading towards where Ice Peak Immortal King landed, while secretly gathering strength, preparing to act without hesitation if Ice Peak Immortal King intends harm to the two Emperor's Palace disciples.

With Fang Bai's strength, in single combat, faced against many, he might not withstand the joint forces of Ice Emperor City's high-ranking officials, but if he wishes to escape, their immortals are powerless to stop him.

Seeing the two Emperor's Palace disciples severely injured with faint auras, undoubtedly the doing of Ice Peak Immortal King and his two subordinates, Fang Bai's chest ignites with fury, a murderous intent gleamed in his eyes.

"City Lord, Alchemist Fang is coming!"

As Fang Bai reached the plaza before the City Lord's Hall, he heard the laughter of Wild Lion Immortal, then saw over a dozen high-ranking officials of Ice Emperor City surround a lean immortal like stars surrounding the moon.

The lean immortal had small eyes and an eagle-like nose; his gaze was sinister and emitted a chilling aura, making one shiver unconsciously.

Fang Bai recognized the lean immortal as Ice Peak Immortal King, also one of Ice River Immortal Emperor's disciples.

In his past life, Fang Bai had met this Ice Peak Immortal King once, identifying him instantly.

"Alchemist Fang, I've heard great things about you; welcome to the City Lord Mansion!"

Gazing at Fang Bai, who stepped forth, Ice Peak Immortal King's emotionless face showed a hint of a smile.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "I refine pills and artifacts for the City Lord Mansion, and the mansion provides me with various materials; it's mutually beneficial cooperation, why not?"

Ice Peak Immortal King laughed and said, "Alchemist Fang is absolutely right! I hope we can continue this cooperation!"

Exchanging pleasantries with Ice Peak Immortal King, Fang Bai's gaze shifted to the two Emperor's Palace disciples, bound tightly by Immortal Binding Rope and covered in wounds, suppressing his fury, he casually asked, "Who are these two immortals...?"

Chapter 2226: Fi

Two disciples from the Emperor's Palace, both suffered severe damage to the Qi Sea, resulting in scattered Immortal Qi, with no battle strength left.

Such injuries, if adjusted in time, may still have a hope of recovery, but if time drags on, there will be no possibility of healing.

As Immortals of the Immortal Realm, when the Qi Sea is destroyed, unable to use mana or secret techniques, life would truly be worse than death.

"You mean those two Immortals!"

Upon hearing Fang Bai's inquiry, the Wild Lion Immortal glanced contemptuously at those two disciples of the Emperor's Palace and said dismissively, "They are remnants of Emperor's Palace... Oh, Alchemist Fang is still young and probably doesn't know about the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace?"

Fang Bai pretended to look bewildered and shook his head, saying, "Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace? What kind of force is this?"

The Wild Lion Immortal said, "That was the most powerful force in the Immortal Realm a thousand years ago, its Palace Master titled War Emperor, commanding a hundred thousand disciples, all Immortals of the Immortal Realm trembled under his Immortal Might..."

"War Emperor..."

Fang Bai looked serene and longing, saying, "The title War Emperor... then the strength of that Palace Master must be extremely powerful!"

The Wild Lion Immortal laughed heartily and said arrogantly, "What good is being strong as the War Emperor? Didn't he still fall at the hands of several Immortal Emperors?"

Fang Bai pretended to be puzzled and asked, "What does the Deputy City Lord mean by this?"

The Wild Lion Immortal was about to boast and tell Fang Bai about the glorious story of the eight Immortal Emperors joining forces to hunt down the War Emperor and destroy the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace a thousand years ago, but was interrupted by the nearby Ice Peak Immortal King.

"Wild Lion, don't speak what shouldn't be spoken, watch your mouth!"

The Ice Peak Immortal King glared at the Wild Lion Immortal, speaking expressionlessly.

Although the battle to annihilate the Emperor's Palace passed a thousand years ago, for the eight Immortal Emperors, only by employing despicable means did they manage to kill the War Emperor.

This was ultimately not a glorious matter, hence after the Emperor's Palace was destroyed, the eight Immortal Emperors had a tacit understanding not to mention it again, and most of the disciples under the eight Immortal Emperors also kept silent on this.

The Wild Lion Immortal was rough and lacked deep schemes, liked to show off, initially wanting to tell Fang Bai about the Emperor's Palace's destruction, but after being interrupted by the Ice Peak Immortal King, realized it was not suitable to be boastful about this matter, dryly laughed and kept quiet.

The Ice Peak Immortal King glanced at Fang Bai, seeing his face full of curiosity, apparently unaware of the battle that destroyed the Emperor's Palace a thousand years ago, thus changing the topic, "Is Alchemist Fang satisfied staying at the City Lord Mansion?"

Fang Bai said, "Hmm, still alright! If your mansion could offer me richer rewards, I would feel more satisfied!"

The Ice Peak Immortal King smiled and said, "That's easy. As long as Alchemist Fang diligently refines pills and artifacts for my City Lord Mansion, then in one or two years, I will add ten percent to your existing rewards! How does that sound?"

Behind Ice Emperor City stands the powerful backing of the Ice River Immortal Emperor, with immense cultivation resources accumulated, thinking as long as Fang Bai can stay long as a tribute in the mansion, it's fine to give him more rewards.

Fang Bai was overwhelmed with joy, cupped his hands and said, "City Lord is generous! Thank you, thank you!"

After exchanging a few more words with the Ice Peak Immortal King, Fang Bai made an excuse to leave, before departing, he gave a meaningful glance at those two disciples of Emperor's Palace.

Though heavily injured, those two disciples of Emperor's Palace could hear and see, they actually saw a deep sense of concern in Fang Bai's glance before he left.

Returning to the Pill Room, Fang Bai neither refined pills nor artifacts, nor entered into cultivation seclusion, but sat cross-legged, his Divine Sense diffusely spread, probing the situation of the two disciples of Emperor's Palace captured by the Ice Peak Immortal King.

Earlier, during his conversation with the Ice Peak Immortal King, he learned that those two disciples of Emperor's Palace would not face immediate life-threatening danger, but instead be sent to the Ice River Palace, where Ice River Immortal Emperor would deal with them.

Although the Emperor's Palace was destroyed a thousand years ago, many disciples from the palace managed to escape and conceal themselves, and Ice River Immortal Emperor, one of the main forces against Fang Bai and the destruction of the palace, always feared these hidden disciples might rise again, thus has not spared efforts to hunt down the remnants of Emperor's Palace over the centuries.

Ice River Immortal Emperor had instructed all factions under her control to send any captured disciples of Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace to Ice River Palace for personal handling.

Though the Emperor's Palace has been annihilated for a thousand years, the forces that have escaped and concealed are still not to be underestimated, Ice River Immortal Emperor would only feel secure upon witnessing each disciple of the Emperor's Palace fall.

The two captured disciples of the Emperor's Palace were temporarily detained in a side hall next to the City Lord's Hall, guarded by an elder of City Lord Mansion along with two stewards.

Two disciples from the Emperor's Palace whose Qi Sea was severely damaged, almost like abolished Immortals, were guarded by a Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm elder and two Seventh Grade Immortal Venerable Realm stewards, showcasing the Ice Peak Immortal King's importance on this matter.

To avoid unexpected accidents, the Ice Peak Immortal King planned to personally escort those two disciples of Emperor's Palace to Ice River Palace to present them to Ice River Immortal Emperor early the next morning.

The next morning, Fang Bai left City Lord Mansion with Xiao Ping, claiming to practice in the mountain area outside the city.

Recently, Fang Bai and Xiao Ping often left the City Lord Mansion with the same excuse, so the Immortals of the mansion were used to it and didn't think much of it.

Shortly after Fang Bai left, the Ice Peak Immortal King also departed with two elders of City Lord Mansion, riding a Fifth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm Immortal Roc flying towards Ice River Palace.

Sitting at the front of the Immortal Roc, the Ice Peak Immortal King appeared particularly calm, but ripples surged in her heart.

Thinking of presenting those two disciples of Emperor's Palace to her master Ice River Immortal Emperor, rejoicing could mean guidance on her cultivation level or rewarding a portion of cultivation resources, a trace of smile surfaced at the corner of Ice Peak Immortal King's mouth.

Immortal Roc's speed was extremely fast, flying for thousands of miles within a day, reaching the skies above the Fiery Flame Desert.

The Fiery Flame Desert is said to be formed when a powerful Immortal overturned an Immortal furnace while refining pills, leading to the explosion of the furnace fire, creating today's area of a hundred thousand miles.

The temperature within Fiery Flame Desert is extremely high, the ground cracks over hundreds and thousands of feet wide, nothing grows or survives there, even Immortal Qi thins significantly, regarded as dead land by the Immortals of the Immortal Realm.

The Immortal Roc of Fifth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm seemed to also dread Fiery Flame Desert, and upon reaching here, it shrieked and elevated its flying height a thousand feet to prevent the desert's scorching heat from affecting its flight.

While flying over the Fiery Flame Desert's depths, the Ice Peak Immortal King suddenly sensed a strong evil qi rising into the sky.

"That is..."

The Ice Peak Immortal King's heart stirred, she scanned with her Divine Sense, discovering in the low-lying land spanning thousands of feet within the desert, an Ownerless Blood Saber.

The saber was about five feet long, its entirety dyed like fresh blood, reflecting dazzling crimson light, the strong evil qi the Ice Peak Immortal King sensed earlier emanated from the blade.

Chapter 2227: Trapped Immortal King

"What intense Evil Qi! That ownerless Blood Saber, I can't discern its grade—it must be a Supreme Immortal Artifact!"

The Ice Peak Immortal King never expected to encounter such a powerful, ownerless Immortal Artifact here and was overjoyed, knowing the Immortal Roc dared not descend. He leapt off the Immortal Roc's back, transforming into a streak of light, and landed on the ground of the Fiery Flame Desert.

He focused his sight on the Blood Saber, realizing that the blade must have absorbed the blood of many Immortals to form such intense Evil Qi.

"The grade of this saber is too high to estimate. When battling an opponent, the mere release of Evil Qi from the blade can plunge them into an illusion, losing themselves. If I can wield it, among experts of the same realm, I will be invincible!"

The Ice Peak Immortal King had exceptional vision, discerning the extraordinary nature of the Blood Saber and speculating it might have been left by a fallen powerhouse, discovered by chance.

The more he looked, the more he liked it; he spread his right hand fingers and with a void grasp, the Blood Saber flew into his hand.

Once in hand, the blood-red Evil Qi instantly surrounded him.

The Ice Peak Immortal King screamed inwardly, realizing he should dispel the Evil Qi with Immortal Law, but it was too late. His mind spun rapidly, followed by the appearance of the Corpse Mountain Blood Sea hellish illusion.

"Ah! This Blood Saber is peculiar!"

Being an Immortal King Realm expert, he knew hesitation could lead to disaster. He bit his tongue vehemently, and the pain brought him out of the illusion. He then flung the Blood Saber far away.

Unexpectedly, the Blood Saber struck the ground, rebounded swiftly, expanded to over ten yards in length mid-air, and sliced down at the Ice Peak Immortal King.

The saber's aura surged, heavy with Killing Qi, and as it sliced down, it seemed to split the void in two, terrifying in presence.

Even an experienced Immortal King Realm expert like him was startled by the Blood Saber's dreadful power.

Unable to evade, he had to summon a pair of golden mace Immortal Artifacts in response.

The golden maces expanded in the wind, reaching ten yards in length, as thick as a barrel within moments.

He tossed the maces, forming a cross in the air, to block the descending Blood Saber.

This pair of maces made from top-grade Fine Gold mixed with dozens of immortal materials was a King Grade Immortal Artifact, its power remarkable.

With these maces, Ice Peak Immortal King rarely met a match among Immortals of the same realm.

Suddenly, he realized that while the Blood Saber was ownerless, the Artifact Spirit within might not be gone; otherwise, it couldn't attack autonomously. To claim it, he must suppress the Artifact Spirit, then infuse it with blood merged with Divine Sense, enabling the Artifact Spirit to obey his will.

However, given the Blood Saber's high grade, the Artifact Spirit within must be incredibly powerful. He lacked confidence in subduing it, yet was willing to try—in success, the saber would immensely boost his combat power.

"City Lord!"

Seeing the saber target the City Lord with rapid ferocity, two City Lord Mansion Elders seated on the Immortal Roc were finally alarmed, worried for their lord's safety, ready to descend to support the Ice Peak Immortal King.

Just as they stood up, a sudden, high-pitched whistle sounded, catching their eyes—a black streak flew quickly from afar, blocking the Immortal Roc's path.

The black streak was an Immortal, one recognized by the two Elders.

"Alchemist Fang, why are you here?"

Seeing the Immortal before the Roc, the two Elders of Ice Emperor City Lord Mansion were taken aback.

The black streak was Fang Bai, who previously departed before the Ice Peak Immortal King and Elders; unexpectedly, he was found here.

"Where is the Xiao Ping Fairy who departed with you?"

Another Elder asked.

Fang Bai gestured towards the Fiery Flame Desert below, saying, "I'm here to find a suitable burial site for the City Lord and you two. How do you find the basin below? If your bodies were buried, sealed by dust, it would become a vast grave of a thousand yards!"

"Alchemist Fang, what do you mean by this?"

An Elder questioned angrily and with shock.

These two City Lord Mansion Elders, each over a thousand years old, were cunning. Reflecting on the Ice Peak Immortal King's recent encounter, Fang Bai's coincidental appearance, they vaguely understood something, yet doubted it could be true.

"Bang!"

Suddenly, a loud clash sounded as the Blood Saber hit the Ice Peak Immortal King's maces.

With the noise came sparks, creating a blaze of fireworks in the sky, soon vanished by the impact wave from the Immortal Artifacts.

"It's simple—I plan to kill you all!"

As Fang Bai spoke, thousands of Immortal Stones fell from the sky, embedding themselves systematically in the basin below or its edges.

"Combine!"

Seeing the stones settle, Fang Bai uttered lightly, and instantly, thousands of radiant beams soared, weaving into a massive light curtain in the sky, akin to an inverted cauldron lid, covering the thousand-yard basin.

Likewise, the Ice Peak Immortal King was enveloped within the light curtain.

"He actually knows Formation!"

Seeing the City Lord covered by a light curtain, no longer sensing his presence or seeing his figure, the two City Lord Mansion Elders were horrified, realizing the City Lord was ensnared in a supreme Formation.

The Formation was deemed supreme because the Elders noticed its light curtain trembled every few seconds—obviously, Ice Peak Immortal King attempted to breach it from within, yet the curtain initially quivered for mere moments, then became rock-stable.

Couldn't a Formation unbreakable by an Immortal King Realm expert be supreme?

"Alchemist Fang, are you mad?"

"Why do you want to kill us?"

The Elders, now observing Fang Bai with heightened vigilance, with Immortal Artifact in hand.

They now realized Fang Bai's aura, originally Fourth Rank Immortal Venerable Realm, had grown significantly strong, rendering them unable to discern him.

"Hiss..."

This insight left the Elders gasping, feeling despair.

Fang Bai laughed heartily towards the sky, his appearance morphing swiftly under the Elders' eyes to a handsome young visage.

Seeing this face, the Elders trembled, eyes widened, mouths agape, displaying disbelief.

Chapter 2228 -

A thousand years ago, the forces of the eight Immortal Emperors came out in full force, besieging the Palace Master of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and annihilating a hundred thousand disciples of the palace.

That battle involved a million immortals from both sides, lasting for ages and was extremely fierce, with massive losses on both sides in the end.

The two elders from the City Lord Mansion were also part of that battle, led by the Ice River Immortal Emperor, and were severely wounded, nearly perishing. It took them a century of recuperation to finally recover.

During that battle, these two elders had the fortune to catch a glimpse of the true visage of the Invincible War Emperor, a legendary figure in the Immortal Realm. Although it was just a fleeting glance, they haven't forgotten it to this day.

And the handsome young man before them, whether in appearance, expression, or demeanor, is exceedingly similar to that Invincible War Emperor from years ago, almost as if carved from the same mold.

Momentarily, the two elders from the City Lord Mansion both thought that the Invincible Tiger Emperor from back then had returned, causing their bodies to tremble, teeth to chatter, and terror to overwhelm them.

But they quickly snapped back to reality, realizing it couldn't be.

After all, that Invincible War Emperor had perished a millennium ago, in a siege by eight top-tier Immortal Emperors, with both body and soul eradicated.

This fact has been confirmed by the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors.

The handsome young man before them should simply resemble that Invincible War Emperor, with his cultivation level definitely not at the Immortal Emperor Realm; they were merely frightening themselves.

"Why kill you? That's a ridiculous question..."

Fang Bai spoke of "ridiculousness," but his face showed no hint of humor, his eyes brimming with a penetrating coldness.

He thought of the blood-filled massacre against him and the hundred thousand palace disciples a thousand years ago, his chest swelling with hatred and a killing intent suffusing, eager to seek out the eight Immortal Emperors for vengeance, using their lives to honor the indomitable spirits of the fallen palace disciples.

"In the battle that annihilated the palace years ago, your hands, as Ice River Immortal Emperor's subordinates, were stained with the blood of palace disciples. As the Palace Master, how could I stand against the fallen palace disciples if I don't kill you?"

Fang Bai looked at the two elders from the City Lord Mansion, his expression stern, speaking coldly.

"You... you... you..."

The two elders from the City Lord Mansion heard Fang Bai's latter words, and their bodies jolted as if struck by lightning, trembling even more than before, unable to speak clearly.

"My name is Fang Bai, titled War Emperor in the Immortal Realm, the inaugural Palace Master of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace!"

Fang Bai looked at the two elders from the City Lord Mansion whose faces were gray and whose expressions were filled with despair, no longer concealing his cultivation level, letting his killing intent envelop them completely, coldly laughing: "You cannot die unjustly at my hands!"

Few immortals in the Immortal Realm knew Fang Bai's name; neither of the two elders from the City Lord Mansion had heard of it.

But the title "War Emperor" in the Immortal Realm solely belonged to the Palace Master, so upon hearing Fang Bai declare himself "War Emperor" and "Palace Master of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace," the two elders from the City Lord Mansion blacked out, their bodies softened, nearly falling from midair.

"In that battle a thousand years ago, the War Emperor fell under the siege of the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors! You are not the War Emperor! You are not!"

One elder from the City Lord Mansion shouted hysterically.

"Your strength is far inferior to the War Emperor! You... you must be impersonating the War Emperor!"

The other elder from the City Lord Mansion, though terrified, refused to admit Fang Bai was truly the War Emperor.

They had encountered several Immortal Emperors before, knowing the terrifying strength of immortals in the Immortal Emperor Realm; if Fang Bai were the War Emperor, just a release of his Immortal Might would render the two elders from the City Lord Mansion unable to resist, resulting in their death or injury.

But the "War Emperor" named Fang Bai before them was clearly far inferior to any Immortal Emperor they've seen, at most one of the remnants of the Emperor's Palace or an immortal deeply connected to the Emperor's Palace.

Thinking this, the two elders from the City Lord Mansion were no longer as fearful.

Fang Bai coldly laughed. In his eyes, the two elders from the City Lord Mansion were already dead, not willing to waste more words with them.

"Die! Your City Lord, the Ice Peak Immortal King, will soon follow your footsteps, accompanying you on the Netherworld Road!"

Fang Bai coldly snorted, his eyes shining fiercely, wielding a Palm Blade, slashing towards the two elders from the City Lord Mansion.

"Soul Severing! Silence Annihilation!"

As the two Palm Blades were unleashed, Fang Bai lightly uttered these four words.

These two Palm Blades were the most powerful moves among the three forms of Mad Blade, although he didn't have the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in hand, which weakened its power, it was still not something the two Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm elders from the City Lord Mansion could withstand.

"No!"

Seeing the two golden blade beams cutting across the void, slashing towards them, the two elders from the City Lord Mansion locked firmly by Fang Bai's aura were scared out of their wits, crying out in despair.

"Pfft!"

The sharp blade edge, formed by the condensation of golden attribute Immortal Qi, sliced across the necks and waist of the two elders from the City Lord Mansion, directly destroying their Qi Sea and depriving them of vitality, causing them to fall dead on the spot.

Thus, the two Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm experts, killed by Fang Bai's casual strike without any resistance.

The Immortal Roc belonging to the City Lord Mansion, hovering not far away, was highly intelligent. Seeing two of its three masters killed by Fang Bai, it panicked and attempted to fly away.

"You beast, where do you think you're going!"

On the back of the Immortal Roc were two unconscious disciples of the palace; Fang Bai couldn't let it escape.

Immediately, Fang Bai used the Beast Taming Scripture, emitting a high-pitched and fluctuating roar from his mouth and nose, transforming into sound waves that enveloped the Fifth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm Immortal Roc.

Within the sound wave, the Roc's eyes, initially bright like lightning, gradually became perplexed, streaked with several blood threads.

Moments later, the Roc cried out, flew to Fang Bai's side, behaving like a tame kitten.

Fang Bai landed on the Roc's back, channeling two streams of Chaos True Qi into the bodies of the two unconscious palace disciples before flying down from the Roc's back to the ground.

At this moment, in the vast depression spanning a thousand feet, the Ice Peak Immortal King, trapped in the Formation, was continuously unleashing full force against the surrounding light screen, attempting to break out by force.

Meanwhile, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, controlled by the Artifact Spirit, hovered in the air outside the Formation, ready to attack the moment the Ice Peak Immortal King breaks free.

"Ice Peak Immortal King, I will kill you, and use your blood to feed my Blood-Drinking Mad Blade! Use your corpse to craft a Puppet Corpse, and battle the eight Immortal Emperors!"

Fang Bai probed with his Divine Sense, observing the urgently furious face of the Ice Peak Immortal King within the light screen, his eyes shooting with icy gleam.

With a slight thought, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade floating in the air flew before him. Gripping its hilt, he effortlessly entered the light screen, placing himself in the Formation along with the Ice Peak Immortal King.

"Alchemist Fang? How... are you here? And this blade..."

The Ice Peak Immortal King, trapped in the Formation, unaware of the external happenings, was visibly startled when he saw Fang Bai suddenly appear, holding the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, faintly sensing something amiss.

Chapter 2229: Battle at Ice Edge

"No! You are not Alchemist Fang! You... you are..."

When Fang Bai suddenly appeared within the formation, Ice Peak Immortal King didn't clearly see his face. He instinctively assumed it was Fang Bai based on the attire he wore.

However, Fang Bai's facial features soon came into full view. Ice Peak Immortal King shuddered, retreated repeatedly, and his expression turned extremely fearful.

"That's right, I am indeed the War Emperor you guessed! This Blood Blade is mine! I am here to kill you all!"

Fang Bai held the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his hand, walking step by step towards Ice Peak Immortal King. The killing qi on him mixed with the evil qi of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, becoming almost tangible, surging towards Ice Peak Immortal King and enveloping him.

"You..."

Ice Peak Immortal King's throat was dry, his mind went blank, and he was trembling like a leaf, unconsciously continuing to retreat.

"This Immortal Array was also set up by me, specifically to deal with you! Oh, and by the way, the two Elders of your City Lord Mansion have already fallen by my hand! Now, it's your turn!"

Fang Bai raised the Blood Blade, and the tip of the blade pointed at Ice Peak Immortal King.

At this moment, he no longer held back his aura, fully releasing it to envelop Ice Peak Immortal King.

"Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm cultivation level? Who are you exactly, Immortal, to dare impersonate the War Emperor of old!"

Upon sensing Fang Bai's true cultivation level, Ice Peak Immortal King was no longer as fearful as before, and his expression quickly returned to normal.

In Ice Peak Immortal King's mind, if this Immortal before him was truly the Invincible War Emperor of old, how could his cultivation level be so weak?

"Perhaps this Immortal merely resembles the Invincible War Emperor of old in appearance. Claiming to be the War Emperor might be a tactic to threaten and intimidate me, taking the opportunity to extort some cultivation resources from me... Hmm, that must be it!"

The more Ice Peak Immortal King thought about it, the more he felt it was possible, and his initial fear quickly turned into anger.

He was unaware that although Fang Bai's cultivation level was only Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm, his combat strength far surpassed his own, and with the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in hand, he could easily crush him.

"Impersonate War Emperor?"

Fang Bai chuckled self-mockingly, shaking his head, "True, a thousand years ago, all the immortals in the Immortal Realm believed I had perished, and now my cultivation has merely recovered to the Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm. No wonder you would think I am an impostor... However, you are about to die, so whether I truly am the War Emperor or not, it no longer matters to you!"

Ice Peak Immortal King looked at the expression on Fang Bai's face, noting the absence of the imposing dignity and demeanor befitting an Immortal Emperor, becoming even more convinced his suspicion was correct.

"I am more inclined to believe you are a remnant of the Emperor's Palace! Just in time, I was going to the Ice River Immortal Emperor to celebrate her birthday. I'll capture you and present you, along with those two previous remnants of the Emperor's Palace, to my master as a gift!"

Ice Peak Immortal King laughed heartily.

However, as he laughed, he saw Fang Bai's hand wield the Blood Blade, unleashing a skyful of blood-red blade light, weaving a blood-red net, slashing towards him.

Where the blood-red net passed, black cracks appeared in the void, as though torn and sliced open by the blood-red blade light.

Ice Peak Immortal King's laughter abruptly stopped.

Because he shockingly discovered that the net of blade light, woven from blood-red light, felt like a net cast by the Grim Reaper, posing a deadly threat to him.

"A Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm Immortal couldn't possibly possess such great combat strength! It must be the Blood Blade's enhancement that makes his combat power so formidable!"

Thinking this way, Ice Peak Immortal King summoned his Immortal Artifact, controlling it to fly into the air to counter the blood-red net of blade light.

His Immortal Artifact was also a blade and a Supreme Immortal Artifact of the King Grade. Its appearance seemed even more majestic and ferocious than Fang Bai's Blood-Drinking Mad Blade.

This blade-shaped Immortal Artifact was a reward from Ice River Immortal Emperor to Ice Peak Immortal King centuries ago, to commend his achievements in hunting down disciples of the Emperor's Palace. He seldom used it unless facing an evenly matched opponent.

Unexpectedly, Fang Bai, a Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm expert, forced him to use the Immortal Artifact, which had been sealed away in his Sea of Consciousness for so long.

"Zheng!"

The blade-shaped Immortal Artifact collided with the blood-red net of blade light, producing an ear-piercing metallic clash sound, sparks flying, and the expected scenario of the blood-red net being sliced by his Immortal Artifact did not occur. Instead, the Immortal Artifact was struck back with force, falling down.

The blood-red net momentarily paused, then continued to descend over Ice Peak Immortal King's head.

As Ice Peak Immortal King caught his Immortal Artifact, he felt a bout of dizziness, his blood boiling, and almost spat out a mouthful.

He knew what was happening, and was greatly shocked. Upon closer inspection, he discovered several hair-thin cracks on his Immortal Artifact, damaged during the earlier clash of artifacts.

Ice Peak Immortal King was both shocked and angry, his eyes about to burst with rage.

He never expected the Supreme Immortal Artifact bestowed by his master would be damaged when confronting a Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm Immortal, right as they first engaged in combat. If his fellow disciples found out, they would surely mock him for being incompetent and failing to protect the Immortal Artifact given by his master.

"How dare a mere lowly Immortal deceive me!"

Ice Peak Immortal King was furious, quickly chanting an immortal incantation, and once again throwing the Immortal Artifact in his hand.

As the Immortal Artifact spun rapidly into the air, it multiplied into ten, then a hundred, then a thousand... Aiming to pierce the looming blood-red net into tatters, a forest of ice blades and a rain of swords condensed from water attribute immortal qi shot toward the blood-red net.

This move, "Myriad Sword Exterminate the Immortal," learned from his master Ice River Immortal Emperor, was a secret technique that was Ice Peak Immortal King's ace for survival. He did not expect to be forced to use it just in the second round of fighting with Fang Bai.

Fang Bai's earlier attack with the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade was too fierce, the killing intent so intense that Ice Peak Immortal King's scalp tingled, leaving him no choice but to exert all his strength.

"Dang!"

"Dang!"

"Dang!"

...

Thousands of ice blades and snow swords formed from water immortal qi clashed against the blood-red net of blade light, emitting crisp and ear-deafening metal collision sounds, causing space to ripple constantly.

Supported by an Immortal King using his full strength combined with an Immortal Artifact, the attack naturally was no trivial matter, finally halting the descent of the blood-red blade net.

Although the blood-red net was stopped, it did not sway Fang Bai's confidence in his determination to kill Ice Peak Immortal King, as in the previous attack he had held back significantly, not exerting his full force.

He believed with another strike, Ice Peak Immortal King could be executed.

"The third move is coming..."

Fang Bai summoned the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade back to his hand, exhaled lightly, and almost within an instant, executed three consecutive strikes with the blade: Bloodthirst, Soul Severing, and Silence Annihilation.

"Buzz!"

With a slight buzzing sound, three sharp blood lights, layered and intertwined, spanned over ten feet across the sky, slashing towards Ice Peak Immortal King with unstoppable force.

Chapter 2230: The City Lord Falls

Ever since Ice Peak Immortal King and two elders from the City Lord Mansion left Ice Emperor City to personally escort two captured remnants of the Emperor's Palace to Ice River Palace, the disciples of the City Lord Mansion were ordered to stay in their residences and cultivate in peace. The enormous mansion maintained a serene order.

That evening, the two disciples responsible for guarding the Soul Hall suddenly came stumbling out.

"Something bad has happened! The Soul Lamps of the City Lord and the two elders have extinguished!"

The two disciples rushed outside, shouting loudly with desperation, their faces marked by fear.

Upon hearing their cries, a dozen senior members of the City Lord Mansion were the first to arrive, followed by hundreds of disciples gathering around the Soul Hall.

"What are you talking about?"

Wild Lion Immortal swiftly appeared before the two panicked disciples guarding the Soul Lamps, grabbing the collar of one and fiercely questioning with reddened eyes.

"Extinguished... The Soul Lamps of the City Lord and two elders... extinguished..."

The disciple, already terrified, was nearly scared out of his wits by Wild Lion Immortal's roar, trembling as he spoke.

"If you dare spread lies, I will crush your bones to dust!"

Wild Lion Immortal threatened harshly, throwing the disciple aside and rushing into the Soul Hall.

"How... how could this be..."

Inside the Soul Hall, Wild Lion Immortal found the Soul Lamp belonging to Ice Peak Immortal King extinguished, as well as those of the two elders, leaving him thunderstruck in shock.

Other senior members of the mansion followed Wild Lion Immortal into the hall, only to freeze in disbelief like him.

Without the Deputy City Lord's command, they dared not enter the Soul Hall fully but could use their Divine Sense to investigate. Upon discovering the extinguished Soul Lamps, a wave of commotion ensued.

"How could this happen... how could this happen..."

Standing beside Wild Lion Immortal was Qingyang Immortal, a half-step Immortal King Realm expert and one of the Deputy City Lords. He looked at the extinguished Soul Lamps with an ominously dark expression.

"Tell me, when did the Soul Lamps of the City Lord and the elders extinguish?"

Wild Lion Immortal turned back from the Soul Hall, demanding answers from the two disciples on guard.

"Just now... As soon as we found the lamps extinguished, we came out to alert everyone!"

One of the disciples answered fearfully.

"The City Lord and the elders must have met with misfortune on the way to Ice River Palace. Qingyang, you stay here while I take some disciples to investigate! The City Lord is a disciple of Ice River Immortal Emperor; I want to see which Immortal dared to kill him..."

Wild Lion Immortal said furiously, preparing to take some disciples from the mansion to trace the City Lord's and elders' flight path and investigate.

Qingyang Immortal hurriedly advised, "Don't act recklessly!"

Seeing Wild Lion Immortal glaring at him, he smiled bitterly, "Think about it, since the adversary could kill the City Lord and two elders, they must possess power far beyond ours. Even if you go, it would be in vain, like throwing your life away!"

Though Wild Lion Immortal was impulsive and aggressive, he wasn't foolish. He understood Qingyang Immortal's reasoning; if the adversary could kill someone with Immortal King Realm power and Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable elders, they must at least be a Second Grade Immortal King Realm expert.

And with the diminished strength of the mansion after losing Ice Peak Immortal King and the elders, taking all disciples to face the enemy would be futile.

"Then what do you propose? We can't just hide in the mansion forever."

Wild Lion Immortal huffed.

Qingyang Immortal, less impulsive than Wild Lion Immortal, thought carefully before saying, "The adversary took a risk angering Ice River Immortal Emperor by killing the City Lord and two elders; it must be related to the Emperor's Palace remnants. We should send disciples to Ice River Palace and inform Ice River Immortal Emperor, letting her handle it."

Wild Lion Immortal nodded, "Agreed! The City Lord is a disciple of Ice River Immortal Emperor. Upon learning of his death, she will be furious. If Ice River Immortal Emperor intervenes, the culprit will be found and dealt with!"

Qingyang Immortal said, "No time to waste, I'll handle going to Ice River Palace. Wild Lion, you stay at the mansion with the disciples!"

At once, Qingyang Immortal mounted an Immortal Roc, soaring towards Ice River Palace.

From Ice Emperor City to Ice River Palace, it's hundreds of thousands of miles away; a fixed route allows the quickest passage.

In the past, disciples of Ice Emperor City followed this route on Immortal Rocs to Ice River Palace.

Due to the prior attack, Qingyang Immortal avoided the fixed route, planning to take a detour to avoid more ambushes.

Flying over a thousand miles, he spotted an incoming Immortal Roc.

"Isn't that the Roc used by the City Lord and elders? Wait, why is Alchemist Fang on it?"

Seeing Fang Bai, the new mansion tribute, sitting on the Roc's back, Qingyang Immortal felt a moment of confusion.

In a blink, the Roc neared.

"Alchemist Fang, what are you doing here? Do you know of the City Lord and elders' demise?"

Qingyang Immortal asked urgently.

He assumed Fang Bai might have encountered the Roc and rode it back without knowing of the tragedy.

"Qingyang Immortal, look, what's this?"

Fang Bai didn't answer directly but extended his right hand, revealing three Space Immortal Rings.

At the sight of the familiar rings, Qingyang Immortal's mind buzzed, a dreadful suspicion forming, as he angrily asked, "How do you have the City Lord and two elders' Space Immortal Rings? Did you...?"

He intended to ask if Fang Bai killed them but doubted it, knowing Fang Bai's Fourth Grade Immortal Venerable cultivation couldn't match theirs.

Fang Bai chuckled, leisurely stating, "Indeed, Ice Peak Immortal King and the two elders fell by my hand. Their rings contain good cultivation resources, but I desire all resources in your Ice Emperor City!"

"Impossible! You couldn't best the City Lord and elders! Who are you really? What's your intent in joining the mansion? And how did you obtain those rings?"

Fang Bai's words sparked anger and suspicion in Qingyang Immortal; he doubted Fang Bai's capability yet sensed foul intentions behind joining the mansion.