

Doctor 2291

Chapter 2291: Taoist Master Is Still Young and Doesn't Want to Die

"Silence?"

The Female Immortal in the yellow dress looked at Wu De, who was rubbing his fists, and smiled instead of becoming angry, "Just the two of you?"

Lightning Mink swung its sharp claws, creating five long light traces in the void, chuckling coldly, "Killing you alone is enough!"

"Ha... is that so?"

The Female Immortal in the yellow dress glanced towards the distant horizon, a trace of mocking smile appearing at the corner of her mouth, saying, "I won't die, but you certainly will!"

As soon as she finished speaking, Wu De and Lightning Mink sensed numerous powerful auras rapidly approaching, their expressions instantly changing.

Those auras all came from Immortal King Realm Experts, and were extremely similar to the Female Immortal in the yellow dress, indicating they were from the same sect.

In just moments, more than ten Immortal King Realm Experts wearing bright yellow robes or skirts approached from all directions, blocking all retreats for Wu De and Lightning Mink.

The Female Immortal in the yellow dress looked at Wu De and Lightning Mink, who now appeared rather grim, and couldn't hide the smugness in her laughter.

"We've fallen for this wretched woman's trap!"

Wu De slapped his leg abruptly, speaking in frustration.

Previously, he and Lightning Mink had successfully executed a 'trap the enemy' strategy to slay the Immortal King in the yellow robe. This time, they intended to repeat the trick to lure the Female Immortal in the yellow dress into the Immortal Array to jointly slay her.

Now, while the Female Immortal in the yellow dress did chase after them, she didn't "enter the snare," but instead brought along more than ten of her fellow disciples.

Wu De thought carefully and concluded that this woman had likely premeditated this, and while they intended to use a 'trap the enemy' strategy to lure her out, she had played a 'draw the snake from its hole' strategy instead.

The "snake" refers to the murderer who slew the Immortal King in the yellow robe.

Wu De had slain the Immortal Beast of the Female Immortal in the yellow dress within the Immortal City, leading her to conclude that even if he wasn't the murderer of her fellow, he was highly suspect, prompting the relentless pursuit, during which she left many traces that her fellow disciples followed to track them here.

"Enough talk, let's join forces to form a formation and try to break out! If that doesn't work, we'll fight to kill a few of them!"

Lightning Mink quickly transmitted to Wu De.

"I'm still young, I don't want to die!"

Wu De muttered, then suddenly acted, rushing towards the Eastern horizon in harmony with Lightning Mink.

They knew that once surrounded by more than ten Immortal King Realm Experts, it would be nearly certain death, their only chance was to forcefully break out, thus they elevated their combat strength to its peak, attacking with all their might.

Among the more than ten disciples from Qingtian Palace, blocking the way in the Eastern horizon were four Immortals of the weakest strength, which was why Wu De and Lightning Mink chose to break through from there.

Their figures were incredibly fast, like two sharp blades with an unstoppable, unbreakable momentum piercing forward.

The four Immortal King Realm Experts blocking them slightly changed their expressions, not expecting their attack to be so strong.

However, they held the advantage in numbers, and had a main expert of the second grade Immortal King Realm among them, although surprised, they were unafraid, each wielding an Immortal Artifact, launching a combined strike.

"Boom!"

The attacks from both sides, wielding Immortal Artifacts, collided fiercely in midair, with a shock wave of immortal power dispersing in all directions, the overwhelming force darkening the void.

Both sides were forced back several hundred feet simultaneously, neither managing to gain the upper hand.

Wu De and Lightning Mink maintained a stern expression without hesitation, once again wielding Immortal Artifacts, charging forward.

The four opposing Immortal King Realm Experts were utterly shocked.

They couldn't believe that a ninth grade Immortal Venerable Realm Expert and a first grade Immortal King Realm Expert could team up and match their strength, it was truly incredible.

Of course, they could see that Wu De and Lightning Mink seemed to be using a joint formation, which boosted their power far beyond their own strength.

However, Wu De and Lightning Mink ultimately failed to break through the defense formed by the four Immortal King Realm Experts, and, after dozens of breaths, the more than ten disciples from Qingtian Palace surrounded them once more, sealing off any chance of escape.

"Is my life, as the Taoist Master, really going to end here today? Alas, I've far from lived enough, I don't want to die!"

Back-to-back, Wu De and Lightning Mink looked at the more than ten approaching disciples from Qingtian Palace, sighing.

Lightning Mink coldly sneered, "If you don't want to die, you can beg for mercy, maybe they'll spare you!"

Wu De pouted, saying, "You think I don't see through it? If we get caught by them, we'll end up scattered bones and ashes!"

Lightning Mink's eyes flashed coldly, shouting fiercely, "Good you know! Come then, let's fight them!"

Wu De, reinvigorated, shouted loudly, "Alright! Listen to you! Killing two is even, killing three is profit!"

They roared, forming the Twin Dragons Slaying Immortals Array, and launched frenzied attacks on the surrounding enemies.

They disregarded life and death, this reckless fighting style momentarily forced the more than ten surrounding Qingtian Palace experts into a chaotic scramble.

Despite their fierce assault, they were outnumbered and overpowered, inevitably the situation flipped, Wu De and Lightning Mink were thoroughly suppressed, the encirclement formed by the more than ten Qingtian Palace experts shrank from a thousand-foot range to nearly a hundred feet.

They managed to hold out for another hundred breaths or so before Wu De and Lightning Mink's bodies were covered in various wounds, flesh turned outward, blood gushing, some places with bone visibly deep.

"Old Taoist Wu, Master Mink doesn't want to play with them anymore!"

Lightning Mink suddenly turned its head and said, its head and face covered in blood, looking violent and terrifying.

Wu De spit a mouthful of blood foam, saying, "What do you mean? Don't tell me you want to surrender?"

Lightning Mink angrily replied, "Bullshit! Master Mink intends to self-detonate, drag them down to hell!"

Wu De laughed loudly, "Haha, we brothers had the same thought! Perishing with more than ten Immortal King Realm Experts is a big victory for us!"

Their conversation was rapid, and by the time the more than ten Qingtian Palace disciples heard the words "self-detonation" and realized it, they found that their garments were already rapidly swelling, the violent Immortal Qi emanating from them, enveloping the surroundings.

This was a sign of impending self-detonation by Immortals, the more than ten Qingtian Palace disciples were shocked, immediately retreating backward.

If Wu De and Lightning Mink were to self-detonate simultaneously, the resulting impact force would be too powerful, making it difficult for a first grade Immortal King Realm Expert to withstand within a ten-mile radius, even if they escaped by luck, they would likely suffer severe injuries.

Therefore, the more than ten Qingtian Palace disciples used all their strength to retreat, the further they withdrew, the less impact they would face.

They also knew that once the self-detonation mode of an Immortal was initiated, it was irreversible unless intervened by a powerful external force to forcibly suppress it, otherwise the Immortal opting for self-detonation would inevitably die.

Chapter 2292: He's Here!

A streak of white light shot forth from the distant horizon, moving at a speed beyond imagination.

When the white light was a thousand feet away from Wu De and the Lightning Mink, it unleashed two powerful waves of immortal power, enveloping Wu De and the Lightning Mink.

These two waves of immortal power were soft yet tough, like two large nets continually tightening. Not only was the rapidly swelling immortal qi of Wu De and the Lightning Mink restrained, but under the strong interference of the external immortal power, it began to return to their bodies, and within moments, it was all back in the Qi Sea.

Although the self-detonation state was lifted, the side effects began to appear. Wu De and the Lightning Mink seemed to have all their strength drained, their bodies went limp, and they fell from the sky towards the ground.

With a layer of immortal power surrounding them, they did not get injured upon landing. Overturned, they lay on the ground facing the sky, too lazy to move.

"It's him!"

"Yes, he's here, we're safe now!"

"Taoist Master, I have a feeling..."

"What?"

"He noticed us long ago, just spying from the side, and only intervening when we were in a moment of life and death..."

"Indeed, Master Mink, I have the same feeling..."

"How could he do this? If he'd appeared sooner, Taoist Master, I wouldn't have been in such a sorry state. We wouldn't be injured all over, almost forced to self-detonate... When we see him later, let's reprimand him together!"

"Okay, you go reprimand him, I'll support you spiritually!"

"You're... not loyal!"

"Wu Old Taoist, look at his strength now, solving an Immortal King Realm expert with one strike. You're not afraid, but I am..."

...

Wu De and the Lightning Mink, lying on the ground and looking up, saw that white silhouette in the sky. Recognizing the familiar aura emanating from him, they completely relaxed and started chatting back and forth, though their eyes never left the fierce battle occurring above.

In the sky, above the auspicious clouds, Fang Bai, dressed in white as pure as snow, wielded the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade. With each slash, blood splattered, and another Immortal fell.

When he killed the sixth Immortal, the remaining ones were terrified, lost the will to fight, and fled separately.

Fang Bai sheathed the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and rapidly formed mysterious hand seals with his fingers, then thrust them outward. Instantaneously, numerous golden swords, formed from Golden Immortal Qi, flew out, catching up to the fleeing Immortals and piercing their bodies, claiming their lives.

"I know, this secret technique of his is called 'Myriad Sword to Origin'. If his cultivation level were even stronger, he could release more golden swords and slay thousands of enemies!"

Lightning Mink said, looking at Fang Bai, who stood suspended in the sky with white clothes fluttering, a face full of admiration.

The Lightning Mink submits to no one, not the heavens or earth, except for Fang Bai.

Wu De looked at the corpses of over ten Qingtian Palace Immortals falling to the ground and muttered, "Wow... every time I see him, his cultivation has greatly improved. I really don't know how he cultivates. What realm is he now; I can't tell at all!"

After a pause, he added, "Earlier, we were beaten by over ten Qingtian Palace disciples almost to the point of self-detonation, and yet he killed them instantly—the disparity is too great... Little Mink, doesn't this just pierce the heart? Sigh, later I'll have him teach me the 'Myriad Sword to Origin' secret technique!"

"Teach you?"

Lightning Mink said disdainfully, "Will you learn it?"

Wu De said, "What are you talking about! Taoist Master, I am an extraordinarily talented person with dual attribute innate spiritual roots of earth and gold. What can't I learn?"

Lightning Mink snickered and asked, "How much have you comprehended of the Meteor Shower Fist and Profound Armor Shield he taught you?"

Meteor Shower Fist and Profound Armor Shield are secret techniques of golden attribute attack and earth attribute defense, respectively, which Fang Bai taught to Wu De before ascending.

Although Wu De is diligent in cultivation, these attack and defense secret techniques are profoundly advanced. To this day, he has comprehended less than twenty percent.

Hearing Lightning Mink's inquiry, Wu De hesitated and said ambiguously, "This...Meteor Shower Fist and Profound Armor Shield are not ordinary immortal technique secrets..."

Lightning Mink said, "Master Mink learned the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art from him, which is also no ordinary immortal technique secret. Now it has almost reached the third level... heh heh, you're not as good as me!"

Wu De snorted and said, "Don't be smug! He said that we both have special constitutions and have the potential to become Immortal Emperors, so let's see who reaches that realm first!"

Lightning Mink fearlessly responded, "Challenge accepted; Master Mink isn't afraid of you!"

While they bickered, Fang Bai had already descended from the sky beside them.

"Luckily, I came a step early, otherwise you two would be nothing more than blood mist scattered in the air now."

Fang Bai looked at Wu De and the Lightning Mink lying on the ground and said with a smile.

"Palace Master..."

Wu De and the Lightning Mink looked at Fang Bai standing before them, feeling the overwhelming immortal might emanating from him. Struggling to stand, they addressed him no longer as "him" but respectfully as "Palace Master."

After all, they were disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace, having been taught immortal technique secrets by Fang Bai. Considered both mentor and friend, it was acceptable to refer to Fang Bai as "him" behind his back, knowing he wouldn't hold it against them, but facing Fang Bai, they dared not be disrespectful.

Seeing Wu De and the Lightning Mink trying, yet unable, to stand and pay their respects a few times, Fang Bai gestured and said, "Alright, the aftermath of your self-detonation is severe; just sit for now!"

Upon Fang Bai's words, Wu De and the Lightning Mink sat down accordingly.

"You did well in the first time slaying the Yellow Robe Immortal King. But the second time was too reckless..."

Commenting smilingly on the matter of Wu De and the Lightning Mink luring Qingtian Palace disciples to the Land of Immortal Desertion, attempting to kill them and seize their cultivation resources twice, Fang Bai began.

Wu De and the Lightning Mink exchanged glances, thinking, "Sure enough, he had been watching us all along. If we hadn't been on the brink of death, he might not have appeared."

"I didn't intervene immediately to help because I wanted to force out your potential, which would be greatly beneficial to your future on the immortal dao journey."

Seeing the "resentful" expressions on Wu De and the Lightning Mink's faces, Fang Bai spoke seriously, then threw a bottle of Immortal Pill to each of them, saying, "Take and recuperate here. Once you have recovered, we'll talk."

Wu De and the Lightning Mink hastily took out a pill, noticing its rich aroma and immortal qi emanating, although unable to discern its grade, they knew it was extraordinary and swallowed it joyfully. Then, they sat cross-legged, closed their eyes, and began to guide the immortal qi from the Qi Sea, circulating quickly within their bodies.

Although their constitutions couldn't compare with Fang Bai's, within the Immortal Realm, they were extremely rare. Hence, after consuming the Immortal Pill, their bodies recovered substantially within just one day.

Chapter 2293: Stirred

In a short time, more than ten Immortal Kings from Qingtian Palace fell one after another at the hands of Fang Bai, Wu De, and Lightning Mink.

For Fang Bai, Wu De, and Lightning Mink, killing more than ten Immortal Kings of Qingtian Palace was simply a trivial matter, not causing them any psychological burden.

But what they didn't know was that, at this moment, in the distant Qingtian Palace, the news of more than ten Immortal King Realm disciples' Soul Lamps extinguishing had already spread among hundreds of thousands of fellow disciples.

Thus, upon hearing this news, the disciples of Qingtian Palace all wore grave expressions, filled with anger.

As one of the eight top forces in the current Immortal Realm, Qingtian Palace disciples are lofty, existing above all and daring none or any force to provoke easily.

But now, more than ten Immortal King Realm disciples have been slain, equivalent to immortals openly humiliating Qingtian Palace; if the "culprits" cannot be found and severely punished, it will greatly affect the reputation of Qingtian Palace.

"Who is so bold as to target Qingtian Palace?"

The news of more than ten Immortal Kings being slain spreads like a massive stone tossed into a calm lake, instantly stirring waves, shocking hundreds of thousands of Qingtian Palace disciples.

Their gazes turned towards the direction of the Palace Master Hall of Qingtian Palace.

"The Immortal Realm... has been rather turbulent lately!"

Inside the Palace Master Hall of Qingtian Palace, a stern voice filled with chill resonated, echoing within the hall.

The top members of Qingtian Palace sitting on both sides of the hall focused their gazes on the male immortal seated centrally at the head, showing some awe.

The male immortal had black hair and beard, a tall and robust body, sitting upright in a wide stone chair, exuding an imposing pressure like a towering mountain.

Wearing a bright yellow robe and a Purple Gold Crown, the male immortal's narrow eyes shot sharp electrical glints, intimidating the immortals seated below, none daring to meet his gaze.

The male immortal is none other than Qingtian Immortal Emperor, one of the eight top Immortal Emperors of the current Immortal Realm, titled Stone Emperor.

Qingtian Immortal Emperor's expression was indifferent, neither happy nor sad, as his gaze swept over the top members of Qingtian Palace seated below, continuing: "Ice River Palace, Dragon Taming Palace, Thunder Palace, Myriad Sword Palace... These forces have had disciples killed recently, the perpetrators said to be Remnants of Emperor's Palace. Now, this situation has befallen us in Qingtian Palace. What are your thoughts on this matter?"

The top members of Qingtian Palace exchanged glances, then looked down to ponder strategies.

"Palace Master..."

A Vice Palace Master at the Immortal Emperor Realm from Tianqing Palace solemnly clasped his hands and said: "In my opinion, this must be the Remnants of Emperor's Palace unwilling to stay dormant, once again coming out to stir trouble. Beyond adding a little nuisance for us, they can't make any waves; we needn't worry!"

He paused, then continued: "Also, as far as I know, the other forces' fallen Immortal Kings are External Courtyard disciples. Our palace has hundreds of thousands of disciples, with over a hundred thousand in the Immortal King Realm; losing more than ten Immortal Kings doesn't affect the situation... Of course, we must quickly find the culprit and bring them to justice, or it may affect our reputation."

Another Vice Palace Master said: "During the battle against Emperor's Palace a thousand years ago, most Emperor's Palace disciples perished, a few escaped. Although we eight top forces sent many disciples to hunt the Remnants of Emperor's Palace afterwards, some slipped through the net. Moreover, there are many sympathizers of Emperor's Palace in the Immortal Realm; they may protect some Emperor's Palace disciples and harbor them, which is also why the Remnants of Emperor's Palace keep killing."

Qingtian Immortal Emperor's eyes flashed coldly as he nodded: "Indeed. Some Immortal Emperors in the Immortal Realm have deep ties with the former War Emperor, and some Remnants of Emperor's Palace are highly likely hiding within their Sect."

He furrowed his brow, pondered for a moment, then told an Elder: "Golden Wheel Immortal Emperor, spread the word throughout the Immortal Realm that the culprits who killed our palace's disciples are Remnants of Emperor's Palace. If we uncover the culprits hiding within an Immortal Sect or Immortal Sect, no matter who they are, we will fight to the death with them! The other seven Immortal Emperors will also not stand by!"

He intended to use the unprecedentedly formidable pressure formed by the eight top Immortal Emperors and their forces to instill fear in those daring to harbor the Remnants of Emperor's Palace, forcing them to expel them from their Sect.

Once the Remnants of Emperor's Palace lose the protection of those strong Immortal Sects, finding hiding places will be harder, making it easier for the eight Immortal Emperors to send disciples to pursue them.

Afterward, Qingtian Immortal Emperor sent several disciples to the other seven top Immortal Emperors, preparing to join forces to quickly find the culprits and intensify the hunt for the Remnants of Emperor's Palace.

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"The disciples under the eight top Immortal Emperors have gone mad recently, searching everywhere for information about Emperor's Palace disciples. They've also released word that any Sect harboring Emperor's Palace disciples is their mortal enemy."

"The eight top Immortal Emperors are incredibly powerful; though our master is also an Immortal Emperor, meeting them, he must still step back."

"Indeed, fortunately, our Zixia Palace hasn't sheltered any Emperor's Palace disciples, or it would be a big problem."

"I heard before the Emperor's Palace was annihilated, our master had a good relationship with the War Emperor, often discussing the Immortal Dao together... Though I don't know if it's true..."

"Probably false? Otherwise, given our master's nature, how could she stand by idly as Emperor's Palace was destroyed?"

"Our master is indeed very loyal and true, but for the sake of tens of thousands of Zixia Palace disciples, she couldn't possibly oppose the eight Immortal Emperors!"

"Yes, if our master championed Emperor's Palace back then, perhaps the eight Immortal Emperors would have destroyed Zixia Palace too."

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Within the Congtian Domain of the Immortal Realm, at an Immortal Sect named Zixia Palace, several female disciples of Zixia Palace gathered together, quietly discussing some of the recent happenings they've heard about in the Immortal Realm.

Due to their master's past good relations with Emperor's Palace, they felt sympathy for the Emperor's Palace disciples who barely survived, but also knew Emperor's Palace disciples were a piercing thorn in the eyes of the eight Immortal Emperors, so they dared not associate if they encountered them, to avoid disaster befalling Zixia Palace.

While these Zixia Palace female disciples discussed, a beautiful female immortal in purple passed by them, her frost-like cold face showing some concern upon hearing them mention the "Emperor's Palace."

"Oh, Junior Sister Wen Rou, you've emerged?"

Seeing the beautiful female immortal, several Zixia Palace female disciples showed joyful expressions, quickly walking to her side.

"Mm."

The beautiful female immortal evidently had a good relationship with several of her fellow disciples, her frost-like cold face showing a faint smile as she saw them surround her.

Chapter 2294: Wen Rou

The delicate female Immortal in purple clothes is Tang Wenrou.

After Tang Wenrou ascended to the Immortal Realm, she wandered alone and later encountered a perilous situation while training in a dangerous place; fortunately, she was rescued by the passing Palace Master of Zixia Palace, Empress Zixia.

Empress Zixia saw that Tang Wenrou possessed an Innate Earth Spirit Root, an exceptional talent, and couldn't help but take a liking to her abilities. With Tang Wenrou's consent, she brought her back to Zixia Palace and accepted her as a Direct Disciple.

Tang Wenrou was grateful for Empress Zixia's life-saving grace and later learned that Empress Zixia had close ties with the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace and a deep relationship with the War Emperor, so she seized an opportunity to tell Empress Zixia that she was a disciple of the Emperor's Palace.

However, having just arrived in the Immortal Realm, she dared not completely trust any Immortal, so she did not reveal the matter of Fang Bai's secret reincarnation.

She feared that if the matter was leaked, it would be a catastrophe for Fang Bai, who reincarnated through possession, and for all relatives, friends, and confidantes related to Fang Bai who ascended to the Immortal Realm from the mortal world.

By then, even if Tang Wenrou died a thousand times over, she would never forgive herself.

When Empress Zixia heard that Tang Wenrou was a disciple of the Emperor's Palace, she inquired some about the Emperor's Palace matters, and fortunately, Tang Wenrou had heard Fang Bai talk about many things concerning the Emperor's Palace while in the mortal realm, so she responded fluently, earning Empress Zixia's trust.

Empress Zixia and Tang Wenrou talked about the destruction of the Emperor's Palace and the near-total downfall of its hundred thousand disciples, sighing with emotion.

Through conversation with Empress Zixia, Tang Wenrou learned about her relationship with the Emperor's Palace and Fang Bai. Although concealing Fang Bai's reincarnation made her somewhat guilty, the matter of Fang Bai's life and the revival of the Emperor's Palace made her exceedingly cautious.

After bringing Tang Wenrou back to Zixia Palace, Empress Zixia devoted much effort to Tang Wenrou, allowing Tang Wenrou to use all cultivation resources of Zixia Palace, and often personally taught and guided her.

This kind of treatment was unique in the entire Zixia Palace, with some envying and others jealously, but no Zixia Palace disciple dared to object.

Empress Zixia, after all, was an Emperor Realm expert, and her generous teaching benefited Tang Wenrou greatly. Coupled with Tang Wenrou's continuous cultivation of the Immortal Technique Secrets taught by Fang Bai, her Cultivation Level progressed rapidly, even astonishing Empress Zixia.

A year ago, when Empress Zixia went out to travel, Tang Wenrou's cultivation level had already reached the eighth grade of the Immortal Venerable Realm.

Later, Tang Wenrou went out to train with several senior brothers and sisters from the palace, and upon return, she had an epiphany, so she closed off to cultivate again, only coming out now.

"Junior Sister Wen Rou's cultivation level has reached the ninth grade of the Immortal Venerable Realm!"

A female Immortal of the Immortal King Cultivation Realm exclaimed in surprise, causing the other female Immortals to praise and wonder.

They advanced a small realm, in ten to tens of years, undergoing hardships, tasting bitterness, yet this Junior Sister Wen Rou again advanced a small realm in just a year, seemingly effortlessly, making them both envy and depressed.

However, they understood that Junior Sister Wen Rou's rapid advancement, though aided by abundant cultivation resources and the master's personal teaching, was also inseparable from her own talent and extraordinary Wuxing.

After all, disciples like them did not lack cultivation resources, nor did they lack the master's guidance, but their talent was inferior to Junior Sister Wen Rou's, and their comprehension power was insufficient, leading to slow progression; who could they blame?

At this moment, those surrounding Tang Wenrou were a few who had good relations with her. Seeing Tang Wenrou advance, they felt only envy and happiness.

"The ninth grade of the Immortal Venerable Realm is just a step away from the Immortal King Realm; with Junior Sister Wen Rou's talent and Wuxing, she might soon achieve it! Junior Sister Wen Rou, if you have time, please guide us!"

A female Immortal shook Tang Wenrou's arm as she spoke.

Tang Wenrou never liked to beat around the bush; she didn't understand humility or refusal with fellow disciples she was close to and nodded, saying: "Okay. I have time now, I can teach you."

Those fellow disciples, even though their cultivation was slightly stronger than Tang Wenrou's, comprehended the Immortal Technique Secrets taught by Empress Zixia less thoroughly than Tang Wenrou, hence they sincerely sought Tang Wenrou's guidance.

Although Empress Zixia taught the Immortal Technique Secrets, she didn't necessarily have time to carefully explain word by word, which Tang Wenrou could do.

Several female Immortals cheered, surrounding Tang Wenrou, and sat cross-legged on some immortals stone stools to listen as Tang Wenrou began explaining to them.

Soon, a senior sister of Immortal King Cultivation Realm suddenly felt something and looked towards the gate, saying: "The master has returned!"

Thus, including Tang Wenrou, several Zixia Palace female disciples immediately rose and headed to the gate to welcome.

When Tang Wenrou and her fellow disciples arrived at the gate, they found that aside from those Zixia Palace disciples in closed cultivation, other fellow disciples had all gathered here, raising their eyes to the sky, ready to welcome the Palace Master returning.

Not long after, Empress Zixia, with white hair but a youthful face and a benevolent appearance, flew back stepping on a patch of purple Auspicious Clouds and landed in the plaza before the gate.

"Greetings, Master!"

All the Zixia Palace disciples present knelt down in reverence.

Empress Zixia waved a horsetail whisk in her hand, smiling, slightly raised both hands, and cheerfully said: "Rise, everyone!"

After the disciples rose, Empress Zixia continued: "You don't need to gather here, everyone return to your places and continue cultivating. Yes, starting tomorrow, I will assess your cultivation progress during my absence and see if you have been diligent."

The disciples dispersed quickly, leaving most gone in a short while.

"Wen Rou, stay."

Empress Zixia called out to stop Tang Wenrou as she turned to leave.

Tang Wenrou turned back and walked to Empress Zixia.

"Follow me into the Palace Master Hall. I have some things to discuss with you."

As Empress Zixia spoke, the void in front of her lightly trembled, and the next moment, her form vanished from where she stood and entered the Palace Master Hall several miles away.

Tang Wenrou saw Empress Zixia's serious demeanor, unsure of the matter, she flew towards the Palace Master Hall full of doubt.

"Sit anywhere."

Seeing Tang Wenrou enter the hall, Empress Zixia's eyes revealed a touch of warmth, pointing to a row of stone chairs beside her.

Upon entering the Palace Master Hall, the Isolation Formation around the hall automatically activated, ensuring no Immortals outside could hear their conversation.

Tang Wenrou sat on a stone chair closer to Empress Zixia, then quietly watched her, waiting for her to speak.

"During my travels this time, I've heard some matters about the Emperor's Palace disciples..."

Empress Zixia softly began, Tang Wenrou sat straighter, her spirit brightening.

Chapter 2295: I'm Not Afraid!

"...The disciples of the Eight Great Immortal Emperors have been killed one after another, causing a significant stir in the Immortal Realm. There are speculations that the culprit might be a disciple of the Emperor's Palace, as only they would be fearless of death and dare to provoke the Eight Great Immortal Emperors..."

Although Empress Zixia's strength is slightly weaker than the Eight Great Immortal Emperors, she is still one of the Immortal Emperors. Her disciples are spread throughout the Immortal Realm, so regardless of the matter's size, it rarely escapes her notice.

Upon hearing the news of Emperor's Palace disciples killing those under the Eight Great Immortal Emperors, Empress Zixia, who was traveling in the Immortal Realm, paid attention to the matter. After extensive investigation, she indeed found traces of Emperor's Palace disciples' involvement and learned from descriptions of some immortals about a few disciples' appearances.

However, Empress Zixia did not know who those Emperor's Palace disciples were, or what titles they held, or their status and position within the palace. From some immortals' descriptions, it seemed those Emperor's Palace disciples didn't have high cultivation levels and were likely lower-status disciples in past Emperor's Palace.

Knowing that Tang Wenrou was one of the lower-level disciples in the Emperor's Palace, Empress Zixia hurried back to Zixia Palace to inform her, hoping she might know the identity of those disciples.

"Among those Emperor's Palace disciples, there seems to be a high-profile young immortal in white. After killing the Eight Great Immortal Emperors' disciples, he boldly announced his identity and name, Fang Bai... However, since then, he seems to have vanished into thin air, with no trace found by any forces under the Eight Great Immortal Emperors. Wen Rou, is there an immortal named Fang Bai in your Emperor's Palace?"

Empress Zixia looked at Tang Wenrou and asked toward the end.

Upon hearing the name "Fang Bai," Tang Wenrou's body shook as if struck by lightning, and she uttered tremblingly, "Fang Bai..."

Seeing her reaction, Empress Zixia knew she not only recognized Fang Bai but also had an unusual relationship with him. Her spirits lifted in joy as she said, "You know him, don't you? Tell Master about him."

Struggling internally, Tang Wenrou decided not to reveal Fang Bai's true identity and said evasively, "Fang Bai and I... Actually, we are immortal companions..."

Empress Zixia expressed surprise with an "Oh," nodded, and said, "Continue."

Actually, when she first met Tang Wenrou, she noticed Wenrou was no longer a Primordial Yin Physique, but had never inquired if Tang Wenrou had an immortal companion. Surprisingly, Wenrou disclosed it herself.

Empress Zixia knew her disciple was cold by nature, rarely smiling, and had high standards. Despite numerous male immortals with outstanding qualifications expressing love for her in Zixia Palace, she rejected them all. Fang Bai must be exceptionally talented to win her favor.

Her interest in Fang Bai grew, knowing his name but never having seen him.

Tang Wenrou's mind raced as she continued, "Fang Bai possesses Innate Spiritual Roots, his aptitude slightly better than mine. He was highly regarded by the Emperor's Palace leadership back then. However, after the palace's demise, I lost contact with him."

She paused here, then asked anxiously, "Master, where did you hear about Fang Bai? I... I want to find him."

Apart from withholding Fang Bai's true identity, most of her words were truthful. The anxiety on her face wasn't feigned, as she truly worried about and missed Fang Bai, wishing to leave Zixia Palace to search for him immediately.

She firmly believed Fang Bai's current cultivation and strength must far exceed hers, but compared to the Eight Great Immortal Emperors, there was still a significant gap. Otherwise, he wouldn't be elusive and would only kill some lower-grade Immortal King Realm experts under the Eight Great Immortal Emperors.

Tang Wenrou hadn't been in the Immortal Realm for long, yet under Empress Zixia's guidance, she deeply understood the power of the Eight Great Immortal Emperors. She thought that Fang Bai, after reincarnating, wasn't the peak War Emperor who once dominated the Immortal Realm. If caught by the Eight Great Immortal Emperors, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Tang Wenrou wanted to find Fang Bai, share his fate and stand by his side no matter when or where.

Empress Zixia said, "According to some immortals in the Immortal Realm, Fang Bai appeared in many places, including Ice River Palace, Myriad Sword Sect, Qingtian Palace, Dragon Taming Palace, and Thunder Palace, where several disciples perished at his hands. His most recent appearance was when he teamed up with two Emperor's Palace disciples to kill a dozen Immortal Kings in Qingtian Palace..."

Tang Wenrou's eyes lit up with joy, saying, "Then he might be near Qingtian Palace?"

Empress Zixia shook her head, "It's hard to say. The killing of Qingtian Palace's disciples happened near a city under Qingtian Palace's control. Months have passed, and with the Eight Great Immortal Emperors' forces pursuing him, who knows where he might be hiding?"

Tang Wenrou, thinking of Fang Bai evading the Eight Great Immortal Emperors' forces, hiding and constantly facing danger, grew increasingly anxious. She stood up resolutely and said, "I can't wait; I must find him!"

Empress Zixia knew Tang Wenrou's stubborn determination was difficult to persuade. With a bitter smile, she said, "Wen Rou, don't be impulsive. Listen to me. You're also an Emperor's Palace disciple, but not strong enough. If you venture out and get discovered by the Eight Great Immortal Emperors' forces, you could face mortal danger..."

Tang Wenrou replied, "I'm not afraid!"

"I know you're not afraid, but there's no need to die in vain! If you die, how heartbroken would Master be? And your immortal companion Fang Bai, how heartbroken would he be?"

Empress Zixia sighed, "Trust Master. I was close to the Emperor's Palace Master in the past, and since the palace's fall, I've hoped to gather and protect the scattered Emperor's Palace disciples to the best of my abilities. However, the matter is significant, and if the Eight Great Immortal Emperors find out, it could be a catastrophe for Zixia Palace. So, regarding Fang Bai, we must carefully plan!"

Tang Wenrou acknowledged Empress Zixia's reasoning yet felt restless, determined to find Fang Bai and face everything alongside him as soon as possible.

Just then, Empress Zixia sensed something, and her gaze penetrated the Palace Master Hall's door, looking into the distant void.

Noticing the usually kind and amiable Empress Zixia's sudden expression of evil qi, Tang Wenrou knew something major was happening.

"Several immortals from Qingtian Palace have arrived... Wen Rou, stay in the hall and don't go anywhere. I'll meet them outside, see what they want."

Empress Zixia spoke with an indisputable tone, then raised her horsetail whisk, her figure disappearing from the hall. The space where she sat earlier gently rippled.

Chapter 2296: Imperial Might

"Qingtian Palace? Isn't that one of the eight top forces that wiped out the Emperor's Palace? What are they doing at Zixia Palace?"

Tang Wenrou heard the words "Qingtian Palace," and immediately thought of what Fang Bai had mentioned to her in the lower realm, knowing that Qingtian Palace was one of the main culprits in the destruction of the Emperor's Palace, and her heart was instantly filled with hatred towards this sect.

Her passion surged with fury; she was eager to rush out of the Palace Master Hall and go to war with the immortals of Qingtian Palace, even if it meant fighting to the death despite being outmatched.

However, the Palace Master Hall was sealed off by a formation, and with her cultivation level, she couldn't take a single step outside. Her divine sense was unable to penetrate the barrier, leaving her entirely ignorant of the situation outside.

She was frantically pacing back and forth within the hall, unaware that a multitude of over ten thousand Zixia Palace disciples, including more than a dozen of its senior members, had already gathered in the square beyond the gate of Zixia Palace.

Empress Zixia, holding a horsetail whisk, sat cross-legged with closed eyes on a large stone in the center of the square, dignified and majestic, emanating an overwhelming pressure that even a few Immortal Emperor Realm experts found hard to withstand.

The tens of thousands of Zixia Palace disciples, gathered around the stone, looked solemnly toward the distance.

The Immortal Emperor's divine sense diffusion covered thousands of miles, alerting her to the arrival of several immortals from Qingtian Palace within Zixia Palace's territory.

There was normally no interaction between Zixia Palace and Qingtian Palace, so the uninvited arrival of Qingtian Palace's immortals seemed ominous to the disciples of Zixia Palace.

With her wisdom, Empress Zixia naturally guessed that the visit might be related to the recent slaying of disciples from the eight top Immortal Emperor disciples by the Emperor's Palace disciples.

Thinking of Tang Wenrou, Empress Zixia felt an extra layer of caution, wondering if Tang Wenrou's identity as an Emperor's Palace disciple had been leaked, prompting Qingtian Palace's immortals to confront them.

On second thought, she found it unlikely, as besides herself, there were no other immortals in Zixia Palace aware that Tang Wenrou was an Emperor's Palace disciple, and Wen Rou herself knew methods to conceal her aura, making it almost impossible for Qingtian Palace's immortals to accuse her.

The entire Immortal Realm knows of my close ties with the Emperor's Palace of old; could Qingtian Palace's immortals suspect that I am hiding an Emperor's Palace disciple and have come to question me?"

Empress Zixia speculated secretly, thinking this was a real possibility.

"Hmph, Qingtian Palace may be formidable, but Zixia Palace is no pushover! I will see what these Qingtian Palace immortals intend!"

Empress Zixia's divine sense followed the imminently arriving Qingtian Palace immortals from thousands of miles away, her eyes slightly narrowed, and her face wore a frosty expression.

Four immortals from Qingtian Palace came to Zixia Palace, all Immortal Emperor Realm experts. Empress Zixia, gauging their cultivation level, knew they were two elders and two stewards from Qingtian Palace.

Although there were only four Qingtian Palace immortals arriving, their power was formidable, and while Zixia Palace's elders and stewards were comparable in rank and status, they were outmatched and no match for these four.

However, in front of Empress Zixia, the strength of the four Qingtian Palace immortals was far from worthy of serious contemplation.

Immortal Emperor Realm experts cannot tear through the void with bare hands like the Immortal Emperor to perform instantaneous movement over miles, yet their speed is astonishingly fast. They covered the thousands of miles in just over a thousand breaths.

"Greetings, Empress Zixia!"

The four senior members of Qingtian Palace, cautious not to come too close to Zixia Palace's gate to avoid provocation, hovered a few miles away from the gate, bowing slightly to Empress Zixia.

Even with Qingtian Palace backing them and Qingtian Immortal Emperor supporting them, they dared not be disrespectful in front of a powerhouse like Empress Zixia.

Empress Zixia coldly snorted, asking, "Qingtian Palace and my Zixia Palace have never interacted. I am curious about the purpose of today's visit?"

Her voice contained strands of emperor's might, powerful and turbulent, pressing toward the four senior members of Qingtian Palace from a dozen miles away.

The four senior members felt like towering mountains were pressing down on them, the strong oppression nearly breaking their bones, vision fading, blood boiling in their chests, unable to bear it, forcing them back several miles, rallying immortal power to resist just to feel somewhat better.

"Indeed worthy of being an Immortal Emperor, this woman's power is formidable!"

The four senior members of Qingtian Palace looked at Empress Zixia sitting still, expression solemn, with a sense of awe.

One elder from Qingtian Palace stepped forward bravely, saying, "By our Qingtian Palace Master's command, we come to inquire about something with Empress Zixia..."

"What arrogance Qingtian Immortal Emperor has! Tell him, if there's something he wants to ask, he should come himself!"

Empress Zixia opened her eyes and stared at the Qingtian Palace elder with an indifferent gaze that brought immense pressure upon him, almost suffocating.

"This..."

The Qingtian Palace elder had a difficult expression, saying, "Our Palace Master is managing Qingtian Palace, with many responsibilities, and cannot easily leave..."

Empress Zixia scoffed, "The Immortal Realm must consider rank and precedence. As fellow Immortal Venerables, he should meet me face-to-face for equal dialogue. Sending you juniors to inquire is disrespect and an insult! Get lost!"

She finished speaking, eyes widened, essence shining fiercely, and lightly waved her horsetail whisk.

The heavens and earth suddenly darkened as if the vast void twisted, followed by a massive surge of tempest enveloping towards the four senior members of Qingtian Palace.

The four senior members showed looks of horror, understanding that standing still would mean heavy injury or death if caught in the tempest, they fled with all their might towards the horizon.

Seeing the four Qingtian Palace senior members flee in disarray, the tens of thousands of Zixia Palace disciples in the square cheered aloud.

To them, Qingtian Palace's dispatch of elders and stewards to converse with their Palace Master was an act of disrespect, utterly overwhelming, and their Palace Master driving them away was overwhelmingly satisfying.

They also knew their Palace Master did not intend to kill, otherwise, the four Qingtian Palace senior members wouldn't have escaped unharmed.

"Empress Zixia, our Palace Master said, if your palace is hiding any Emperor's Palace disciples, please turn them over for us to deal with to quell the anger over the slaying of the Eight Immortal Emperor's disciples. Otherwise, if we find out later of any real affinity between your palace and Emperor's Palace disciples, your palace will face the Eight Immortal Emperor's crusade! This concerning the survival of Zixia Palace, please consider wisely!"

This was spoken by a Qingtian Palace elder from afar, as he had fled to a hundred miles away.

Chapter 2297: Remembrance

The words spoken by Elder of Qingtian Palace before leaving amounted to a threat.

However, such threats may have a deterrent effect on weaker Immortal Sects, but for Zixia Palace, which has the Immortal Emperor overseeing it and tens of thousands of disciples, it only has a negative impact.

At that moment, tens of thousands of disciples of Zixia Palace were filled with emotions, their anger rising, cursing and swearing in the direction Elder of Qingtian Palace fled, with curses echoing continuously.

"Qingtian Palace has gone too far! This time I won't trouble you, but if you dare to come again and speak recklessly, I will not show mercy!"

Empress Zixia's expression was stern, her eyes flashed coldly as she sent these words far away.

She believed that those high-ranking members of Qingtian Palace who were fleeing could certainly hear her words, and if they dared to come again, they would have to consider the consequences.

"Disperse! Go back and cultivate well, do not slack off!"

Empress Zixia said, waving her hand, and thus the gathered disciples in the square in front of the mountain gate scattered away.

Looking at the gradually emptying square, Empress Zixia sighed lightly, a trace of worry flashing deep in her eyes.

Empress Zixia was not afraid of any of the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors, but if the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors were to come together, she would be powerless to resist, and at that time Zixia Palace would face a catastrophe.

The close relationship between Zixia Palace and the former Emperor's Palace is known to all immortals.

After the Emperor's Palace was destroyed, although Zixia Palace fell into silence, it was still regarded as an "outsider" by the eight Immortal Emperors, who always wanted to eliminate it.

However, Empress Zixia's wide connections and the excellent reputation of Zixia Palace in the Immortal Realm meant that if the eight Immortal Emperors were to unjustly attack Zixia Palace, it would not only arouse dissatisfaction and anger from the immortals in the Immortal Realm but also cause other Immortal Sects to feel uneasy.

If the Immortal Sects and gates in the Immortal Realm were forced to unite against the eight Immortal Emperors, it would not be a good thing for them.

After all, among the nine major Heavenly Domains in the Immortal Realm, aside from the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors, there are many other Immortal Emperors and their forces. Even though the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors are strong, they are not capable of covering the sky with one hand.

Precisely because of such apprehensions, the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors have never moved against Zixia Palace, maintaining a peaceful coexistence.

However, if the eight Immortal Emperors use the excuse that Zixia Palace is harboring disciples of the Emperor's Palace to bring judgment upon Zixia Palace, other Immortal Sects and gates will have nothing to say.

Empress Zixia knew that this time Qingtian Palace sent four immortals, not because they knew Zixia Palace was harboring Emperor's Palace disciples, but as a threat. If Zixia Palace succumbed to the threat and handed over Emperor's Palace disciples, it would be best for them. If Zixia Palace refused to admit harboring Emperor's Palace disciples, they would have a reason to continue invading.

Empress Zixia is most worried now is that paper cannot wrap fire; Tang Wenrou's identity will be exposed sooner or later. Once caught by Qingtian Palace, the eight Immortal Emperors would use it as a pretext to serve judgment on Zixia Palace.

Upon returning to the Palace Master Hall, Empress Zixia relayed what had happened outside to Tang Wenrou and then solemnly reminded, "Wenrou, you must not leave Zixia Palace for the time being! This concerns the life and death of Zixia Palace, you must remember!"

Tang Wenrou nodded, "Disciple understands."

Although she said so, her heart thought she was an unstable factor. If she stayed, it might bring disaster to Zixia Palace.

If she leaves Zixia Palace, it might instead be a good thing for Zixia Palace.

Thinking of this, Tang Wenrou secretly decided to find an appropriate opportunity to leave and seek Fang Bai.

As soon as she thought of Fang Bai, her longing surged like spring water, uncontrollable.

"Judging by your cultivation level, you've reached the ninth grade of Immortal Venerable Realm, your progress far exceeding your master's imagination. Hmm, master hopes for you to keep striving, aiming to advance to the Immortal King Realm as soon as possible."

At this, Empress Zixia's thoughts moved slightly, and a Space Immortal Ring hovered and drifted to Tang Wenrou, saying, "On this outing, I obtained some decent cultivation resources; take them and use them."

Tang Wenrou took the Space Immortal Ring and glanced inside, seeing that although the number of cultivation resources was not large, they were all of high rank. Even senior brothers and sisters in the Immortal King Realm in the sect might not necessarily get them, knowing this was Empress Zixia nurturing her, feeling touched, she clasped her fists and thanked, "Thank you, master."

Empress Zixia nodded and smiled, "Master will also go into seclusion to cultivate for a while; you go ahead! Remember, to cultivate well, do not disappoint your master's expectations!"

As Tang Wenrou turned to leave, Empress Zixia sighed softly, tidied up her somewhat disordered feelings, slowly closed her eyes, and entered a cultivation state.

Her current cultivation level is slightly better than that of a common Immortal Emperor but slightly worse than that of the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors. If she could advance further, she would have the strength to contend against the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors; at that time, she would feel more assured, and if the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors wanted to trouble her Zixia Palace, they would have more concerns.

However, reaching her current realm, how easy is it to advance further?

Empress Zixia couldn't help but think of the former Emperor's Palace Master with the title of War Emperor.

The War Emperor's immortal age was much younger than hers, but his understanding and insight into the Immortal Dao were far beyond what she could reach. Every time they discussed and exchanged views on the Immortal Dao, Empress Zixia benefited greatly.

In Empress Zixia's view, if the War Emperor had not fallen, in these thousand years, her understanding and insight inspired by him might have already elevated her strength to a level comparable to the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors.

Thinking of the Invincible War Emperor who dominated the Immortal Realm and fell under the siege of the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors, Empress Zixia couldn't help but let out a long sigh.

Empress Zixia and War Emperor were intimate friends; after learning of War Emperor's death, she was extremely indignant.

However, Empress Zixia was also self-aware, knowing that with her strength and the power she controlled, she could not contend with the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors.

Moreover, as the master of a palace, for the sake of tens of thousands of disciples, she did not lose her reason and act rashly.

In the Immortal Realm, the strength of Immortal Sects fluctuates, rising and falling, few can last forever.

Empress Zixia firmly believes that one day, her cultivation will surpass the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors; that the overall strength of Zixia Palace will crush the eight top-tier forces.

At that time, she will stand up, issue a call from a high place, the surviving disciples of the Emperor's Palace today, and friendly immortals concerned about the Emperor's Palace, to seek justice for the fallen War Emperor and Emperor's Palace disciples.

For that day, Empress Zixia is willing to wait for thousands of years.

And the arrival of Tang Wenrou has also given Empress Zixia more hope.

Chapter 2298: Tang Wenrou Escapes the Barrier

In the eyes of Empress Zixia, Tang Wenrou's talent and Wuxing are not inferior to those prodigies and prodigal daughters among the eight top forces.

Moreover, Tang Wenrou not only received the meticulous guidance of her own, but as a disciple of the Emperor's Palace, she also practiced the Immortal Technique Secrets once imparted by the War Emperor.

In the Immortal Realm, juniors like Tang Wenrou who received guidance from two Immortal Emperors in succession are extremely rare, which is also a unique condition for Tang Wenrou.

After joining Zixia Palace, with the assistance of abundant cultivation resources, Tang Wenrou's cultivation level advanced at a staggering pace, not only leaving her peers in awe but even astonishing Empress Zixia.

Empress Zixia did not know that when Tang Wenrou was in the lower realms, she often practiced in union with Fang Bai. During this period, the aura within their bodies constantly intermingled, and

particularly Fang Bai's Chaos Immortal Qi greatly improved Tang Wenrou's constitution, laying a solid foundation for her future rapid advancement.

This was true for Tang Wenrou, and also for Fang Bai's other close companions, so much so that after they arrived in the Immortal Realm, their advancement speed would far exceed other immortals as long as the cultivation resources were sufficient.

Young Empress Zixia herself was once a prodigy, but compared to Tang Wenrou at this moment, she inevitably seemed a bit lacking. Therefore, she felt that in due time, Tang Wenrou would surely become an empress, and perhaps even surpass her, achieving even more than what she had accomplished.

Empress Zixia looked forward to that day.

Tang Wenrou was unaware of Empress Zixia's thoughts. After returning to her quarters, she initially intended to meditate in seclusion to break through to the Immortal King Realm, but her mind was filled with the image of Fang Bai, impossible to dismiss.

Helpless, Tang Wenrou decided to leave her residence and go out for a walk to calm herself before returning to cultivation.

Within a hundred miles centered on the Zixia Palace Master Hall, there was a formation barrier laid by Empress Zixia using Supreme Immortal Art. You could only leave the barrier with Empress Zixia's permission; otherwise, even the Immortal Emperor Realm experts in Zixia Palace had to stay put.

Empress Zixia allowed Tang Wenrou to reside within a hundred miles of the Palace Master Hall as a form of special protection.

Tang Wenrou's outing was actually not just for relaxation.

Tang Wenrou was eager to go out and find Fang Bai, but knowing Empress Zixia would never let her leave, she wanted to see if there were any flaws in the barrier. If she found one, she could leave quietly.

If she had the chance to leave, she would do so without regard for the dangers outside.

Though Empress Zixia had entered a cultivation state, the dozens of Zixia Palace high-level members were divided into small groups, each tending to their respective duties.

Some were practicing in seclusion, some were guiding and instructing Zixia Palace disciples in cultivation, and others were using their Divine Sense to scan the several thousand miles around Zixia Palace to monitor any changes, ready to issue early warnings if a strong enemy approached.

Tang Wenrou knew that for an ordinary Zixia Palace disciple, even if they found a flaw in the barrier formation, escaping under the strict supervision of the high-level members was nearly impossible.

However, Tang Wenrou was different. Having learned a highly advanced Concealment Aura Art from Fang Bai, she was confident she could evade the Divine Sense monitoring of the Zixia Palace's high-level members and leave without a trace.

Tang Wenrou walked leisurely along the edge of the barrier, scrutinizing every spot carefully.

Although the barrier was vast, it ultimately originated from a formation. As for the secrets of formations, Tang Wenrou had learned much from Fang Bai, even to the point where renowned Array Masters in the Immortal Realm might not match her proficiency.

Tang Wenrou remembered Fang Bai once said that no matter how exquisite a formation was, it always had flaws, though they might be large or small, depending on the array master's Wuxing and insight.

Tang Wenrou believed that as long as she walked around the edge of the barrier a few times daily, she would surely find a flaw.

The Divine Sense of several Zixia Palace higher-ups swept over Tang Wenrou, and finding no unusual behavior, they shifted their attention away.

For several consecutive days, Tang Wenrou would circle the barrier a few times each day. To avoid arousing suspicion among the high-level members, she dared not linger too long, returning to her residence for meditation after a few laps.

On the fifth day, a jubilant Tang Wenrou discovered a flaw.

The flaw was so small it was almost negligible, like a finger-sized hole in a large cloth spanning tens of miles.

Such a tiny defect in the barrier could have gone unnoticed if Tang Wenrou hadn't learned the Array Path from Fang Bai.

With her cultivation level reaching the Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm, Tang Wenrou used the Bone Shrinking Technique to shrink her body tenfold, a hundredfold, making it easy to slip through the finger-sized hole.

Tang Wenrou was almost jumping for joy but maintained composure. After returning to her quarters, she packed her essentials, ready to leave.

She knew that once she left, she didn't know when she might come back, and once Empress Zixia found out, she would certainly be disappointed and furious.

After some thought, Tang Wenrou decided to leave something behind to let Empress Zixia know she had gone to find Fang Bai.

She took out an Immortal Talisman capable of storing voice and image messages, infused it with her thoughts using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique, and placed it on the table before leaving.

She employed the concealment secret technique passed down by Fang Bai, blending her body with the surrounding scenery, stealthily moving toward the small flaw in the barrier.

She moved very slowly, cautiously all the way, fearing she might be detected by the high-level members and ruin everything.

Fortunately, the main focus of the higher-ups was on areas thousands of miles beyond Zixia Palace, paying little attention to the regions within and outside the barrier.

Tang Wenrou easily slipped out through the hole, exiting the barrier.

Outside the barrier, Tang Wenrou became even more cautious. She first moved through the mountain valleys and dense forests to enhance her concealment, then entered a small river, traveling underwater with thousands of fish, following the current.

It was uncertain how long had passed when the current suddenly became turbulent, indicating they had reached a large river. Tang Wenrou was familiar with the terrain here, feeling joyous, knowing she was already tens of thousands of miles beyond Zixia Palace, outside the range of Empress Zixia's Divine Sense.

Tang Wenrou, like a bird escaping its cage, changed her appearance and body shape, flying up on Auspicious Clouds to an Immortal City under Zixia Palace's control. There, she asked an immortal for the location of Heaven Fiend Immortal City under Qingtian Palace and flew toward it.

A short time ago, over ten disciples of Qingtian Palace were killed by disciples of the Emperor's Palace near Heaven Fiend Immortal City. Tang Wenrou decided to visit there first, hoping to find clues about Fang Bai.

Chapter 2299: Finally Found You

Tang Wenrou stealthily left Zixia Palace; no immortal of Zixia Palace was aware of her departure until months later when Empress Zixia emerged from seclusion and realized she was gone.

"That silly girl, did she go to find her immortal partner?"

After crushing the immortal talisman left behind by Tang Wenrou at her residence and listening to her message, Empress Zixia felt a mix of surprise, helplessness, and concern.

She was surprised that Tang Wenrou, with only a Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm cultivation level, had found a flaw in the barrier personally set by her as the Immortal Emperor and successfully escaped, indicating that this disciple harbored many secrets unknown to her.

She was helpless that Tang Wenrou had quietly slipped away to seek her immortal partner without notifying her as her mentor.

She was concerned that the eight major powers, currently filled with fury, were pursuing the Emperor's Palace disciples throughout the Immortal Realm, and if Tang Wenrou's identity was exposed, she would face dire consequences.

"Since Wenrou managed to leave Zixia Palace undetected by the divine sense monitoring of high-ranking members, it shows not only her expertise in the Array Path but also her proficiency in the Concealment Aura Art. If she remains cautious, perhaps she won't reveal her identity as an Emperor's Palace disciple?"

With this thought, Empress Zixia felt slightly at ease.

When Empress Zixia had just emerged from seclusion, she spread her divine sense over ten thousand miles, attempting to trace Tang Wenrou's whereabouts, but several months had passed since Tang Wenrou left, and she had long traveled tens of thousands of miles away, leaving behind dissipating trails.

If Tang Wenrou deliberately concealed her aura, even Empress Zixia would find it difficult to locate her swiftly.

"Ah... Wenrou, this girl really makes me restless!"

Empress Zixia shook her head, smiled wryly, and sighed repeatedly.

To Empress Zixia, Tang Wenrou was an irreplaceable disciple. Perhaps, in a thousand years, she might rise to become the new Empress, leading Zixia Palace to another pinnacle.

Because she valued Tang Wenrou so much, Empress Zixia didn't want her to encounter any mishaps, as it would be a tremendous loss for Zixia Palace.

Though Empress Zixia worried about Tang Wenrou's safety, she also feared another invasion by Qingtian Palace, thus she dared not leave rashly. After some thought, she appointed an elder and two stewards from the palace to search for Tang Wenrou across the Immortal Realm and ensure her return.

While three high-ranking members of Zixia Palace set out to find Tang Wenrou, she had already been gone for months, traveling to Heaven Fiend Immortal City where Wu De and Lightning Mink had appeared, and then reached the Land of Immortal Desertion, where over a dozen Immortal Kings of Qingtian Palace had been slain.

Since the incident, the Land of Immortal Desertion had become closely monitored by Qingtian Palace disciples, hoping to detect any traces of Emperor's Palace disciples.

Fortunately, Tang Wenrou was cautious enough and concealed her aura well. Thus, upon arriving at the Land of Immortal Desertion, Qingtian Palace disciples mistook her for a loose cultivator and didn't detect the aura of an Emperor's Palace disciple on her, avoiding a potential encirclement by numerous disciples.

Moreover, Tang Wenrou altered her appearance after leaving Zixia Palace; otherwise, her stunning beauty might attract many male immortals.

"Could this sigil have been left by Fang Bai?"

In a desolate ruin of the Land of Immortal Desertion, the perceptive Tang Wenrou discovered a fist-sized sigil. Upon careful examination, her pupils slightly contracted, and her lips curled into a smile.

The fist-sized sigil could only be comprehended by former high-ranking members of Emperor's Palace or immortals who had ascended from the lower realms and had intimate ties to Fang Bai.

Tang Wenrou had long been Fang Bai's immortal partner and had been by his side for quite a while, naturally understanding it fully.

From the sigil, Tang Wenrou learned where the immortal who left it planned to head next, and by following the direction indicated, she could hope to trace the person's whereabouts.

Despite her excitement at finding the sigil, Tang Wenrou did not reveal any outward signs, knowing that immortals monitored the Land of Immortal Desertion. She composed herself and left with a calm demeanor.

Following the sigil pointing south, Tang Wenrou rode Auspicious Clouds, flying southward until she reached White Cloud Immortal City, where she paused.

In a discreet northern corner of White Cloud Immortal City, Tang Wenrou discovered another identical sigil, bringing immense joy to her heart, confirming that the sigil-leaving immortal was indeed within this city.

"It's Fang Bai! It must be him!"

Tang Wenrou's heart resonated with Fang Bai, and as she flew south, the feeling of closeness between their hearts grew even more pronounced. She was now certain the immortal who left the sigil was Fang Bai.

Furthermore, Fang Bai was undoubtedly within this Immortal City.

Yet, White Cloud Immortal City spanned thousands of miles in radius, and she dared not reveal her aura or use her divine sense to search, fearing the disciples of the Eight Immortal Emperors might detect her.

Thus, Tang Wenrou wandered through various Cultivation Resource Exchange Markets, Immortal Inns, and streets within the city, trying to sense Fang Bai's presence.

In front of the largest Cultivation Resource Exchange Market in White Cloud Immortal City, Tang Wenrou's pace slowed, her eyes brightened, and she entered with eager anticipation.

A few days ago, three outsider male immortals arrived at this market, securing three adjacent stalls, offering services of alchemy, artifact refining, and array setup, competing against the existing alchemists, artifact refiners, and array masters.

The three male immortals demonstrated extraordinary abilities in alchemy, artifact refining, and the Array Path, dominating both in grade and success rates over the other alchemists, artifact refiners, and array masters, causing quite a stir within White Cloud Immortal City and earning bountiful rewards.

When Tang Wenrou reached the stall of the three male immortals, she found over a thousand immortals already gathered, bustling and buzzing with excitement.

Standing outside the crowd, although separated from the three male immortals by hundreds of others, Tang Wenrou's previously excited heart suddenly calmed down.

She knew among the male immortals, one of them was Fang Bai.

And as Tang Wenrou entered this Cultivation Resource Exchange Market, Fang Bai sensed her aura.

Tang Wenrou's Concealment Aura Art was superb enough to fool other immortals but couldn't conceal her from Fang Bai.

Thus, Fang Bai left the stall, parted the crowd, and strode towards the now tearful Tang Wenrou.

Even though they both had altered their appearances, they recognized each other. Fang Bai opened his arms and tightly embraced Tang Wenrou.

"Fang Bai, I've finally found you."

Tang Wenrou sobbed softly, nestled in Fang Bai's embrace.

Chapter 2300: The Immortal Realm Is Interesting

Under the astonished gaze of numerous immortals, Fang Bai left White Cloud Immortal City with Tang Wenrou, along with two other male immortals, without any hesitation.

Those two male immortals were naturally Wu De and the Lightning Mink.

Ever since Fang Bai teamed up with Wu De and the Lightning Mink to slay dozens of Immortal Kings from the eight top-tier factions and reported their names and origins, his name had been etched into the minds of the immortals from the eight top-tier factions of the Immortal Realm.

The moment Tang Wenrou publicly called his name, Fang Bai knew he could no longer stay in White Cloud Immortal City.

Although White Cloud Immortal City wasn't under the control of the eight top-tier factions, disciples from those factions were undoubtedly present in the city. Even though Fang Bai, Wu De, and the Lightning Mink had made significant changes to their appearances since killing the Immortal Kings, it would still be troublesome if they were spotted by disciples from those factions.

Thus, Fang Bai chose to leave immediately.

"Fang Bai? That name sounds familiar!"

Shortly after Fang Bai and the others left White Cloud Immortal City, an immortal finally reacted.

"Those immortals who slew dozens of Immortal Kings from the eight top-tier factions were said to be Emperor's Palace disciples, and one of them claimed to be Fang Bai... Could that be him just now?"

"During those fights, many immortals witnessed Fang Bai slaying the Immortal Kings from the eight top-tier factions, but the Fang Bai just now didn't match their descriptions in physique or appearance!"

"Are you dumb? We immortals can change appearances easily, can't we?"

"Tch, you're the dumb one! Changing appearance is easy for an immortal, but concealing one's aura is not! If the Fang Bai just now were indeed the Emperor's Palace disciple Fang Bai, he should have been detected by the disciples from the eight top-tier factions already!"

"Well... what if that Fang Bai knows a secret technique to conceal his aura?"

"Ha, concealing one's aura is a very high-level secret technique. While there are some immortals in the Immortal Realm who have mastered it, only the ancient War Emperor could fully conceal his aura! Even if that Fang Bai mastered the Concealment Aura Art, could he compare to the War Emperor of old? Being an Emperor's Palace disciple, he'd naturally cultivate Emperor's Palace's Immortal Technique Secrets, and even the slightest aura would reveal him to the immortals of the eight top-tier factions!"

"You have a point..."

...

Though the majority of immortals did not believe that this Fang Bai was the same Fang Bai, once the immortals from the eight top-tier factions learned of this, they still tried to trace the aura of Fang Bai and the others as they left White Cloud Immortal City.

Unfortunately, after following them for over a thousand miles, they discovered that the aura of Fang Bai and the others had completely vanished, leaving them astonished and forcing them to return in frustration.

Little did they know, Fang Bai, Tang Wenrou, Wu De, and the Lightning Mink were all proficient in the Concealment Aura Art. A thousand miles outside of White Cloud Immortal City, they each concealed their aura, breaking off the trace from the eight top-tier factions.

"Old Taoist Wu, let's slow down a bit!"

The Lightning Mink knew that Fang Bai and Tang Wenrou had been apart for many years, and they must have much to talk about upon reuniting, so he exchanged a glance with Wu De, and the two deliberately lagged behind, leaving Fang Bai and Tang Wenrou walking ahead.

"These years must have been hard on you!"

Fang Bai held Tang Wenrou's hand, looking at her face, which seemed even more delicate than when she was in the lower realms, and said softly.

"Not hard at all!"

Tang Wenrou shook her head and a smile appeared on her lips as she said, "I find that while the Immortal Realm is dangerous, it's far more interesting than the lower realms!"

Tang Wenrou, cold on the outside but warm on the inside, was full of adventure at heart. Although her training in the Immortal Realm had put her in many dangerous situations, even at the brink of life and death, this was the life she truly enjoyed.

Through great challenges comes great cultivation.

Tang Wenrou hadn't quite understood what Fang Bai meant by this before, but now she did.

Since ascending to the Immortal Realm, her cultivation level had surged, reaching the Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm at a speed unimaginable to most immortals. It was through countless perils and equally numerous epiphanies that she reached her current realm.

Fang Bai looked at Tang Wenrou, knowing that she was speaking from the heart, and he also smiled, saying, "Like you, I also love the Immortal Realm. There are extraordinarily powerful immortals and immortal beasts, a wide array of colorful Immortal Technique Secrets, countless cultivation resources, beautifully magical cultivation holy lands, and the extremely dangerous Forbidden Zones of Life. Additionally, there are the different domains where the three races of immortals, demons, and monsters coexist..."

He paused for a moment and continued, "However, today's Immortal Realm is not the same as a thousand years ago. There's no fairness, no justice, as most cultivation resources are controlled and occupied by the eight top-tier Immortal Emperors and their forces. This is not the Immortal Realm I loved."

Tang Wenrou knew Fang Bai had been reborn and returned to the Immortal Realm with a lingering obsession, so she tightened her hand around his and said, "Now that you're back, everything here will gradually change until it becomes what you desire. And I will be by your side all the way."

Fang Bai nodded and said, "I believe that day will come soon!"

He turned to Tang Wenrou, smiling, and asked, "So you've encountered great opportunities since coming to the Immortal Realm, given that you've advanced to the Ninth Grade Immortal Venerable Realm. Among those who ascended from the lower realms, aside from Linglong, you're the most advanced."

Tang Wenrou, hearing this, looked surprised and delighted, asking, "You've already found Linglong and the others?"

Fang Bai shook his head, sighing with nostalgia, and said, "So far, I've only found Rushi, Ruhua, Mingyue, Linglong, and now you..."

Looking back at Wu De and the Lightning Mink trailing behind, he added, "And those two."

Counting the Emperor's Palace disciples who ascended from the lower realms, there were hundreds, but very few had reunited with Fang Bai, and he worried about the others, unsure of their whereabouts or fate.

Tang Wenrou said, "The Emperor's Palace disciples who ascended all cultivated the Immortal Technique Secrets you spread, enabling them to conceal their aura. As long as they're cautious, they should be fine. And as we search slowly, we're bound to find them."

Having bonded with Rushi, Ruhua, Mingyue, and Linglong like sisters, Tang Wenrou inquired about their circumstances and, learning they were safe and sound, sighed lightly, hoping for a reunion soon.

They descended onto a vast grassland, hand in hand, and walked along a grassy slope.

After walking for a long while, they sat down, lying back on the soft grass, watching the swirling rainbow-colored Auspicious Clouds and flying immortal birds, quietly sharing the feelings of separation and reunion.

In the distance, Wu De and the Lightning Mink lay carelessly in a "big" shape, each with a blade of grass in their mouth, reflecting on their own thoughts.

