

Doctor 231

Chapter 231: Xingyuan Realm

"Definitely!"

Fang Bai said seriously, "If you step onto the path of martial Dao in the future and reach a certain realm in your cultivation, not to mention living to be a hundred years old, you could live to a thousand, even ten thousand years. Some martial artists who have entered the Dao through martial arts possess bodies of immortal gods, eternally youthful and with unextinguishable lives!"

Who among mortals doesn't wish for eternal youth?

And who doesn't want to live forever?

"Big brother, please teach me the martial arts techniques soon, I can hardly wait!"

Fang Bai's words had a substantial impact and a great shock on Dongfang Ruhua's young soul, and they also reaffirmed her determination and belief to pursue the martial Dao wholeheartedly.

Fang Bai sat cross-legged on the bamboo floor and gestured for Dongfang Ruhua to sit opposite him, then conveyed the Thunder Technique "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra" to her, word for word.

Dongfang Ruhua, possessing an innate Thunder Spirit Root, had a natural affinity for the corresponding Thunder Technique, so she learned very quickly. In no time at all, she had deeply imprinted the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra" in her mind.

"Eat this 'Creation Pill' and this 'Thunder Fruit' first, then circulate the 'Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra' to refine the power of the elixir and the power of the fruit."

After handing a mid-grade "Creation Pill" and a "Thunder Fruit" to Dongfang Ruhua, Fang Bai got off the bamboo bed and stepped outside the bamboo house. He sat down on a smooth, circular boulder.

The night had grown deep, with stars scattered across the sky, and silence all around.

A moment later, a rich Heaven and Earth Origin Energy began to flow into the bamboo house, as if drawn in by a powerful force.

Fang Bai knew this was Dongfang Ruhua digesting the "Creation Pill" and the "Thunder Fruit," starting to circulate the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra" to refine the power of the elixir and the fruit. In the process of circulating, the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra" attracted Heaven and Earth Origin Energy into her body.

Based on his experience, Fang Bai could assert that Dongfang Ruhua's current practice session was likely to lead to an unexpectedly significant breakthrough.

"I hope Ruhua will bring me a pleasant surprise!"

Fang Bai glanced towards the bamboo house and smiled contentedly. He took out a bottle of mid-grade "Gathering Spirit Pills" from his Spatial Ring, poured all ten pills onto his palm, and after observing them for a while, swallowed them all at once.

A mid-grade "Gathering Spirit Pill" was very potent, and even an innate martial artist wouldn't dare to consume more than one at a time, needing a lengthy period to completely refine its power.

If too many "Gathering Spirit Pills" were taken at once, the Sea of Consciousness could not withstand the fierce impact of the potent power, and it would suffer great damage.

A martial artist has "Three Seas," located at the center of the eyebrows is the "Sea of Consciousness," in the middle of the chest the "Heart Sea," and at the lower abdomen the "Qi Sea."

A martial artist's "Three Seas" are considered the three most essential parts, all related to a martial artist's cultivation.

The Sea of Consciousness is where Divine Sense condenses; the Heart Sea can conceal Spiritual Artifacts; the Qi Sea can accumulate True Yuan.

Normally, when a cultivator reaches a significant milestone and becomes a martial artist, they would form a Qi Sea.

After a martial artist enters the Innate Realm, they congeal Divine Sense, and then a Sea of Consciousness emerges.

Once a martial artist has both the Sea of Consciousness and the Qi Sea established, they can connect with the heavens and the earth, bridging the Sea of Consciousness and the Qi Sea, which then gives rise to the Heart Sea.

Any Spiritual Artifact that a martial artist refines, once they acknowledge ownership by blood, can be effortlessly placed within the Heart Sea. When the time comes to use it, a mere thought is enough to summon the Spiritual Artifact for offense and defense.

In his previous life as the Immortal Emperor, Fang Bai's spiritual consciousness was so powerful that he could withstand the shock from any number of "Gathering Spirit Pills," and in fact, he even considered the number of "Gathering Spirit Pills" too few and their grade too low, worrying about whether he could successfully condense Divine Sense and thereby give rise to the Sea of Consciousness.

After swallowing a bottle of "Gathering Spirit Pills," Fang Bai also began to sit cross-legged and circulated the Cultivation Technique to refine the pill's potency.

After an unknown amount of time, Fang Bai's tightly closed eyes suddenly snapped open, and a flash of brightness akin to sunlight quickly vanished from his gaze.

"Although I've only condensed a wisp of weak Divine Sense, I've finally succeeded in giving rise to the Sea of Consciousness! As my cultivation level and realm increase in the future, or if I can refine more 'Gathering Spirit Pills,' my Divine Sense will only grow stronger," he thought, a hint of satisfaction curling at the corners of his mouth.

Fang Bai tried to release that wisp of Divine Sense and instantly, every blade of grass and tree, every movement within a few miles of the vast valley, became crystal clear in his mind, completely under his surveillance.

The "Three Seas" of a Martial Artist are complementary, and after Fang Bai condensed the Divine Sense, the True Yuan in his Qi Sea surged with such tumultuous waves that faint signs of a breakthrough began to emerge.

For Martial Artists, such a phenomenon is considered an opportunity.

If missed, one might not know when such an opportunity would arise again.

Naturally, Fang Bai wasn't about to let this chance slip by. He quickly took out a bottle of mid-grade "Creation Pills" from his Spatial Ring and, without hesitation, swallowed all ten Elixirs.

Fang Bai, currently cultivating the "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique" at the perfection stage of the "Accumulating Essence Realm," was planning to use the dense Heaven and Earth Origin Energy within the valley, as well as the mid-grade "Creation Pills," to charge at the third layer of the "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique," the "Xingyuan Realm."

Once he successfully advanced to the "Xingyuan Realm," Fang Bai would possess the strength equivalent to an Earth Rank beginning-stage Martial Artist from the Ancient Martial World.

Earth Rank Martial Artists only exist within Hidden Sects, and since Hidden Sects keep to themselves and do not emerge, once Fang Bai achieved the strength of an Earth Rank Martial Artist, he could sweep through any opponent in the secular world, thus becoming an extremely powerful being.

Of course, possessing a special physique, cultivating a special Cultivation Technique, and having condensed a wisp of Divine Sense, Fang Bai could easily triumph over Earth Rank Martial Artists of the same level from the Hidden Sects.

Even facing a challenge from a higher realm, Fang Bai had the strength to fight.

As the "Creation Pill" released its potency, Heaven and Earth Origin Energy from the surroundings began converging into Fang Bai's body, far surpassing the speed at which Dongfang Ruhua inside the bamboo house was absorbing Heaven and Earth Origin Energy.

With the massive influx of Origin Energy, Fang Bai's body began undergoing tremendous changes.

His physical flesh and bones became stronger and more formidable; his meridians and blood vessels became wider and more resilient; his Qi Sea was rapidly expanding.

Looking inward at his Qi Sea with Divine Sense, Fang Bai saw the ball of Chaos Origin Energy that floated there had grown to the size of a ball and was endlessly spinning on its own within the Qi Sea.

The spinning Chaos Origin Energy generated a tremendous gravitational force, continuously drawing the outside Heaven and Earth Origin Energy into his body.

Moreover, the chaotic ball of Origin Energy had transformed from an original blur into a clearly distinguishable mix of seven colors: white, cyan, black, red, yellow, gray, and purple.

The white, cyan, black, red, and yellow represented the colors of the five elements.

Gray and purple represented the colors of wind and thunder, respectively.

The seven colors signified seven different types of True Yuan.

Chapter 232: The Delicate Girl Who Grew Stronger

Fang Bai knew that as his cultivation level and realm improved, these seven True Yuan would eventually separate, and seven Golden Cores would form in his Qi Sea before transforming into Nascent Souls, eventually culminating in seven Primordial Spirit Incarnations.

Inside and outside the bamboo house, Fang Bai and Dongfang Ruhua were simultaneously absorbing the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy, each working towards a breakthrough in different realms.

Unbeknownst to them, the clouds on the eastern horizon began to show a faint light, signaling the arrival of dawn.

As the first rays of morning light shone into the valley, a stronger and a weaker surge of True Yuan fluctuations emanated from inside and outside the bamboo house, respectively.

One came from Dongfang Ruhua, and the other came from Fang Bai.

If there had been martial artists present, they would have recognized these as the True Yuan fluctuations produced during a rise in strength.

Naturally, the more intense fluctuations were coming from Fang Bai.

After a whole night of cultivation, Fang Bai's "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique" had finally advanced from the Accumulating Essence Realm to the initial stage of the Xingyuan Realm.

This advancement in realm brought with it a several-fold increase in strength.

Feeling the changes in his body and the explosive surge in strength, Fang Bai opened his eyes and couldn't help but burst into an exuberant laugh.

"Big brother, what are you laughing about?"

A delicate and sweet voice suddenly sounded in Fang Bai's ear.

Fang Bai stopped laughing and turned his head to see Dongfang Ruhua stepping out from the bamboo house, looking at him with a curious expression.

"Ha, a mid-grade 'Marrow Cleansing Pill' and a mid-grade 'Creation Pill' actually advanced you to the status of a Yellow Level High Rank Martial Artist! Congratulations, Ruhua!"

Fang Bai's gaze made a round over Dongfang Ruhua's body, speaking with a beaming smile.

Dongfang Ruhua didn't know what "Yellow Level High Rank" meant, but she could distinctly feel the changes within her, feeling an inexhaustible strength coursing through her body, which also felt incredibly light, as if she could leap into the sky with ease.

"Big brother, have I become very powerful now?"

Dongfang Ruhua excitedly asked.

"Compared to your former self, of course you've become much more powerful! Come, stand in front of this tree, circulate the 'Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra,' and punch as hard as you can to try it out!"

Fang Bai leaped down from the level stone where he had been sitting cross-legged and pointed to a tree behind him that was as thick as a thigh.

Full of eagerness, Dongfang Ruhua walked up to the tree, the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra" rotating rapidly within her, and with a shout of "Hey," her right fist thundered out, carrying a faint sound of thunder, striking firmly against the trunk of the tree.

Boom—

The tree shook violently, snapping from where Dongfang Ruhua's fist struck and crashing to the ground with a thunderous fall.

Dongfang Ruhua was startled and hurriedly retreated a few steps, staring wide-eyed and speechless at the fallen tree, hardly believing she was the one who had broken it.

"How about it, are you satisfied with your strength now?"

Fang Bai, seeing Dongfang Ruhua's astonished expression, asked with a grin.

Dongfang Ruhua snapped out of it, looked down at her fist, and seeing it was intact, finally relaxed.

"Satisfied! More than satisfied!"

Dongfang Ruhua jumped for joy, her fists excitedly pumping in the air a few times.

Overnight, she went from a delicate young girl who couldn't fight off a chicken to a martial artist capable of punching through a large tree, making Dongfang Ruhua feel as if she were dreaming.

With such strength, she would no longer need a bodyguard to follow her to and from school.

When she thought of the word "bodyguard," the faces of Uncle Zhang and Uncle Wang, who died because of her, swam before her eyes, and her excitement vanished instantly.

"What's wrong?"

Seeing her downcast and sorrowful, Fang Bai asked.

"If I had had such formidable skills earlier, perhaps Uncle Zhang and Uncle Wang wouldn't have been killed by that Lingnan Poison Venerable."

Dongfang Ruhua sighed.

"The Lingnan Poison Venerable is a Profound Level Expert. With your current strength, you're still no match for him."

Fang Bai walked over to Dongfang Ruhua, patted her on the shoulder, and said gently, "I know you feel guilty and responsible for the deaths of the two bodyguards, but I hope you can transform that guilt into motivation for your cultivation. As long as you grow stronger, no one will be able to harm you or your loved ones and friends in the future."

"Mm. Big brother, I will definitely work hard!"

Dongfang Ruhua clenched her fists tightly, her gaze unwavering.

"Alright, it's getting late; we need to hurry down the mountain! You've been missing for so long, your family must be going crazy with worry!"

As he spoke, Fang Bai led the way toward the mouth of the valley.

"Big brother, will we come back here in the future?"

Dongfang Ruhua caught up with Fang Bai and asked.

For Dongfang Ruhua, this valley was like a beautiful paradise, and she felt reluctant to leave it.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Of course. This valley is full of spiritual medicines, and Heaven and Earth Origin Energy is very rich here; it's a treasure place for cultivation. Whenever we have free time, I'll bring you here often."

"That's great."

Hearing that they would be able to return regularly, Dongfang Ruhua's face finally lit up with a smile.

Upon reaching the valley, standing at the entrance of the gorge, Fang Bai took out the last few Essence Stones from his Spatial Ring, placed them in different locations, then moved his hands to inscribe a series of strange symbols on the walls of the gorge. Afterward, he waved his hands through the air.

To Dongfang Ruhua's amazement, as Fang Bai waved his hands through the void, ripples appeared in the space before him. Then she saw the Essence Stones emit a dazzling light.

"Huh?"

When the light from the Essence Stones intertwined, the scenery before Dongfang Ruhua's eyes blurred, and the original entrance of the valley vanished, replaced by a steep mountain wall, identical to the one they had seen upon arrival.

"Big brother, what is this...?"

"I used the Essence Stones to set up a new Illusory Formation. Now, other people won't be able to discover this valley, and only we will be able to enter it," Fang Bai replied, patting his hands with a smile.

In his previous life, not only did Fang Bai possess formidable strength, but he was also an unparalleled Array Master. Setting up such a minor Illusory Formation was effortless for him.

It was just a pity that Fang Bai had too few Essence Stones on him, and their quality was too poor; otherwise, he could have set up a higher-rank formation. Then, even a skilled Array Master wouldn't be able to break his formation.

After leaving the gorge, the two discerned their direction and sped toward Yanjing City.

Overnight, Dongfang Ruhua had become a martial artist, her spirits uplifted. As she soared, she put forth all her effort unreservedly, reveling in the sensation of the wind whistling past her ears during the flight.

Due to her inexperience and insufficient True Yuan, and not knowing how to use True Yuan efficiently, her True Yuan was depleted after half an hour. She had no choice but to let Fang Bai pull her by the hand as they continued on their way.

Overcoming mountains and crossing ridges, an hour later, they finally arrived at the spot where Dongfang Ruhua had disappeared the day before.

Chapter 233: Mother and Daughter Reunited

Standing on the ridge, looking down to the wide-open space below, one could see several large tents erected, with numerous men and women in black suits patrolling around the tents, and a group of people setting off toward the mountainous area.

"They are people from your family. It looks like they are still searching for you!"

Fang Bai had spotted Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Rushi, the mother and daughter standing in front of one of the tents, from a distance.

At the moment, the mother and daughter were discussing something in a low voice, appearing very haggard, as if they hadn't rested well during the time of the disappearance.

After becoming a Martial Artist, Dongfang Ruhua's senses had also become sharp, and she spotted her mother and sister. Her eyes reddened and her nose felt sour as she dashed down the ridge toward the tents.

Fang Bai smiled faintly, then followed suit.

They were still far from the tents when the patrolling bodyguards spotted them.

Excited beyond measure to see their young miss safe and sound, one of them ran back to the tent to inform Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Rushi.

After the disappearance of Dongfang Ruhua, the Dongfang Family mobilized all resources to search for her. Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Rushi, mother and daughter, were anxious and personally came to the site where Dongfang Ruhua had gone missing to oversee the operation. However, after a day and a night had passed with no clue found, the two were nearly in despair.

Upon hearing the bodyguard's report, both mother and daughter turned their heads simultaneously, just to see Dongfang Ruhua sprinting toward them.

"Ruhua!"

Seeing her daughter, whom she had thought about day and night, Lin Ruoxue couldn't help but cry tears of joy, racing forward to meet her.

"Mom!"

Like a swallow returning to its nest, Dongfang Ruhua ran to her mother, opened her arms, and plunged into her embrace, bursting into loud sobs.

Fang Bai stopped in his tracks, standing a short distance away, watching this touching scene with a faint smile on his lips.

Dongfang Rushi stood beside her mother and sister, her expression as calm as ever, but the fleeting turbulence in her eyes was keenly captured by Fang Bai.

Seeing Dongfang Rushi maintain such composure in this situation, Fang Bai couldn't help but click his tongue in wonder.

Fang Bai could feel that although Dongfang Rushi did not display her emotions openly through tears and embraces like Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Ruhua, her heart was equally tumultuous. It was just that her will was strong, far beyond the ordinary, and she had been forcibly suppressing her feelings without showing them.

A firm will is an indispensable quality for a Martial Artist. If Dongfang Rushi possessed an Innate Spiritual Root and was willing to embark on the path of Martial Dao, then she would undoubtedly become an outstanding Martial Artist.

Since Dongfang Ruhua was of the Innate Thunder Spirit Root, Dongfang Rushi, being blood-related, should also have considerable potential.

Thinking this, Fang Bai couldn't help but take a few more glances at Dongfang Rushi.

As if sensing Fang Bai's gaze, Dongfang Rushi turned her head to look at him.

Their eyes met, and Fang Bai nodded and smiled at Dongfang Rushi, as a greeting.

Dongfang Rushi's eyebrows furrowed slightly before she walked towards Fang Bai.

"Doctor Fang, thank you."

Approaching Fang Bai, Dongfang Rushi gave him a slight bow and said indifferently, "Although I'm not sure of the specifics of the incident, I know that if it wasn't for Doctor Fang at Ruhua's side, Ruhua might have met with misfortune. On behalf of the Dongfang Family, I thank you."

Dongfang Rushi was right, if it hadn't been for Fang Bai, Dongfang Ruhua indeed would have perished. Therefore, Fang Bai accepted her gesture of thanks with composure.

"Doctor Fang, could you tell me about what happened?"

Dongfang Rushi glanced at her mother, Lin Ruoxue, and her sister, Dongfang Ruhua, and, seeing them still holding their heads and crying bitterly, shook her head helplessly, knowing their emotions would not stabilize for a while.

The attack on Dongfang Ruhua was definitely not as simple as it seemed on the surface; it was probably a conspiracy against the entire Dongfang Family. As one of the core members of the Dongfang Family, Dongfang Rushi needed to understand what had transpired in order to uncover the truth and identify the mastermind behind it.

"Of course."

Fang Bai, in this matter, naturally wouldn't hide anything. He recounted everything from encountering Dongfang Ruhua's teachers and classmates, learning of her disappearance, and helping to search for her, to the two of them hiding in a cave and narrowly escaping from a mudslide.

Naturally, regarding that valley that seemed like a hidden paradise, Fang Bai made no mention.

Fang Bai had also specifically instructed Dongfang Ruhua not to mention the valley to anyone, to prevent word from spreading and the cultivation haven from being destroyed by others.

Additionally, he casually mentioned the matter of teaching Dongfang Ruhua Martial Arts cultivation techniques.

As Fang Bai narrated the events, Dongfang Rushi's clear autumnal eyes remained fixed on him, listening intently with her eyebrows occasionally furrowing and relaxing.

"Doctor Fang, are you saying... that Ruhua is now a Martial Artist?"

After Fang Bai finished speaking, Dongfang Rushi glanced over at her sister Dongfang Ruhua, and asked in surprise.

In Dongfang Rushi's view, her sister had always detested acts of violence from a young age, so her becoming a Martial Artist was quite unimaginable.

Fang Bai said with a smile, "That's correct. Seeing that Ruhua has an exceptional aptitude, a rare talent for cultivating Martial Arts, I took it upon myself to impart some cultivation techniques to her. After practicing, she made rapid progress and has become a Martial Artist."

Dongfang Rushi had been intelligent and talented from a young age, well-versed in many fields, including an interest in the Martial Dao. However, after the Martial Artist tasked with teaching her declared she wasn't cut out for martial training, she gave up on Martial Arts and focused on business, eventually becoming known as the "First Talented Woman of Business" in Huaxia.

Having been exposed to Martial Arts, Dongfang Rushi knew that becoming a Martial Artist was not an overnight accomplishment; it required prolonged diligent study and great effort, and thus, she was skeptical of Fang Bai's claim.

"Ruhua, come here for a moment."

Seeing Dongfang Rushi's disbelief, Fang Bai waved towards Dongfang Ruhua and called out loudly.

Dongfang Ruhua, having mostly finished crying with her mother, was conversing in low voices. Upon hearing Fang Bai's call, she immediately wiped away her tears and obediently walked over to his side.

"Big brother, what is it?"

Dongfang Ruhua asked, wiping her somewhat red eyes from crying.

Through her younger daughter's account, Lin Ruoxue also learned of the various events after the attack. Grateful for Fang Bai saving her daughter's life once again, she didn't get angry when their conversation was interrupted by Fang Bai; instead, she followed her younger daughter and walked over as well.

Chapter 234: The Best Gratitude

Lin Ruoxue had met Fang Bai once, and their subsequent meeting naturally involved a few pleasantries.

Seizing the opportunity while her mother and Fang Bai exchanged pleasantries, Dongfang Ruhua walked up to her sister Dongfang Rushi and embraced her for a moment.

Although the two sisters didn't speak much, they shared an unspoken understanding and telepathy, a single glance conveyed more than a thousand words ever could.

"Ruhua, your sister doesn't believe you've become a Martial Artist, show her some proof," said Fang Bai, giving Dongfang Ruhua a meaningful look.

"Sister, Big Brother taught me a Cultivation Method, and I really am a Martial Artist now!"

As soon as Dongfang Ruhua heard Fang Bai mention anything about martial arts, her spirits lifted. She giggled, lightly tapped the ground with her toes, and with a swiftness of the wind, she dashed to a tall boulder several meters away. "Hei!" she exhaled as her palm struck out.

Amidst the faint sound of thunder, her delicate palm hit the boulder, which astonishingly split into several pieces and collapsed to the ground.

Lin Ruoxue, a member of the Doctor Pavilion Sect and also a Martial Artist, was only a mid-Yellow Level, and she watched in sheer amazement as her little daughter's palm strike proved to be much more powerful than her own, leaving her speechless and in utter disbelief.

Dongfang Rushi was always calm and composed, rarely losing her poise, but at this moment her mouth fell open slightly, a glint of surprise flashing through her eyes.

Dongfang Rushi had once been told she was not suited for martial arts, and Dongfang Ruhua had received the same assessment, but now that her younger sister had become a Martial Artist, did it not mean that she herself could also aspire to delve into martial arts and become a Martial Artist?

Dongfang Rushi cast a glance at Fang Bai, her heart stirring with the desire to ask him something, yet she hesitated to speak up.

Dongfang Ruhua returned to her original spot, her beautiful face flushed with excitement as she said, "Sister, do you believe that I am a Martial Artist now? Big Brother said I am now a high-rank Yellow Level Martial Artist, even stronger than many of our family's bodyguards!"

Having a strength greater than many bodyguards in her family meant that, in the future, Dongfang Ruhua wouldn't need the family to send bodyguards to protect her when she traveled.

Dongfang Rushi couldn't help but feel a twinge of envy toward her high-spirited sister.

As one of the core figures in the Dongfang Family, every time Dongfang Rushi went out, she was surrounded by layers of bodyguards, which left her little personal space or freedom. Although this was bothersome, she was helpless to change it.

"Ruhua, congratulations," Dongfang Rushi said, taking her sister's small hand with a tender look in her eyes, "We all feel much relieved now that you have the ability to protect yourself. Doctor Fang's contribution to your becoming a Martial Artist is significant, and you must express your gratitude to him."

"Yes, Ruhua!"

Lin Ruoxue was overjoyed at the fact that her younger daughter had become a Martial Artist, and even surpassed herself in strength, she said with a smile, "Although you haven't officially taken Doctor Fang as your master, he has bestowed upon you the gift of his teaching. You mustn't forget this kindness!"

Dongfang Ruhua nodded vigorously at Fang Bai and said, "Big Brother, how should I thank you? Should I invite you for a meal, or... should I ask Grandpa to give you a lot of money?"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "If you can properly cultivate the martial arts technique I've taught you, that will be the best thanks I could ask for."

"Don't worry, Big Brother, I will surely practice diligently!"

Dongfang Ruhua, having tasted the sweetness of martial arts, was almost obsessed. Even without Fang Bai's urging, she wouldn't slack off.

Following the address given by Fang Bai, Dongfang Rushi sent people to check the valley where the mudslide occurred, to see if there was any hope of recovering the bodies of the two family bodyguards as well as the Lingnan Poison Venerable. Regrettably, the valley was completely covered by the mudslide, and they were powerless to do anything, so they had no choice but to give up.

Since Dongfang Ruhua had been found, other matters seemed secondary. Thus, everyone began to evacuate from the mountainous area, returning together to Yanjing.

Fang Bai originally intended to return to his courtyard house, but Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Ruhua, mother and daughter, pleaded persistently, insisting that Fang Bai visit the Dongfang family as a guest, if only for a meal, as a way to express their gratitude.

Unable to decline the warm insistence of the mother and daughter, Fang Bai agreed and accompanied them to the Dongfang family's residence.

Upon arriving at the luxurious compound of the Dongfang family, Dongfang Leiming, who had received the news in advance, personally led the core members of the family to line up and greet them at the main entrance.

Some members of the Dongfang Family had reservations about Dongfang Leiming's actions, believing that Fang Bai's status did not warrant such a grand reception. They were sternly scolded by Dongfang Leiming and dared not to speak further.

The motorcade carrying Fang Bai, Lin Ruoxue, Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua, and others came to a stop in front of the mansion's gates, where two bodyguards stepped forward to open the car doors.

"Grandfather!"

Dongfang Ruhua was the first to climb out of the car and threw herself into Dongfang Leiming's arms, unable to hold back a fresh bout of tears.

Dongfang Ruhua was the most doted granddaughter of Patriarch Leiming, and their affection for each other ran deep. Seeing his little granddaughter crying so sorrowfully, tears also appeared in the eyes of Dongfang Leiming.

It wasn't until Fang Bai appeared with a smile that Dongfang Leiming patted Dongfang Ruhua's back and said softly, "Ruhua, be good, stop crying. Grandfather needs to speak a few words with Doctor Fang."

Dongfang Ruhua wiped her tear-stained eyes and moved away from her grandfather's embrace to stand aside.

"Doctor Fang, thank you!"

Dongfang Leiming stepped forward to greet Fang Bai, grasping one of his hands with both of his, and expressed his feelings, "You have saved Ruhua's life for the second time. Such a great kindness will never be forgotten by the Dongfang family! From now on, your matters are the Dongfang family's matters!"

"Elder, Doctor Fang not only saved Ruhua this time, but he also helped her greatly."

Lin Ruoxue came forward and said with a smile, "Ruhua is now a Yellow Level High Rank Martial Artist, even surpassing me by a small realm."

Dongfang Leiming's white eyebrows rose in great joy as he looked toward Dongfang Ruhua and exclaimed, "Is that true?"

"Grandfather, it's true! Big Brother is amazing, he taught me a cultivation technique, and after practicing it, I have become a martial artist!"

Hearing Dongfang Ruhua's words, Fang Bai couldn't help but smile wryly.

Dongfang Ruhua spoke lightly, but in reality, her current strength was not only due to her rare Innate Thunder Spirit Root but also because he had given her a medium-quality Marrow Cleansing Pill and a medium-quality Creation Pill. On top of that, she had cultivated in a valley rich in Essence Energy for an entire night. Otherwise, she could never have achieved her current realm.

Some of the Dongfang family's youngsters, who also studied ancient learnings, knew the difficulty of martial arts cultivation. They did not believe that Dongfang Ruhua could become a martial artist, let alone a Yellow Level High Rank Martial Artist, in the brief span of a day and night of her disappearance.

Other people, aware of Dongfang Ruhua's admiration for Fang Bai, suspected that she might be deliberately praising Fang Bai.

This was particularly the case with Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, two brothers who had some grudges with Fang Bai. Their gazes toward Fang Bai were filled with scorn and disdain.

Dongfang Leiming and Fang Bai walked side by side into the mansion, where they sat down in the living room of the villa. Lin Ruoxue personally went to arrange lunch.

Chapter 235: The Furious Dongfang Ruhua

"If we find out who is behind this, the Dongfang Family will spare no effort to contend with them to the end!" Dongfang Leiming realized that the matter brought up by Fang Bai concerning the Lingnan Poison Venerable was a premeditated attack against the Dongfang Family and was infuriated.

"I've already sent someone to investigate this matter. We initially wanted to find some clues from the bodies of the two bodyguards who died in our house or from the Lingnan Poison Venerable's body, but sadly, the three bodies were buried too deeply by the mudslide, and we couldn't dig them out..." Dongfang Rushi sat next to Dongfang Leiming with a calm and expressionless face, and she said indifferently, "With this, finding the mastermind has become very difficult. However, if the enemy has specifically targeted us, then after one failed attack, they will surely try a second time. Therefore, we must strengthen our security and not give the enemy any opportunities while also looking for clues..."

Fang Bai smiled as he watched Dongfang Rushi, admiring the way she spoke with confidence.

"Innate Water Spirit Root... This Dongfang Rushi, just like her sister, is truly a genius suited for martial arts cultivation." With Divine Sense, Fang Bai no longer needed to physically "examine bones"; by simply releasing his Divine Sense, he could tell if someone possessed an Innate Spiritual Root.

His Divine Sense had just swept over Dongfang Rushi, and he knew that she possessed an Innate Water Spirit Root, the same constitution as Baili Mingyue.

If Dongfang Rushi had an outgoing personality like Dongfang Ruhua, making her approachable, Fang Bai could just find a time to ask her if she was willing to follow him in martial arts cultivation.

However, Dongfang Rushi's temperament was cold and reserved, her demeanor serious and not given to laughter, which gave others the impression of keeping them at a great distance. Fang Bai was unsure how she would react; he worried that if he asked, he would be rejected, resulting in an awkward situation.

"Never mind. I'll just let Ruhua, that girl, subtly ask about it later. If Dongfang Rushi is willing to learn martial arts, then it's fate. If she's not, then it's a case of having the right path but not being able to walk it together!" Fang Bai thought to himself.

As noon approached, Lin Ruoxue came to invite everyone to the dining room for a meal.

During the meal, Dongfang Leiming and other core members of the Dongfang Family took turns toasting Fang Bai.

Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, although dissatisfied with Fang Bai, dared not make a scene with Dongfang Leiming present and obediently toasted Fang Bai.

However, they were not harboring good intentions; they urged a group of younger Dongfang Family members to toast Fang Bai a few more times than necessary, hoping to make him drunk and embarrass himself in public.

To their surprise, Fang Bai drank several catties of liquor without showing the slightest sign of intoxication; instead, he seemed even more lucid, especially when his bright and spirited eyes swept over Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, they felt as if being struck by arrows, causing a shiver in their hearts.

Seeing that they couldn't get Fang Bai drunk, and they were instead nearing intoxication, the younger members of the Dongfang Family retreated in defeat.

Dongfang Leiming and others marveled and repeatedly praised Fang Bai's capacity for alcohol.

After the meal, people continued to chat in the living room, with the topic still revolving around the previous day's attack.

"It's really strange when you think about it. Right after Sister Ruhua was attacked, Doctor Fang appeared on the scene, then killed that so-called 'Lingnan Poison Venerable', and saved Sister Ruhua's life... Hehe, how coincidental is that?"

"And there's more, our family's two bodyguards and that attacker 'Lingnan Poison Venerable' – somehow, when alive, they weren't seen, and when dead, their bodies weren't found. With their deaths, if we wanted to investigate the origin and development of these events, it's impossible now... only hearing one side of the story, who knows if it's true or false?"

"Who knows if there really was a 'Lingnan Poison Venerable'? Hmm, I think there must be something fishy going on."

"I also think..."

Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, these two cousins, had already held disdain for Fang Bai, and having drunk a bit of alcohol just now, they spoke with a hint of drunkenness, their tone clearly filled with suspicion towards Fang Bai.

As the two of them spoke like this, everyone else in the living room, except for Dongfang Leiming, Dongfang Yun, his wife Lin Ruoxue, and their two daughters, turned their gaze towards Fang Bai.

Although they didn't speak up, Fang Bai clearly saw the same expression of distrust in their eyes as the one on Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen's faces.

When Fang Bai acted, he only wished to be at peace with his conscience. As for what others thought or saw, he really didn't care.

Hearing Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen's words, Fang Bai coldly smiled, about to speak, when he saw a figure flash by. Dongfang Ruhua had already stood up to defend him.

"Dongfang Xing, Dongfang Chen, how... how can you speak of big brother like that? Big brother killed the Lingnan Poison Venerable, that bad person, saved my life, then transmitted martial arts cultivation techniques to me, enabling me to become a martial artist, all of which I saw with my own eyes and experienced personally!"

Dongfang Ruhua, shedding her usual innocent and adorable image, glared at Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen with big eyes filled with anger.

Normally, Dongfang Ruhua, when seeing Dongfang Xing, Dongfang Chen, and others, would call them 'brother' and 'sister', affectionately at that. Her calling the two by their names now indicated that she was extremely angry.

"I know you've had conflicts with big brother and harbor discontent towards him, but that matter was your fault, not big brother's! Big brother saved grandfather's life and mine too. Grandfather and I are both grateful to big brother, and I will not allow you to speak of him in such a manner!"

Having reached the Yellow Level as a high-rank martial artist, Dongfang Ruhua naturally carried an imposing aura when she was angry. Under the pressure of her aura, Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen actually broke out in a cold sweat, stammering without the courage to retort.

"Ruhua, after all, they are your cousins. Isn't it a bit rude to scold them in front of so many people?"

"Exactly, even if they are at fault, it's not your place, you little girl, to reprimand them. Ridiculous!"

"Third brother, aren't you going to discipline your daughter?"

"Sigh, if she's this forceful now, when the eldest daughter of the third family takes over the family power in the future, will there be any say for the rest of us?"

"Elder, you see..."

Unable to bear seeing their children being scolded into silence, the parents of Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen began to mock coldly, and even Dongfang Rushi, who had been watching indifferently, got dragged into it.

Slap—

Dongfang Leiming smacked his hand on the tea table beside him, causing the cups to roll off and shatter on the ground.

"All this bickering, what kind of decency is this? How embarrassing! I'm not even dead yet, and you've already turned the house into a mess. If there comes a day I'm not here, won't this family be turned completely upside down?"

Dongfang Leiming's face was ashen, his fierce gaze swept over the faces of his eldest son Dongfang Shan, his second son Dongfang Dian, and their families, his expression filled with the helpless wrath of the iron not turning into steel.

Chapter 236: Let's Pinky Swear

"I'll say it one more time, Doctor Fang is a benefactor of the Dongfang Family, our honored guest, and no one is to neglect him! From now on, anyone who speaks ill of Doctor Fang behind his back should pack up and leave this house, for I will consider them no longer my descendants!"

Dongfang Leiming was known for his decisive actions. Since he had spoken these words, he would surely make good on them. Thus, in the living room, none of the Dongfang family's younger generation dared to make a sound, although the looks that Dongfang Shan and Dongfang Dian's families gave Fang Bai were filled with resentment.

"It seems I'm not very welcome here... Old Master Dongfang, I have eaten already and said what I needed to. You all continue your family conversation. I will take my leave!"

Fang Bai slowly stood up, gave Dongfang Leiming a bow, and strode towards the exit.

Fang Bai was not angry because some people in the Dongfang Family questioned him; he only felt sorrow for those born into such a large clan.

Being born into a wealthy and prestigious family certainly came with money and power, endless glory, but with relatives constantly scheming against each other, fighting for power and profit, devoid of familial affection, what joy could there be?

At the same time, Fang Bai also worried about the future of Dongfang Ruhua and her family.

Fang Bai could see that Dongfang Ruhua's uncles and others were dissatisfied with Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Rushi controlling the Dongfang Family's assets, and he knew that once Dongfang Leiming passed away, Dongfang Ruhua's family would surely face marginalization and suppression. If others gained the upper hand, the fate of Dongfang Ruhua's family could be very bleak.

Of course, although Fang Bai and Dongfang Ruhua did not share a mentor-disciple relationship, there was a bond of teaching between them. Should the day come when Dongfang Ruhua's family faced difficulties, Fang Bai would not stand idly by and would certainly offer his help where possible.

"Rushi, Ruhua, see Doctor Fang off for me, and please apologize on my behalf,"

As Fang Bai left, Dongfang Leiming did not try to retain him but instead let out a sigh and instructed the sisters Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua.

No sooner had he finished speaking did the figure of Dongfang Ruhua dash out like the wind, with Dongfang Rushi rising quickly to follow.

"Big brother!"

Dongfang Ruhua caught up with the swiftly departing Fang Bai and could only call out once before tears uncontrollably started to cascade down.

"Silly girl, why are you crying?"

Fang Bai stopped in his tracks, seeing her cry so sorrowfully, and reached out to wipe away her tears.

"Big brother, I'm sorry..."

Dongfang Ruhua cried even harder, suddenly throwing herself into Fang Bai's arms, clinging tightly to him, sobbing inconsolably.

"You have nothing to be sorry for."

Fang Bai understood why Dongfang Ruhua was crying and why she said "sorry," and smiled as he patted her shoulder, comforting her, "Alright, stop crying, I'm not angry!"

"No, big brother, you must be angry! Otherwise... otherwise why would you leave?"

Dongfang Ruhua held onto Fang Bai tightly as if letting go would mean she would never see him again.

"I am leaving because I can't stand to see the faces of your uncles and the like! On the surface, they question me, but in reality, they're taking a dig at you! You could hear it, couldn't you?"

Dongfang Ruhua said, "I know... my uncles have always been dissatisfied with our family. I actually dislike them too..."

"So, you see, their cold words towards me, if I were to stay, wouldn't I just be asking for trouble?"

"But big brother, I'm so worried that once you leave, you'll never come back to our house, never speak to me again... The moment you turned to leave just now, my heart shattered!"

Fang Bai patted Dongfang Ruhua's little head and smiled, "If I don't come to your house, you can come to find me! You know my phone number, and whenever you want to talk, just contact me, and I promise to be there whenever you call. Okay?"

It was then that Dongfang Ruhua's tears turned to laughter, and she tilted her tear-stained pretty face upward, "Big brother, you won't lie to me, will you?"

"I won't."

"Then... then let's make a pinky promise..."

Fang Bai laughed heartily and extended his finger to pinky promise with Dongfang Ruhua.

Dongfang Rushi watched from a distance as her sister tightly hugged Fang Bai. Her expression was unusual until they made the pinky promise, after which she stepped forward and said to Fang Bai, "Doctor Fang, I'm really sorry about today's events. On behalf of the entire Dongfang Family, I want to apologize to you... This is also what Grandfather wishes!"

Fang Bai waved his hand, speaking indifferently, "There's no need to apologize! To tell the truth, the only people from the entire Dongfang Family that I respect are Old Master Dongfang and your family. What attitude the others have, I truly don't care!"

Dongfang Rushi looked at Fang Bai with intense eyes and slowly said, "Regarding this attack incident, I suspect it was an inside job. What do you think, Doctor Fang?"

Fang Bai shook his head, "I won't comment on your family's affairs."

"I was too abrupt in asking."

Dongfang Rushi sighed softly to herself, glanced at her sister whose face still bore tear marks, and said, "Doctor Fang, I have a favor to ask of you..."

"Go ahead."

"If one day, a major catastrophe befalls the Dongfang Family and Ruhua's life is in danger, I hope you can step in to help Ruhua, to prevent her from getting hurt. Can I count on you?"

"Yes!"

Fang Bai nodded without any hesitation.

The relationship between Fang Bai and Dongfang Ruhua had already become more than just friends. If anyone dared to harm Dongfang Ruhua, Fang Bai definitely would not stand idly by.

As for the "major catastrophe" mentioned by Dongfang Rushi, Fang Bai also knew it referred to the internal struggles for control of the Dongfang Family that would likely ensue after the eventual passing of Dongfang Leiming.

For the sake of wealth, countless familial relationships have turned hostile. Dongfang Rushi's worry was that her uncles and others might join forces to fight for control of the Dongfang Family after her grandfather Dongfang Leiming passed away, by then resorting to any despicable means necessary.

Should the family devolve into internal chaos, what Dongfang Rushi feared most was the safety of her innocent and kind-hearted sister, and knowing that Fang Bai was an Ancient Martial expert, she wanted to secure a powerful backer for Dongfang Ruhua in advance.

Seeing Fang Bai agree with a nod, Dongfang Rushi's face showed gratitude as she bowed deeply to him as thanks.

"Actually, I think you're a bit too worried."

Fang Bai looked at Dongfang Rushi and said, "Given your grandfather's current health, he can easily live another twenty or thirty years. During these twenty or thirty years, you can firmly take control of the power within the Dongfang Family. Besides, Ruhua is now a Martial Artist with considerable strength and not so easily harmed."

"I know that. I'm just preparing for potential difficulties ahead. My greatest concern right now is that some people in the family might act rashly out of desperation before my grandfather passes away, doing things that could harm the family's interests. That's why I'm finding a backup for Ruhua in advance..."

Fang Bai nodded, looking at the woman in front of him, whose age seemed close to his own. She was beautiful, wise, and composed, truly deserving of the title as 'The First Talented Woman of the Huaxia Business Community'.

Chapter 237: Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic

Despite Dongfang Ruhua's reluctance, Fang Bai eventually left.

Before he left, Fang Bai exhorted Dongfang Ruhua to cultivate diligently, to ask him about anything she didn't understand, and also told her where he lived.

At the end of September, with the help of Tang Wenrou, Fang Bai enrolled in a driving school in Yanjing and, within a single day, not only did he learn to drive, but his driving skills made the driving instructors feel ashamed, secretly marveling that none of the many students they had taught were as prodigiously gifted as Fang Bai.

Fang Bai had suddenly taken the fancy to learn to drive because he was worried about encountering emergencies or urgent matters in the future. If he were to use his movement technique to rush through the city, which was densely populated with tens of millions of people, it would inevitably shock the public and frighten pedestrians. Having a car would make things much more convenient.

The day after he got his driver's license, Fang Bai spent over a hundred thousand yuan to buy a black Volkswagen.

Now with a net worth of over ten million, Fang Bai could easily afford a luxury car, but he disliked showing off and felt that a car worth a hundred thousand was enough.

In early October, Fang Bai took a few days off from Yanjing Hospital and drove back to Zhongzhou City.

Fang Bai's return to Zhongzhou this time was mainly for two things.

One was to attend the wedding of his cousin Fang Wu, the son of his eldest uncle.

According to the memories of the original owner of this body, Fang Bai's family had always had a good relationship with his uncle's family. During the time his father Fang Gang was paralyzed, his uncle's family had provided a lot of help. Therefore, no matter what, Fang Bai had to attend his cousin's wedding.

The second was to fulfill the request of the Lu Family Patriarch of Yanjing, Lu Shengguo, to treat his third son, Lu Xinghe.

Lu Xinghe was just forty this year, currently the mayor of Zhongzhou City. For the five years since his marriage, they had been without children. A medical examination revealed that the issue lay with Lu Xinghe himself. Despite seeking medical advice from many places to no avail, the emergence of Fang Bai gave the Lu family a glimmer of hope.

Ever since Fang Bai visited the Lu family and imparted the "All-Thing Follow Heart Fist" to the Lu Family Patriarch Lu Shengguo, they had become confidants, the old and young becoming close friends despite the age difference.

With this relationship in place, coupled with Tang Wenrou also speaking on behalf of the Lu family, Fang Bai thus agreed to take a look at Lu Xinghe's medical condition when he was back in Zhongzhou.

Upon his return to Zhongzhou City, Fang Bai drove straight to "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" and parked the car in front of the shop before striding into the clinic hall with his head held high.

Although "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" had been in business for only a few months, business was booming more and more, and in Zhongzhou City, it had become second only to "Rejuvenation Hall" in fame. Fang Bai's father, Fang Gang, had also become known in patients' mouths as "Divine Doctor Fang."

Fang Gang felt undeserving of the title "Divine Doctor," because after diagnosing patients, the prescriptions he gave were almost always secret formulas left by his son, and after the patients took the medicine prepared from those formulas, they were invariably cured of their illnesses.

Even some patients with complicated and difficult diseases that "Rejuvenation Hall" couldn't cure were healed at "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic."

As a result, through word of mouth from patient to patient, "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" rose to fame throughout Zhongzhou City, and even many people from other places came seeking medical treatment.

As business picked up, Fang Gang and Yang Mei found themselves too busy to handle everything on their own, so Fang Gang called his son Fang Bai, who was far away in Yanjing, to discuss how to solve this issue. Fang Bai suggested his father hire a few people to help out, preferably graduates from a Traditional Chinese Medicine college, as they would be easier to work with.

Fang Gang heeded his son's advice and, through some friends in the Traditional Chinese Medicine community, hired four honest and dedicated clerks who had just graduated from a Traditional Chinese Medicine college.

Two male clerks were responsible for dispensing and preparing medicine for the patients; the two female clerks were in charge of receiving patients and soothing their emotions.

Fang Gang was a very generous man, offering his four clerks salaries that were considered high amongst their peers, and he had promised them a bonus at the end of the year, so all four clerks were highly motivated in their work.

As for Fang Yun, she had helped out at the clinic during the summer break, and after school started, she would occasionally visit the clinic; the rest of her time, aside from studying, was devoted to cultivation.

Fang Yun had a Fire Spirit Root and was practicing the "Redflame True Fire Technique" taught by Fang Bai. She had now entered the initial stage of the Yellow Level as a martial artist.

However, both Fang Gang and his wife Yang Mei were kept in the dark about this and knew nothing of it.

These days, whenever Fang Gang and Yang Mei talked about the affairs of the clinic, they felt as though they were in a dream, experiencing a surreal feeling.

"Our family's success today owes much to the master that our son met. It's a pity that this master is elusive like a divine dragon, impossible to meet; otherwise, we would definitely like to express our gratitude properly," Fang Gang said to Yang Mei, and she nodded in full agreement.

What they could never have imagined was that the so-called "Master" their son talked about was a figment of imagination; the real "Master" was actually their own son.

"Sir, may I ask if you are here to see a doctor?"

As soon as Fang Bai stepped into the hall of Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic, a pretty girl in a white coat approached him with a smile and asked.

Fang Bai glanced at the pretty girl, saw the words "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" printed on her white coat, knew she was one of the clerks they had hired, and said with a smile as he waved his hand: "I'm not here to see a doctor, I'm here to see someone."

"To see someone?"

The pretty girl was taken aback.

"Yes, I'm here to see my parents!"

Fang Bai said with a smile. Seeing his father Fang Gang busy attending to a long line of patients and his mother busy collecting money, he chose not to disturb them and sat down in an inconspicuous spot inside the hall.

Thinking that Fang Bai's parents were there as patients, the pretty girl left him to find a seat and turned to attend to other patients.

Fang Bai sat in the hall for nearly an hour, watching his parents bustling about, so busy they barely had time for a restroom break, and he couldn't help but smile bitterly.

In fact, with Fang Bai's current fortune of tens of millions, he could completely allow his parents to live a life of leisure, but he also knew that his parents were not the type to sit still; they would feel uncomfortable doing nothing, so they actually felt happier and more fulfilled living this busy life.

This was also why Fang Bai had initially supported his father's decision to reopen the clinic.

This time when Fang Bai came home, he had another important task, which was to perform the Marrow Cleansing on his parents.

Although his parents' constitutions were not suitable for cultivation and couldn't step onto the path of martial dao, after undergoing the Marrow Cleansing with the "Marrow Cleansing Pill," they could practice some basic cultivation techniques taught by Fang Bai and become "experts" in the eyes of ordinary people. As long as they didn't encounter real martial artists, they would have no problem defending themselves.

Chapter 238: Strange Patient

Fang Bai suddenly thought of Ghost Hand, who lived with him in the quadrangle courtyard in Yanjing.

Ghost Hand was a disciple of the Myriad Medicine Valley. His medical skills, although not as good as Fang Bai's, were much stronger than those of his father, Fang Gang. If Ghost Hand were to go to Zhongzhou, he could not only help his parents manage the Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic but could also provide guidance on his father's medical skills. Additionally, he could act as a bodyguard for the family, making him an excellent choice.

However, if Ghost Hand were to make his presence known now, he might attract the pursuit of disciples from the three Semi-Hidden Sects: Shaolin, Qingcheng Temple, and Misty Rain Tower. Fang Bai couldn't ask him to help his parents in Zhongzhou until Ghost Hand was free from worries about his safety.

In fact, with Fang Bai's current strength, he was fully capable of taking revenge on behalf of Ghost Hand. However, Ghost Hand wanted to seek justice for his sect with his own hands. Therefore, Fang Bai planned to supervise Ghost Hand's diligent cultivation after returning to Yanjing.

Once Ghost Hand's cultivation level advanced to the high rank of the Profound Level, Fang Bai would lead him to challenge the three major sects and seek retribution.

"Divine Doctor Fang, save a life!"

Suddenly, a commotion arose outside the Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic, followed by a high-pitched and urgent shout.

Accompanied by the shouting, three young men and a middle-aged man carrying a stretcher came into the hall of Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic.

"Divine Doctor Fang, please save my son!"

After placing the stretcher on the ground in the hall, the middle-aged man rushed to Fang Gang, knelt down with a thud, and repeatedly kowtowed to him.

"Stand up and talk! Stand up and talk!"

Fang Gang hurriedly got up to help the middle-aged man to his feet.

The middle-aged man stood up and, without waiting for Fang Gang to ask, began to explain his son's condition.

"My son is a student at Zhongzhou University. This morning, when he was coming home from school with a few classmates, they encountered a young man in a black long coat who was making advances on a female classmate... My son is straightforward and likes to meddle in others' affairs, so he said a few words to that man, and then... then..."

The middle-aged man paused here, glanced back at his son lying on the stretcher, his eyes reddening, and continued, "Then the young man flew into a rage, pushed my son, and he immediately collapsed to the ground and became unconscious. We've been to several major hospitals around the city, and none of them could wake my son up..."

"Let's go, let's take a look at your son."

After patiently listening to the middle-aged man, Fang Gang walked over to the stretcher with him and squatted down to examine the young man who lay unconscious.

Fang Gang was an experienced practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine and had seen many medical conditions, but after observing for a while, he couldn't figure out what was wrong with the young man on the stretcher.

"Divine Doctor Fang, is there any hope for my son?"

Seeing Fang Gang's frown deepen, the middle-aged man was extremely anxious, his voice quivering with a sob.

"I'm sorry, I'm helpless. I can't tell what ailment your son has..."

Fang Gang sighed helplessly and casually asked, "There are several Divine Doctors stationed at Rejuvenation Hall. Didn't you go there to seek medical advice?"

"I did! I just came from Rejuvenation Hall. Divine Doctor Hua said he also didn't know what the ailment is and couldn't treat it, so he suggested I try coming to you, Divine Doctor Fang..."

The middle-aged man, recalling how he had sought help from every hospital and even the well-regarded Divine Doctor Hua and Divine Doctor Fang to no avail, fell into despair. He squatted on the ground, clutching his head, and began to cry loudly, tears and sniveling pouring out.

The onlookers, seeing the middle-aged man cry so miserably, felt great sympathy. Some suggested that the young man should quickly take his son to major hospitals in other places to try their luck, hinting there might still be hope.

However, the major hospitals in Zhongzhou City were also nationally renowned for their medical levels; if his condition couldn't be treated here, there was likely little hope elsewhere.

"Don't panic, just wait a moment. I'll make a phone call and ask..."

Every time Fang Gang encountered a difficult and complicated case he couldn't solve, he would immediately think of his son. So, he took out his mobile phone, preparing to call Fang Bai for advice.

Fang Gang knew that his son's medical skills had come from a "Master"; perhaps the son had a way to solve problems he himself could not.

"Dad, no need to call, I'm here!"

Fang Gang was just about to dial when Fang Bai squeezed through the crowd with a smiling face and stood in front of Fang Gang.

"Son, when did you come back?"

Fang Gang, seeing his son suddenly appear in the store, was first stunned, then asked with a mix of surprise and joy.

"I've been back for a while, sitting in the hall. I saw you and Mom were busy, so I didn't disturb you,"

Fang Bai said with a smile.

"You came back just in time, take a look at this young man and see what's wrong with him."

Fang Gang didn't bother with pleasantries and pointed to the young man lying unconscious on the stretcher.

Fang Bai nodded, squatted down, and placed his fingers on the young man's wrist pulse.

The middle-aged man, seeing how young Fang Bai was, held little hope and continued to hold his head and weep bitterly.

"How is it, son? Have you figured anything out?"

Fang Gang saw his son touch the unconscious young man's wrist and furrow his brows intermittently in silence. He couldn't help but ask.

"I've figured it out..."

Fang Bai withdrew his hand, his expression somewhat serious, and murmured to himself, "When did such a medical and martial arts expert appear in Zhongzhou City?"

The moment Fang Bai touched the unconscious young man's pulse, he knew that someone had sealed a few meridians and blood vessels in his brain with a special technique, causing poor circulation and vitality exhaustion, which led to the coma.

The meridians of the human body exist in a conceptual state, and the blood vessels in the brain are extremely fine. Therefore, if there is a problem with the meridians and blood vessels here, it is difficult to detect the cause. No wonder those large hospitals were powerless.

If the young man's condition was not treated promptly, over time, he would become a vegetative person. By then, even if Fang Bai intervened, it would be very difficult.

"Can you cure him?"

Fang Gang, hearing his son say "I've figured it out," his eyes lit up with urgency.

"In this world, there isn't an illness your son can't cure!"

Fang Bai grinned proudly.

Fang Gang always trusted his son and hearing him speak so casually, he also breathed a sigh of relief. He patted the crying middle-aged man on the shoulder and said with pride, "My son's medical skills are superior to mine. If he says there's hope, then there is hope!"

The middle-aged man, desperate for help, felt a glimmer of hope at the words of "Divine Doctor Fang" and immediately knelt down before Fang Bai, saying, "I'm willing to give everything I have as long as you can save my son!"

If it were a wealthy person, Fang Bai wouldn't mind charging a higher fee for the consultation, but seeing the middle-aged man's attire, who seemed like an ordinary citizen, he did not plan to charge him too much. Collecting the fee based on the standards for difficult and complicated diseases would suffice.

Adhering to the principle of "a doctor's benevolent heart," Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic didn't charge high consultation fees. Compared to large clinics like Rejuvenation Hall, their prices were more affordable for ordinary citizens.

Fang Bai gently pressed a single hand onto the Baihui Acupoint on top of the unconscious young man's head and transferred a wisp of Chaos Origin Energy into him, clearing the blocked meridians and blood vessels in the young man's brain.

Chapter 239: Fang Yun in Trouble

Within ten minutes, the young man who was in a coma slowly came to, opened his eyes, looked around in confusion, then braced himself with his hands and stood up on his own.

"My son! My son!"

The middle-aged man embraced his son, tears streaming down his face with excitement.

Seeing that Fang Bai was able to cure patients that even the major hospitals and "Rejuvenation Hall" could not, the sick in the hall all gave thumbs up to Fang Bai, full of admiration.

"I'll prescribe him some medicine to take for a couple of days, and then he'll be fine."

Fang Bai stopped the middle-aged man who, having stopped crying and was ready to kowtow to him with his son, and said with a smile.

Soon, the middle-aged man received a few doses of medicine brewed by the clinic, paid the consultation fee, thanked Fang Gang and Fang Bai, the father and son, once again, and left with his son, overjoyed.

Fang Gang watched his son who was being endlessly praised by everyone, feeling both proud and a little bit at a loss.

What made him proud was that his son's medical skills were so outstanding that he could cure strange diseases that even "Rejuvenation Hall" could not handle. If this news spread, the reputation of "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" would definitely be more resounding.

The sense of loss came from the fact that after so many years of practicing medicine himself, he still had to rely on his son's help to make the clinic so successful.

It was imaginable that without the secret formulas provided by his son, the clinic could never have reached this point today.

"Who cares, even if the son is more skillful, he is still the one I, Fang Gang, brought into this world! Without the excellent genes from his old man, where would such a capable son come from?"

Fang Gang comforted himself and his mood improved once again.

Upon seeing her son coming back, Yang Mei was delighted, ignoring the business completely, and said to Fang Gang, "Let's close early today and go home to accompany our son!"

By around six o'clock in the evening, "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" closed for the day, and the family of three rode in the sedan Fang Bai had driven back, heading to their small courtyard in the suburbs.

"Son, when did you learn to drive? How much did this car cost?"

Envyng his son for being part of the car-owning class, Fang Gang now wanted to buy a sedan too, since money was no issue. Having a car when going out for errands would also look prestigious.

"This car isn't expensive, only about a hundred thousand or so. Dad, you should sign up for a driving school, and after you get your license, I'll buy one for you too."

Fang Bai guessed his father's thoughts and replied with a smile.

"Alright, I'll sign up at the driving school in a couple of days."

Fang Gang perked up, his eyes shining with excitement, but then he felt a pinch in his waist and couldn't help but exclaim, "Ouch!"

"We need to save the money we earn for our son's house and his future wife. If you want to buy a car, let's talk about it in a few years!"

Yang Mei glanced at her husband with a touch of annoyance and said.

When the lady of the house spoke, Fang Gang felt as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over him, his enthusiasm evaporated, and he sighed despondently.

Fang Bai held back his laughter and said, "Mom, don't worry about the money for me to buy a house and get married. Don't forget, I'm now a Divine Doctor, it's very easy for me to make money! After attending big cousin's wedding and coming back, let dad go to driving school!"

He paused then added, "Oh, and my sister too, let her learn to drive! When the time comes, buy two cars, one for dad and one for my sister!"

Yang Mei was startled and said, "Two cars will cost several hundred thousand! Son, even if you have some money now, you can't just spend it recklessly!"

Fang Bai chuckled and boasted, "I have a few million in hand now, spending tens of thousands to buy two cars is nothing!"

Actually, Fang Bai already had a fortune of tens of millions, but he didn't dare to say too much for fear of startling his parents.

Even though they knew their son was skilled in medicine and earning money was not difficult for him, the fact that he had made millions in just two or three months still stunned Fang Gang and his wife. It took them a while to come back to their senses.

Being aware that "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" was doing quite well, Fang Gang charged modestly for his consultations and prescriptions; therefore, the clinic's net income amounted to roughly a hundred thousand a month. This was no match for "Rejuvenation Hall," which made over a million a month.

However, making a million a year already made Fang Gang and his wife very content. In the past, this was something they wouldn't even dare dream of, yet they never imagined their son could earn as much as "Rejuvenation Hall" all by himself.

Now that their son was so wealthy, Yang Mei no longer opposed buying a car. Seeing her husband so excited that he was practically dancing around made Yang Mei both annoyed and amused; she couldn't help but pinch him again, huffing, "Look at how pleased you are!"

"They say a daughter is like a warm jacket to her parents, but our son is even more comforting than a warm jacket!"

Fang Gang declared proudly.

Engaged in laughter and conversation, the family of three arrived at their doorstep before they knew it.

"Today is Saturday; by this time, Fang Yun would usually have already gotten home. Why is she so late today?"

Yang Mei frowned when she saw the front door still locked.

"Maybe something held her up. I will call Big Sister and ask what's going on."

Fang Bai said as he pulled out his cell phone and dialed his sister Fang Yun.

After trying several times and getting no answer, Fang Bai also began to frown.

"I'll go to Big Sister's university to see what's happening and pick her up on the way back!"

After his parents got out of the car, Fang Bai turned the car around and sped towards Zhongzhou University.

All the way there, Fang Bai's brow was tightly knitted in worry, feeling that Fang Yun might have encountered serious trouble.

Having a Fire Spirit Root, Fang Yun had mastered the "Redflame True Fire Technique" that Fang Bai had taught her. She had reached the primary level of a Yellow Level Martial Artist. Usually, no one in or out of the university should have been able to bother her. However, her phone remaining unanswered was starting to seem abnormal.

The sedan moved swiftly and soon arrived in front of the gate of Zhongzhou University.

There, many teachers, students, and even some police officers had gathered, whispering something amongst themselves.

Among the crowd, Fang Bai saw several of his sister's roommates, but his sister's figure was nowhere to be seen. His heart skipped a beat, and anxiety intensified within him.

He quickly got out of the car and strode up to a girl with short hair, asking anxiously, "Xiao Jing, where's my sister?"

The short-haired girl named Xiao Jing was one of Fang Yun's roommates; Fang Bai had met her once before when he visited his sister.

Xiao Jing was initially happy to see Fang Bai, but her expression quickly turned gloomy, and she spoke with a worried tone, "Your sister and I were leaving the university after classes when an old Taoist suddenly blocked our way. That Taoist acted like a madman, directly asking your sister if she wanted to learn martial arts. When your sister said no, the Taoist grabbed her arm and took her away!"

The person who could easily grab Fang Yun's arm and take her away must be far more powerful than her; without asking, it was clear that the old Taoist was a strong Martial Artist.

"What did that old Taoist look like?"

Fang Bai's expression darkened as he asked in a solemn voice.

Chapter 240: Elder Taoist Qingling

Xiao Jing recalled for a moment before saying, "The old Taoist priest looked to be over sixty years old, tall and thin, with snow-white long hair and beard, appearing like a venerable immortal. He ran so quickly that he disappeared with Fang Yun in the blink of an eye. Worried about Fang Yun's safety, I immediately called the police..."

"Where was my sister captured by the old Taoist priest?"

"Right beside that tree..."

Xiao Jing pointed to a large tree forty or fifty meters ahead.

Fang Bai nodded and hurried to the large tree, where he sensed two lingering traces of energy fluctuations.

Among the two traces, one was strong and the other weak, the weaker of which Fang Bai recognized immediately—it was his sister Fang Yun's.

The other, stronger trace, foreign and formidable, must belong to the "old Taoist priest" mentioned by Xiao Jing. Fang Bai surmised that the old Taoist priest's cultivation level was definitely not inferior to the Profound Level.

The presence of energy fluctuations at the scene indicated that Fang Yun had struggled and resisted when she was captured, but the opponent was too strong, rendering her efforts ineffective.

"No matter who that old Taoist priest is, if he dares to harm a single hair on my sister's head, I'll make sure he's torn to pieces!"

Without any hesitation and with a grim expression, Fang Bai turned and dashed to the sedan, started it, and sped toward the western mountains, following the trail of the two energy fluctuations.

Upon reaching the suburbs and noting the dimming sky and the lack of pedestrians, Fang Bai parked the car by the roadside and used his movement technique to pursue the trail into the mountains.

His current cultivation level had reached that of an Earth Level early-stage Martial Artist in the Ancient Martial World of this world, and his combat strength was so powerful that he could even contend with Earth Level perfection Martial Artists. When he moved at full speed, he was many times faster than a car.

Soon, Fang Bai found a campfire on a small hill in the mountain area, with a Taoist priest and a secular person sitting beside it—it was indeed the old Taoist priest and Fang Yun.

From afar, Fang Bai saw his sister Fang Yun. Concerned that the old Taoist priest would harm Fang Yun if he noticed him, Fang Bai didn't rashly charge over. Instead, he concealed all his energy and silently advanced toward them.

When he was less than a hundred meters away from the campfire, Fang Bai concealed himself in some knee-high bushes.

Upon closer observation of Fang Yun, her body didn't seem to have suffered any injuries, but the tears on her face showed she had been through a lot.

Fang Bai had taken over his current body, inheriting the original owner's familial affections. He could say that in this world, what mattered most to him was his family.

Seeing his sister distressed, Fang Bai could not suppress his anger and inwardly cursed the old Taoist priest to damnation.

"Little girl, to be taken as my disciple is a great fortune for you. If you continue to be ungrateful, don't blame me for being uncivil!"

The old Taoist priest sitting opposite Fang Yun suddenly spoke, his expression fierce and threatening, bearing none of the immortal-like demeanor.

Although Fang Yun was crying, she had a defiant look on her face and angrily said, "I've already said that I don't want to learn martial arts from you! Someone else is teaching me Martial Arts!"

"Who is this person? Could he be more powerful than I, Qingling? Speak up, and I'll go cut him down!"

Today, while wandering in the Zhongzhou City, the old Taoist priest noticed Fang Yun's True Yuan fluctuations and her excellent foundation. Coveting her as a disciple, he was taken aback by her refusal and, in a fit of anger, abducted Fang Yun to the mountains.

The old Taoist priest had thought that a little intimidation would make Fang Yun submit and accept him as her master. However, after a long period of coercive persuasion, she remained unyielding. The old Taoist priest's patience began to wear thin, and his threatening nature emerged.

Of course, Fang Yun wouldn't mention her brother Fang Bai. Instead, she retorted, "The one teaching me martial arts is a mysterious master, far more powerful than you!"

"You're lying!"

The old Taoist Priest wasn't easily fooled, and he sneered as he spoke, "I have reached the Profound Level Perfection, and in the Secular Ancient Martial World, there are few with strength comparable to mine, but none who can surpass me!"

He paused, then added, "Unless the one who taught you martial arts is from a Hidden Sect. However, disciples of the Hidden Sects live in isolation and do not easily mingle in the secular world, much less teach Hidden Sect Martial Arts to common folks. Heh, you're too green to deceive me!"

Lurking nearby, Fang Bai felt a chill in his heart when he heard the Taoist Priest claim to be a martial artist at Profound Level Perfection.

Based on Fang Bai's knowledge of the Secular Ancient Martial World, martial artists with Profound Level Perfection were rare and typically heads of major sects. Considering the old Taoist Priest's attire highly resembled that of Qingcheng Temple disciples, could it be that he was the Temple Master of Qingcheng Temple?

Fang Bai had encountered disciples of Qingcheng Temple before and, the more he observed, the more he believed that the old Taoist Priest was one of them. Even if he wasn't the Temple Master, he must be a high-ranking member.

The "Myriad Medicine Valley," where Ghost Hand belonged, had been destroyed with the involvement of Qingcheng Temple disciples. Now facing this elder, who seemed a high-ranking member of Qingcheng Temple, threatening his sister Fang Yun, Fang Bai's eyes grew cold as he harbored thoughts of murder.

"Let me tell you truthfully, I, Qingling, am the Temple Master of Qingcheng Temple and one of the most distinguished individuals in the Ancient Martial World. I don't know how many martial artists wish to become my disciples, and I find none of them worthy..."

"Don't continue, I will not take you as my Master, nor will I learn martial arts from you! Let me go now, or you'll regret it when that mysterious master who taught me comes!"

The Taoist Priest was cut off halfway through by Fang Yun.

"This Elder Taoist Qingling, he really is the Temple Master of Qingcheng!"

Fang Bai's intent to kill intensified when he heard Elder Taoist Qingling state his identity, but he couldn't help but find it amusing that his sister, Fang Yun, was using his own "mysterious master" to threaten Elder Taoist Qingling.

"Tell me, who exactly is that person who taught you martial arts! I will twist his neck!"

Elder Taoist Qingling roared with uncontrollable anger.

Suddenly, a whizzing sound came from behind as if a hidden weapon was rapidly approaching, and the hidden weapon contained powerful True Yuan fluctuations, indicating the extraordinary strength of the assailant.

Not expecting an ambush, Elder Taoist Qingling was taken by surprise and dodged to the side with all his might.

He flashed several meters away as three stones imbued with True Yuan shot past him, narrowly missing Fang Yun's head and disappearing into the night sky beyond.

At the same time, Elder Taoist Qingling's vision blurred, and when he could see clearly again, a young man in his twenties wearing a black T-shirt had appeared next to Fang Yun.

The elder was taken aback by the young man's ability to approach silently and suddenly appear, and even more so by the force behind the stones thrown earlier. Taoist Qingling surmised that the young man's strength was no less than his own, and he felt a sudden shock.

In the Secular Ancient Martial World, no martial artist of such formidable power had been reported. Could this young man be a disciple from a Hidden Sect?

When Elder Taoist Qingling considered this, he looked at the young man with a hint of fear in his eyes.

Among those remote and secluded sects, there were countless powerful martial artists, including Earth Level and even Heaven Level Martial Artists.

To Elder Taoist Qingling, a martial artist at Profound Level Perfection, although he was a top contender in the Secular Ancient Martial World, he was not enough compared to a disciple of a Hidden Sect.