

Doctor 581

Chapter 581: Displaying a Bit of Skill

"Kid, you're lucky to be alive! But you can dodge the first day of the month, you can't escape the fifteenth. You helped the cops catch our boss, so just wait for our brothers' revenge!"

Before being taken away, a scrawny youth glared menacingly at Xiong Yingxiong and said in a fierce voice.

"Pfft, scared of you guys? As if!"

Xiong Yingxiong had broken out in a cold sweat just now and still felt a chill on his back, but he refused to show any weakness and flipped the middle finger at the scrawny youth.

"What happened?"

After the three scrawny men were taken away, Fang Bai also turned back and asked innocently.

"Big brother... no, Master! You really hit the nail on the head just now. Those three guys were the accomplices of a pickpocket I helped the police catch before, and they wanted revenge. Luckily, I've trained in martial arts and knocked each of them down with a single kick! Heh heh..."

Xiong Yingxiong, looking at the backs of the three scrawny youths being escorted away by the train police, still felt a lingering fear, but was bragging about it.

What he didn't know was that if it hadn't been for Fang Bai stealthily intervening, he might have been stabbed a few times, and as for his martial arts skills, it was better not mentioned.

"It's good that you're okay. Come on, let's sit down and continue our conversation."

Fang Bai smiled, patted Xiong Yingxiong's shoulder, and the two sat down to continue discussing the topic of traditional Chinese medicine.

The train journey from Lingnan Station to Yanjing Station took a full day and night. During that time, Xiong Yingxiong listened to Fang Bai's exposition on medicine, only then realizing how little he knew before, like a frog at the bottom of a well. The medical skills he had learned were just the tip of the iceberg, a mere drop in the ocean.

With Fang Bai's guidance, a window to the highest attainments in medicine had been opened for Xiong Yingxiong, giving him the feeling of a blind man suddenly seeing the light. The excitement and astonishment he felt were beyond expression.

Despite not resting much during the day and night, Xiong Yingxiong was still exhilarated. As the train entered Yanjing Station, he felt extremely reluctant to part with Fang Bai and said, "Master, listening to your teachings is better than reading ten years' worth of books! If it wasn't for school, I'd really wish to stay by your side at all times to heed your guidance!"

Fang Bai smiled and said, "The path of medicine, like the Martial Dao, requires gradual progress without rushing for success. The things I've taught you on this journey, go back and ponder over them, strive to fully grasp it! If there's anything you don't understand, you can call me, or come directly to Yanjing Hospital to find me!"

"Yes! I'll definitely work hard and not let Master down!"

After meeting Fang Bai, Xiong Yingxiong realized there were greater people beyond himself and let go of his arrogance.

The two disembarked from the train, exited the station, and walked toward the city center.

"By the way, Master, you said that only by cultivating both medicine and martial arts can one achieve the highest success in medicine. Do you also practice Ancient Martial arts?"

Xiong Yingxiong turned his head to look at Fang Bai, his eyes sparkling with excitement.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "A little."

Xiong Yingxiong, thrilled, said, "Then you must have cultivated True Yuan, right?"

Seeing Fang Bai nod again, Xiong Yingxiong was even more excited, although he couldn't see his master as a Martial Dao master no matter how he looked.

"When I was studying martial arts at the Martial Arts School, the coach said that real martial arts masters can run up walls and break stones with their bare hands... Master, is that true or false?"

Xiong Yingxiong, driven by curiosity, couldn't help but ask again.

Fang Bai laughed and said, "When Martial Arts reach an ultimate state, walking on walls and breaking stones are just child's play. Real powerhouses can shatter a mountain with their fists and split a river with their palms!"

"Geez... that's incredible!"

Xiong Yingxiong listened with his mouth agape, starting to imagine the scenes described by Fang Bai.

"Give me two coins!"

Fang Bai said to Xiong Yingxiong.

Xiong Yingxiong possessed an Innate Fire Spirit Root, and since Fang Bai had already taken him as a disciple, it was impossible to only impart medical knowledge without teaching Martial Dao. To foster Xiong Yingxiong's interest in Martial Dao, Fang Bai decided to show off a little trick in front of him.

Xiong Yingxiong didn't understand why Fang Bai wanted the coins, but he still fished out two one-yuan coins from his pocket and handed them to Fang Bai.

"Watch this..."

Fang Bai placed one coin in the palm of his hand, rubbed his hands together a few times, and then opened his palm.

Hiss—

Xiong Yingxiong saw the coin in Fang Bai's hand and couldn't help but gasp in astonishment.

A perfectly good coin was turned into a lump after just a few rubs in Fang Bai's palm—how much strength would be required to do that?

On closer examination of Fang Bai's palm, it seemed to be flesh and blood just like his own—how was he able to accomplish this?

"Is... is this the power of True Essence Force?"

Xiong Yingxiong picked up the coin from Fang Bai's hand, his face showing shock and awe as he murmured the question.

"Now look at that wall..."

Fang Bai pointed to a concrete wall not far ahead and flicked the other coin towards it. The coin whizzed through the air like lightning and embedded itself deeply into the wall.

Xiong Yingxiong hurried over to the wall and saw the coin that Fang Bai had flicked was now completely embedded into the concrete. His face was filled with even more shock, thinking that not even a bullet fired from a gun could achieve such an effect.

Xiong Yingxiong returned to Fang Bai's side, and despite the pedestrians all around, he fell to his knees with a "thud," bowing his head and said, "Master, I want to learn Ancient Martial Arts. Please teach me!"

"Stand up," Fang Bai said.

As Fang Bai held out his hand in a supporting gesture, Xiong Yingxiong felt an invisible force lifting his body up. He was immensely shocked and held Fang Bai in even greater awe.

Fang Bai spoke seriously, "Cultivating Martial Dao is different from learning medicine. It requires persistent dedication, resilience, and hard work. Can you do it?"

"I can!"

Xiong Yingxiong slapped his chest with a "bang bang" sound, exclaiming loudly, "If I can't, Master, you can beat or scold me! If I can't, I'll no longer be called Xiong Yingxiong, but change my name to Bear Dog Xiong!"

Fang Bai said, "Good, I believe you! Let's part ways here for now. Once you return to school and sort things out there, make time to come to Yanjing Hospital to find me, and then I'll pass on Martial Arts Techniques to you!"

Xiong Yingxiong was overjoyed and wanted to bow again to express his gratitude, but Fang Bai stopped him.

The two parted ways at an intersection ahead, with Xiong Yingxiong hailing a taxi directly to Yanjing Medical University, while Fang Bai continued walking briskly towards the siheyuan he was renting.

As noon approached, Yanjing City was buzzing with activity—workers leaving their jobs, students finishing school—the streets were bustling with the roar of traffic and a sea of people.

As Fang Bai walked on the sidewalk, he saw many students coming towards him. When he looked up ahead, he found himself near a middle school.

"Hmm? What is Mingyue doing outside of Yanjing University? Why has she come here?"

Fang Bai suddenly sensed Baili Mingyue's presence. He walked forward about a dozen steps and saw her standing under a tree to the left of the school entrance with two female classmates, peering curiously at the students coming in and out.

Fang Bai knew that Baili Mingyue was known as the "Campus Witch" in middle school, and she had carried this nickname over to the university. Fortunately, she usually meddled in the injustices faced by other students, upholding morality, and thus Fang Bai didn't bother to counsel her too much.

However, for a university student to run to the entrance of a middle school seemed out of place, particularly when she appeared to be looking for trouble.

Chapter 582: Mingyue Actually Blushed

Fang Bai frowned and walked over seriously.

Baili Mingyue stood between two female classmates, her gaze drifting as she searched for someone among the students entering and exiting the school gate. Suddenly, she felt a connection and turned her head to look towards Fang Bai, meeting his gaze.

"Fang Bai?"

Baili Mingyue hadn't expected to encounter Fang Bai here, and greeted him with a delighted face, saying warmly, "You've stayed at home for quite a while this time after returning for the New Year! My dad has been talking about you these past few days, asking why you haven't come back to Yanjing! He's been wanting someone to drink with and can't find anyone!"

Fang Bai had been living in the courtyard house for a while, often dining with Baili Zhan's family, to the extent that Baili Mingyue started to see him as part of her own family.

Although Baili Mingyue felt somewhat disappointed about Fang Bai returning home for the New Year since she really wished he could've stayed in the courtyard house to celebrate the festival with her and her parents, she also knew that it was impossible.

There was a generation gap between Baili Mingyue and her parents, and they couldn't really connect, so during the New Year, she spent most of her time going out to play with her classmates. Knowing their

daughter's strength was not much weaker than their own, Baili Zhan and his wife weren't worried about her personal safety.

Even though Baili Mingyue usually called out "Fang Bai" without any sign of respect, in her heart, she cared a lot about him and was very happy to see him back.

With a stern face, Fang Bai nodded and took Baili Mingyue's hand, pulling her to the side and asking in a low voice, "Mingyue, what are you doing here?"

Baili Mingyue might fear nothing in Heaven or Earth, but if Fang Bai really got angry, she felt a bit scared.

Seeing Fang Bai's stern face, Baili Mingyue pouted and answered softly, "I'm not doing much! My classmate was being bullied, so I came over to help them get some justice!" She pointed to the two girls behind her.

After a glance at Baili Mingyue's two classmates, Fang Bai's gaze returned to Baili Mingyue's face, asking with annoyance, "College students are actually being bullied by high school students? Tell me, how were they bullied?"

At that moment, the two classmates accompanying Baili Mingyue came up giggling. One of them sized up Fang Bai and then whispered to Baili Mingyue, "Mingyue, who's this handsome guy?"

The other classmate, with a teasing tone, said, "From the way you're all smiles, he couldn't be your boyfriend, could he?"

"Ha, if the number one beauty of Yanjing University has a boyfriend, imagine how many guys would be heartbroken once the news spreads!"

"Mingyue, you have to buy us lunch at noon, or else we'll let everyone know about your boyfriend!"

"I think we should let Mingyue's boyfriend treat us!"

"Yeah! Let her boyfriend treat us! To seduce our school's belle away without a treat, how could that be right?"

The two classmates boldly sized up Fang Bai, chattering away.

Hearing the teasing from her two classmates about herself and Fang Bai, Baili Mingyue blushed slightly, stomped her foot anxiously and exclaimed loudly, "Shut up, you two! Fang Bai, he... he's not my man... he's my neighbor!"

"Wow, Mingyue, you're actually blushing, and you're still saying he's not your boyfriend?"

"Only a guilty conscience makes one blush! Heh heh, just confess!"

"Yeah, the boy next door..."

Baili Mingyue felt both annoyed and amused, worried that the teasing from the two female students might anger Fang Bai, and then he'd have to teach them a lesson, which would have serious consequences.

Others might not know how formidable Fang Bai was, but she did. Her current strength was the result of Fang Bai's teaching.

Although Baili Mingyue had never witnessed Fang Bai's true power, she had heard from her father that if Fang Bai were their family's enemy, and wanted to kill them, it would be no different from squashing an ant.

Thinking about this, Baili Mingyue couldn't help but feel that Fang Bai gave her the impression of being lofty and unfathomable.

"You two annoying women, go die on the side!"

Baili Mingyue pushed the two female students away forcefully, telling them to step back so they wouldn't really provoke Fang Bai, and end up regretting it later.

Fang Bai watched the three girls pushing and shoving each other, causing a commotion that drew curious glances from passersby, and he couldn't help but smile wryly.

Baili Mingyue finally shooed the two female students to the side, went back to Fang Bai, and said, "See that girl with the ponytail? She's the classmate sitting next to me. Her name is Liu Feng. A few days ago, a girl from this high school stole her boyfriend and then taunted her..."

Fang Bai listened to Baili Mingyue and knew this was a conflict sparked by the naive romances among young boys and girls, and he found it amusing.

"In these matters, there's no clear right or wrong. You'd best not get involved," said Fang Bai gravely to Baili Mingyue.

Baili Mingyue said, "I really didn't want to get involved, but Liu Feng said that the girl who stole her boyfriend has a friend who has learned kung fu and is very formidable. When Liu Feng and a few friends went to confront that girl, they were beaten up by her friend... so I wanted to come and see for myself what martial arts this friend has learned and how formidable they are..."

Fang Bai sighed and said, "When I first taught you martial arts techniques, I told you to be humble. Especially martial artists – they need to be even more low-profile! I don't oppose you standing up for your friends when it comes to important matters, but in trivial matters like this, you'd better mind your own business or not interfere at all!"

Seeing Baili Mingyue's unyielding expression, Fang Bai frowned and added, "You think you're very strong, but there are many hidden dragons and crouching tigers in this world, many of whom are stronger than you! If you don't know how to be discreet and endure, one day you might encounter a real powerhouse, and any conflict could be to your detriment!"

Chided by Fang Bai, Baili Mingyue pouted, somewhat unconvinced, and said reluctantly, "I wasn't planning to clash with them; I just wanted to see what this martial artist was all about..."

Fang Bai said, "I know your temperament too well. As soon as you two meet, there's bound to be a clash! Let's go, don't bother with this matter. Come home with me!"

Just then, the female student named Liu Feng pointed at two girls walking side by side in the crowd and loudly said to Baili Mingyue, "Mingyue, it's those two! Stop them quick!"

Baili Mingyue looked in the direction Liu Feng was pointing and saw two girls around fifteen or sixteen years old walking shoulder to shoulder out of the school gate.

Both girls were pretty, but the one on the right paled in comparison to the girl on the left.

The girl on the left, with her twin ponytails and nearly 1.7 meters in height, had a dainty nose, cherry lips, snow-white skin, large eyes, and gently arched eyebrows. Dressed in a pink, form-fitting light jacket and pink leather boots, she was as beautiful as a princess from a fairy tale.

The bodies of the young girls resembled budding flowers, not yet fully bloomed, but their figures were already beginning to take shape.

Chapter 583: Mingyue is Like a Painting

"Eh? Why is there a familiar aura about this girl!"

Baili Mingyue sensed the twin ponytailed girl's aura and her brows furrowed.

At the same time, the twin ponytailed girl seemed to feel something too and looked towards Baili Mingyue.

The gazes of the two youthful beauties met in midair, both feeling a sense of déjà vu, filled with astonishment.

"You two, don't go just yet!"

Baili Mingyue hadn't forgotten why she came with her classmates and, seeing that the two girls were about to leave, she stepped sideways to block their path.

Liu Feng and another girl quickly walked over, standing behind Baili Mingyue, one on the left and one on the right, their gazes unwelcoming as they watched the other two youthful beauties.

"Mingyue, her name is Li Ling, and she is the one who stole my boyfriend and insulted me!"

Liu Feng pointed at the girl to her right and then to the left at the twin ponytailed girl, saying, "Her name is Dongfang Ruhua, she's practiced kung fu, and she's very skilled! The friends I called for help yesterday couldn't beat her!"

Baili Mingyue's gaze swept past the girl named Li Ling on the right, then settled on the girl on the left named Dongfang Ruhua, saying, "Dongfang Ruhua, is it? Liu Feng said you beat up her friends, what's this all about?"

After a pause, she continued, "I, Baili Mingyue, am a reasonable person, explain the matter clearly, and if it's Liu Feng's fault, I won't make things difficult for you! But if you are in the wrong, then I will have to seek justice for Liu Feng and her friends!"

Dongfang Ruhua, with her big eyes and fair skin, looked sweet and cute, almost like a princess of a noble royal family, signifying her extraordinary background; and there was a special aura about her that made Baili Mingyue feel a sense of familiarity, thus she wasn't impulsive.

The twin ponytailed girl was none other than Dongfang Ruhua of the Yanjing Dongfang Family, and this high school was where she studied.

"Sister, this is what happened: Yesterday, Sister Liu Feng and a few friends surrounded Li Ling and wouldn't let her leave, during which one of the boys stepped up and slapped Li Ling, making her cry. I went up to intervene, but not only did that boy insult me, he also tried to hit me..."

Dongfang Ruhua spoke crisply, blinking her large innocent eyes, and said, "I got a bit angry then, and just pushed the boy, causing him to fall to the ground. Then Sister Liu Feng's friends came at me together, and I pushed them all to the ground too... That's all there is to it!"

"Just pushed them to the ground?"

Baili Mingyue asked.

Dongfang Ruhua nodded earnestly and said, "Yes, if you don't believe me, you can ask Sister Liu Feng. I only pushed them and didn't hit anyone! Big brother always said, 'A martial artist should be patient and keep a low profile,' so I won't initiate a fight unless it's absolutely necessary!"

This was Baili Mingyue's first meeting with Dongfang Ruhua, and of course, she didn't know the "big brother" Dongfang Ruhua mentioned was Fang Bai, who stood not far away. Hearing Dongfang Ruhua claim to be a "martial artist," Baili Mingyue became intrigued and said, "Have you studied ancient martial arts?"

In this world, only those who have learned ancient martial arts can be considered true "martial artists," whereas those from martial arts schools are merely pseudo martial artists.

Dongfang Ruhua seemed to realize she had let something slip, a flicker of unease passing through her large eyes. She hesitated before answering, "I have only learned a bit of basic skills..."

She remembered what Fang Bai had told her: "The stronger a martial artist is, the more inconspicuous their behavior should be," and she would not reveal her martial artist identity to fight with others unless absolutely necessary.

Baili Mingyue could sense the martial artist aura emanating from Dongfang Ruhua, knowing not only that she was a martial artist but that her strength was likely on par with her own. Seeing her reluctance to admit her martial artist status, Baili Mingyue couldn't help but smile.

"You're a Martial Artist, you can't hide it from me, no need to keep pretending. I'm also a Martial Artist, you should be able to sense it, right? Tell me, what realm is your cultivation level?"

Baili Mingyue stepped forward, closing the distance between herself and Dongfang Ruhua a bit, and said with a light chuckle in a low voice.

A certain aura emanating from her elicited a sense of closeness in Dongfang Ruhua, but her question also made Dongfang Ruhua grow a bit wary, shaking her head and saying, "I don't know what you're talking about. As I said, I've only learned a little elementary kung fu..."

"Tsk! Is this your idea of fun?"

Seeing that Dongfang Ruhua refused to answer, Baili Mingyue felt bored and said with annoyance, "A Martial Artist is a Martial Artist, what's there to hide? You should be proud and take pride in your identity!"

Dongfang Ruhua said, "My Martial Arts were taught by my big brother, and my big brother doesn't allow me to easily reveal my identity as a Martial Artist... I listen to my big brother!"

"Who is your big brother, anyway? If he taught you Martial Arts, why won't he let you show them off? What's the point of learning Martial Arts then? I can tell just by hearing this, your big brother must be a very pedantic and conservative person!"

Baili Mingyue spoke dismissively.

"Mingyue, you're calling me pedantic and conservative? Hmph, don't think just because I'm on good terms with your parents, I won't beat you up!"

Fang Bai's voice suddenly sounded from behind Baili Mingyue.

Baili Mingyue turned around abruptly, only to see Fang Bai standing there with a displeased expression on his face.

Then, she saw Dongfang Ruhua moving in front of Fang Bai, looking delighted, and sweetly called him "big brother".

"Oh no, this is bad news!"

Baili Mingyue inwardly exclaimed, never having expected that the "big brother" Dongfang Ruhua mentioned would turn out to be Fang Bai.

Baili Mingyue realized that she and Dongfang Ruhua had managed to make the classic blunder of 'washing out the Dragon King Temple; the family members not recognizing each other,' as both their Martial Arts had been taught by Fang Bai. Ridiculously, she had just been thinking about sparring with Dongfang Ruhua after finding out she was a Martial Artist!

If during the sparring something went wrong and she accidentally injured Dongfang Ruhua, Fang Bai might actually give her a beating.

Back when Baili Mingyue was learning Martial Arts from Fang Bai, Baili Zhan had once told Fang Bai that if Baili Mingyue did not listen to discipline, Fang Bai was free to beat and scold her, and they would not interfere.

Thinking of this, Baili Mingyue's heart tightened, and seeing Fang Bai's unfriendly face, she immediately kept her distance.

For an eighteen-year-old girl, being reprimanded on the street by Fang Bai, who was only a few years older than her, would be a huge embarrassment, and if the story spread to Yanjing University, her lifetime of "good reputation" would be ruined.

Fang Bai also didn't expect that Baili Mingyue's 'righteous confrontation' would be with Dongfang Ruhua.

If he hadn't happened to pass by here, Baili Mingyue and Dongfang Ruhua might have actually gotten into a conflict, and regardless of who got hurt, it would not have been something he wanted to see.

Fang Bai understood Dongfang Ruhua, knowing that this young girl was obedient and respectful and admired him to her core. Whatever he would say, she would take it to heart and act accordingly.

As for Baili Mingyue, she was spontaneous, naturally loved standing up for justice, and was known as a "troublemaker." It was wrong of her to come here without getting her facts straight.

Chapter 584: Sisters By Name

Baili Mingyue and Dongfang Ruhua were two Martial Dao geniuses that Fang Bai had discovered and nurtured. At present, their cultivation levels were comparable, and there was no significant difference in their strengths. If a conflict arose between them, it was most likely that they would both end up injured.

Fang Bai's relationship with Baili Mingyue and Dongfang Ruhua was both as a mentor and a friend. At times, he also treated the two girls as his little sisters, caring for and cherishing them deeply. If they were to get hurt due to a conflict, Fang Bai would be heartbroken.

Thinking of this, Fang Bai couldn't help but become irritated. He had intended to give Baili Mingyue a few more words of reprimand, but seeing how she had fled into the distance, he was both annoyed and amused.

"Big brother, when did you get back?"

Dongfang Ruhua blinked her large eyes and looked up at Fang Bai, her pretty face full of excitement and joy.

The two female classmates behind Dongfang Ruhua were puzzled when they heard her call Fang Bai "big brother," wondering to themselves. Didn't Dongfang Ruhua have only one sister? When did she get such a brother?

Looking at Dongfang Ruhua's bashful yet joyful demeanor, it didn't seem like she was meeting a brother, but rather, as if she was seeing a little lover.

Thinking of the words "little lover," Dongfang Ruhua's two female classmates exchanged knowing looks, their faces lighting up with sudden understanding, as the flames of gossip began to burn wildly in their hearts.

"I just took the train to Yanjing and was on my way home when I saw you and Mingyue."

Fang Bai looked at Dongfang Ruhua with a smile. After not having seen her for some time before and after the new year, this petite beauty with snow-white skin and big eyes seemed to have grown a bit taller. Her features held less of her former naivety and now carried a woman's characteristic grace. Moreover, her figure had become more delicate and charming.

"Big brother, the sister over there is also a martial artist, right? Did you teach her martial arts too?"

Dongfang Ruhua was quick-witted. Seeing that Fang Bai was familiar with Baili Mingyue, she guessed that Baili Mingyue, like herself, was likely taught by Fang Bai. She wasn't, however, sure about the relationship between Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai.

"Right, her name is Baili Mingyue. The siheyuan that I am currently renting belongs to her family. Get to know each other later; you can just call her sister from now on!"

Saying this, Fang Bai waved his hand at Baili Mingyue and called out, "Mingyue, come here!"

"I...I won't come over..."

Baili Mingyue, worried that Fang Bai might scold her in front of everyone and make her lose face, didn't come over and instead moved even further away.

Fang Bai said irritably, "Are you coming over or not! Be careful or I'll tell your parents when I get home that you're not listening to me! Also, do you still want me to guide you in the future?"

Baili Mingyue stuttered, "Then...then you have to promise not to hit or scold me!"

"Alright, I won't hit you nor scold you! Come here, I'll introduce you to a friend."

Only then did Baili Mingyue slowly make her way back to Fang Bai's side, looking at Fang Bai and then at Dongfang Ruhua, wondering about their relationship.

Dongfang Ruhua also assessed Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai with her large eyes, trying to figure out what relationship Fang Bai had with his landlord's daughter.

"Mingyue, let me introduce you to Dongfang Ruhua. Just like you, her martial arts were taught by me. You two, from now on, should address each other as sisters. I don't mind you exchanging and sparring to

learn from each other, but you cannot let it turn into anger and end up harming one another, otherwise, I will be very angry. Understand?"

"I got it, big brother."

Dongfang Ruhua remembered firmly, nodded obediently, and would never do anything to make big brother angry.

"Got it!"

Baili Mingyue casually responded, approached Dongfang Ruhua with familiarity, took her small hand, sized her up, and said with a smile, "Ruhua, it seems we can't really get to know each other without a fight! Who would have thought you're also a disciple taught by Fang Bai, no wonder I felt something familiar about your aura when I first saw you."

Dongfang Ruhua smiled sweetly and said, "Yes, Sister Mingyue, I felt the same way. It's good that we didn't fight; otherwise, we would have made big brother angry."

Baili Mingyue said, "Now, can you tell me what level of cultivation you've reached?"

After glancing at Fang Bai and seeing him nod, Dongfang Ruhua replied, "I am at the high rank of the Sea-Cleaving Realm, which is equivalent to the high rank of the Yellow Level in the Ancient Martial World."

Baili Mingyue's eyes brightened, and she said excitedly, "Our levels of cultivation are the same, we can spar and learn from each other more in the future to progress together!"

She turned her head and approached the two classmates who had come with her, and with a look of apology, said to Liu Feng, whose boyfriend was stolen, "Liu Feng, I'm sorry, but I'm afraid I can't help you this time! I think you should give up on He Kai. That guy is fickle, likes new and hates old; he's really not suited for you! I'll introduce you to a guy who's even more handsome than He Kai later!"

At Yanjing University, Baili Mingyue had quite the reputation—no one didn't know the name "Little Witch." Liu Feng was just a little follower of Baili Mingyue, and dare not disregard what Baili Mingyue said. She immediately nodded and said, "I'll listen to you, Mingyue!"

Baili Mingyue patted Liu Feng's shoulder, comforted her with a few words, and told her and the other female student to head back first.

"Li Ling, you're only sixteen years old, isn't it too early to have a boyfriend? And that He Kai, I don't think he's that great. He's slick, arrogant when he speaks, and also drinks and smokes. How could you like him? You should focus on your studies!"

Meanwhile, Dongfang Ruhua had returned to her two female classmates and began advising Li Ling.

Although Dongfang Ruhua did not have the same "lofty prestige" like Baili Mingyue at school, she was extremely well-liked. There was hardly anyone in the whole school who didn't want to be her friend.

Li Ling was a year older than Dongfang Ruhua and a bit more mature. A few days earlier, she had met the Yanjing University student He Kai through friends and was charmed by his sweet talk, quickly falling for this graceful older boy, and began to vie with He Kai's ex-girlfriend Liu Feng for his attention, even leading to a conflict. Because of this, both Baili Mingyue and Dongfang Ruhua got drawn into the matter.

Li Ling and Dongfang Ruhua had a good relationship. That evening after school, when Li Ling was cornered by friends brought by Liu Feng, Dongfang Ruhua stepped forward to defend Li Ling. This led to verbal assaults from a boy on Liu Feng's side. Annoyed, Dongfang Ruhua got involved in the conflict, used a little trick, and pushed them all to the ground, temporarily disabling them from attacking.

Liu Feng and her friends, realizing they had encountered a "master," had no choice but to leave. Later, Liu Feng brought up Baili Mingyue, hoping Baili Mingyue would seek justice for her and her friends.

Having heard her best friend was at a disadvantage, Baili Mingyue, without asking for details, came with Liu Feng and another female classmate, ready to confront Dongfang Ruhua and Li Ling at the school's entrance.

If it weren't for the appearance of Fang Bai, a clash between Baili Mingyue and Dongfang Ruhua might have been inevitable, given Baili Mingyue's personality.

Chapter 585: Comparison

Dongfang Ruhua was originally planning to go home with two female classmates, but after seeing Fang Bai, she was somewhat reluctant to leave him. So, she let her two classmates go ahead while she stood on one side of Fang Bai with Baili Mingyue on his other side, talking with him.

Passersby who walked by the trio couldn't help but cast envious and jealous glances at the sight of two youthful beauties, smiling like blooming flowers, crowding around a handsome guy with an extraordinary demeanor, all vying for the opportunity to talk to him.

"Fang Bai, it's eleven thirty now, you should be heading back to the Siheyuan, right?"

Baili Mingyue checked the time and asked.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Yes, I'm going back to the Siheyuan to check in. I have some things to take care of in the afternoon, and I'll report to Yanjing Hospital tomorrow!"

Baili Mingyue took out her phone and said, "Then let me give my parents a call, so they can prepare some food. You can have a few more drinks with my dad when the time comes!"

Fang Bai smiled and nodded, then glanced at Dongfang Ruhua and said, "Ruhua, if you're not busy, come with us to see the Siheyuan! You don't seem to know where I live, do you?"

Baili Mingyue seemed thoughtful as she glanced at Dongfang Ruhua, then also said, "Yeah, little sister Ruhua, come eat at our place today! Once you know where we live, you can come over to play anytime when you're free. It'll be great for the two of us to spar and discuss Martial Arts!"

"I... I'll call my mom first..."

Dongfang Ruhua was quite tempted by the invitations from Fang Bai and Baili Mingyue. She usually went straight to and from school on time and had never taken a detour before. She worried that her mother might reproach her if she went to Baili Mingyue's home for a meal.

In the Dongfang Family, besides Dongfang Leiming, there was Dongfang Rushi, her elder sister, and her mother, Lin Ruoxue, who were in charge, so for most matters, Dongfang Ruhua would seek her mother's advice.

As for Dongfang Ruhua's father, Dongfang Yun, having no talent in business, he merely held a nominal position in one of the family businesses. He didn't care much for family affairs, spending his time with friends, playing cards, and drinking, leading a rather carefree life.

Previously, Dongfang Ruhua was escorted to and from school by bodyguards in a special car, but now that she had far surpassed the bodyguards in strength, she insisted on going to school by herself.

Although Lin Ruoxue was somewhat concerned about her daughter's personal safety, she knew her daughter was strong on her own. Plus, with the jade pendant Fang Bai had given her for protection, she didn't expect any problems and thus let her daughter be.

Dongfang Ruhua quickly got through to her mother, Lin Ruoxue, on the phone.

After receiving her daughter's call, Lin Ruoxue inquired about the situation, then asked her daughter to hand the phone to Fang Bai. After talking with him for a few moments and confirming that he was indeed with her daughter, she finally set her mind at ease and reminded her daughter to be aware of her conduct and manners when dining at someone else's home.

Dongfang Ruhua had long grown accustomed to her mother's nagging, listening carefully until the end and readily agreeing to her instructions. Thinking about being able to have a meal with Fang Bai and having made a new sister-friend that day, she was overjoyed.

It wasn't far from Dongfang Ruhua's school to the Siheyuan of Baili Mingyue's home, so the three of them walked side by side along the sidewalk, strolling at a leisurely pace.

With one youthful beauty on each side, flanking Fang Bai—one innocent and cute, the other mischievous and smart—both equally radiant and charming, they attracted countless gazes from passersby.

The two girls had similar personalities, both being lively and extroverted. The difference was that Dongfang Ruhua tended to listen to her parents, whereas Baili Mingyue was somewhat rebellious.

Both of them liked to chat, chattering incessantly all the way. Sometimes they talked with Fang Bai, other times they talked across him to each other, and before long, they seemed like a pair of close girlfriends.

However, Dongfang Ruhua was naively innocent, while Baili Mingyue had more thoughts running through her mind, often comparing herself with Dongfang Ruhua in private.

"Her height isn't as tall as mine... Her eyes are bigger than mine... Her chest isn't as big as mine... Her skin is whiter than mine... Her waist isn't as slim as mine... Her legs are longer than mine..."

Baili Mingyue was silently comparing herself to Dongfang Ruhua, weighing their strengths and weaknesses against each other. In the end, she concluded that each had their own merits and neither could outshine the other.

Back at the siheyuan, as she pushed open the door and entered the courtyard, her parents, who were busy in the kitchen, heard the noise and came out to greet her with smiles on their faces.

"Is Fang Bai back? Mingyue, who is this...?"

Baili Zhan and his wife greeted Fang Bai, who was the first to enter the yard, and then they caught sight of their daughter walking in hand in hand with a pretty young girl, which made them pause in surprise.

"Dad, Mom, this is Dongfang Ruhua. Like me, she is also learning martial arts from Fang Bai. I ran into her on the way here and invited her to join us," Mingyue introduced Dongfang Ruhua by pointing at her.

She didn't dare mention that she had gone to Dongfang Ruhua's school to confront her, worried that her parents would scold her, and Fang Bai had also promised not to tell her parents about it.

"Hello, Uncle! Hi, Auntie! I'm sorry for intruding!"

Dongfang Ruhua approached Baili Zhan and Jiang Yuzhi, gave a slight bow, and said with a sweet smile.

"Haha, young lady, nice to meet you!"

Baili Zhan laughed and nodded at Dongfang Ruhua. After sensing the martial artist aura on her, a look of surprise crossed his face, and then he turned to Fang Bai with a smile, "Fang Bai, congratulations on taking another good disciple!"

"Dongfang Ruhua, right? What a nice-sounding name, and you're as beautiful as a person in a painting. You must be no more than fifteen or sixteen this year? To have high rank Yellow Level strength at such a young age is really something! Fang Bai, you're quite the master!"

Jiang Yuzhi's eyes lit up with merriment as she scrutinized Dongfang Ruhua, and she couldn't stop praising her.

Over the period before the New Year, under Fang Bai's guidance, Baili Zhan and his wife had both advanced to Profound Level Perfection in their cultivation levels. They were very grateful for Fang Bai's help and deeply admired his almost magical abilities.

Now seeing Dongfang Ruhua, who looked even younger than their daughter, having been trained by Fang Bai into a high rank Yellow Level martial artist, their admiration knew no bounds.

Fang Bai said with a smile, "Ruhua and Mingyue both have Innate Spiritual Roots, are equally talented and intelligent. Their future achievements on the Martial Dao path are immeasurable!"

The five of them stood in the courtyard chatting for a while. As Jiang Yuzhi noticed how innocent and sensible Dongfang Ruhua was, she grew increasingly fond of her. Then, looking at her own daughter, she felt a hint of frustration.

"Oh my, look at the time, it's past twelve already, you must be hungry, right? I've prepared a few of my signature dishes today, like pickled fish, spicy shrimp, spicy chicken, mapo tofu, and hot and sour glass noodles... Mingyue, please take Fang Bai and Ruhua to the living room to sit down. Your dad should get a bottle of good wine and have a couple of drinks with Fang Bai. Let's get ready to eat!"

Jiang Yuzhi listed seven or eight dishes in one breath, then instructed her husband and daughter to take Fang Bai and Dongfang Ruhua to the living room to sit while she headed back to the kitchen.

Baili Mingyue, hearing this, pursed her lips slightly and called out loudly to her mother's back, "Mom, all these dishes you're making are Fang Bai's favorites that he usually loves to eat! When I come home, you rarely make these dishes for me, but now that Fang Bai is back, you've made them all at once... Humph, you really play favorites! You treat Fang Bai even better than you do me! Am I even your real daughter?"

Chapter 586: "Dragon Guard" Headquarters

Baili Zhan reached out and lightly patted his daughter on the back of the head, scolding with a laugh, "You girl, Fang Bai has passed on cultivation techniques and taught you martial arts, he counts as your master. It's only right that we treat him well! Also, you're not allowed to be impolite in the future. Even if you don't call Fang Bai 'Master,' you should at least call him 'Brother,' right? Look how sensible Ruhua is!"

Baili Mingyue rubbed the spot where her father had patted her and muttered, "I'm used to calling Fang Bai by his name, calling him anything else feels weird!"

Baili Zhan said irritably, "I'll give you a beating, then you won't feel weird!"

Fang Bai shook his head with a smile and said, "Let it go, Uncle Baili. I consider Mingyue a friend, whatever she likes to call me, that's what she should call me."

Baili Zhan sighed and said with a bitter smile, "This girl has been spoiled by us since she was little! Forget it, let's not talk about her! Come on, Fang Bai, it's been a long time since we last met, let's go have a drink!"

Saying this, he walked side by side with Fang Bai into the living room.

Baili Mingyue saw Dongfang Ruhua blinking her big eyes at her, stuck out her tongue, and made a face at her.

Dongfang Ruhua let out a "pfft" of laughter, and her eyes turned into two crescent moons.

Before long, the square table in the living room was filled with dishes and wines, sumptuous and inviting, with tantalizing aromas filling the entire room.

"After a month, Aunt Jiang's cooking skills have improved even more! I think even those famous chefs from big hotels are no match for Aunt Jiang!"

Fang Bai looked at the table full of delicious dishes and generously lavished his praise.

Fang Bai used to enjoy having meals with the Baili family, partly because Jiang Yuzhi's cooking suited his taste.

The Baili family of three, along with Fang Bai and Dongfang Ruhua, five people gathered around the square table to eat and drink.

Indeed, Jiang Yuzhi's cooking was delicious, as even Dongfang Ruhua, who usually had a small appetite, ate a bit too much.

Dongfang Ruhua wanted to eat more, but she worried that eating too much might make her fat and then she wouldn't be pretty anymore, and her big brother might not like her anymore. With reluctance, she put down her chopsticks, wiped the grease from the corners of her mouth, and said with lingering fondness, "Auntie's cooking is really delicious!"

Aunt Jiang genuinely liked Dongfang Ruhua, who was a well-behaved, sensible, and cute girl. She could tell that Ruhua's compliment was sincere and felt pleased. She smiled and said, "If you like it, come over and play with Mingyue more often! Auntie has many more signature dishes that she hasn't made yet! How about I cook them for you next time?"

"Really? Can I?"

The light in Dongfang Ruhua's large eyes shimmered. If she could often come to eat the dishes made by Aunt Jiang, that would be wonderful, but what if her mother at home objected?

"If your family doesn't agree with you coming here, you can say you are coming to consult Fang Bai about martial arts, I think that will definitely be alright!"

Seemingly perceiving Dongfang Ruhua's inner thoughts, Jiang Yuzhi offered her a suggestion with a smile.

"Yes! My mom trusts big brother the most! If she knows I'm coming to see big brother, she definitely won't object!"

Dongfang Ruhua's spirits lifted, and she joyously said,

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Ruhua, if you want to come here often, I'll talk to your parents later! It's good for you and Mingyue to spend time together; I can give you both guidance! When you two are free, you can also exchange and spar with each other to make progress together!"

"Thank you, big brother!"

Dongfang Ruhua was so happy she almost jumped for joy. With Fang Bai speaking up for her, she no longer had to worry about her family's objections, especially from her mother and grandfather, who would definitely give her strong support.

After dinner, Jiang Yuzhi went to clean up the kitchen, Fang Bai and Baili Zhan talked in the living room, and Dongfang Ruhua was pulled into her room by Baili Mingyue, where the two young girls whispered about something secretive.

As the time to go back to school in the afternoon approached, Fang Bai took Dongfang Ruhua with him and left the quadrangle.

After dropping off Dongfang Ruhua at the school gate, he headed to the Dragon Guard headquarters alone, planning to meet with Long Jingtian and his granddaughter.

Before returning to Yanjing, Fang Bai received a call from the Dragon Maiden, asking him to visit the Dragon Guard headquarters after arriving in Yanjing, as her grandfather Long Jingtian wished to see him and discuss some important matters.

Since becoming a member of the Dragon Guard, Fang Bai had not visited the Dragon Guard headquarters even once, and he didn't even know where the headquarters was located, which made him arguably the least competent among the hundreds of members.

For this, the Dragon Maiden and Long Jingtian had no choice; how could they complain or give orders to someone as exceptional and detached as Fang Bai? With his cultivation level, the Dragon Guard was simply grateful to have him on board, let alone dare to be critical of him.

Just this morning, before the train carrying Fang Bai had arrived at Yanjing station, the Dragon Maiden had called him again to remind him not to forget about the promised meeting with her grandfather. Taking advantage of the free afternoon, Fang Bai decided to visit the Dragon Guard headquarters to see this world-renowned mysterious organization of Huaxia for himself.

The Dragon Guard headquarters were located in a grand manor in the West Suburb of Yanjing.

This manor was said to have once been an imperial palace built with grandeur and luxury.

After the founding of Huaxia, the manor was opened to the public as a famous tourist attraction. Later, with the establishment of the Dragon Guard and approval by the then Prime Minister, this manor became the headquarters of the Dragon Guard. The area for miles around was designated a secret no-go zone, with entry barred to non-members. The security was as strict as the Prime Minister's official residence, underscoring the special status of the Dragon Guard in Huaxia.

As Fang Bai approached the Dragon Guard headquarters, he saw red walls and green tiles shrouded in the foliage ahead and sensed the auras of hundreds of martial artists both inside and outside the walls, which was somewhat unexpected.

He hadn't anticipated that the overall strength of the Dragon Guard would match that of Huaxia's Secular Ancient Martial World's number one sect, Shaolin, not to mention that the number of Earth Level Martial Artists in the Dragon Guard seemed even more than that of Shaolin. With Heaven Level Martial Artist Long Jingtian presiding, they were well matched with Shaolin.

Moreover, it was said that the Dragon Guard had hundreds of members. With only a hundred warriors stationed within the grand walls ahead, should all members of the Dragon Guard be present, their strength would far surpass that of Shaolin.

No wonder the Dragon Guard is considered the most crucial hidden force maintaining stability in Huaxia; when all its fangs are bared, it truly has the capacity to do so.

Even so, it would have been easy for Fang Bai to enter the Dragon Guard headquarters unnoticed, but he chose not to do so. Instead, he called the Dragon Maiden to inform her of his arrival.

Moments later, the Dragon Maiden hurried out, her face full of joy, exchanged a few words with Fang Bai, and then led him into the manor.

They walked past one ancient building after another, and occasionally encountered martial artists along the way. According to the Dragon Maiden, these were all members of the Dragon Guard.

Chapter 587: Dragon Maiden Just Loves to Joke

The members of the "Dragon Guard," not a single one of them had weak abilities, with at least all of them possessing cultivation levels above the Profound Level, and aside from a few Earth Level Martial Artists, most of the Profound Level Martial Artists were not very old, with the youngest being under thirty years of age.

Profound Level Martial Artists under thirty, in the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, could already be called "geniuses."

From this, one could see that the members drawn in and gathered by the "Dragon Guard" were mostly the best of the best from the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia.

There were several hundred members in the "Dragon Guard," with half being Individual Cultivation Martial Artists, and the other half coming from various Ancient Martial Sects and Prominent Clans of Huaxia, predominantly male Martial Artists among them.

The Dragon Maiden, among the members of the "Dragon Guard," was a special existence; her grandfather Long Jingtian was the current leader of the "Dragon Guard," and she herself was being

intensely cultivated by Long Jingtian, very likely to become the next leader of the "Dragon Guard" in the not-too-distant future.

Not only was the Dragon Maiden powerful and had a bright future, but she was also an exceptionally beautiful woman, and therefore, the young unmarried male Martial Artists in the "Dragon Guard" all enjoyed talking and chatting with her, often seeking her out to spar and exchange pointers; even if they were no match for her and received a beating from her pink fists, they were still happy about it.

Some of the proud male Disciples from Ancient Martial Sects and Martial Families initially joined the "Dragon Guard" at the behest of the Dragon Maiden, holding the thought of conquering her in their hearts.

However, the Dragon Maiden had extremely high standards, and those "Dragon Guard" members who wished to win her over didn't match her in strength, so how could they catch her eye?

As the two made their way, the "Dragon Guard" members who harbored affection for the Dragon Maiden saw her leading a young and handsome stranger into the "Dragon Guard" headquarters, and they appeared to be laughing and talking familiarly along the way, their eyes turned towards Fang Bai with malice.

"Dragon Maiden, is this young brother a new member who has just joined? Why not introduce him to us?"

Passing by a small courtyard, several "Dragon Guard" members approached them head-on, among them a young man about thirty years of age who stepped in front of Dragon Maiden and Fang Bai with an unabashedly admiring look towards the Dragon Maiden, while his gaze towards Fang Bai was filled with hostility.

This young man was named Qiu Tian, a secular Disciple of the Zhongnan Mountain Ancient Martial Sect in the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, a member of the "Dragon Guard" Xuan Group with mid-Profound Level cultivation, and also one of the Dragon Maiden's admirers.

"Fang Bai, who has just joined the 'Dragon Guard' not long ago, currently an Earth Group member."

The Dragon Maiden saw a strong hint of provocation in Qiu Tian's eyes, gave a faint smile, and briefly introduced Fang Bai to him, and then introduced Qiu Tian to Fang Bai.

"Hello."

Fang Bai nodded with a smile to Qiu Tian.

"What? An Earth Group member?"

Qiu Tian, upon hearing the term "Earth Group member," almost jumped in shock, then scrutinized Fang Bai with an incredulous look, his face filled with disbelief, and asked, "Dragon Maiden, are you sure? He's an Earth Group member? How old is he this year?"

Qiu Tian knew that in this world, some powerful Martial Artists would experience a miraculous effect of rejuvenation after breaking through a certain realm, looking young on the outside, but in reality could be in their seventies or eighties, such as the Earth Group members of the "Dragon Guard," who were not younger than fifty or sixty years old?

Could it be that this Fang Bai before him was also a senior figure of the Ancient Martial World?

The several "Dragon Guard" members behind Qiu Tian showed signs of panic, with some lowering their heads as if they didn't want Fang Bai to see their faces.

They had just learned that the Dragon Maiden brought a strange man into the "Dragon Guard" headquarters, and their intimacy had aroused strong emotions, encouraged by Qiu Tian they wanted to challenge Fang Bai, but they never expected that Fang Bai would turn out to be an Earth Level Martial Artist.

Their own Cultivation Levels were only at the Profound Level, far inferior compared to that of Earth Level Martial Artists. Offending an Earth Level Martial Artist was not a fun matter, even though the "Dragon Guard" had rules against infighting among members, but it still wasn't a good thing to upset an Earth Level Martial Artist.

The Dragon Maiden cast a sidelong glance at Qiu Tian, and seeing that this young Martial Artist who was typically quite arrogant in the Xuan Group now had a sense of fear towards Fang Bai, she decided to tease him, saying with a smile, "Brother Qiu, guess how old Fang Bai is?"

Qiu Tian glanced at Fang Bai, who smiled faintly, and chuckled, saying, "This... Senior Fang must be over forty years old, right?"

The Dragon Maiden daring to call Fang Bai by his name was because her grandfather was not only the leader of the "Dragon Guards" but also the only Heaven Level Martial Artist among them.

Qiu Tian's support, however, was not as strong as the Dragon Maiden's, so he did not have the courage to address Fang Bai by his name directly. He thought Fang Bai was an Earth Level Martial Artist and, in any case, calling him "Senior Fang" would definitely be correct.

Qiu Tian guessed Fang Bai was over forty on purpose, as a veiled attempt to flatter him.

You need to know that the "Dragon Guards" bring together many young geniuses from the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, but even the youngest Earth Level Martial Artist there is over fifty years old. Saying Fang Bai is over forty is a form of praise from Qiu Tian.

"Giggles..."

Hearing Qiu Tian suggest Fang Bai was over forty, the Dragon Maiden couldn't help but laugh heartily, her delicate body shaking like a blossom in the wind, leaving Qiu Tian and the other "Dragon Guard" members utterly enchanted and lost in a haze of infatuation.

"Dragon Maiden, what did I say that's wrong?"

Confused by the Dragon Maiden's laughter, Qiu Tian scratched his head and asked with an awkward chuckle.

The Dragon Maiden, still laughing, said, "Where did you see that Fang Bai is over forty years old?"

Qiu Tian replied, "I guessed... Did I guess too low?"

Seeing Fang Bai touching his nose and forcing a smile, the Dragon Maiden couldn't help but giggle again, and said to Qiu Tian, "Fang Bai is even younger than me; he's only twenty years old this year. You calling him over forty... Be careful he doesn't get angry and hit you!"

"What? Twen... twenty years old?"

Qiu Tian and the martial artists behind him were all struck dumb, their eyes widened in disbelief.

Their first reaction was that the Dragon Maiden was joking with them.

A twenty-year-old Earth Level Martial Artist?

Such a martial artist wasn't just a genius but a prodigy, something that would be impossible in the Secular Ancient Martial World of Huaxia; otherwise, Fang Bai's fame would've already shaken the world!

Even the legendary disciples of the Hidden Sect and unparalleled prodigies would find it hard to reach the Earth Level Realm by the age of twenty, wouldn't they?

"The Dragon Maiden just loves to joke around!"

Qiu Tian said with a forced laugh.

He had just tried to sense Fang Bai's Martial Artist Aura but found him as unfathomable as an abyssal sea. This convinced him that Fang Bai was indeed a member of the Earth Group, but regarding Fang Bai's age, he firmly believed Fang Bai was an elder of the Ancient Martial World, one of those who had cultivated to the point of regaining their youth.

After laughing for a while, the Dragon Maiden's expression suddenly turned serious, and she said in a stern voice, "Alright, Qiu Tian, you and the others step aside! I need to take Fang Bai to see my grandfather; there's an important matter to discuss!"

Qiu Tian and the others dared not block their way any longer and stepped aside, watching as the Dragon Maiden and Fang Bai walked away, talking and laughing together.

Chapter 588: Delighted to See It Happen

"Brother Tian, that Fang Bai, is he really an Earth Level Martial Artist?"

Watching Fang Bai's retreating figure, a tall and thin martial artist asked Qiu Tian from behind.

Qiu Tian nodded, "It must be correct... Fang Bai gives me an unfathomable feeling! Facing him is like facing the leader of our Zhongnan Mountain... and our leader's cultivation level is also Earth Level!"

"That's to say, Fang Bai's actual age must be quite significant!"

"To cultivate to the realm of reversing aging is truly miraculous!"

"Maybe the Dragon Maiden wasn't joking, and his real age is indeed twenty?"

"That's impossible! Have you ever heard of a twenty-year-old Earth Level Martial Artist?"

"Did you notice Fang Bai's expression and demeanor? That kind of composed ease, that kind of serenity, that transcendent air—he simply doesn't have the temperament of a young martial artist! So not only is his age large, but it must also be quite considerable!"

"But even if a martial artist has reverted to a youthful state, would their mentality also turn young? Have you seen the clothes he wears? They are casual styles liked by young people... I think he seems more like a young person!"

"The person invited by the leader to discuss important matters, do you think he's a young person?"

"Alright, let's not talk about this now. Let's observe a bit more and see! If Fang Bai is an older predecessor, we should show him respect and humility as is proper. If he's a young person, here to compete with us for the Dragon Maiden, then we can't allow him to succeed!"

"You know what kind of person the Dragon Maiden is. Once she's made up her mind, nobody can change it, not even the Leader can do anything about her. If she really takes a liking to that Fang Bai, why don't you try to stop her and see?"

"Are you stupid? We can't stop the Dragon Maiden, but we can stop Fang Bai! As long as we are united and work together, we can surely mess up their affair!"

"But Fang Bai is an Earth Level Martial Artist, aren't you afraid of provoking him?"

"Have you forgotten? 'Dragon Guard' forbids interpersonal conflicts! No matter how powerful Fang Bai is, there is still Leader Long above us! I don't think he would dare to strike at us?"

"That seems to make sense..."

.....

"Achoo—"

Fang Bai, who was walking with the Dragon Maiden toward the central area of the large estate, suddenly felt his nose itch and couldn't help but sneeze.

"Someone must be speaking ill of me behind my back!"

Fang Bai rubbed his nose and said to the Dragon Maiden with a smile.

The Dragon Maiden glanced at him and joked, "Maybe someone is thinking of you?"

The Dragon Maiden had wanted to pull Fang Bai into the "Dragon Guard," so she had conducted an investigation on him. She knew quite a few things about the people and events around Fang Bai.

She knew that there were several stunning beauties around Fang Bai now, including some prominent young ladies like Su Linglong, Tang Wenrou, Ye Wumei, Dongfang Ruhua...

Sometimes the Dragon Maiden wondered, just what charm did this guy Fang Bai have, to attract so many outstanding girls to like him.

However, after observing Fang Bai carefully, she noticed that besides being a handsome, wealthy "young fresh meat," he also possessed a unique quality that seemed beyond the mundane world. This quality was indefinable, yet it had a kind of different appeal, making people yearn to get closer to him, and the longer they spent with him, the more they became fascinated.

The Dragon Maiden had interacted with Fang Bai several times and experienced this feeling personally, but she kept reassuring herself, "Fang Bai is a flirtatious playboy with many women around him; I certainly wouldn't fall for such a man."

Despite this, every time she saw Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden still felt very happy, and this feeling grew stronger with each encounter, unbeknownst to her.

Just now, the Dragon Maiden had been discussing an important matter with her grandfather, Long Jingtian. As soon as she received a call from Fang Bai, she lost interest in continuing the conversation and hurried out to meet him.

Seeing his granddaughter abandon their conversation and dash off in a rush, Long Jingtian couldn't help but feel both amused and frustrated.

As an experienced old man, Long Jingtian of course noticed his granddaughter's budding feelings for Fang Bai and was pleased to see it happen.

As for the fact that Fang Bai had many women around him, it might concern other parents and elders, but for a strong figure like Long Jingtian, such matters were trivial.

Long Jingtian shared the same view as Fang Bai; the path of the Martial Dao is long and endless. Matters of love and affection between men and women should not be rushed, nor should they be hindered by emotional attachments.

Long Jingtian believed that all relationships between men and women are about fate; if there is destiny, they will unite, if not, they will part—everything should happen naturally. Forcing anything could only be detrimental to a martial artist's path in the Martial Dao.

If his granddaughter wished to be with Fang Bai, that was the path she chose for herself; he would let her walk it on her own and sincerely bless her, without influencing her thoughts and will.

Walking side by side with Fang Bai and chatting jovially, the Dragon Maiden approached a courtyard at the heart of the grand estate.

In other parts of the grand estate, security measures were stringent; martial artist auras were detectable everywhere, including several Earth Level martial artist auras. It was the most fortified place Fang Bai had ever visited. Without a high-rank Earth Level cultivation or above, one would find it very difficult to sneak in unnoticed.

However, upon reaching the courtyard in front of them, within a few hundred meters, everything became peaceful, devoid of any martial artist's presence.

Fang Bai knew that this courtyard was Long Jingtian's residence.

Although Long Jingtian hadn't developed a Divine Sense, as a Heaven Level martial artist, his senses were incredibly sharp, covering hundreds of meters, thus no need for martial artists to guard the surroundings.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that even a fly entering from outside wouldn't escape Long Jingtian's keen senses.

"Grandfather, we're here!"

The Dragon Maiden called out sweetly, casually pushing open the half-closed red lacquer gate and entering the courtyard with Fang Bai.

The courtyard was neither large nor small, featuring an Ancient Hall with two century-old trees standing before it. Between the trees, there were stone tables and benches in a tranquil and refined setting, a perfect place for cultivating one's heart and nature.

At that moment, Long Jingtian, with his white hair and beard, was standing by the stone table between the two ancient trees, smiling at Fang Bai.

"Brother Fang, welcome! You are indeed a rare guest in my little courtyard!"

With a hearty laugh, Long Jingtian stepped forward to greet Fang Bai.

"Brother Long invited me; how could I dare not come? I'm also looking forward to the generous remuneration here!"

Fang Bai laughed and stepped forward, shaking hands with Long Jingtian.

The "Dragon Guard" was established by the former Prime Minister and several seniors from the Ancient Martial World, created to maintain the stability of Huaxia and the safety of its people. Every member of the "Dragon Guard" not only enjoys enviable privileges within Huaxia but also receives a substantial monthly salary according to their Cultivation Level and rank.

Chapter 589: The Meta-Human World Organization Elite Grand Prix

"Dragon Guard" members' salaries are distributed according to each person's Cultivation Level and rank.

For example, Long Jingtian, as the leader of "Dragon Guard" and a Heaven Level Martial Artist, can receive a monthly salary of a million.

Whereas members of the Earth Group like Fang Bai would receive a monthly salary ranging from five hundred thousand to eight hundred thousand, based on their sub-realms of initial, intermediate, high, and perfection stages.

Members of the Xuan Group, where Dragon Maiden belongs, can earn between two hundred thousand and four hundred thousand monthly.

As for the members of the Yellow Group, which have the lowest cultivation and strongest abilities, their monthly salaries can vary from tens of thousands to over a hundred thousand.

While salaries vary from high to low, Martial Artists place more importance on their Martial Dao Cultivation and are usually indifferent to wealth, that's why no "Dragon Guard" members have any complaints about it.

Many "Dragon Guard" members regard money as dirt, but they wouldn't refuse the salaries issued by "Dragon Guard." Even disciples from Ancient Martial Sects such as Shaolin and Wudang don't turn away the money they receive. If they don't need the money for themselves, they would contribute it to their Sects for temple and shrine repairs, as well as improving living conditions for their fellow disciples, and so on.

When Fang Bai first joined "Dragon Guard," his Cultivation Level was assessed at Earth Level initial stage. However, since he practiced both medical and martial arts, his salary was on par with a High Rank Earth Level Martial Artist, reaching a monthly income of seven hundred thousand.

To many ordinary people, a monthly income of seven hundred thousand would certainly be a huge sum, but Fang Bai felt indifferent about it. He had even never checked his bank account balance, not knowing how much money was in there. As for the salary from Dragon Guard, he would accept it if given, but wouldn't actively ask for it if it wasn't.

Of course, Fang Bai saying he was looking forward to the generous salary from "Dragon Guard" was purely a joke.

"Haha, speaking of salaries, Brother Fang, since you've come, it's a good time for us to discuss it. With your strength, you can already be promoted to a member of the Heaven Group, and your salary is definitely going to rise substantially!"

Long Jingtian shook hands with Fang Bai and then walked with him to sit down at the stone table.

"Brother Long summoned me here, so may I know what's the matter?"

After sitting down and exchanging pleasantries, Fang Bai asked.

Long Jingtian sighed and said, "Brother Fang, I am indeed in need of your help!"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "Don't joke, Brother Long! You are the leader of 'Dragon Guard,' a noble Heaven Level Martial Artist. What could there be that you need to ask my help for?"

Long Jingtian replied seriously, "This matter can only be handled by you, Brother Fang, so I can only turn to you for help!"

Fang Bai gave a wry smile and said, "It seems that 'Dragon Guard's' salary isn't easy to earn! Tell me what it is first! If it's doable, I'll help. But if it's not, don't blame me for refusing!"

Long Jingtian replied, "It's easy! For you, it's just a slight effort!"

As he spoke, he gave Dragon Maiden a meaningful glance,

The Dragon Maiden cleared her throat and said to Fang Bai, "It's like this, the 'World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition' that takes place every five years will soon be held in America. This competition is related to the reputation and face of the participating countries, so Grandpa hopes that this time, you can lead the team to participate..."

"Hold on!"

Fang Bai interrupted the Dragon Maiden before she could finish, raising his hand and frowning, "What exactly is this 'World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition'?"

The Dragon Maiden explained, "Nowadays, all the major countries in the world have established mysterious organizations like our 'Dragon Guard'. Besides 'Dragon Guard', there are six other renowned organizations, namely Europa's 'Holy Temple', the Russian Federation's 'Blizzard', America's 'Statue of Liberty', South Asia's 'Brahma', North Africa's 'Pharaoh', and South America's 'Temple'..."

"Meta-humans are people with abilities beyond ordinary humans. For example, our martial artists in the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia can run up walls and split stones, something impossible for the average person, so we can also be called 'meta-humans'..."

"The 'World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition' began fifty years ago and is hosted in turn by Huaxia, the Russian Federation, America, Europa, South Asia, South America, and North Africa. Although it's under the banner of exchange and practice, in reality, it's an opportunity for the major countries to showcase and flaunt their military power and inspire national pride and fighting spirit..."

Although Fang Bai had never left the country, he was aware that like Huaxia, many parts of the world had their own mythological legends.

In Fang Bai's view, not all the mythological legends in this world are purely fictitious; some, like the Ancient Martial arts of Huaxia, have been passed down continuously, just not widely known.

Fang Bai wasn't particularly interested in other matters, but he was somewhat intrigued by a competition where "meta-humans" from all over the world gathered together.

Fang Bai was eager to see what kind of magical abilities existed in the world apart from the Ancient Martial arts of Huaxia.

The path of Martial Dao is not about sticking to the inherited Martial Arts Techniques for cultivation; that's like working in an echo chamber and future achievements may hardly surpass the predecessors. Instead, one should constantly draw from others, innovate, and then evolve it into something of one's own. Only then is it possible to achieve unprecedented success.

A competition like the "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition" is a great opportunity to encounter different magical abilities. Perhaps some inspiration and insight can be gained from it, leading to an epiphany in Martial Dao and a leap forward in one's cultivation level.

"Such a competition is definitely worth participating in! Not only does it help to assert the might of our nation, but it also offers incredibly attractive and generous prizes!"

Seeing that Fang Bai was silent, the Dragon Maiden thought he was unwilling to go and continued to encourage coaxingly, "The ultimate winner of the 'World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition' not only gets a billion US dollars but also has the power to dispatch the human resources of the world's seven major meta-human organizations for the next five years. This means that if you can take the crown at this competition, you will essentially become the leader of the world's seven major meta-human organizations for the following five years."

Upon hearing this, a thought suddenly struck Fang Bai's heart. He was currently collaborating with the "Dragon Guard" in the search for the Wrathful Beauties' lair, but the reach of "Dragon Guard" couldn't extend worldwide. If he had the power to dispatch the human resources of the six other major meta-human organizations, he could leverage their strength to carry out a large-scale search across the globe.

Fang Bai knew that national-level meta-human organizations must possess vast influence and resources. Taking "Dragon Guard" as an example, it had many special powers and could command a wealth of resources.

If he could coordinate the world's seven major meta-human organizations to act together, the possibility of finding the Wrathful Beauties' lair would greatly increase.

"Fang Bai, you are stronger than I am. If you lead the team to America, there's a greater chance of winning the championship! To defend the honor of our 'Dragon Guard' and for the might of our Huaxia Country, consider it a plea from your brother. Please go! It won't take much time at all, a week at most for the round trip!"

Long Jingtian said earnestly.

Chapter 590: Are You Interested in Becoming a "Dragon Guard" Instructor?

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Brother Long, your strength in the Huaxia Ancient Martial World is second to none, and you are the leader of the 'Dragon Guards', so who could be more suitable than you to lead the team?"

Long Jingtian's old face reddened as he sighed, "I won't lie to you, Brother Fang. I have personally led the team to the 'World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Grand Prix' for the previous two sessions. Each time I went, I was full of ambition, thinking I could easily take first place. But unexpectedly, there was always someone stronger; there is always a higher mountain..."

Fang Bai was moved and asked, "Could it be that someone like Brother Long could be defeated by those experts from other countries?"

Long Jingtian nodded and said, "I participated in the Grand Prix twice. The first time, I made it to the semi-finals. The second time I reached the finals, but in the end, I still couldn't achieve the championship. The first time I was defeated by Europa's 'Holy Temple' Hall Master Sardin, and the second time by the leader of the Russian Federation's 'Blizzard', Andrei! Both of these men are not only experts in Western combat techniques, but one has an incredibly strong physique, and the other has astonishing power. They are very strong opponents!"

Hearing that, Fang Bai couldn't help but become extremely interested in those foreign experts.

He had originally thought that in this world, a Heaven Level Martial Artist from the Huaxia Ancient Martial World would be invincible and could sweep away all opponents. But now, it seemed that he had underestimated the strength of others in this world.

"When does the 'World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Grand Prix' begin? When do we leave?"

Fang Bai agreed to Long Jingtian's request without much consideration.

In his past life, having been through countless battles, Fang Bai honed his skills and improved his strength in the fights, eventually ascending to become the Immortal Emperor, and thus was also known as the 'War Emperor'.

As for battles, Fang Bai never shied away; instead, he longed for them. He knew that a Martial Artist could not just engage in solitary cultivation; they had to become stronger through constant combat.

The fact that some foreign experts could defeat a Heaven Level Martial Artist like Long Jingtian from the Huaxia Ancient Martial World surprised Fang Bai. He realized there was much to learn from those Meta-Humans, and that facing them in battle would be a valuable opportunity for learning and training.

Long Jingtian and the Dragon Maiden had thought convincing Fang Bai might be difficult, but they were pleasantly surprised when he readily agreed. The grandfather and granddaughter exchanged a look of joy.

The Dragon Maiden said, "The 'World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Grand Prix' will be held in one month. We should head out two days in advance. It will take place in America's famous sin city, Las Vegas. The Grand Prix is not open to the public and is conducted in secret. The participants and audiences are all members from Meta-Human organizations around the globe. Additionally, government representatives from various major countries will be in attendance to observe the battle!"

Fang Bai nodded, thinking that such a forceful and bloody confrontation among strong contenders was better off not being public, to avoid discomfort in some viewers.

Moreover, since the product quality incident with Beauty Company, he had gained considerable popularity among the citizens of Huaxia Country, and many people now knew him. If America's 'World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Grand Prix' were made public, it would undoubtedly have a significant impact on his future life, which Fang Bai would prefer to avoid.

"If you have other matters, you can take care of them first. We will contact you when it's time! Also, take this information and have a look, it contains detailed accounts of the other six major Meta-Human organizations in the world..."

The Dragon Maiden said, handing over a file bag that had been prepared in advance to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai took the file bag, casually pulled out a sheet of paper to skim, and noticed it listed the composition of a certain Meta-Human organization, from the leader down to the important members, as well as the combat power of each member, among other things. An analysis had been done on each member, making the contents very thorough.

"With this information, we can know both ourselves and our enemy, and never be defeated in a hundred battles!"

Fang Bai smiled, raising the documents in hand before casually tossing them into his Spatial Ring.

"Eh?"

The Dragon Maiden was astounded to see that, like a magic trick, the thick file bag suddenly vanished from Fang Bai's hand, her beautiful eyes wide with shock as she looked at Fang Bai's hands, noting only an ordinary ring on his left hand and nothing else out of the ordinary.

"This Fang Bai, he has treasures on him!"

Long Jingtian, more experienced and knowledgeable than the Dragon Maiden, noticed that the ring on Fang Bai's left hand had briefly shone before the file bag disappeared, and he couldn't help but feel intrigued.

Despite his curiosity, Long Jingtian refrained from asking Fang Bai about it, to avoid the embarrassment of Fang Bai refusing to answer.

After sitting and talking for a while, Long Jingtian suddenly thought of something and said to Fang Bai, "Brother Fang, would you be interested in becoming an instructor for the 'Dragon Guards'?"

"Instructor?"

Fang Bai paused, somewhat puzzled by Long Jingtian's proposal.

As far as Fang Bai was concerned, the hundreds of 'Dragon Guards', coming from all over, were usually busy with their own affairs, only assembling together when receiving a mission to fight in unison. So what was the purpose of this instructor?

Seeing Fang Bai's confusion, Long Jingtian explained, "The composition of 'Dragon Guards' is complex, including not just Loose Cultivators who have no Sect affiliation but also Disciples from various Ancient Martial Sects and Prominent Clans, and some are orphans adopted by the past leaders of the 'Dragon Guards'..."

He paused there, glanced at the Dragon Maiden, and continued, "For example, the Dragon Maiden here was an orphan I brought back from a welfare home in Huaxia. In the 'Dragon Guards', there are many Martial Artists like her. Some of them have reached the Earth Level Realm and have become the most loyal and core force within the 'Dragon Guards'..."

"The orphans adopted by the 'Dragon Guards' leaders through the years roughly add up to nearly a hundred. These orphans regard 'Dragon Guards' as their home from a young age and Cultivate the Martial Arts Techniques passed down by the leaders. Although they have achieved remarkable feats, whether it's a problem with our instruction, or their natural talent and Wuxing are limited, even the highest Cultivation Level among them has only reached the early stages of the Earth Level and then they hit a plateau and couldn't make any further breakthroughs. So..."

Long Jingtian looked at Fang Bai, seemingly at a loss for words.

"So, Grandpa is hoping to employ you as an instructor for the 'Dragon Guards', to guide those members who've hit a bottleneck," said the Dragon Maiden, picking up where Long Jingtian left off, addressing Fang Bai: "If under your guidance, those 'Dragon Guards' members can enhance their abilities, the overall strength of the 'Dragon Guards' will become even more powerful. This would allow us to protect Huaxia's stability better, so that our citizens can enjoy peaceful and prosperous lives. Doing so would be a great service to both the country and the people!"

After finishing her words, the grandfather and granddaughter looked at Fang Bai with hopeful faces, awaiting his response.