

Doctor 721

Chapter 721: Fang Bai Really Has a Way with Women

Baili Zhan and Jiang Yuzhi approached Fang Bai from either side, extending their hands to his.

"Let's go!"

Fang Bai grasped their hands, activated his movement technique, and led them skimming across the water, leaving the surface undisturbed.

Watching Fang Bai move over the water as if walking on flat ground, Baili Zhan and his wife couldn't help but express their admiration once again for his strength.

Upon their return to the courtyard, they discovered Yang Xudong and Baili Mingyue holding Xiao Yu's hand, eagerly waiting under the eaves of the gatehouse.

Since learning of her parents' abduction, Baili Mingyue had been living in fear and anxiety. Now that Fang Bai had gone to rescue them, her worry had only intensified. Seeing them return safely along with Fang Bai, the tightly pulled string of her nerves finally snapped, and she burst into tears, rushing into their embrace.

Jiang Yuzhi comforted her daughter to the side, while Baili Zhan approached Yang Xudong and sighed, "This time, my wife and I owe our lives to Brother Fang."

"What about Yu Meiying and the others?"

Yang Xudong knew of Fang Bai's formidable abilities, but also that his opponents were equally strong. He had thought that even if Fang Bai could save Baili Zhan and his wife, it would be after a fierce battle. Observing that none of them appeared harmed as if they hadn't fought at all, he couldn't hide his surprise and blurted out the question.

Baili Zhan replied, "They were killed by Brother Fang! Their bodies were dumped in the reservoir north of the city!"

"What?"

Yang Xudong was shocked, drawing in a sharp breath of cold air.

He had thought that it would be quite an achievement for Fang Bai to defeat Yu Meiyang and her companions, rescuing Baili Zhan and his wife, but he never imagined that Fang Bai would kill them.

The ability to kill the three formidable experts of the Yunnv Sect single-handedly was such that even within the Hidden Sects, it would be considered top-notch.

Fang Bai was still so young; if his abilities continued to grow at this rate, given time, it seemed likely that no one in either the secular world or the Hidden Sects could match him.

Once inside the house, Baili Zhan recounted the harrowing experience of their abduction, still visibly shaken.

Considering that the jade pendants on Baili Zhan, his wife, and Yang Xudong were no longer effective, Fang Bai gave each of them a new one to wear.

These jade pendants, imbued with several killing intents, were considered the most basic level of Defense Spiritual Artifacts and were easy to refine. Fang Bai had crafted many when he had free time, storing them in the Spatial Ring to give to friends and family at any time.

Following this incident, Baili Mingyue became even more aware of the importance of strength. She diligently practiced the Martial Arts Techniques taught by Fang Bai, hoping to become strong enough to protect herself and her family better, so as not to worry Fang Bai with her safety in the future.

After leaving the courtyard, Fang Bai made a call to Xia Chenyu. He learned that most guests at the Charity Foundation event had dispersed, and only a few with a good relationship with Fang Bai were still in the conference room, chatting and waiting for his return.

When Fang Bai arrived at the conference room of the Four Seasons Spring Hotel, he saw that indeed most of the several hundred guests were gone. There remained only a few he was close with: Qian

Haoduo and Hua Tianhe from the National Doctors, the leaders of the three Ancient Medicine Sects—Hua Chun and Wen Yu, the Dongfang sisters—Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua from the Dongfang Family, Ye Wumei from the Ye Family in Lingnan, Su Linglong from the Su Family in Zhongzhou, Qin Yaorao from the Qin Family in Jinling, Tang Wenrou from the Tang Family in Anxi, the Dragon Maiden from the Dragon Guard, Lu Jianfeng from the Lu Family, and Xia Chenyu, President of the Beauty Company, who were still present on the site.

Lu Xingping from the Lu Family and Lin Ruoxue from the Dongfang Family had already left due to urgent matters, but they requested their children—Lu Jianfeng and the Dongfang sisters, Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua—to stay in case they could be of assistance.

In fact, these people all have their own matters to attend to on a regular basis. It was only for Fang Bai that they had waited here for over an hour today.

At this moment, those who remained in the conference hall gathered in small groups, conversing in low voices about something.

Qian Haoduo and Hua Tianhe, the two National Doctors, sat side by side, each holding a glass of wine, sipping slowly as they talked quietly about some medical matters.

Xia Chenyu and Dongfang Rushi, two women who were not particularly acquainted with each other, had surprisingly taken seats together, discussing the prospect of cooperation between the Dongfang Family's businesses and the "Beauty Company".

Su Yifei had a good relationship with Lu Jianfeng, but instead of chatting, they were drinking, seemingly challenging each other's alcohol tolerance, going glass for glass in a drinking bout.

Since Qin Yaorao and Su Linglong had a teacher-student relationship back at Zhongzhou Medical College, they had plenty of common topics to discuss.

Dongfang Ruhua was an ardent fan of Ye Wumei, and she was looking at her with adoration, chatting about some gossip from the music industry, sweetly calling her "Sister Ye" from time to time, while Ye Wumei seemed quite pleased, suggesting they were having a delightful conversation.

Tang Wenrou and the Dragon Maiden were each sitting alone, one with a cool and distant demeanor, the other with an indifferent expression, occasionally glancing towards the entrance of the conference hall, anxiety apparent in their eyes.

When Fang Bai arrived, these two were among the first to notice him. The anxious look in their eyes replaced by joy, they both stood up and walked toward Fang Bai.

Soon after, Xia Chenyu, Ye Wumei, and other women also spotted Fang Bai, and they ceased their conversations to greet him.

Qian Haoduo, Hua Tianhe, and others had a slower reaction compared to Xia Chenyu and the women. They watched as the women greeted him one after another with joyous expressions, exchanging glances with each other, their faces turning oddly awkward.

"Fang Bai really has a way with women..."

Lu Jianfeng muttered to himself, then tapped Su Yifei on the shoulder and whispered, "Your sister likes Fang Bai too, right? Hehe, see that? Her rivals are not only numerous but also very strong. The competition is fierce!"

Su Yifei's thoughts were similar to Lu Jianfeng's, yet he showed a spirited and competitive attitude, responding, "Let it be fierce. We Su Family members never shy away from competition! Just you watch, I, Su Yifei, am determined to become Fang Bai's big brother-in-law!"

"Big brother, you left in such a hurry just now. Did something happen?"

Dongfang Ruhua, who had moved the fastest to greet him, asked Fang Bai with her eyes wide open.

Fang Bai had hurriedly left the gathering after receiving a phone call, changing his expression, leaving everyone unaware of what had happened. Thus, when Dongfang Ruhua asked, everyone perked up their ears to listen.

"Two friends were kidnapped by some bad guys. I rushed over and rescued them... It's all fine now!"

Fang Bai could see the concern everyone had for him and spoke with a smile on his face.

Given Fang Bai's profound and unfathomable strength, his assurance that all was well convinced everyone, and they were relieved to hear it.

"The foundation is newly established, and there's much I don't understand. If you all have some free time in the future, please come over and help out! Also, it would be best if you could recommend someone trustworthy to serve as the president. With my many commitments, I can only be an absentee manager!"

Fang Bai said to everyone with a smile.

Chapter 722: Go Linglong!

With the help of Jiang Xiaoyu, the framework for the "Fang Bai Charity Foundation" was initially set up, but to get it on the right track and fully operational, there were still many things to be done.

Fang Bai now held multiple positions and had to spend a great deal of time on cultivation; he simply had no spare time to manage the foundation and had to find someone to take over the operation on his behalf.

The foundation already had a capital of ten billion, which was a huge amount of money. The person he needed to find had to be extremely reliable.

Su Yifei had an idea, took a step forward holding his sister Su Linglong's hand, and said to Fang Bai with a smile, "Brother Fang, aren't you looking for someone to manage the foundation for you? How about Linglong?"

Without waiting for Fang Bai to speak, he continued, "I think Linglong is very suitable! First of all, the purpose of establishing the foundation was to help those patients who couldn't afford medical treatment, right? This requires someone with medical expertise to lead the foundation! And Linglong is studying medicine; she has an exceptional advantage!"

He paused, then added, "Secondly, Linglong is an old classmate of yours; you should know her character well, right? Lastly, Linglong's internship at Yanjing Hospital is almost over, and she hasn't settled on a work unit yet, so it's perfect for her to try her hand as an acting sect leader at your foundation..."

Seeing Fang Bai's thoughtful expression, clearly somewhat tempted, Su Yifei struck while the iron was hot, "After some time, if Linglong can handle the work of the foundation's sect leader, then you can make her a regular, let her take good care of the foundation for you; if she doesn't have the leadership ability, then you can replace her. Brother Fang, what do you think?"

Su Linglong was suddenly brought forward by her brother, initially a little confused, but after listening to her brother recommend her to Fang Bai, and after careful thought, she understood her brother's "good intentions".

She knew her brother wanted her to be the president of the "Fang Bai Charity Foundation" to create opportunities for her to interact with Fang Bai. Only with more contact between the two could their feelings deepen, and with deeper feelings, there would be a chance to come out ahead in the competition with the other women.

But Fang Bai's foundation had just started, and there were many things in a state of disarray, not to mention the large amount of money that needed managing. Was she capable of handling it well?

"Linglong, what do you think?"

Fang Bai asked Su Linglong with a smile.

Considering what Su Yifei had just said, Fang Bai thought it over and felt that, among the people he knew, trusted, and who were capable, indeed, there was no one more suitable than Su Linglong.

"I... I'll give it a try..."

Hearing the implication in Fang Bai's words, clearly willing to entrust the foundation to her, Su Linglong felt joyful but also somewhat panicked, fearing she might mess things up. However, her brother had created this opportunity for her to have more contact with Fang Bai in the future, and she had to seize it.

"Alright, then Linglong, I'll leave the foundation in your hands from now on!"

Fang Bai said with an encouraging smile, "It's okay not to understand at the beginning; you are a smart girl, and you can learn gradually how to manage and operate it. I have invited a few professionals from Jiang Xiaoyu's foundation to guide you, and whenever you are unsure, you can ask them for advice. Keep it up, Linglong! I believe that the foundation will get better and better under your management!"

"Mhm, I will do my best!"

The encouragement and trust from Fang Bai made Su Linglong feel a great burden on her shoulders, and she nodded vigorously with a sense of heavy responsibility.

Xia Chenyu and the other women, being smart, knew that managing the foundation meant more opportunities for contact with Fang Bai. Seeing that Fang Bai had entrusted the foundation to Su Linglong, they were all envious.

However, they also knew that even if Fang Bai entrusted the foundation to them, they would also be too distracted to concentrate, and all things considered, Su Linglong was indeed the most suitable.

"A Sect Leader should have a few Vice Sect Leaders to assist, right? Although I'm busy, I can always find some time to lend a hand! Fang Bai, give me a position as Vice Sect Leader! I don't need any salary!"

Xia Chenyu said with a smile.

"I also want to be a Vice Sect Leader! I don't want a salary either!"

No sooner had Xia Chenyu spoken than Ye Wumei chimed in with a coy voice.

"Big Brother, I want to, too! On weekends, winter, and summer breaks, I can go help out at the foundation!"

Dongfang Ruhua raised her right hand high as she spoke.

The other women didn't speak up, but their interest was clear; they thought Xia Chenyu was right. There could only be one Sect Leader, but there could be many Vice Sect Leaders. With that position, they would have a legitimate reason to be in Fang Bai's presence.

Fang Bai said with a wry smile, "Okay! Okay! Any of you who want to be a Vice Sect Leader should talk to Linglong! From now on, I'll be the hands-off shopkeeper!"

Seeing Xia Chenyu and the other women looking at her, Su Linglong felt a bit uneasy at first. Then she remembered she was now the head of the foundation and couldn't appear weak in front of the several women who were about to take up the role of Vice Sect Leaders. She straightened her chest and said with resolve, "If Fang Bai agrees, of course I have no objections! Ladies, please give me your names, professions, and other details later. I'll make a note of them!"

The group discussed topics related to the foundation in the conference room, and before leaving the hotel, Xia Chenyu and the other women finally got their desired positions as Vice Sect Leaders, everyone leaving with joy in their hearts.

Although he resolved to be a hands-off shopkeeper, Fang Bai still tried to find time over the following period to visit the foundation's headquarters in Yanjing to check on the progress of its various projects.

As it turned out, Su Linglong was quite capable. She followed the staff from Jiang Xiaoyu's foundation for several days to learn the ropes, and soon she was familiar with all the procedures of managing and operating the foundation. She managed everything so well, taking on a bit of the persona of a strong woman.

However, the demanding work of the foundation took up a lot of Su Linglong's cultivation time, which made her worry her cultivation level would fall behind the other women.

Su Linglong's concerns were unnecessary; whenever Fang Bai visited the foundation, he always set aside some time to personally explain the Martial Dao Arcane, helping her with the issues she encountered in cultivation, causing her cultivation level not only to keep up but actually to advance by leaps and bounds.

Knowing this, the other women also increased the frequency of their visits to the foundation's headquarters. Sometimes, when they happened to be together, they would go into seclusion with Fang Bai, listening to and heeding his explanations and guidance.

Since all the women liked Fang Bai, they inevitably had a competitive mindset towards one another, which led to some barriers between them. However, the more time they spent together, the more familiar they became with each other. Although the competition remained, at least on the surface, they addressed each other amicably as sisters.

Chapter 723: Villa Formation

For the way the women were getting along now, Fang Bai felt very gratified, and when it came to how to deal with his relationships with them, Fang Bai always maintained an attitude of letting nature take its course.

In Fang Bai's view, emotions were full of uncertainties; perhaps as time went by, one day in the future some of these women around him would continue to stay by his side while others might choose to leave. Who would ultimately end up with him, it all depended on fate.

Before long, the summer vacation arrived, and both Fang Bai and Su Linglong's internship at Yanjing Hospital officially ended.

During her internship in the nursing department of Yanjing Hospital, Su Linglong performed exceptionally well and received unanimous praise from all the medical staff. The hospital really wanted to retain her, but Su Linglong chose to leave and officially took up her duties as the first president of the "Fang Bai Charity Foundation."

To Yanjing Hospital, Su Linglong's departure was bearable, but Fang Bai was someone they were very eager to keep.

Now, Fang Bai's fame had overtaken Yanjing. Through the word of mouth of those patients he had cured, he had become a true "Divine Doctor," with countless patients coming to see him every day, including some from abroad who had traveled across oceans.

Whether they could retain Fang Bai was of crucial importance to Yanjing Hospital.

What Fang Bai brought to Yanjing Hospital was not only a large number of patients and financial resources but also a reputation celebrated across Huaxia and the world.

Therefore, Yanjing Hospital offered Fang Bai various generous conditions, including a deputy director position and a salary of tens of millions, and also promised that Fang Bai could freely arrange his time.

That meant Fang Bai only needed to have his name on the hospital's roster; whether he wanted to go to work or not, and when, was entirely up to his personal disposition.

Not just Yanjing Hospital, but many other well-known hospitals in Huaxia, upon learning that Fang Bai's internship period had ended, also extended olive branches to him, some even offering terms that were no less than those offered by Yanjing Hospital.

As for where to work after the end of his internship, Fang Bai was indifferent, but given the goodwill from having spent a year at Yanjing Hospital, coupled with the enthusiastic retention by the hospital's senior management, he agreed to continue working there.

Interns like Wu Tian, who had been guided by Fang Bai for a year, had made great progress in medicine and could earn a good living whether they went to other hospitals or opened their own Chinese medicine clinics.

However, after learning that Fang Bai had decided to stay, Wu Tian and the others, after consideration, chose to continue working at Yanjing Hospital.

While leaving Yanjing Hospital to set out on their own could earn them a certain reputation and wealth in the short term, it also meant losing the opportunity to continue learning medicine from Fang Bai.

All the medical staff at Yanjing Hospital knew that Fang Bai's medical skills were miraculous. Getting his guidance was not easy, and if one could follow him for a few more years, it would benefit them for a lifetime. Perhaps they, too, might have the chance to become a renowned "National Doctor," leaving their mark in history.

Compared to a future of boundless prospects, who would care about minor fame and fortune?

Time moved into July, the hottest season of the year, and billions of families in Huaxia had already turned on their air conditioners.

Yet, the villa in the northern suburbs of Yanjing where Fang Bai lived was truly another world. From inside to out, the temperature of the entire estate was comfortable, and those living there felt a sense of cozy pleasure throughout their bodies.

Ordinary people entering the estate would find the air unimaginably fresh, and where they might not want to breathe polluted air outside, here they wished they could take all the air with them.

When martial artists arrived at the villa, they immediately felt enveloped by the abundant essence energy permeating the air and space, stirring an irresistible urge to stay and cultivate indefinitely.

The suitable temperature and fresh air made the flowers and plants within the villa lush and vibrant, possessing a vitality that made them appear even more tender and delicate compared to vegetation in the outside world.

Some of Fang Bai's friends from Yanjing who occasionally visited the villa would express genuine amazement at the environment, with Su Yifei and Lu Jianfeng even clamoring to move in and live with Fang Bai.

Of course, they were just joking. The villa was Fang Bai's private space, and it would be quite presumptuous of them to actually move in.

During this period, the leader of the "Dragon Guard," Long Jingtian, also paid a visit. As soon as he entered Fang Bai's villa, his face was immediately filled with envy as he said, "Such rich Heaven and Earth Origin Energy... Little brother, you've made a great purchase! This is an excellent cultivation treasure land! It's much better than where I live!"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "There are mountains and waters here, the environment is indeed nice! However, to call it a treasure land for cultivation might be a bit of a stretch. I've merely set up a formation that attracts the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy from the surroundings."

"You... you know how to set up formations?"

Long Jingtian asked in disbelief.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "I have a slight understanding."

Long Jingtian stared at Fang Bai in astonishment for a long while before sighing, "It's already rare to find someone who excels in both medicine and martial arts, and yet you also understand the Array Path... The term 'genius' hardly seems sufficient to describe you! I'm truly filled with expectation for how far you will go in the future!"

Fang Bai accompanied Long Jingtian on a tour around the villa courtyard, and seeing him clicking his tongue in admiration and his face full of envy, Fang Bai smiled and offered, "Brother Long, if you like, I can visit your courtyard when I have the time and set up a formation for you that can absorb Heaven and Earth Origin Energy. How does that sound?"

"That would be wonderful!"

Long Jingtian immediately got excited and said, "What do I need to prepare for setting up the formation? I'll get it ready before you come over!"

Fang Bai said, "The 'Small Gathering Essence Formation' I've set up in this courtyard requires the five elemental Essence Stones of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth, with each type needing seven thousand nine hundred stones. If you want to set up a 'Great Gathering Essence Formation,' then you'll need to prepare eight thousand one hundred stones of each of the five elemental Essence Stones!"

"Ah? Essence... Essence Stones?"

Long Jingtian was flabbergasted and muttered, "What is that?"

Essence Stones were common items for cultivation in the Cultivation World where Fang Bai had lived in his past life. Long Jingtian, who lived in the Secular World, had neither heard of nor used them before. Martial artists from the Secular World would rely on inherited cultivation techniques to absorb Essence Energy from the heavens and earth, or use fortuitously acquired spiritual medicines to assist in their cultivation and enhance their strength.

In contrast, some of the stronger individuals from the Hidden Sect World understood how to use Essence Stones to assist in their cultivation, which is why their strength was generally much greater than that of martial artists from the Secular World.

Fang Bai took out five different colored Essence Stones from his Space Ring and laid them in front of Long Jingtian, saying, "These five Essence Stones each contain one of the elemental energies of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth. Using a special cultivation technique, one can absorb the Essence Energy contained within and make it their own!"

Chapter 724: "Disciples" Gather Together

Long Jingtian gazed at the five differently colored Essence Stones before him, sensing the rich Essence Energy fluctuations within them.

The Martial Arts Technique that Long Jingtian practiced was inherited from the previous leader of the "Dragon Guard," classified as a Heaven Rank Technique, and it could also directly absorb the Essence Energy from the Essence Stones.

However, before this, Long Jingtian hadn't known that such things as Essence Stones existed in the world, otherwise he would have used the power of the "Dragon Guard" to search for Essence Stones all over the world long ago.

It is no exaggeration to say that with the aid of Essence Stones, Long Jingtian's strength would have been far greater than it is now.

Looking at the Essence Stones placed before him and sensing the fluctuations of Essence Energy within them, Long Jingtian felt both excited and moved.

The excitement stemmed from the discovery of another treasure that could assist in cultivation; in the future, his strength could improve rapidly with the help of Essence Stone cultivation.

The sentiment arose from his previous ignorance of the existence of such treasures as Essence Stones, making him feel like the decades of cultivation years he'd spent were largely wasted.

"Brother Fang, where did you get these Essence Stones from?"

Long Jingtian suppressed his excitement and asked with shining eyes.

In Long Jingtian's mind, since Fang Bai had Essence Stones, it meant that such treasures existed in the world, and he might be able to find them as well.

Fang Bai said, "Essence Stones are very rare, and whether you can find them depends on chance! The ones I have were discovered in the mountains! However, I believe there are definitely more in this world, and as long as you search diligently, you are bound to find them!"

Long Jingtian said, "For us Martial Artists, Essence Stones are precious treasures; no matter how hard they are to find, we must search for them! I'll delegate the affairs of the 'Dragon Guard' to the Dragon Maiden and the others, then traverse all of Huaxia and the entire world myself. Maybe I will make some discoveries! My Cultivation Level has reached a bottleneck, and I hope with the help of Essence Stones, I can advance further in my remaining years!"

Thinking about searching for Essence Stones, Long Jingtian didn't chat with Fang Bai for long before he hurriedly left, heading back to the "Dragon Guard."

Before Long Jingtian left, Fang Bai specifically gave him some Essence Stones, partly for his cultivation and partly to facilitate comparison when searching for more Essence Stones.

The next day, Fang Bai made a special trip to the small courtyard where Long Jingtian stayed and set up a "Small Gathering Essence Formation" for him.

After cultivating for a few days in the courtyard with the "Small Gathering Essence Formation," Long Jingtian became increasingly aware of the marvelous uses of Essence Stones, prompting him to leave Yanjing in a hurry, delving into the vast mountains, and embarking on his journey to find Essence Stones.

Meanwhile, core members of the "Dragon Guard" with outstanding talents, such as Dragon Maiden and Long Da, were permitted to cultivate in that Essence Energy-rich courtyard in the future.

Now, although Fang Bai held more positions than before, the time available for his own discretion was actually more fulfilling than it used to be.

With Su Linglong handling the foundation, Fang Bai hardly intervened, only joining in the fun when Xia Chenyu, Ye Wumei, and other women gathered at the foundation's headquarters, and incidentally assessing the progress of the ladies' strengths.

At Yanjing Hospital, Wu Tian and others were already capable of handling matters on their own, so Fang Bai didn't need to inquire too much.

Over at the "Dragon Guard," Fang Bai would provide guidance once a week, while the members focused more on self-enlightenment and cultivation.

At Yanjing Medical University, Fang Bai only taught four classes a week and could also give some pointers to Xiong Yingxiong.

As for his new disciple, Niu Ben, who was also Fang Bai's neighbor, Fang Bai could pass on his teachings through direct oral instruction when he got home at night.

Besides this, the rest of Fang Bai's time was his to manage.

However, Fang Bai wasn't interested in leisurely pursuits or entertainment; he spent almost all his free time on his own cultivation, hoping to take a step further, to break through the "Xingyuan Realm" and reach the "Absorbing Essence Realm," which was the Heaven Level Realm as referred to by martial artists in this world.

Once a martial artist reached the "Absorbing Essence Realm," they could absorb True Yuan from all things in nature, the sun, moon, and stars, converting it for their own use. By then, Fang Bai's strength would increase several times over compared to now, and even in the world filled with strong competitors from the Hidden Sect, he would stand as a top-level powerhouse.

For his current cultivation practice, Fang Bai needed not only the Gathering Essence Array but also a large quantity of Essence Stones as support to maintain a desirable rate of improvement in his cultivation level. As a result, the consumption of Essence Stones in his Spatial Ring was quite considerable.

In just one month's time, Fang Bai swept through his Spatial Ring with his Divine Sense and discovered that nearly one hundred thousand Essence Stones stored inside had already been mostly depleted.

Watching the Essence Stones diminish at a visible rate, Fang Bai couldn't help but feel dejected.

Currently, Fang Bai couldn't refine elixirs, and once the Essence Stones were exhausted, the progress of his cultivation would undoubtedly slow down greatly, which was something Fang Bai did not want to see.

"It seems I have to go around the world searching for Essence Stones like Brother Long. But once I leave, I don't know when I'll be able to return. What if an emergency happens... like last time when Brother Baili and Sister Jiang were kidnapped by an expert from the Yunnv Sect? What then? The Jade Pendants I gave them can only offer temporary protection; they can't solve the problem!"

That day, after finishing his cultivation practice, Fang Bai walked out of the villa complex and came to the lakeside in front of the villa, looking at the water with a wry smile and sigh.

A moment later, Fang Bai thought of a solution and immediately called those relatives and friends who had Innate Spiritual Roots and whom he had taught Martial Arts Techniques, asking them to gather at the villa where he lived.

One day later, the people who received Fang Bai's call rushed over from various places across Huaxia to Yanjing, arriving one after another at the villa where Fang Bai was.

Among these people were Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua, Baili Mingyue, Su Linglong, Tang Wenrou, Ye Wumei, Qin Yaorao, Xia Chenyu, Dragon Maiden, as well as Fang Yun, Ghost Hand, Xiong Yingxiong, and Niu Ben.

These individuals possessed different Innate Spiritual Roots, each one cultivating the Martial Arts Techniques taught by Fang Bai. However, as they had started their cultivation at different times, their strength varied.

In a certain sense, all of these people could be considered Fang Bai's "disciples." Their gathering was a first, and for some, it was their first time meeting each other.

However, since the Martial Arts Techniques they practiced all came from Fang Bai, they shared a similar Martial Artist Aura. Sensing each other, they quickly felt a sense of kinship and soon began chatting.

"Little brother, why have you called all of us here? What's the matter?"

As Fang Bai's older sister, Fang Yun undoubtedly had the most authority to speak, so when she saw Fang Bai appear, she asked on behalf of everyone.

Fang Yun had already reached the early stages of Profound Level, ranking her strength among these people behind only Ghost Hand and Dragon Maiden.

After Fang Bai's careful instruction, both Ghost Hand and Dragon Maiden had made significant progress, attaining the Cultivation Levels of Profound Level Perfection and High Rank Profound Level respectively. They were the first and second strongest individuals present, apart from Fang Bai himself.

Chapter 725: The Might of the Formation

The meeting place for everyone was the living room of Fang Bai's villa. Despite the large living room accommodating over a dozen people either sitting or standing, it didn't feel crowded.

"Sister, how are Dad and Mom doing in terms of health?"

Fang Bai greeted Fang Yun with a cheerful smile and asked after their wellbeing.

Fang Yun nodded and said, "They're doing great! Dad seems to get more vigorous with age, and Mom's looking younger by the day! However, they often grumble that you're too busy in Yanjing to spend time chatting with them!"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "Alright, I'll make sure to visit them more often to chat!"

After saying this, his expression suddenly turned serious, and his gaze swept across the faces of Fang Yun and the others as he said solemnly, "I'm planning to leave for a while... As for where I'm going, I can't say at the moment. It could be within the country or abroad; it might be famous mountains and great rivers, or remote wilderness... And I don't know when I'll be back..."

"What are you going to do?"

Fang Yun asked the question that everyone present wanted to know the answer to.

"To search for Essence Stones!"

Fang Bai sighed, "I don't have many Essence Stones left on me, and I believe you don't have much left either, right?"

Everyone nodded in agreement.

The Essence Stones they used for cultivation were all gifts from Fang Bai. Now that they were running low, some had come with the hope of acquiring more from him. But upon hearing Fang Bai's words, they couldn't help but feel dejected.

However, after their dejection, realizing that Fang Bai might be gone for a long time, they all felt a sense of reluctance to part with him.

Fang Bai continued, "The Martial Arts Techniques we practice are very special. If we don't have Essence Stones to aid us, our cultivation progress will be significantly slowed. So the purpose of my trip to find Essence Stones is for myself as well as for all of you!"

Xia Chenyu said, "Wouldn't it be better if we went to find them together? There's strength in numbers!"

She had known Fang Bai for a long time, and her feelings for him ran deep. The thought of his departure, possibly for a long duration, weighed heavily on her heart.

For Xia Chenyu, even if it meant giving up on cultivation, she didn't want to be separated from Fang Bai for too long.

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "Each of you has your own matters to attend to, so don't get distracted. Besides, Essence Stones are extremely rare. Having more people doesn't mean they can be found faster or in greater quantities!"

After pausing, he continued, "I called you all here to pass on several sets of team Formation techniques. These Formations possess formidable power. After I leave Yanjing, if anything happens that you cannot resolve alone, you can contact each other, come together, and form the Formation to deal with it."

Xia Chenyu and the others looked at each other and nodded unanimously.

Although they had improved significantly under Fang Bai's guidance, the world was filled with hidden dragons and crouching tigers, with many strong adversaries around. Teaching them Formation techniques was Fang Bai's way of taking precautions for the future.

Without delay, Fang Bai led Xia Chenyu and the rest in the villa courtyard to start practicing the Formation techniques.

The formations Fang Bai imparted had both the combinations of two or three martial artists working together, as well as more complex formations that involved four, five, or six people striking in unison, with the most complex being a seven-person formation known as the "Seven Stars Formation."

The power of each formation increased with the number of people involved.

Take the "Seven Stars Formation" as an example; it required martial artists with different Innate Spiritual Roots of metal, wood, water, fire, earth, wind, and thunder to execute. Once Xia Chenyu and others became proficient in this formation, combining their attacks, they had the potential to contend with Heaven Level Martial Artists.

It should be known that among Xia Chenyu and his peers, the strongest, Ghost Hand, was only at the Profound Level Perfection realm.

This demonstrated the formidable power of the formations imparted by Fang Bai.

Additionally, the Jade Pendants Fang Bai gave to Xia Chenyu and the others contained several powerful murderous intents that, if unleashed unexpectedly, could potentially even cause a Heaven Level Martial Artist to fall in their combined formation.

Once Xia Chenyu and his peers mastered each formation thoroughly, Fang Bai could leave with ease.

Great teachers produce outstanding students.

Fang Bai was a "great teacher," and the martial artists with Innate Spiritual Roots such as Xia Chenyu were "outstanding students." Moreover, they were all cultivating Martial Arts Techniques taught by Fang Bai, and they had a kind of telepathy with one another, making the practice of these formations intuitive and twice as effective with half the effort.

In just two or three days, Xia Chenyu and the others became adept in the formations, coordinating seamlessly with one another.

During this period, the leader of the "Dragon Guard," Long Jingtian, visited Fang Bai's villa, where Fang Bai invited him to test his skills against the formations composed of his "outstanding students."

Facing formations made up of Yellow Level and Profound Level Martial Artists, Long Jingtian initially dismissed them, but after consecutively unraveling the two-person, three-person, and four-person formations, his expression turned serious and solemn, realizing that the more people involved in a formation, the more difficult it was to break through.

When it came to the "Heaven and Earth Five Elements Array," composed of martial artists with different Innate Spiritual Roots of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth, Long Jingtian exerted all his effort, attacking from left to right, but failed to gain the upper hand. He was trapped within the formation for an entire hour and eventually ended with a handshake and mutual recognition of skills.

When it was time for the most powerful "Seven Stars Formation," Long Jingtian found himself completely at a disadvantage, reacting passively at every turn, and if it weren't for Fang Bai calling a halt midway, the outcome for Long Jingtian would have been to "fall" within the formation.

"Brother Fang, these formations of yours are formidable!"

Recalling the struggle he had just experienced within the formations, Long Jingtian was still shaken and couldn't help but exclaim while wiping the sweat from his forehead, "I reckon this 'Seven Stars Formation' could already contend with a mid-tier Heaven Level expert!"

Fang Bai smiled and shook his head, saying, "If the seven people forming the array could all reach the Profound Level realm, then indeed they could contend with a mid-tier Heaven Level Martial Artist. But as it stands, their uneven Cultivation Levels affect the formation's power, so it's suitable for dealing with early-stage Heaven Level Martial Artists, but not quite enough for mid-stage ones!"

Long Jingtian's gaze swept over Xia Chenyu and the others, and with a smile and a stroke of his beard, he laughed, "Now that they are trained in these formations, even if you are not in Yanjing, there's no need to worry about facing any difficult situations."

Fang Bai said, "I have killed many assassins from 'Wrathful Beauties,' and our enmity is deep; they must hate me to the bone and wish for my death at every moment. What worries me most after I leave is that they will go after my friends and family. This trip is not just to search for Essence Stones but also to investigate the whereabouts of the 'Wrathful Beauties' lair. If I can find it, I will eliminate the organization in one fell swoop and eradicate future troubles!"

When he mentioned "Wrathful Beauties," he couldn't help but think about a time not long ago in America, when he encountered Hu Baimei, who bore a striking resemblance to the "Peach Fairyland Empress" from his previous life.

Originally, the relationship between Fang Bai and "Wrathful Beauties" was now one of life and death, and Fang Bai had sworn to wipe out any assassins from "Wrathful Beauties" he encountered, but when he faced Hu Baimei, he thought of his past life's bond with the "Peach Fairyland Empress" and, in a moment of soft-heartedness, spared Hu Baimei.

Chapter 726: The Kunlun Incident

Fang Bai didn't hope that Hu Baimei would feel indebted and stop being his enemy; he just hoped she wouldn't target his friends and family. Otherwise, he wouldn't be merciful again.

Long Jingtian said, "Wrathful Beauties indeed is a major threat... Don't worry, brother. While you're away from Yanjing, if anything comes up, I'll step in and help out!"

"Then I'm grateful, Brother Long!"

As a Heaven Level Martial Artist, with Long Jingtian assisting, Fang Bai felt more at ease about leaving.

That noon, Fang Bai invited Xia Chenyu and the others for a meal. After exchanging contact numbers for future communication, they parted ways and went in different directions.

Fang Bai had planned to leave Yanjing early the next morning, but unexpectedly, in the evening, the Dragon Maiden came to visit again, her expression grave.

"Something big has happened!"

As soon as she saw Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden said anxiously.

"What is it?"

Fang Bai knew that if the Dragon Maiden referred to something as "something big", it must be significant, and her expression suggested it wasn't good news.

"Recently, there has been news of consecutive murders in several mountain villages and towns near the Kunlun Mountains. When local police went to investigate, they also suffered attacks, losing quite a few men, causing great panic in the area. The Prime Minister relayed this to our leader, and he sent two groups totaling eight 'Dragon Guard' members to investigate, only for all eight to fall..."

Continuing to speak, the Dragon Maiden entered the villa living room with Fang Bai and sat down on the sofa, "Among those eight martial artists, there were two from the Earth Group! This information came back from the Kunlun Mountains not long ago, and upon hearing it, our leader immediately rushed to the scene where the 'Dragon Guard' members were killed... I just contacted the leader, and Long Da and Long Er, who went with him, told me they had reached the scene, and our leader seems to have found some clues and went into the mountains alone..."

"Don't rush, take it slow..."

Fang Bai made a cup of tea for the Dragon Maiden, who took it and drank a couple of sips, cleared her throat and continued, "Long Da and Long Er also said, before entering the mountains, our leader specifically asked them to try and get you to come over. Alone, he might not be able to handle the situation there!"

Fang Bai frowned; if even Long Jingtian felt unable to cope with the situation, it truly warranted his involvement.

He thought, since he was already planning to travel in search of Essence Stones and explore various places in Huaxia, Kunlun Mountains could be the first stop.

"There's no time to lose, I'll set out right away!"

Fang Bai put down his teacup and spoke with resolve.

Seeing Fang Bai agree, the Dragon Maiden breathed a sigh of relief, stood up and said, "Good, I'll arrange a special aircraft to take you! You'll get there within three hours!"

Half an hour later, a special jet belonging to the 'Dragon Guard' took off from a secret airport in Yanjing, piercing through the night sky towards the Kunlun Mountains in western Huaxia.

Two hours after the plane's departure, it landed at an airport outside the Kunlun Mountains, where Long Da and Long Er were waiting to pick him up.

"Instructor Fang! You finally arrived!"

Seeing Fang Bai, both Long Da and Long Er were somewhat excited.

Previously, Long Jingtian had entered deep into the Kunlun Mountains and lost contact with Long Da and Long Er. If not for his repeated instructions before heading into the mountains, telling them to stay outside and wait for Fang Bai, they would already have ventured into the deep mountains to look for him.

"Where are the corpses of the martial artists who were victims? Take me to see them!"

Fang Bai knew that the more urgent the situation was, the calmer he needed to be. The reason Long Jingtian had entered the deep mountains must have been that he had discovered some clues from those who had been murdered. To find Long Jingtian, one would have to search for clues from the deceased martial artists.

Soon, Long Da and Long Er took Fang Bai to the hospital in the nearby county town. In the hospital's morgue, they saw the corpses of eight martial artists.

The eight martial artists had died only a day or two ago, and their bodies were well preserved. Fang Bai examined them carefully and his expression darkened, with a murderous intent surging in his eyes.

"The people of 'Ghost Doctor Valley' are restless again, huh? I was thinking of dealing with them later, but they are seeking death by showing themselves!"

Fang Bai muttered something that made Long Da and Long Er feel puzzled.

"Instructor Fang, from what you've said, do the recent series of events have something to do with 'Ghost Doctor Valley'? What is this 'Ghost Doctor Valley'?"

Long Da couldn't help but ask.

Fang Bai countered with a question, "Do you know about the Hidden Sects?"

"Hidden Sects?"

Long Da was taken aback, and he exchanged a look with Long Er; fear was evident in their eyes.

"I've heard the leader mention before that the so-called 'Hidden Sects' are sects that live in seclusion from the world. The Hidden Sects have much stronger traditions than the Secular Ancient Martial World, and the strength of disciples from the Hidden Sects far exceeds that of disciples from secular sects!"

Long Da spoke solemnly.

"I've heard that in the Hidden Sects, 'Profound Level Martial Artists are as common as dogs, and Earth Level Martial Artists are everywhere.' I don't know if that's true!"

Long Er chimed in.

Fang Bai said, "This is the first time I've heard this saying. But from my contact with some disciples from the Hidden Sects, it seems to be true."

Long Da's eyes showed concern as he asked, "The 'Ghost Doctor Valley' that Instructor Fang just mentioned, is it also a force from the Hidden Sects?"

Fang Bai nodded, "I have a friend who was once a disciple of 'Ghost Doctor Valley.' He couldn't stand the actions of other disciples in the sect and fled secretly into the Secular World. As a result, he was hunted by the disciples of 'Ghost Doctor Valley' and I saved him. The disciples 'Ghost Doctor Valley' sent after him were also killed by me."

Long Da and Long Er were dumbstruck, realizing that Instructor Fang actually had such deep enmity with the Hidden Sects.

Fang Bai continued, "But the deaths of those 'Ghost Doctor Sect' disciples were conducted very secretly by me, and the people from 'Ghost Doctor Valley' shouldn't know it was my doing, otherwise, they would have come for me already. It's strange though... what is the purpose of this series of murder events they've caused? Could it be that, unable to find a target for their revenge after their disciples were killed, they are lashing out on the people of the Secular World in anger?"

"That's very possible!"

Long Er agreed, "I heard the leader say that disciples from the Hidden Sects, relying on their powerful strength, act without any restraint. Decades ago, there was an incident where disciples from the Hidden Sects entered the Secular World, behaved arrogantly, and committed widespread slaughter. It was only after the strong ones from the Secular Ancient Martial World joined forces that they managed to drive

those Hidden Sect disciples back. Since then, the Hidden Sects and the Secular Ancient Martial World have been at peace for decades."

Fang Bai said, "Yes, I've also heard about this incident. It is said that the former leader of 'Dragon Guard' also participated in that battle and played a key role in it!"

Chapter 727: Shattered Stone Array

Decades ago, the great battle between disciples of the Hidden Sect and the secular Martial Artists was still talked about with relish by members of the Secular Ancient Martial World.

Before that great battle, no one had imagined that the secular world would be a hiding place for dragons and crouching tigers, concealing so many strong individuals.

Since then, the major Hidden Sects have come to view the Secular Ancient Martial World with new respect, and they started to restrain their disciples, warning them not to enter the secular world lightly, and even if they did come into the world for experience, they were cautioned not to stir up trouble to avoid provoking the strong ones among the secular.

"If I'm not wrong, Brother Long must have discovered the trail of a 'Ghost Doctor Valley' disciple and is tracking it down!"

Fang Bai's gaze shifted towards the direction of the Kunlun Mountains, as he spoke with a look of concern on his face.

The 'Ghost Doctor Valley' Deputy Valley Master Feng Jiang, who he had killed before, had the strength of Earth Level Perfection, and from this one could surmise that the 'Ghost Doctor Valley' Valley Master's strength was at least at the Heaven Level Realm.

Although Long Jingtian was also a Heaven Level Expert, he was alone after all. If he were to encounter a strong individual like the 'Ghost Doctor Valley' Valley Master while tracking alone in the mountains, the danger would be great.

Fang Bai said to Long Da and Long Er, "These eight 'Dragon Guard' members were all killed by a palm technique called 'Soul-Compelling Palm.' I have killed 'Ghost Doctor Valley' disciples in the past, and one

of them had used this technique, which is why I conclude that the one who killed these eight 'Dragon Guard' members was a 'Ghost Doctor Valley' disciple!"

"Then... could the leader be in danger?"

Upon hearing that these matters truly involved the Hidden Sect, and that the leader Long Jingtian might have gone to track down a Hidden Sect disciple, Long Da and Long Er couldn't help feeling tense, worried that something might happen to Long Jingtian.

"With Brother Long's strength, as long as he doesn't meet a strong individual like the 'Ghost Doctor Valley' Valley Master, he should be fine!"

Fang Bai said this, but he was also somewhat worried in his heart, because before this, the Sect Leader of the 'Yunnv Sect' had personally entered the secular world, so it was not impossible for the 'Ghost Doctor Valley' Valley Master to appear in the secular world as well.

The appearance of these two major Hidden Sect experts in the secular world, needless to say, was due to the disappearances of disciples and elders in the secular world one after another.

If the 'Ghost Doctor Valley' Valley Master indeed entered the secular world, and he was accompanied by elders, then the outcome might not be optimistic if Long Jingtian encountered them.

"Where did Brother Long enter the mountains from? Take me to have a look!"

Fang Bai knew what he had to do now, which was to find Long Jingtian as soon as possible, so that the two of them could join forces, and then there would be nothing to fear.

Long Da and Long Er immediately led Fang Bai back into the Kunlun Mountains.

The three of them crossed over peak after peak, ridge after ridge, deep gullies and ravines, venturing more than a hundred li deep into the mountain range, and stopped in front of a narrow crevice.

Long Da pointed at the narrow crevice and said to Fang Bai, "The leader parted ways with us at this spot! Long Er and I initially wanted to follow, but the leader stopped us! The leader probably wasn't confident about handling people from 'Ghost Doctor Valley,' which is why we asked Instructor Fang to come and offer assistance."

Fang Bai nodded and took a turn around the area, surprisingly capturing a few strands of Long Jingtian's aura.

Heaven Level Martial Artists can condense their aura at a certain place and maintain it for a long time without dissipating. Fang Bai thought to himself that Long Jingtian might have deliberately left a trail for him to follow, so he could find him as quickly as possible.

"I'm going to enter the mountain to look for Brother Long now. You two wait outside the mountain. I will either return in three to five days or at most half a month with Brother Long. If I exceed this time limit, you go back to Yanjing and don't wait any longer!"

After leaving this message, Fang Bai used his movement technique and swept into the mountain crevice that only had room for two or three people to pass through, vanishing in an instant.

Long Da and Long Er watched Fang Bai disappear, and although they were filled with worry, they knew that even if they followed him, they wouldn't be of any help. They exchanged a glance, sighed, and left together.

Fang Bai moved like the wind, soaring over the rugged terrain of the deep mountains. He climbed over mountains and crossed streams; with his strength, there were no perils that could block his path.

Every few miles along the way, Fang Bai could sense a thread of Long Jingtian's Martial Artist aura. Following these traces, he did not lose the right direction.

After crossing a lifeless swamp and passing through a dark, primordial forest, Fang Bai arrived in a lush, fertile valley strewn with the bones of humans and beasts. There, he spotted a familiar figure.

Seeing that figure, Fang Bai breathed a sigh of relief, smiled, and approached at a measured pace. From a distance, he called out, "Brother Long, you sure made me look for you!"

The figure was wandering in front of a pile of huge shattered stones. Hearing Fang Bai's voice, he turned around abruptly. Upon seeing Fang Bai, his surprise turned to delight as he laughed heartily and came forward, saying, "Brother Fang, you sure got here fast! I knew you would find this place!"

Fang Bai said, "After receiving a message from the Dragon Maiden, I rushed over immediately. Thankfully, Brother Long, you're safe and sound!"

The figure was indeed the leader of the Dragon Guards, Long Jingtian. Upon seeing Fang Bai, as if seeing a savior, he pulled Fang Bai to the piles of shattered stones that amassed like small hills in front of them and said, "You've come at the right time, Brother Fang! Come, come, help me look at these piles of shattered stones..."

Fang Bai's gaze fell on the piles of shattered stones. He only glanced at them a few times before frowning.

"These shattered stone piles are very strange. They seem ordinary from the outside, but once you enter, you get lost... I just took a turn inside and nearly got trapped, barely making it out, only to realize I've returned to the same place... From the surrounding terrain, there should be a mountain path continuing forward behind these shattered stone piles. But without getting past these piles, there's no way forward! Strange... there's something odd about these shattered stones!"

Long Jingtian talked to himself but then noticed that Fang Bai's expression was growing increasingly odd.

"If I'm not mistaken, this should be an entrance to the Hidden Sect World. These seemingly disorganized piles of shattered stones actually form a concealed Formation, obscuring the path to the Hidden Sect World!"

Fang Bai pointed to the piles of shattered stones in front of him and said with a smile.

He had previously learned the location of an entrance to the Hidden Sect World through the "Soul Capture Technique" from Ji Chao, an elder from Ghost Doctor Valley. Now, checking the terrain against his prior knowledge, he confirmed that the disciples of Ghost Doctor Valley entered and exited the Hidden Sect World through this Shattered Stone Array.

In Fang Bai's eyes, this Shattered Stone Array was just a common Concealment Formation. But for ordinary people, this Formation was like an insurmountable chasm, separating the Secular Ancient Martial World from the Hidden Sect.

If an ordinary person or a typical Martial Artist entered the Shattered Stone Array, they would get lost, and the likely outcome would be death from being trapped within.

Because Long Jingtian had some rudimentary knowledge of Formations, he managed to escape after being trapped for a long time but dared not enter it lightly again.

Chapter 728: Joining the Hidden Sect

"The entrance to the Hidden Sect World... Brother Fang, are you certain?"

When Long Jingtian uttered the words "Hidden Sect World," his voice couldn't help but tremble slightly.

For the martial artists of the Secular Ancient Martial World, the "Hidden Sect World" holds many mysteries. There, numerous powerful sects and individual cultivation martial artists reside, along with superior martial arts techniques and inheritances. It is a place where mighty warriors abound, and masters are as common as clouds.

In the Secular Ancient Martial World, a Heaven Level Martial Artist, who emerges only once in a hundred years, is a fairly common occurrence in the Hidden Sect World.

Long Jingtian had previously guessed that the Shattered Stone Array might be a formation, and now, hearing it from Fang Bai, he finally had confirmation. However, the words "entrance to the Hidden Sect World" had shocked him, filling him with the urge to turn around and leave.

Since a great battle decades ago, the Hidden Sect World and the Secular Ancient Martial World had agreed to leave each other in peace, but this did not mean that the Secular Ancient Martial World truly possessed the strength to contend with the Hidden Sect World.

It is no exaggeration to say that if one or two of the strong sects from the Hidden Sect World were to strike in force, they could easily annihilate the entire Secular Ancient Martial World. This is not an overstatement.

Although Long Jingtian was a Heaven Level Martial Artist and the Dragon Guards were ranked among the top seven meta-human organizations in the world, provoking a powerful sect of the Hidden Sect would be akin to courting death.

Therefore, upon learning that the Shattered Stone Array might be an entrance to the Hidden Sect World, Long Jingtian was greatly startled and wished to leave immediately.

Long Jingtian's worry was that their presence, as martial artists from the Secular World, might be seen as a provocation by members of the Hidden Sect. This could lead to a conflict between the Hidden Sect and the Secular Ancient Martial World, which would be a significant trouble.

"Whether it's an entrance to the Hidden Sect World is just my speculation. To be certain, we'll have to get through this Shattered Stone Array first..."

Saying this, Fang Bai's eyes shone as he stepped toward the pile of stones.

"Brother Fang, what are you doing?"

Long Jingtian hastily grabbed Fang Bai, anxiously saying, "This formation is very strange. If we get trapped inside and can't get out, the consequences will be unthinkable!"

Fang Bai laughed, "Brother Long, have you forgotten that I understand formations? I can break this Shattered Stone Array!"

As he spoke, he stepped into the Shattered Stone Array.

Long Jingtian hesitated for a moment before following him. From behind Fang Bai, he said, "Brother Fang, if this truly is an entrance to the Hidden Sect World, what do you plan to do?"

"What to do? Of course, we go in to have a look!"

Fang Bai replied without turning his head, "If the killer of the eight Dragon Guards is a disciple of the Hidden Sect, we must seek justice, right?"

Long Jingtian paused for a moment, then murmured, "That's right, I tracked two suspicious martial artists here before. They vanished after entering the Shattered Stone Array, so they must be disciples of the Hidden Sect..."

He took a deep breath, with a serious expression saying, "If the murderer is a disciple of the Hidden Sect, that justice may be hard to obtain. Brother Fang, you must've heard that there are many strong individuals in the Hidden Sect. Although our strength has reached the Heaven Level Realm, making us among the elite in the Secular World, in the Hidden Sect World, we might not be so impressive..."

Fang Bai said, "The eight members of the Dragon Guards must not die in vain! No matter what, we have to give it a try!"

Long Jingtian clenched his teeth and declared loudly, "Alright, I will stake my old life to accompany you on this journey!"

Fang Bai said with a smile, "Brother Long, you're too serious! Who knows, maybe our trip will go smoothly?"

He paused, then continued, "I've found out that the culprit behind the killing of the eight 'Dragon Guard' members is a Sect in the Hidden Sect World called 'Ghost Doctor Valley'. When I think about it, the 'Ghost Doctor Sect' murdering the 'Dragon Guard' members and many innocent civilians may have started because of me..."

"How so?"

Long Jingtian asked with a puzzled look.

"It's a long story..."

Fang Bai briefly recounted the grievances between Baili Zhan, his brother Yang Xudong, and the "Ghost Doctor Sect," concluding, "I've killed several disciples of 'Ghost Doctor Valley', even including their Deputy Valley Master, yet they still haven't figured out that I am the murderer. Presumably unable to find the object of their vengeance, they killed innocent civilians in a fit of anger!"

"Even in anger, they shouldn't kill innocents! How petty of a reputed Hidden Sect to behave in such a way! It's truly laughable!" Long Jingtian said furiously, clenching his fists so they cracked.

Fang Bai said, "On our trip to the Hidden Sect, if there's a chance, we'll annihilate 'Ghost Doctor Valley'! If not, we'll at least gauge their strength and weaknesses, and plan for the future! In any case, they must not evade justice! What does being part of the Hidden Sect matter? If they do wrong, they must be punished accordingly!"

Long Jingtian, charged up by Fang Bai's words, slapped his thigh vigorously and said, "Well said! When the Secular Ancient Martial World speaks of the Hidden Sect, there's always this undue reverence, as if their disciples are untouchable beings above us all! This time, we'll show them that we secular folks are not to be trifled with! Eh...?"

As he spoke, he followed Fang Bai, twisting and turning, continually moving, and by the end, they had unexpectedly emerged from the Shattered Stone Array; furthermore, the spot they stood on was no longer their starting point.

Looking ahead, there was a winding mountain path under their feet, leading into the depths of a distant mountain range.

"Is this... the Hidden Sect World already? Hmm, it feels more like the inaccessible belly of the Kunlun Mountains to me..."

Whether it was an illusion or reality, once Long Jingtian stepped out of the Shattered Stone Array, he felt as if the sky above this world was bluer, the air fresher, with the flowers and grasses on both sides of the mountain path seeming to hold more vitality and spirit, and even the Essence Energy between heaven and earth seemed much denser.

"That should be it... Let's go!"

Fang Bai said, proceeding shoulder to shoulder with Long Jingtian, they dashed forward along the mountain path under their feet.

After crossing the mountain range ahead, they encountered a large lake which was unexpected for both Fang Bai and Long Jingtian because there were actually a few wooden boats on the vast lake.

At that moment, one of the wooden boats was sailing on the lake, coming from afar towards them, with a boatman and two young people dressed in green long robes on board.

As the boat drew closer, they could see that the two young people on the boat – a man and a woman – were both Martial Artists, the man quite handsome and the woman also fairly attractive, both exuding similar fluctuations of Essence Energy, suggesting they belonged to the same Sect.

Being isolated from the rest of the world, the people of the Hidden Sect World still maintained their traditional attire, even though they occasionally ventured into the Secular World and incorporated some of its ideas. This traditional style wasn't the ancient style from a thousand years ago, but the long robes were still out of step with the Secular World.

The young man and woman on the boat, although only in their early twenties, had Cultivation Levels that were already at the early stage of the Earth Level, which in the Secular World would have marked them as extraordinary talents.

Chapter 729: "Spirit Crane Sect" Disciple

Two zhang away from the lake shore, the man and woman on the wooden boat leapt up and soared into the sky like two cranes in flight, elegantly landing on the shore.

"Senior Brother Li, look at these two people, their attire is so strange..."

The young girl examined Fang Bai and Long Jingtian, who were standing by the lake, with curiosity and said to the young man beside her.

The young man known as "Senior Brother Li" also saw Fang Bai and Long Jingtian and showed a face full of surprise, frowning as he said, "These two seem to be common folks from the secular world... Strange, how did they enter the Hidden Sect World? Was it a serendipitous opportunity or an accidental stumble?"

From Fang Bai and Long Jingtian, Senior Brother Li did not sense any fluctuations of a Martial Artist's aura and thought that the two were just ordinary people from the secular world. However, the entrance to the Hidden Sect World was not only hidden but also protected by Concealment Formations set up by predecessors, making it rather incredible for ordinary people to find their way in.

"Commoners from the secular world?"

Hearing this, the young girl's interest piqued, and she said with a laugh, "So this is what people from the secular world look like! Aside from wearing different clothes, they don't seem different from us in any other way... Senior Brother Li, I've heard there are many fun places in the secular world. Since we don't have a specific destination for our excursion into the world, why don't we start by asking them about the most interesting places in the secular world?"

Senior Brother Li nodded, approached Fang Bai and Long Jingtian, and with folded hands and a smile, asked, "May I ask if you two friends are from the secular world?"

Fang Bai and Long Jingtian, seeing that Senior Brother Li was gentle, elegant, and polite, couldn't help but feel a bit more goodwill toward him.

With a quick thought, Fang Bai pondered briefly before saying, "We were just playing in the mountains and somehow ended up here... May I ask who you two friends are, and where is this place?"

"This place is the Hidden Sect, and we are disciples of the 'Spirit Crane Sect'!"

The young woman stepped forward and quickly spoke up.

Seeing that he hadn't fully ascertained the background of the two, and that Sun Lingzhi had already revealed their own Sect, Senior Brother Li couldn't help but smile wryly to himself.

"Sun Lingzhi, be discreet!"

Senior Brother Li glanced at Sun Lingzhi with a look of mild reprimand.

Seemingly a little afraid of Senior Brother Li, Sun Lingzhi stuck out her tongue and kept quiet.

"I am Li Chenglong, and this is my Junior Sister Sun Lingzhi. May I ask how we should address our two friends?"

Since Sun Lingzhi had already disclosed their Sect, Li Chenglong felt there was nothing left to hide. Moreover, he thought since Fang Bai and Long Jingtian were ordinary people from the secular world, they posed no threat even if they knew his and his Junior Sister's identities.

"Fang Bai."

"Long Jingtian."

Fang Bai and Long Jingtian likewise introduced themselves.

"So it's Brother Fang, Brother Long!"

Li Chenglong nodded, then smiled and said, "Junior Sister Sun and I were just about to take a trip into the secular world. My Junior Sister is quite playful, so we would like to ask if you could recommend any entertaining places in the secular world?"

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "The environment in the secular world is too poor; what fun places could there be? I find this Hidden Sect World, akin to an Immortal Realm, to be far superior!"

Sun Lingzhi said, "The Hidden Sect World is lovely, but after seeing it too much, it also becomes somewhat tiresome. Several fellow disciples who went to the secular world for training once told me that although the Essence Energy is thin and the environment is poor, it is lively and bustling with many delicious things to eat and drink, and fun places to visit. That is why I pleaded with the Sect Master to allow me to train in the secular world with Senior Brother Li..."

She paused and looked at Fang Bai with hopeful eyes, adding, "You are from the secular world, so you must know where the good places to eat, drink, and have fun are... Could you tell me? Thank you so much!"

Seeing her eager to enter the secular world, Fang Bai smiled and casually mentioned a few famous scenic spots in Huaxia, as well as some cities known for their food.

Sun Lingzhi took note of Fang Bai's words and then smiled radiantly, "Alright, I've got it memorized! After Senior Brother Li and I enter the secular world, we will visit the places you mentioned. I hope they won't disappoint!"

She was anxious to experience the secular world and, after finishing her sentence, tugged on Li Chenglong's sleeve and said crisply, "Senior Brother Li, let's hurry!"

Li Chenglong seemed to be very fond of his junior sister, and upon hearing her, he nodded, bowed to Fang Bai and Long Jingtian, and said, "Both of you, we will be taking our leave first!"

After walking a few steps, he stopped, turned back to Fang Bai and Li Chenglong, and said, "Both of you, the Hidden Sect World may seem like an idyllic haven but is in fact filled with dangers. A careless step could cost you your life. I would advise you not to proceed!"

Sun Lingzhi added, "That's right, that's right! Why don't you follow me and Senior Brother Li back to the secular world?"

Fang Bai and Long Jingtian exchanged glances, neither showing any intention of backing down.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Thank you both for your kind warning, but since we are here, it would be a pity not to walk around and take a look! Life and death are determined by fate, wealth and honor are in the hands of Heaven. If we really encounter any dangerous situations, it will be nothing but our own bad luck!"

Li Chenglong sighed, stopped persuading, and said, "I hope you have a safe journey! Farewell!"

With that, he took Sun Lingzhi's hand, executed their movement technique, and swept towards the mountains ahead, soon disappearing from view.

"To think that those two youngsters are already Earth Level powerhouses, their sect, 'Spirit Crane Sect,' must also be a powerful clan in the Hidden Sect World!"

Fang Bai watched the direction in which Li Chenglong and Sun Lingzhi had vanished and said to Long Jingtian.

Long Jingtian stroked his beard and said, "From their Cultivation Levels, one can deduce that the Hidden Sect World truly is a place where the strong are aplenty! We must be careful on this journey!"

He then turned his head to look at the vast expanse of the lake before him and grew worried again, sighing, "This lake is huge. It would be a waste of time to skirt around the edges! We also have no choice but to cross the lake in a wooden boat like those two disciples from the 'Spirit Crane Sect' just did!"

Fang Bai said, "Then let's call over a wooden boat!"

Actually, with Fang Bai's ability to easily and naturally control the Water Element Qi, even carrying Long Jingtian across the lake would be effortless. However, since there were many wooden boats coming and going on the great lake, and Fang Bai was new to the Hidden Sect World, he didn't want to come across as too showy. Therefore, he flagged down the same boat that had ferried Li Chenglong and Sun Lingzhi across the lake.

When the boat approached the shore, Fang Bai saw that the boatman was a gaunt old man in his sixties and greeted him with a cupped fist, "Old gentleman, please ferry the two of us across the lake!"

It's said that in the Hidden Sect World, everyone is versed in Martial Arts, and that certainly seemed to be the case as the skinny old boatman turned out to be an early-stage Profound Level Martial Artist.

"Judging by your attire, you must come from the secular world, right?"

The boatman glanced at Fang Bai and Long Jingtian and asked.

Fang Bai and Long Jingtian nodded together, their outfits indeed different from those of the people in the Hidden Sect World, which would reveal them to be from the secular world to anyone who had ventured outside before.

Chapter 730: A Fist is the Reason!

""I can take you across the lake, but there's a rule I need to make clear beforehand: transporting passengers in our wooden boats requires payment,"

the boatman said with a smile.

"Payment?"

Long Jingtian was taken aback, as he hadn't considered this issue. He frowned and asked, "How much is the payment? How much do we need to pay to cross the lake just once?"

The boatman shook his head and said, "In the Hidden Sect World, practicing martial arts is a custom, and martial prowess is honored. We martial artists have little interest in gold and silver wealth. If the two of you wish to cross the lake, the fare for each person is one hundred-year-old Spiritual Medicine! For two people to cross, the fare is two hundred-year-old Spiritual Medicines... A pair of two hundred-year-old Spiritual Medicines will also suffice!"

"A hundred-year-old Spiritual Medicine?"

Long Jingtian exclaimed in shock.

Spiritual Medicine usually refers to herbs that are over a hundred years old. Such herbs, born from absorbing the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy, possess a hint of sentience. After consumption, they can aid martial artists in their cultivation, achieving twice the results with half the effort.

Long Jingtian knew about Spiritual Medicine and understood its extreme rarity, something money couldn't buy.

At the Dragon Guard headquarters, there were some Spiritual Medicines stored with an age of about one to two hundred years, used to assist the core members of the Dragon Guard in their cultivation.

Long Jingtian could never have imagined that the boatman would ask for two hundred-year-old Spiritual Medicines right off the bat. It was an outrageous demand. It wasn't just that Long Jingtian didn't carry any on him—even if he did, he wouldn't be willing to give them to the boatman.

"That's right, if the two of you can't produce the payment, then I'm afraid I'll have to leave,"

said the boatman, who was also a pragmatic man. Sensing no aura of martial artists emanating from Fang Bai and Long Jingtian's attire, he guessed they were ordinary people from the secular world who had stumbled into the Hidden Sect World by mistake. They were unlikely to possess Spiritual Medicine, so he didn't bother to converse further and started to prepare his oar for departure.

"Hold on! We will pay the fare,"

Fang Bai declared, and miraculously produced a stalk of Spiritual Medicine in his hand, waving it at the boatman.

The medicine's age exceeded two hundred years, its Essence Energy fluctuations detectable even from a distance. Seeing this, the boatman's eyes brightened. He quickly steered the wooden boat to shore and said enthusiastically, "Please, get on board!"

"Brother Fang, Spiritual Medicines are precious. How can you bear to give it to him? Let's take a detour... it will just take a bit more time,"

Long Jingtian advised in a low voice.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Don't worry, I have plenty of this kind of Spiritual Medicine! Brother Long, let's board the wooden boat!"

Upon hearing Fang Bai say, "I have plenty of this kind of Spiritual Medicine," Long Jingtian was momentarily stunned. He then sighed and followed Fang Bai onto the wooden boat.

"Please sit tight,"

the boatman said with a smile, and then put forth his strength into his arms, rowing the oars. The wooden boat quickly moved away from the shore and sped toward the opposite side of the lake like an arrow.

"How did you two from the secular world end up in our Hidden Sect World?"

During the journey, the boatman made small talk.

Fang Bai replied cheerfully, "We got here by sheer coincidence, you could say it was a mistake!"

"By the sound of it, you two seem to be aware of the Hidden Sect World's existence?"

the boatman asked again.

Fang Bai replied, "We've heard about it and know a little bit."

"Where did you get the Spiritual Medicine you have with you?"

the boatman continued to inquire.

Fang Bai answered, "I stumbled upon it in the secular world. I heard from people in the Secular Ancient Martial World that such Spiritual Medicine is invaluable, so I've always kept it with me."

"Indeed... this Spiritual Medicine of yours must be over two hundred years old. Although it doesn't count as rare in the Hidden Sect World, for Martial Artists from the Secular Ancient Martial World, it is priceless!"

The boatman spoke, his gaze resting on the Spiritual Medicine in Fang Bai's hands, a curious smile spreading across his face. He asked, "In the Hidden Sect World, where Martial Artists are numerous, are you two not afraid?"

Long Jingtian replied, "Afraid of what?"

The boatman said, "People from the Hidden Sects value Spiritual Medicine as much as life itself. Aren't you afraid of being robbed since you possess Spiritual Medicine?"

Fang Bai and Long Jingtian both caught a gleam of ferocity in the boatman's eyes. They exchanged glances and burst into loud laughter.

"What are you laughing at?"

The boatman asked in an unfriendly tone.

Long Jingtian said, "People from the Hidden Sects still have to be reasonable, right? Why should others rob us of our possessions?"

The boatman laughed as well, revealing a set of yellow teeth and eyes flashing with cunning. He said, "To the people of the Hidden Sects, fists make the rules! If they like something, they'll just take it by force!"

As he spoke, his previously somewhat stooped back slowly straightened, his originally amiable smile contorting into something fierce, as he said coldly, "Surely, you have more than just this one Spiritual Medicine on you. Hand them over obediently, and I'll spare your lives; otherwise... this lake will be your burial ground!"

He had thought Fang Bai and Long Jingtian were ordinary secular people who would turn pale and tremble with fear when threatened, readily handing over their Spiritual Medicine. But instead of showing fear, they looked at him as if he were a fool.

"You, hand over the Spiritual Medicine you hold!"

The boatman dropped his oar and lunged forward, aiming a palm at Fang Bai's shoulder while reaching for the two-hundred-year-old Spiritual Medicine in Fang Bai's hand.

He was a Profound Level Martial Artist, striking with incredible speed. It seemed he would not only snatch the Spiritual Medicine but also send Fang Bai plunging into the lake with a single palm strike.

"Scram!"

As the boatman's figure pounced close to Fang Bai, he was unexpectedly kicked in the face by Long Jingtian, who was sitting next to Fang Bai.

With Long Jingtian being a Heaven Level Martial Artist, the force of his kick was immense—enough to shatter even a boulder.

Crack—

A crisp sound rang out as the boatman's facial bones shattered under the kick. He grunted and flew up high before falling into the lake, never to resurface.

"A mere Profound Level Martial Artist daring to rob us, courting death!"

Long Jingtian dusted off his foot and murmured to himself. To him, killing a Profound Level Martial Artist was as easy as crushing an ant.

Fang Bai knew the boatman was no good, so he felt no pity for his death.

The boatmen on this great lake, although they all knew each other, competed against one another. Some would even clash over attracting passengers, so when they saw this boatman being killed, the other boatmen on their vessels didn't care at all.

In the Hidden Sect World, where power is revered, it's common for Martial Artists to engage in bloody conflicts over interests. Thus, life and death have become normative to the people in the Hidden Sects.

Fang Bai stood up, took the oar, and propelled the wooden boat forward at high speed. In a short while, they reached the opposite shore of the lake.

The two abandoned the boat and continued their journey on land.

"It's hard to say where this 'Ghost Doctor Valley' might be. Searching aimlessly like this isn't going to work!"

After walking for a while, Long Jingtian frowned and said.

He had previously followed the faint clues left by several 'Ghost Doctor Valley' disciples, successfully traced them to the Shattered Stone Array, and entered the Hidden Sect World. However, after crossing that great lake, those faint clues had completely disappeared.

The two were newcomers to the Hidden Sect World, unaware of its vastness. If they continued the search without any clues, it would not be easy to find the whereabouts of 'Ghost Doctor Valley'.