

Doctor 741

Chapter 741: Secret Infiltration

Fang Bai spent two hours on Myriad Medicines Mountain, moving amongst the spiritual medicines up and down the mountain.

During this time, Fang Bai found dozens of spiritual medicines that were over four hundred years old and very close to being mid-grade. He was secretly delighted and stealthily harvested them, tossing them into his spatial ring.

While picking these dozens of spiritual medicines, Fang Bai moved slowly and carefully; he did not want to alert the disciples of Ghost Doctor Valley just yet. If a conflict with them arose, he would no longer be able to smoothly harvest the spiritual medicines.

After finishing the harvest of the dozens of spiritual medicines, Fang Bai did not rush to leave. He circled Myriad Medicines Mountain and finally stopped in an area where the essence energy was most concentrated. Then, he placed his palms against the mountain wall and released his divine sense to probe into the interior of the mountain.

Fang Bai's divine sense penetrated everywhere, slowly extending into the interior of the mountain. When it reached tens of meters deep, Fang Bai's face finally showed a look of surprise.

From the information returned by his divine sense, Fang Bai knew that there were indeed a great number of essence stones within the mountain, mostly Wood Element Stones, with a small amount of gold, water, fire, and earth element stones.

Based on the concentration levels of essence energy contained within those essence stones, Fang Bai could determine that the grades of the essence stones inside the mountain were all below mid-grade.

Although the grades of the essence stones were not high, it was the sheer quantity that mattered. If he mined part of them, it would be enough for Fang Bai and those he had taught martial arts techniques to use for a while.

Ever since Fang Bai learned about the existence of Myriad Medicines Mountain, he had been planning to claim the mountain for his own. The other five major sects, even if they were dissatisfied, would be deterred by his strength and would not dare to oppose him when the time came.

Of course, Fang Bai would also share some benefits with the other five major sects, such as distributing a portion of the spiritual medicines from Myriad Medicines Mountain to them, to appease any discontent they might feel.

As for the essence stones contained within the mountain, the five major sects were not aware of their existence, and Fang Bai had no intention of telling them; he would just mine them in secret when the time came.

Fang Bai was not going to mine all the essence stones from the mountain but would leave some behind, otherwise, Myriad Medicines Mountain would become a barren hill, unable to grow or cultivate spiritual medicines again.

Fang Bai entered Myriad Medicines Mountain to confirm the existence of essence stones within it. Having obtained a satisfactory answer, he left with a smile, silently making his way towards the nearby Ghost Doctor Valley.

Ghost Doctor Valley was located in a vast valley scattered with nearly a hundred houses and palaces. Some were exquisitely luxurious, nestled by the mountain and alongside the water, surrounded by flowers and plants, looking like an immortal palace.

There was a large lake in the valley, with most of the buildings in Ghost Doctor Valley built around it.

The residence of Li Ao, the Valley Master of Ghost Doctor Valley, was situated on the north side of the large lake, flanked on both sides by four palaces where the elders of Ghost Doctor Valley lived, while the core disciples and ordinary disciples resided in the buildings surrounding the lake.

In the center of the large lake, there was a man-made island with several palaces on it and a wooden bridge leading directly to the island.

That island in the lake was also one of the forbidden places of Ghost Doctor Valley. Except for the Island Master, others were not allowed to set foot on it, under penalty of severe punishment.

The disciples of Ghost Doctor Valley were all aware that residing on the island was the Supreme Elder and the number one expert of the valley, Wei He.

Wei He spent years in seclusion, cultivating in the palaces on the island. Not only was it difficult for ordinary and core disciples to see him, but even the elders rarely caught a glimpse of him.

It was said that the Supreme Elder had recently begun another period of closed-door cultivation, aiming to break through to an even higher realm.

Wei He had already been a mid-rank Heaven Level Martial Artist for many years, so what he should be preparing to break through is the high rank of the Heaven Level.

Once Wei He successfully advances and becomes a high-rank Heaven Level Martial Artist, he would truly join the ranks of the top experts in the Hidden Sect World, and the reputation and standing of Ghost Doctor Valley in the Hidden Sect World would greatly improve.

At this moment, the Valley Master Hall of Ghost Doctor Valley was brightly lit, Valley Master Li Ao was discussing something with several Elders.

"Valley Master, according to the spies we have planted in 'Spirit Crane Sect,' the reason Spirit Crane Sect and the other four major sects dare to provoke our 'Ghost Doctor Valley' is because the Spirit Crane Sect invited two Heaven Level Martial Artists to bolster their ranks... As for the specific realm and cultivation level of these two Heaven Level Martial Artists, we are not clear yet!"

An Elder of Ghost Doctor Valley said, facing Li Ao, the Valley Master sitting at the head with a somber expression.

"Heh, they dare to challenge our 'Ghost Doctor Valley' just because they've invited two Heaven Level Martial Artists? Mu Xiantian and Gui Hongzhi, those guys are really overestimating themselves, aren't they?"

"Valley Master, I think we should now mobilize all the disciples of the valley to launch a full-force attack and catch the alliance of the five sects off guard!"

"We must capture Mu Xiantian and Gui Hongzhi, those presumptuous individuals, and skin them alive! Let the other sect forces see what happens when someone offends our 'Ghost Doctor Valley'!"

"The five sect masters plus the two invited Heaven Level Martial Artists make a total of seven Heaven Level Martial Artists... 'Spirit Crane Sect' has really put in a lot of effort this time!"

"So what if there are seven Heaven Level Martial Artists? The power of our Supreme Elder alone is enough to match five of them! And they don't even know that we also have a Heaven Level Martial Artist supporting us!"

"This time, they won't return from where they came!"

...

Before Li Ao could speak, the other Elders of Ghost Doctor Valley also started to express their opinions one after another.

Certainly, the matter of Fang Bai, Long Jingtian, and the five major sects coming to conquer Ghost Doctor Valley had already been reported to Ghost Doctor Valley.

Indeed, as Mu Xiantian had previously mentioned, the reason Ghost Doctor Valley had not made any move to stop or ambush the five major sects was that they believed the five sects simply lacked the capability to pose any real threat to them and were not worth their attention.

"Spirit Crane Sect" has allies in the Hidden Sect World, and there are quite a few sects that have colluded with "Ghost Doctor Valley." Knowing that the elite disciples of "Spirit Crane Sect," "Guiyuan Sect," and the other three major sects were coming to conquer, Valley Master Li Ao also invited several neighboring strong Sect Masters to bring reinforcements.

In terms of the number of Heaven Level Martial Artists, Ghost Doctor Valley now outnumbered the alliance of the five major sects. Li Ao was confident that for this conflict, their Supreme Elder Wei He did not need to take action personally; just with these people alone, they could crush the approaching enemy.

Because they had spies within "Spirit Crane Sect," Ghost Doctor Valley was well aware of the movements of the disciples from the five sects.

However, Li Ao and the others were unaware of Fang Bai's quiet departure and infiltration into "Myriad Medicines Mountain" and "Ghost Doctor Valley"; otherwise, their precautions would have been much stricter.

"Mu Xiantian is no fool, he wouldn't have rashly come to provoke our 'Ghost Doctor Valley' without some assurance. We must not underestimate the enemy!"

After the several Elders finished speaking, Li Ao slowly added his thoughts.

Chapter 742: Secret Kill

The result of Li Ao consulting with several Elders was to temporarily hold their forces and wait to attack the "Spirit Crane Sect" and the other four major sects after dawn. Once they crushed the five major sects in one fell swoop, the strength of "Ghost Doctor Valley" within the Hidden Sect World would undoubtedly expand further.

"Although we're not moving against them now, we can't let them have too easy a night!"

Li Ao then sneered, "Elder Qian, Elder Zhang, you two lead some Earth Level Realm disciples from the valley, take advantage of the night to harass the disciples of the five major sects; it would be best to kill a few of their disciples as a 'welcome gift'!"

After a pause, he added, "All the Sect Masters of the five major sects are Heaven Level Martial Artists with considerable strength. Be careful and don't get caught by them!"

Elder Qian said, "Valley Master, rest assured, although the Sect Masters of the five major sects are powerful, we are more familiar with the terrain and topography here. Once we kill the disciples of the five major sects, we will quickly retreat. They won't be able to catch us!"

"Valley Master, just wait for our good news!"

Elder Zhang laughed heartily.

After Elder Qian and Elder Zhang finished speaking, they turned and walked toward the entrance of the hall, talking and laughing.

As they passed through a medicinal herb garden in the valley, they did not notice that in between those gardens, a pair of eyes shimmering like the stars in the night sky were watching them.

After they had walked about two hundred meters forward, a shadow swept out from the garden, silently following behind them, the corner of its mouth revealing a mocking smile.

Elder Qian and Elder Zhang were preparing to contact a few of their personal transmission disciples to go together and harass the disciples of the "Spirit Crane Sect" and other major sects stationed in the nearby valleys when suddenly, a breeze struck the backs of their heads, Essence Energy stirred, indicating that someone was launching a sneak attack.

"Who?"

The two exclaimed as they turned around, only to see a hand rapidly enlarging in front of their eyes.

That hand descended on their chests, and the two trembled as if struck by lightning, vision darkening, and consciousness was lost in an instant.

The shadow walked up to Elder Qian and Elder Zhang, kicked their bodies with the tip of his foot to ensure that they had fallen to his palm, and couldn't help but let out a sneer.

"I guess I'll be the one to give you a 'welcome gift' first!"

The shadow glanced towards the Valley Master Hall not far away and muttered.

By the sound of the shadow's voice, if not Fang Bai who had secretly infiltrated "Ghost Doctor Valley," then who?

Fang Bai's palm had shattered the meridians, blood vessels, and internal organs of Elders Qian and Zhang from "Ghost Doctor Valley," killing them so thoroughly that death could not be more certain.

Elder Qian and Elder Zhang had been following the orders of Valley Master Li Ao, preparing to kill some disciples of the five major sects during the night, but they had never imagined they would be killed before achieving their goal, becoming lost souls under Fang Bai's palm.

Fang Bai had killed the two Elders from "Ghost Doctor Valley" in the blink of an eye without making a sound, therefore, no one noticed the anomaly here.

"Stay here for now!"

Fang Bai kicked the two corpses into the nearby herb garden and continued to lurk a few hundred meters outside the "Ghost Doctor Valley" Valley Master Hall, listening in on the movements inside.

He had infiltrated a spot that was just beyond the range of Li Ao's sensing abilities, so Li Ao couldn't detect him, yet he was able to use his Divine Sense to envelop the entire Valley Master Hall, monitoring everyone's every word and action within.

Fang Bai would occasionally turn to look at the temple on the small island in the middle of the big lake, knowing that it was where Wei He, the Supreme Elder of the Ghost Doctor Valley, was secluding himself for cultivation. However, the island was three to four miles away from here, and Fang Bai could not sense Wei He's movements, nor did Wei He know that Fang Bai was hidden within the valley.

Fang Bai was in no hurry to reveal himself and then slaughter his way through the valley; instead, he planned to take advantage of the night to kill a few more Ghost Doctor Valley strongmen, which would also reduce some of the pressure on Long Jingtian, Mu Xiantian, and others.

Just now, Fang Bai had killed Elder Qian and Elder Zhang of the Ghost Doctor Valley; knowing that once Li Ao discovered the elders had not returned, he would surely send more people to check the situation. Fang Bai prepared to 'wait for the hare by the stump', killing each one as they emerged.

As expected, after half a two hours passed, Li Ao, who had been waiting in the Valley Master Hall, grew anxious when the two elders did not return and ordered Elders Yang and Shen to see what was the matter.

The fate of Elders Yang and Shen, who left the Valley Master Hall, was naturally the same as that of the previously departed Elders Qian and Zhang—they were silently finished off by Fang Bai and kicked into the medicine garden.

Fang Bai knew that the consecutive non-return of four elders would definitely arouse the alertness of Li Ao, the Valley Master of the Ghost Doctor Valley; he might be facing Li Ao himself next time.

If he could kill Li Ao, it would constitute a huge blow to the fighting spirit and morale of the disciples of the Ghost Doctor Valley.

Just as Fang Bai was preparing to continue waiting, his ears twitched, catching the sound of a woman's pitiful crying and pleas for help coming from the domicile of core disciples, hundreds of meters away.

A thought flashed through Fang Bai's mind as he immediately associated it with the Ghost Doctor Valley disciples cultivating evil techniques and using abducted female martial artists as 'Furnace Cauldrons'; coldness flashed in his eyes.

That pitiful crying and plea for help clearly indicated that a female martial artist was being mercilessly tortured by a disciple of the Ghost Doctor Valley.

Using female martial artists as 'Furnace Cauldrons' for cultivation was not the same as dual cultivation between a man and a woman.

Dual cultivation between a man and a woman was a consensual act, with both parties in harmony and benefitting from the process as they cultivated together.

Using a woman as a 'Furnace Cauldron' for cultivation, on the other hand, was a one-sided extraction, only beneficial to the man and extremely damaging to the woman's body and mind.

Therefore, in Fang Bai's previous life, whether in the Cultivation World or the Immortal Realm, cultivation techniques that used women as 'Furnace Cauldrons' were branded as evil techniques; Fang Bai had an intense loathing for those who practiced such techniques, often killing them on sight.

"Dammit!"

Fang Bai glanced at the room from where the crying and pleas came, and his figure swiftly moved towards it.

The room, built adjacent to the Elder's temple of the 'Ghost Doctor Protection', belonged to a direct disciple of Valley Master Li Ao.

This direct disciple, named Geng Yang, was under thirty years old yet already possessed mid-Earth Level strength. Due to his outstanding talent, he was taken as a personal disciple by Valley Master Li Ao. Relying on this status and his own strength, Geng Yang acted in a high-handed and arrogant manner among the disciples of the Ghost Doctor Valley.

Geng Yang's current strength was not unrelated to his regular practice of abducting female disciples from other sects to use as 'Furnace Cauldrons' for cultivation.

Over the years, the number of female martial artists who had suffered at Geng Yang's hands was close to a hundred, prompting many sects to put him on their kill list. Some sects even offered high bounties to have Geng Yang assassinated to avenge their disciples.

At this moment, Geng Yang was in his own room, tying up a female disciple from the Guiyuan Sect, preparing to use her as a 'Furnace Cauldron' for cultivation.

The female disciple was struggling desperately, her face streaked with shame and tears, as she cried out in a voice filled with unwillingness for help.

Chapter 743: Taking Action to Save People

"Who's shouting? This is the 'Ghost Doctor Valley', and screaming your throat raw won't help!"

Geng Yang sneered, stretching out his hands to tear at the clothing of the Guiyuan Sect female disciple.

The "Guiyuan Sect" female disciple was extremely stubborn, unwilling to suffer humiliation from Geng Yang. A determined look shone in her eyes, and she opened her mouth, intending to bite her own tongue and commit suicide.

Bang—

Just at that moment, the door was forcefully kicked open, and a figure swept in like the wind.

With it came an invisible yet tangible killing Qi, giving Geng Yang a sense of lethal threat.

"You..."

Geng Yang was taken aback when he saw the young man in a black shirt standing before him. "You" had barely left his mouth when his throat was seized by the young man's outstretched palm.

"Die!"

The young man in the black shirt had an icy expression. He lightly spat out these two words, then his fingers clenched, and with a soft "snap" sound, Geng Yang's hyoid bone shattered. A few "he he" sounds escaped, and he was dead.

The "Guiyuan Sect" female martial artist on the bed was stunned, thinking to herself how powerful this young man was, having killed Geng Yang, who possessed a mid-Earth Level strength, with a single move.

Suddenly realizing her own state of undress, the "Guiyuan Sect" female martial artist couldn't help but feel both anxious and ashamed.

"Put on your clothes, I'll take you out of here!"

Fang Bai unblocked the acupoints on the female martial artist's body without a second thought, took out a set of clothes from his Spatial Ring he had bought, threw it to her, and then turned to say.

The woman looked at Fang Bai's back in a daze, not caring that the clothes he provided were a size too big, and quickly put them on.

"Thank you, senior!"

Although the "Guiyuan Sect" female martial artist did not know Fang Bai's identity, she was certain he meant her no harm. After getting dressed, she said in a low voice.

"Which gatekeeping disciple are you?"

Fang Bai turned his head to glance at the female martial artist and asked casually.

The female martial artist was quite beautiful and was a virgin, no wonder that "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciple was so eager to use her as a Furnace Cauldron for his cultivation.

"To answer the senior, my name is Jia Yun, a disciple of the 'Guiyuan Sect'!"

Jia Yun answered honestly.

Fang Bai paused, then laughed, "So you're a disciple of Gui Hongzhi! Heh, what a coincidence!"

"The senior knows my Sect Master?"

Fang Bai nodded, "I am currently in an alliance with your Sect Master! Right now, the disciples of your 'Guiyuan Sect' and other five major sects like the 'Spirit Crane Sect' are hidden in a nearby valley. We're planning to attack 'Ghost Doctor Valley' when dawn breaks... I'll take you out of the valley, go find your Sect Master!"

Saying so, Fang Bai grabbed Jia Yun by an arm and together they left the house, speeding towards the valley's entrance.

Although there were many checkpoints set up by "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples along the way, Fang Bai and Jia Yun were too fast. Often the guards at the checkpoints would see only a blur before Fang Bai had taken Jia Yun past them, vanishing from their sight.

Moments later, Fang Bai and Jia Yun left "Ghost Doctor Valley" unobstructed and arrived atop a small hill.

"Do you see that? Your Sect Master is hiding in that valley ahead! I'll leave you here. There should be some other female martial artists in 'Ghost Doctor Valley' who have suffered the same fate as you. I'm off to save them now!"

As he spoke, Fang Bai turned and disappeared into the night.

Jia Yun slowly knelt down, bowing several times towards the direction where Fang Bai's silhouette had disappeared.

Fang Bai returned to "Ghost Doctor Valley," unleashing his Divine Sense, searching every dwelling and hall within the valley. He successively rescued more than a dozen female martial artists who were being violated or had been tortured to the brink of death. He had them temporarily take refuge in the valley where Long Jingtian and others were hiding, trusting that Long Jingtian would make proper arrangements.

While saving people, Fang Bai was also killing, and those "Ghost Doctor Valley" Earth Level Realm strength holders who had tortured and violated female disciples of various sects all became souls under his blade.

He killed silently, and in total, he had slaughtered nearly more than twenty "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples without detection.

The sky suddenly darkened for a moment, the darkest period before dawn, then light gradually began appearing on the eastern horizon.

Fang Bai, waiting among a patch of Spiritual Medicines outside the Valley Master Hall, finally saw the "Ghost Doctor Valley" Valley Master Li Ao emerging from the Hall surrounded by a throng of "Ghost Doctor Valley" elders and disciples, stepping onto the plaza in front of the Hall as daylight broke.

"Elder Qian and the other four elders haven't returned yet, something isn't right!"

Li Ao said with a frown on his face.

He knew that the competence of the four elders of Origin Valley to escape danger was top-notch. Even if discovered by the five major sects' Sect Masters, they should have been able to return to "Ghost Doctor Valley" in time. Yet, not a single one had. This was highly abnormal.

Li Ao couldn't believe that those four elders, with their strength and cunning, could be all held back by the disciples of the five major sects.

"Valley Master, something terrible has happened..."

A patrol team of "Ghost Doctor Valley" was stunned to discover the corpses of their fellow sect members among the Spiritual Medicines at dawn, and they hurried over to report to Li Ao in a panic.

As the "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples gathered the bodies, including the four elders like Elder Qian, numbering more than twenty, Li Ao's face turned ashen, and he suddenly roared, "Someone must have infiltrated us last night! Search! Find out who it was, I will grind his bones to dust and scatter them to the winds!"

No sooner had he spoken than Fang Bai, who was in a patch of Spiritual Medicines not far away, rose tall and seized the collar of a "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciple in front of him, tossing the disciple hard towards Li Ao.

The disciple, also one of Li Ao's direct disciples, was hurled toward Li Ao with a whistling speed akin to a cannonball, his strength tremendous. Li Ao was caught between intercepting and dodging, and ultimately chose to sidestep.

The direct disciple, screaming miserably, smashed into a thick stone pillar behind Li Ao outside the Valley Master Hall, blood spurting wildly, clearly beyond saving.

Li Ao watched his disciple die before his eyes, taken aback and furious.

What shocked him was the evident strength of Fang Bai from his recent move, showing he was no weaker than himself—a formidable opponent.

What enraged him was the audacity of Fang Bai to not only secretly enter Ghost Doctor Valley but also to dare killing in his presence.

As expected, the deaths of Elder Qian and the twenty-odd "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples were likely at the hands of this young man.

Chapter 744: Not to Return a Favor is Against the Rules

Li Ao scrutinized Fang Bai, noticing his attire clearly indicated that he was a martial artist from the secular world, with a cultivation level at only Earth Level Perfection. He couldn't fathom how this man had silently killed four of his Elders and over a dozen disciples at the Earth Level Realm.

"Who are you?"

Li Ao asked with a cold voice, looking at the more than twenty corpses on the ground, his chest boiling with rage, Essence Energy swirling around him, his fists tightly clenched.

"You don't recognize me, but you must know Baili Zhan, Yang Xudong! I am their friend, here to collect a debt on their behalf!"

Fang Bai's eyes flashed coldly as he walked step by step towards Li Ao, stopping three zhang away from him.

Disciples of "Ghost Doctor Valley," nearly a hundred of them, having heard the news, fanned out and surrounded Fang Bai in three inner and three outer layers, each one with eyes fiercely intent and brimming with Killing Qi.

"Baili Zhan... Yang Xudong..."

Li Ao muttered these two names under his breath, his pupils suddenly contracting as he raised his voice, "The disciples I sent to pursue and kill these two traitors, was it also you who killed them?"

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Yes, I killed them! I've entered Hidden Sect this time to seek justice for my friends!"

Li Ao shouted angrily, "You've killed so many of my 'Ghost Doctor Valley' disciples, isn't this revenge enough for you?"

Fang Bai shook his head and replied, "Not enough! I plan to annihilate your 'Ghost Doctor Valley' once and for all!"

"Hahaha..."

Instead of anger, Li Ao burst into laughter, raising his hand to point at Fang Bai, declaring loudly, "What big words coming from a milk-nosed boy, don't bite your tongue! My 'Ghost Doctor Valley' has hundreds of disciples; do you think you alone can exterminate us?"

Fang Bai shrugged his shoulders and said, "Won't know unless I try, right? I've already killed more than twenty of your disciples, including four Elders. It looks like your 'Ghost Doctor Valley' disciples aren't that strong after all!"

"Die!"

These words were like rubbing salt into Li Ao's wounds. Enraged by Fang Bai's remark, Li Ao flicked his right hand, and something dark, the size of a chicken egg, tore through the air with a splitting force, whistling towards Fang Bai.

"Five Poisons Smoke Bomb?"

Although the chicken-egg-sized object flew swiftly, it couldn't escape Fang Bai's eyes, who recognized it instantly as a particularly vicious and powerful hidden weapon from "Ghost Doctor Valley," known as the "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb," which had been used by the disciples Cuihun and Life-Snatching during their pursuit to kill Baili Zhan and his wife.

However, the "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb," when used by Cuihun and Life-Snatching, wasn't the same in terms of speed and power as it was in Li Ao's hands.

The "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb" unleashed by Li Ao, during its high-speed flight, carried a fierce True Essence Force, capable of smashing even a martial artist at Earth Level Perfection to death.

What made the "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb" so deadly was the toxic smoke it contained. Once exploded, the smoke could envelop an area several zhang around, and the touch of even a whisper of poison smoke on the skin would rapidly cause the body to rot and lead to death.

Boom—

When the "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb" was still less than one zhang away from Fang Bai, it exploded in mid-air with a faint sound.

A plume of pink smoke instantly enveloped Fang Bai's entire body, while he, seemingly scared stiff, remained motionless in its midst.

The disciples of "Ghost Doctor Valley" surrounding Fang Bai let out a cheer, convinced that Fang Bai was a dead man.

However, Li Ao did not show any sign of joy, for he knew that Fang Bai had managed to silently kill four elders of the valley and a dozen disciples of the Earth Level Realm; his strength must not be as simple as it appeared on the surface. The "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb" was indeed powerful, but whether it could harm him was still questionable.

Enveloped in the poison mist, Fang Bai remained silent and did not let out the screams some disciples of the "Ghost Doctor Valley" had anticipated.

As the poisonous smoke gradually dissipated, Fang Bai's figure emerged. He had a mocking smile at the corner of his mouth and stood tall and proud, showing no signs of being affected by the poison.

"How is this possible?"

Some disciples of the "Ghost Doctor Valley" cried out in astonishment, their faces displaying utter disbelief.

Even though they were the ones who could concoct the "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb," if they had not taken the antidote in advance, they would not have been able to stay in the poison cloud for such a long time. It appeared that this young martial artist from the secular world was also an expert in handling poison, one whose skills surpassed theirs.

"What comes around goes around. I also have a few self-made 'Five Poisons Smoke Bombs' here, let me offer them to you as a taste!"

Fang Bai laughed out loud and, under the astonished gaze of nearly a hundred "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples around him, he threw his hands upward, sending four fist-sized spherical objects into the air. They simultaneously exploded above the heads of the "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples, releasing the same pink smoke.

Most of the "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples on the scene reckoned that they had taken the antidote and were impervious to all poisons, so they were fearless when engulfed in the pink smoke. Some even let out a disdainful laugh.

Fang Bai was laughing too, looking at them as if they were a bunch of fools, without a hint of pity in his eyes.

"Ah... my eyes... I can't see!"

"Black blood is coming out of my nose! Help..."

"My throat... heh heh..."

"My skin is so itchy..."

In the blink of an eye, some of the weaker disciples of the "Ghost Doctor Valley" realized something was wrong. Some bled from all seven orifices, their blood black as ink; others felt an unbearable itchiness that caused their skin to ulcerate upon scratching... These were indeed symptoms of poisoning from the "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb."

"Why isn't our antidote working?"

The "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples who inhaled the poisonous smoke asked themselves this question.

What they did not know was that when it came to using poison, if Fang Bai claimed to be second best in the world, then surely no one would dare claim to be the first.

The "Five Poisons Smoke Bombs" Fang Bai had released were concocted during his spare time, using five different types of toxic flowers and herbs, wildly different from what the "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples used. The toxicity was at least ten times more potent than the "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples' "Five Poisons Smoke Bombs." Therefore, the antidote taken by the "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples was utterly ineffective.

Fang Bai had prepared the "Five Poisons Smoke Bombs" initially as a countermeasure in case he encountered "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples again in the future. He intended to give them a taste of their own medicine, letting them experience the agony of poison coursing through their bodies. Today, the poison bombs had finally served their purpose.

Like a crazed plague spreading wildly, screams of agony from the surrounding "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples echoed one after another, followed by people collapsing limply to the ground.

In just a short span of tens of breaths, dozens of "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples who had been surrounded by the toxic smoke started bleeding from all their orifices, their bodies ulcerated, succumbing to death with horribly tragic deaths.

The fallen disciples of the "Ghost Doctor Valley," although only one-tenth of the total number of disciples, were the elite among them with Earth Level powers. It could be said that half of the "Ghost Doctor Valley's" fighting force had perished here.

Chapter 745: The Battle Begins

Looking at the corpses of Origin Valley's elite disciples strewn on the ground, Li Ao's eyes were about to split with rage, his heart bleeding metaphorically.

No matter the outcome for Fang Bai this time, the "Ghost Doctor Valley" was destined to suffer heavy casualties and grievous damage to its Essence Energy. It was unknown how many years it would take to recover.

Even if Fang Bai were to be cut into a thousand pieces and his bones ground to dust, it would not quell the hatred in Li Ao's heart.

"How do you like the welcoming gift I sent you, Valley Chief Li?" asked Fang Bai with a smile, looking at Li Ao whose features were fierce and face was twisted.

"Go to hell!"

Li Ao roared, and a nine-ring saber emitting a dazzling bright light appeared in his hand. He leaped into the air, raised the saber high above his head, and ferociously chopped it down toward Fang Bai's crown.

The sharp blade seemed to split the air itself, emitting a low and piercing wail akin to the cry of ghosts.

Fang Bai stood still, neither dodging nor evading, tilting his head slightly upwards, staring intently at the nine-ring saber as it slashed down from the air, his gaze icy cold, until the blade was just two feet away from his head. That's when he finally lifted his hand and slapped the side of the blade.

Hum—

The nine-ring saber vibrated wildly from Fang Bai's palm strike, making Li Ao's palm feel as if it was tearing apart with excruciating pain. Unable to hold onto it, the saber flew from his grip, piercing

through the body of an unlucky Ghost Doctor Valley disciple and embedding itself firmly into the wall of the Valley Master Hall.

"How is this possible?"

Li Ao's pupils shrank, and in shock, he cried out involuntarily.

He never imagined that he, a formidable Heaven Level early-stage Martial Artist, would not be a match for this young man at Earth Level Perfection, and that with the first exchange, the nine-ring saber would be shaken out of his grip.

Although there was an element of underestimating his opponent, Li Ao was certain that this young man's combat power was undoubtedly stronger than his, if not evenly matched.

Could this monstrous guy truly come from the Secular Ancient Martial World, where Essence Energy is sparse and Cultivation Resources are scarce?

Li Ao was a clever man, and knowing full well that he was no match for the young man after his nine-ring saber was shaken flying, he immediately leapt backward to a platform on the left side of the entrance of the Valley Master Hall and struck a Great Bell hanging there.

Dong—

Dong—

The deep and melodious sound of the bell instantly spread throughout the entire "Ghost Doctor Valley." This bell sound signified the highest level of alert, indicating a formidable enemy invasion that concerned the life or death of the "Ghost Doctor Valley." All disciples were to gather in front of the Valley Master Hall for orders.

Even the Supreme Elder Wei He, who was in retreat on a small island in the center of the lake ahead, was no exception.

Hundreds of "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples, from all directions, rushed toward the Valley Master Hall, each carrying swords or sabers, their faces showing expressions of tension and alertness.

Sect Masters and disciples of several aligned Sects who had been invited by the "Ghost Doctor Valley" also emerged from a series of buildings on the west side of the "Ghost Doctor Valley" and converged with the Ghost Doctor Valley disciples, preparing to besiege Fang Bai.

"Ghost Doctor Valley" had reached a total of six to seven hundred people, outnumbering the five major sect alliance including the "Spirit Crane Sect."

And just as the bell rang, Fang Bai also let out a long, clear howl to the sky, a howl that actually overpowered the bell, traveling miles away and echoing through the mountains.

The sudden sound of the bell and clear howl stirred the disciples of the five major sects hidden in valleys several miles away.

"There's movement in 'Ghost Doctor Valley,' it must be Brother Fang fighting with the disciples of the 'Ghost Doctor Valley'! Sect Master Mu, Sect Master Gui, let's also rush in! Whether 'Ghost Doctor Valley' can be eradicated hinges on this battle!"

Hearing Fang Bai's howl, Long Jingtian leaped up, landing on a pillar about six feet in height, and spoke out loud.

Concerned that Fang Bai was surrounded and outnumbered by the disciples of the "Ghost Doctor Valley," he did not wait for his voice to die away before rushing towards "Ghost Doctor Valley."

Mu Xiantian also jumped atop a rock, pointed his long sword towards "Ghost Doctor Valley," and roared, "Disciples of 'Spirit Crane Sect,' charge with me! Avenge our fellow sect members who have died at the hands of 'Ghost Doctor Valley'!"

"Avenge!"

Responding unanimously to Mu Xiantian, the hundreds of "Spirit Crane Sect" martial artists with him boiled with ardor, their eyes bloodshot as they bellowed and rushed towards "Ghost Doctor Valley," weapons in hand.

"Let's also go!"

Sect Master Gui Hongzhi of "Guiyuan Sect" and the other three sectmasters exchanged glances and then, wielding their weapons, led their disciples at full speed to charge at "Ghost Doctor Valley."

In an instant, four to five hundred disciples from the five major sects burst out from the valleys they were hidden in. Amidst earth-shaking yells and shouts, they broke into the entrance of "Ghost Doctor Valley" and clashed with the disciples of "Ghost Doctor Valley" and a few other assisting sects.

Long Jingtian, Mu Xiantian, Gui Hongzhi, and the other sect masters from the five major sects sang loudly as they advanced valiantly, breaking through the obstacles and leading the charge into "Ghost Doctor Valley," where they joined Fang Bai, who was fighting Li Ao and other Heaven Level Experts.

Before Long Jingtian and others arrived, those surrounding Fang Bai from "Ghost Doctor Valley" included five Heaven Level Experts, including Li Ao. Fang Bai, fighting against five Heaven Level Experts, showed no signs of weakening; instead, he seemed to grow stronger as the battle raged on, which terrified Li Ao and the others.

Li Ao knew Fang Bai was stronger than himself, but he hadn't expected him to be this powerful. To stand undeterred against the siege of five early-stage Heaven Level Experts was testament to a strength that could even challenge Wei He, the Supreme Elder of our Valley.

Yet, while Wei He was over a hundred years old, Fang Bai was in the prime of his youth. Given time, who in the Hidden Sect World could control him?

"You deal with them; I'll go fight Wei He!"

Seeing Long Jingtian and other Heaven Level Experts arriving just in time, Fang Bai was overjoyed. He swiftly withdrew from the battlefield, leaving Li Ao and the others to Long Jingtian and his group. He himself headed straight towards the small island at the lake in front of the Valley Master Hall.

Li Ao, seeing this, wanted to stop Fang Bai, but was firmly entangled by Mu Xiantian. They exchanged punches and kicks, fighting intensely at the scene.

"Sect Master Mu, you see, we have a great advantage in numbers. If both sides continue fighting, I fear we'll both suffer. I propose we each step back. You withdraw your people, and I promise that from now on I won't let disciples of our Valley abduct your female disciples for use as furnace cauldrons, and I'll offer compensation. What do you say?"

Li Ao appeared not to want to continue the fight, and he spoke loudly to Mu Xiantian, the "Spirit Crane Sect" Sect Master. In his mind, as long as the disciples of the five major sects withdrew, Fang Bai would not be able to hold out alone. Then, with a few Heaven Level Martial Artists and Elder Wei He joining forces, they would have a chance to nip in the bud this great future threat.

Before Mu Xiantian could even speak, Long Jingtian spat disdainfully and kicked away a "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciple who tried to sneak up on him. Pointing at Li Ao, he cursed loudly, "Old man Li, seeing the tide turning against you, you've started to regret, haven't you? What were you doing back then? Compensation? Heh, do you take Sect Master Mu for a fool? If you manage to kill our Brother Fang, the next ones to go down will certainly be us! You want us to leave? No chance!"

Chapter 746: So What If It's Heaven Level High Rank?

Hearing Long Jingtian's words, Mu Xiantian and the other sect masters all nodded in unison.

With a reputation that stank to high heaven, deceitful and cunning, what sort of character Li Ao was, Mu Xiantian and the other sect masters knew all too well. Moreover, with the five sects joining forces to attack the "Ghost Doctor Valley," they had deeply offended it. It could be said that they had reached a "do or die" situation with the "Ghost Doctor Valley."

If the five sects couldn't eliminate the "Ghost Doctor Valley" this time, one thing was for certain: they would face fierce retaliation from the "Ghost Doctor Valley" in the future. Therefore, in this expedition against the "Ghost Doctor Valley," the five sects were all in, sparing no expense.

On the side of the "Ghost Doctor Valley," they too understood that this battle was a matter of life and death. They were equally determined to fight to the death, so as soon as both sides clashed, the battle became extremely brutal. Amidst the continuous roars and shrieks, cries of pain from disciples of both sides could be heard intermittently, followed by bodies falling into pools of blood.

Although the "Ghost Doctor Valley" had the advantage in numbers, a small portion of their elite disciples had been killed by Fang Bai earlier with the "Five Poisons Smoke Bomb." While the number of disciples from the five sects was smaller, they had an edge in the number of elite disciples. Therefore, the strength of the two sides was not much different, and a victor could not be discerned in the short term.

Li Ao was tightly entangled by Mu Xiantian in a difficult battle and could only watch helplessly as Fang Bai rushed towards the small island in the center of the lake.

Fang Bai's figure flashed like lightning, sweeping across the narrow wooden bridge leading to the small island, and in the blink of an eye, he had already reached the temples on the island.

From one of the central temples, Fang Bai sensed a strong surge of Essence Energy.

Needless to say, this surge of Essence Energy was emanating from the Supreme Elder Wei He of the "Ghost Doctor Valley," who was in the midst of secluded cultivation.

What alarmed Fang Bai was that the Essence Energy Wei He released had reached a peak state, indicating that his advancement to the High Rank Heaven Level was about to be successful.

"This is bad!"

Fang Bai inwardly cursed, his form suddenly speeding up as he rushed towards the temple where Wei He was secluded, aiming to disrupt his advancement.

Although Fang Bai had the ability to challenge those above his level, his cultivation level was, after all, only equivalent to Earth Level Perfection. He was confident in defeating Heaven Level mid-rank martial artists, but facing a High Rank Heaven Level martial artist would significantly increase the difficulty.

Suddenly, a clear, sky-piercing whistle came from the temple where Wei He was secluded.

Fang Bai's heart tightened; he extended his Divine Sense and sensed that the Essence Energy surrounding Wei He was rapidly expanding.

Boom—

A muffled, light sound echoed. When the Essence Energy around Wei He expanded to its limit, it seemingly burst apart and turned into a ring-shaped shockwave that expanded fiercely in all directions around the temple.

The flowers and grass around the temple were affected by the Essence Energy shockwave, pressing tightly against the ground.

After the shockwave dissipated, quiet returned inside and outside the temple in a flash.

"What a pity..."

Fang Bai's figure, as it swept close to the temple where Wei He was secluded, about five zhang from the tightly shut temple door, abruptly came to a halt. He looked towards the door with a sigh in his heart, realizing he was ultimately a step too late to prevent Wei He's advancement.

"He's advanced! The Supreme Elder has advanced! Haha... Mu Xiantian, Gui Hongzhi, today is the day of doom for the disciples of your five sects! Hahaha..."

While Li Ao was fiercely battling Mu Xiantian, he was also keeping an eye on the situation near the island in the lake. After hearing the clear whistle coming from the island's temple, he was first stunned, then overjoyed, laughing uncontrollably in triumph.

Wei He had already been a Heaven Level mid-rank martial artist, and now after his advancement, he had surely succeeded in reaching the High Rank Heaven Level Realm.

In the world of the Hidden Sect, although there were quite a number of martial artists in the Heaven Level Realm, those who could reach the High Rank were extremely few. Wei He's advancement signified that the "Ghost Doctor Sect" would have a significant leap in status in the Hidden Sect World.

As for the disciples of the five sects who came to besiege the "Ghost Doctor Valley," in the eyes of Wei He after his advancement, they would be no more than ants, utterly incapable of withstanding a single blow.

"Today, all those who attacked the 'Ghost Doctor Valley' must die!"

Wei He's advancement in rank boosted Li Ao's confidence immensely and his fighting spirit soared, managing to overwhelm Mu Xiantian.

After hearing Wei He's words, the warriors from "Ghost Doctor Valley" cheered loudly, their morale surging like they had been injected with chicken blood, becoming even more valiant in battle.

However, the disciples of the five major sects, including Mu Xiantian, were dealt a heavy blow to their morale. Some disciples wore expressions ashen as death, filled with despair. If it weren't for the knowledge that offending "Ghost Doctor Valley" meant certain death, some would have already fled the battlefield.

"Everyone, the disciples of 'Ghost Doctor Valley' have always been ruthless and merciless. Even if we cease fighting now, death is inevitable! Since it has come to this, it's better to fight to the death. Who knows, we might still have a chance to live!"

Mu Xiantian shouted, trying to boost the suddenly dejected morale.

"Yeah, if we're going to die, let's take a few 'Ghost Doctor Valley' disciples down with us before we go!"

Gui Hongzhi bellowed fiercely.

Upon hearing the tone of Mu Xiantian and Gui Hongzhi, which seemed to imply an inevitable defeat for their side, Long Jingtian grew both angry and anxious, stamping his foot as he said, "You two, can you please stop speaking such demoralizing words? So what if Wei He has advanced in rank? I believe Brother Fang has a way to deal with him!"

After pushing Li Ao back several feet with a punch, Mu Xiantian said with a wry smile, "Brother Long, after Wei He has advanced, he is a high rank Heaven Level Martial Artist! How could Senior Fang be his match?"

Long Jingtian said loudly, "I believe in Brother Fang, he is a man skilled in creating miracles! In any case, as long as Brother Fang hasn't met with trouble, we can't lose heart here! Come on, let's give it our all and fight!"

"Alright, let's go all out!"

"Fight!"

"Fight!"

"Fight!"

...

Mu Xiantian and the others invigorated their spirits, shouting fiercely, every move a fight for their lives, and they finally managed to maintain a stalemate of neither victory nor defeat.

"Hehehe..."

A cold, sinister laugh echoed from the temple on the small island at the center of the lake where Wei He was in seclusion, and at the same time, an invisible pressure emanated through the temple doors, bearing down on Fang Bai.

If it were Long Jingtian or Mu Xiantian, Heaven Level low rank Martial Artists here, they would only be able to retreat quickly to avoid injury under this formless pressure, otherwise, they simply could not withstand the onslaught of that wave-like force.

However, this pressure seemed futile against Fang Bai.

Fang Bai stood solemnly with his arms hanging by his side, his eyes slightly narrowed, staring intently at the temple door, showing no trace of fear on his face.

So what if he has advanced to high rank Heaven Level?

This battle, who will win and who will lose, remains to be seen!

"Huh?"

Wei He in the temple clearly hadn't expected Fang Bai, a mere Martial Artist at Earth Level Perfection, to be able to withstand the pressure of a high rank Heaven Level Martial Artist, and he let out a surprised exclamation.

In the midst of creaking and squeaking noises, the temple doors slowly opened, and a shadow light as dandelion fluff streaked out from the temple, stopping three feet in front of Fang Bai.

Chapter 747: Jade Soul Hook Rod

"Supreme Elder Wei He from Ghost Doctor Valley?"

Fang Bai squinted at the lean old man in front of him dressed in black who had a small goat beard, and asked.

The gaunt old man didn't make a sound, apparently acknowledging by default. He assessed Fang Bai with eyes like a venomous snake, as if trying to see through him, and after a while spoke in a sinister tone, "You're actually unaffected by my imposing aura... Boy, what special cultivation technique have you practiced? Tell me, and I might spare your life!"

After recently advancing in rank, he had sensed Fang Bai approaching the great hall and immediately unleashed his imposing aura, intending to deal Fang Bai a severe blow. However, unexpectedly, his pressure turned out to be ineffective against Fang Bai. He conjectured that Fang Bai must have cultivated some special technique and couldn't help but be greatly moved.

Fang Bai chuckled, tapped his forehead and said, "Special cultivation techniques? I have plenty of those! If you have the ability, come and take them!"

Wei He was taken aback, then let out a strange laugh, "Boy, you're quite arrogant! But anyone who has been so bold in front of me, Wei He, has already died!"

"If I was afraid of death, I wouldn't be here!"

Fang Bai turned and pointed to the disciples from Ghost Doctor Valley and the five sects in fierce battle, and said, "See that? They're the ones I brought here. My purpose in bringing them here is to wipe out your 'Ghost Doctor Valley,' including you!"

Wei He asked, "What grudge do you have with our 'Ghost Doctor Valley'?"

Fang Bai sneered, "The disciples of 'Ghost Doctor Valley' have committed all kinds of evil deeds; everyone deserves to be punished! Who needs any grudge? I'm eliminating your 'Ghost Doctor Valley' as an act of justice in place of the heavens!"

Wei He laughed, "Acting in place of the heavens, my ass! Since you refuse a toast only to drink a forfeit, I will send you off to the afterlife!"

He stepped diagonally with his right foot, charged to a stele standing on the right side of the great hall's entrance, and struck the stele with his right palm. The stele lifted off the ground, bringing a whistling wind as it hurtled towards Fang Bai.

At the same time, his form swiftly followed behind the stele, charging at Fang Bai with fists and feet ready, infusing them with True Yuan, preparing to strike.

Although he had recently advanced to become a High Rank Heaven Level Martial Artist, he did not dare to be careless or underestimate his opponent after his oppressiveness failed to subdue Fang Bai. He was ready to strike with full force, to kill Fang Bai with the fierceness of a thunderclap.

Fang Bai leaped up, his right foot's toe kicking towards the stele, hard as iron.

While his cultivation level was far inferior to Wei He, his combat power was not much weaker than Wei He's. Combined with his extremely robust physique, when the stele was kicked by his toe that was charged with Chaos Origin Energy, it immediately shattered into several pieces. And with an even greater speed than when it had been catapulted at him, the fragments flew back towards Wei He.

The stele, slapped by Wei He and containing a portion of his True Essence Force, coupled with its own high-speed impact force, would be something not even a mid-rank Heaven Level Martial Artist would dare face head-on. Unexpectedly, not only did Fang Bai catch it, but he also shattered the stele and used the broken fragments to counterattack. This display of strength made Wei He take a mental gasp, and he began to regard Fang Bai with new respect.

Bang—

Bang—

Bang—

Bang—

Watching the pieces of the broken stele whizzing toward him, Wei He's eyes gleamed as he threw punches, pulverizing the stele into dust. At the same time, he flipped backward to utilize the momentum, on guard for any follow-up attacks from Fang Bai.

"Heaven Level High Rank, is that all?"

Fang Bai didn't pursue the attack but, after landing, looked at Wei He with a face full of scorn.

"Courting death!"

Wei He was enraged by Fang Bai, his white hair stood on end, Essence Energy surged violently, his eyes filled with bloodshot veins, and the grass and trees around him were shredded by the Essence Energy released from his body, breaking into fragments and flying all around.

With a wave of Wei He's hand, out of thin air, a pestle appeared, thick as an egg, about three feet in length, made from an unknown material.

The pestle was jade green, completely translucent, and under the sunlight, it reflected a ghostly green glow.

If Li Ao were here, he would recognize the pestle in Wei He's hand as the "Jade Soul Hook Rod," a treasure that protected the Ghost Doctor Valley. It was said to have been crafted by the founder of Ghost Doctor Valley from a meteorite from beyond the heavens, capable of easily shattering steel, exceptionally hard.

Later, based on this pestle, the founder of Ghost Doctor Valley created a set of martial arts known as the "Flowing Cloud Eighteen Mace Techniques." Though it consisted of only eighteen techniques, it encompassed thousands of variations, bizarre and exquisite.

Passed down to the present day, the "Flowing Cloud Eighteen Mace Techniques" had become the most powerful set of martial arts in Ghost Doctor Valley.

This "Jade Soul Hook Rod," although only as thick as an egg and less than three feet in length, weighed six hundred pounds. Even for a Heaven Level beginner martial artist like Li Ao, it was quite unwieldy to use, and in the entire Ghost Doctor Valley, only Wei He could wield it to his satisfaction.

Once Wei He brandished the "Jade Soul Hook Rod," Fang Bai immediately sensed a strand of pure Wood Element Qi from it. His eyes lit up, thinking that Wei He was using such a heavenly treasure as an ordinary weapon, wasting its potential. If it were given to him, he could refine it into a wooden-series offensive Spiritual Artifact.

Whoosh—

A dazzling green light streaked across the sky as Wei He gripped the "Jade Soul Hook Rod," sweeping it toward Fang Bai's head.

Although Wei He had just advanced in rank and his realm was still unstable, with the addition of the "Jade Soul Hook Rod," his attack power still reached the level of a high rank Heaven Level martial artist. With such a powerful strike, Fang Bai dared not block it directly and had to step on the "Dragon Soaring to the Heavens" technique to evade the blow.

Such was the speed of Wei He's strike that it was difficult for human eyes to follow. Ordinary Heaven Level martial artists would hardly be able to dodge, but Fang Bai's steps were so mystifying that he avoided it with ease, sending a chill through Wei He's heart.

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

After Wei He missed with one strike, he launched three consecutive attacks like lightning, aiming for Fang Bai's upper, middle, and lower paths. At the same time, he released his own oppressive force again, attempting to hinder Fang Bai's movement speed to overwhelm and defeat him.

But Fang Bai's "Dragon Soaring to the Heavens" technique was ingeniously derived from the Immortal Realm, far beyond Wei He's expectations. Wei He's determined three consecutive strikes were all effortlessly dodged by Fang Bai at impressively bizarre angles.

And the oppressive force released by Wei He, enough to crush and paralyze a beginner Heaven Level martial artist, did not affect Fang Bai in the slightest.

"How is this possible?"

Wei He cried out in his heart. His "Flowing Cloud Eighteen Mace Techniques" were as swift as thunder and as fierce as lightning, invincible in most cases with few able to counter, yet now he couldn't touch even the corner of Fang Bai's clothes.

Yet Wei He was, after all, a high rank Heaven Level martial artist. Facing his tempest-like fierce attacks, Fang Bai could only dodge continuously, not daring to directly counter, completely on the defensive.

The two of them, one on the offense, the other on the defense, entangled in a battle on the small island in the middle of the large lake.

"You little brat, if you have the guts, stop dodging! Fight me, Wei He, in a true and fair battle!"

Despite deploying the "Flowing Cloud Eighteen Mace Techniques" time after time, Wei He could not touch Fang Bai, which frustrated him, causing him to swear loudly.

Although the "Flowing Cloud Eighteen Mace Techniques," when executed, flowed smoothly and were powerful, forcing Fang Bai to nothing more than dodging, it also consumed a great deal of Wei He's True Yuan, which was why he wanted to force Fang Bai into a head-on battle.

Chapter 748: Bloodthirst of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade

"Alright, since you want a fair fight, I shall grant you one!"

Fang Bai leaped back several yards, and the spatial ring on his left hand flickered slightly before a crimson light flashed. The Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, long silent in his spatial ring, now appeared in his right hand.

This Blood-Drinking Mad Blade had been discovered by Fang Bai and the Fat Taoist Wu De in the tomb chamber of an innate expert named Zhuge Dingtian.

Fang Bai hypothesized that the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade might originally have been an extremely formidable and terrifying spiritual artifact, which later, perhaps due to the sealing by some powerful being, had its might greatly diminished, turning it into what seemed like an ordinary mid-grade spiritual artifact.

What grade the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade truly belonged to, Fang Bai, with his current abilities, was temporarily unable to discern. Only when his power increased in the future, and he could break the seal of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, would its true grade and power be revealed.

Zhuge Dingtian was merely an innate expert and could not possibly have crafted a spiritual artifact of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade's caliber. Therefore, he must have acquired it through some fortuitous event.

And after Zhuge Dingtian perished, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade was buried with him in his tomb chamber, from where Fang Bai came to possess it.

Fang Bai gripped the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade tightly in his right hand, silently channeling a stream of Essence Energy into the blade. In an instant, a killing qi filled with the scent of blood spread out in all directions, enveloping the entire island.

And Fang Bai's aura, at this very moment, underwent a drastic change, becoming as sharp and pressing as a blade's edge.

"This blade... such intense killing intent!"

Wei He's body, engulfed by the sky-high killing qi released from the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, felt all his hair stand on end, as if confronting death itself. He knew that the blood-colored long blade in Fang Bai's hand was no ordinary weapon.

Moreover, he could sense that Fang Bai's combat strength had also surged due to the augmentation of the blood-colored long blade.

"If that blood-colored long blade were in my hands, I would become even more powerful than I am now!"

Wei He stared intently at the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in Fang Bai's hand, his eyes filled with greed and wariness, pondering how to kill Fang Bai and claim the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade for himself.

Fang Bai raised the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade high, his gaze icy as he looked at Wei He and loudly declared, "This blade, named the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, must be bathed in the opponent's blood once drawn before it can be sheathed! So... today, I shall use your blood to consecrate my blade!" Before his words had ceased, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade had already swung down from above toward Wei He opposite him.

"Bloodthirst!"

As Fang Bai swung the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, he softly uttered those two words.

The blade light flashed past, blood qi filled the sky, and a long, blood-colored blade shadow, accompanied by a heart-wrenching wail, cut towards Wei He's body, as if the Grim Reaper itself was wielding its scythe, reaping Wei He's life.

When Fang Bai had first obtained the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, he had also come across a saber manual called "Mad Blade Three Styles."

The "Mad Blade Three Styles" were divided into "Bloodthirst," "Soul Severing," and "Annihilation." After practicing these techniques, Fang Bai found that each style was more powerful than the previous. As his cultivation level increased, there would come a day when he, with a blade in hand, could consume blood, sever souls, and annihilate everything.

Fang Bai's combat strength had been just slightly less than Wei He's, but with the support of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, he was now able to contend with Wei He. Additionally, the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade possessed a terrifying attribute: during an attack, it could induce illusions in the opponent. Once the opponent failed to break the illusions quickly, they would become the undead souls beneath the mad blade.

As Fang Bai executed the "Bloodthirst" technique, a horrifying vision of a Corpse Mountain Blood Sea immediately appeared before Wei He's eyes. Amidst that slaughter, countless martial artists were crazily battling each other, with limbs strewn all over the ground, and warriors falling with twisted faces and agonized screams, struggling in ceaseless pain before dying under endless torment.

Wei He found himself amidst a sea of corpses and rivers of blood, where he could almost smell the intense stench of blood. The ceaseless clamor of battle cries and the attacks of martial artists wielding their swords and blades against him all seemed so real...

Although all of this was an illusion, it felt as if he was truly there. If one did not possess an unwavering mind, they would be trapped within the illusion, presenting an opportunity for their opponent to exploit.

Wei He, though powerful and with a mind firmer than most, still experienced a momentary illusion under Fang Bai's technique "Bloodthirst," leading to a brief lapse in his concentration.

In a battle between strong fighters, a single moment of negligence could prove fatal.

By the time Wei He broke free from the illusion that Fang Bai's "Bloodthirst" had caused and realized that Fang Bai's blood-colored blade was already at his chest, it was too late to react.

Pu——

The sound of the blade piercing flesh rang out, and Wei He felt a shock in his chest. Looking down, he saw the blood-colored blade had stabbed through his front and protruded from his back.

Wei He could distinctly feel that once the blood-colored blade had pierced through his body, it produced an exceedingly strong suction force. His blood started to crazily surge into the blade's body.

And as his blood drained away, his essence energy and physical strength were rapidly disappearing.

Dang——

The "Jade Soul Hook Rod," which originally weighed only a few hundred pounds, suddenly felt as heavy as ten thousand pounds and fell from Wei He's hands to the ground, rolling to the side.

"You..."

Wei He's eyes bulged, and with a look of unwillingness, he stared at Fang Bai, who had a hint of a cold smile playing at his lips. He wanted to say something but ultimately did not manage to utter a word, only making a "he-he" noise from his throat before his head tilted and he moved no more.

The Supreme Elder of "Ghost Doctor Valley," newly advanced to the high rank of the Heaven Level realm—had fallen.

Fang Bai held the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his hand until the blade flashed a strange blood-colored light, as if it had quenched its thirst on the blood of a martial artist. Only then did he withdraw the blade and stood aloof.

The body of Wei He, which had been propped up by the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, now fell to the ground like a deflated ball once Fang Bai withdrew his blade.

"Without the boost from this blade, killing Wei He, who possessed high-rank Heaven Level strength, would have been nearly impossible! This blade... is indeed a good blade!"

Fang Bai looked down at the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his hand, his divine sense penetrating the blade's body, sensing the joyous hum coming from within. The recent killing and bloodletting had pleased this slightly sentient spiritual artifact, sharpening its edge and intensifying its killing qi even further.

In front of the Valley Master Hall, the fierce battle between the disciples of the five sects led by "Spirit Crane Sect" and the several sects headed by "Ghost Doctor Valley" had reached a fever pitch. Both sides fought with a disregard for their own lives, trading blood for blood, life for life, and it seemed unlikely for a victor to emerge anytime soon.

Even Li Ao, the Valley Master of "Ghost Doctor Valley," who had been keeping an eye on the small island in the lake, was entangled in a tough battle with Mu Xiantian and had no spare attention to give elsewhere.

Therefore, Fang Bai's slaying of Wei He went unnoticed by all.

Chapter 749: Reversal

"Disciples of Ghost Doctor Valley, listen: Wei He has been slain by me. If you surrender now, you may avoid death!"

Fang Bai put away the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, seized Wei He's corpse, dashed across the narrow wooden bridge, arrived in front of the Ghost Doctor Valley Valley Master Hall, leaped onto a rock, and bellowed out loud.

His roar was like thunder, exploding in the ears of nearly a thousand disciples engaged in battle, causing each one to tremble and involuntarily stop their moves, turning their heads to look at him.

"It's the Supreme Elder!"

"How could the Supreme Elder die at his hands?"

"Hadn't the Supreme Elder already advanced to the Heaven Level High Rank realm?"

"To kill a Heaven Level High Rank Martial Artist, how powerful must this person be?"

"This is too terrifying!"

...

The disciples of Ghost Doctor Valley, upon seeing Wei He's body in Fang Bai's grasp, immediately became agitated, fear spreading across each of their faces.

They had originally thought that with Supreme Elder Wei He's ascension, their side's strength would surge, able to crush the invading disciples of the five major sects like fallen leaves in the autumn wind and from then on, Ghost Doctor Valley could dominate the Hidden Sect World.

But what they never anticipated was that Supreme Elder Wei He, who had just advanced and was the hopeful of all Ghost Doctor Valley disciples, had fallen in such a short time at the hands of this young man before them.

With Wei He's death, the Ghost Doctor Valley disciples present on the scene suddenly lost the confidence and courage to continue fighting.

On the other hand, the disciples from the Spirit Crane Sect and the other four major sects were greatly encouraged, their cheers thundering.

"Brother Fang, well done!"

Long Jingtian laughed heartily, overjoyed, and gave Fang Bai a thumbs-up.

When Fang Bai went to challenge Wei He, although Long Jingtian had said he was adept at creating miracles, he didn't have much confidence in Fang Bai defeating Wei He. But in no time at all, Fang Bai had brought back such great news. It seemed that he had vastly underestimated Fang Bai's combat strength.

A Martial Artist of Earth Level Perfection slaying one of Heaven Level High Rank was definitely an irreplicable miracle!

Compared to Long Jingtian's elation, the Sect Master Mu Xiantian of the Spirit Crane Sect and the other four major sects' Sect Masters were so thrilled they were beyond words.

Mu Xiantian, Gui Hongzhi, and the other Sect Masters of the five major sects had come together to attack Ghost Doctor Valley, led on by the encouragement of Fang Bai and Long Jingtian, and could be said to have taken a huge gamble under immense pressure.

If they could annihilate Ghost Doctor Valley, they would not only avenge their fallen disciples but also no longer suffer bullying in the future, and could conveniently divide Ghost Doctor Valley's wealth. All would be well.

If they were defeated by Ghost Doctor Valley, their only fate would be death and the destruction of their sects.

On learning that Wei He had ascended, Mu Xiantian and the others felt cold inside, believing it impossible for Fang Bai to be Wei He's match, and were utterly despairing.

Who would have known that in just a short while, the situation would take such a dramatic turn, with Fang Bai arriving at the battlefield holding the corpse of Wei He who had just ascended to the Heaven Level High Rank realm?

Seeing the body of Wei He, dead beyond any doubt, Mu Xiantian and the others felt as if they were in a dream, the situation seeming unreal. When they came back to their senses and looked up at Fang Bai standing on the rock, they saw his figure as immensely towering and suddenly felt the urge to worship him.

What had made Mu Xiantian and the others endure the bullying of Ghost Doctor Valley without daring to retaliate was their fear of Wei He. Now that Wei He was dead, they had nothing to fear; Ghost Doctor Valley, relying merely on Li Ao, could no longer stir any significant turmoil.

"Fellows, today is the day we annihilate 'Ghost Doctor Valley'! Kill!"

The scene fell silent for a few breaths, when suddenly Mu Xiantian bellowed out, his long sword thrusting forward toward his opponent Li Ao, the blade like a rainbow piercing through mountains, filled with an unstoppable sharpness and intent to kill.

Fang Bai's slaying of Li Ao greatly inspired the disciples headed by Mu Xiantian from the five major sects. With Mu Xiantian leading the charge, the others also began their assault on the disciples from "Ghost Doctor Valley," plunging the site once more into a brutal melee.

The prior fight between disciples of both sides had been at a standstill, but now, the disciples from the five major sects had taken a distinct advantage. Disciples from "Ghost Doctor Valley," however, had lost their will to fight. Some were darting their eyes about, ready to flee at any moment.

"Didn't you say those who surrender peacefully would be spared death? Are you a man of your word or not?"

Some of the disciples from "Ghost Doctor Valley" who were afraid to die shouted up to Fang Bai, who stood atop a large rock.

Fang Bai cleared his throat and announced loudly, "Disciples of the five major sects, listen! If anyone from 'Ghost Doctor Valley' surrenders willingly and offers no further resistance, do not continue to attack them!"

Although the disciples from "Ghost Doctor Valley" had lost their fighting spirit, their strength remained. If they were driven to desperate resistance, the disciples from the five major sects might also suffer many casualties.

To avoid a both-sides-suffer outcome, Fang Bai hoped to solve things peacefully.

Furthermore, when Fang Bai said "would be spared death," he never mentioned that he couldn't cripple the cultivation levels of the "Ghost Doctor Valley" disciples. As long as they were stripped of their cultivation, they could no longer commit evil in the future. Whether they lived or died after that, Fang Bai couldn't care less.

After slaying Wei He, Fang Bai had become an invincible war deity in the hearts of the five major sects' disciples. None dared to disobey his words, and thus, those disciples from "Ghost Doctor Valley" who laid down their weapons and surrendered were indeed no longer attacked.

Seeing this, other disciples from "Ghost Doctor Valley" also surrendered on their own initiative, trading subjugation for survival.

A moment later, hundreds of disciples from "Ghost Doctor Valley," except for the very few who still followed Li Ao to resist the disciples from the five major sects, most indicated their submission.

Li Ao, seeing his subordinates surrendering one after another without any backbone, was furious and shouted, "You fools! Idiots! Do you really think giving up will let you live? What a joke! Just wait and see, all of you will suffer their endless torment until death!"

"Li, do you think everyone is as untrustworthy as you? My Brother Fang once said he would spare those who surrender, and he will keep his word!"

Long Jingtian said loudly.

Mu Xiantian laughed heartily and said, "Li, if you're willing to surrender, we can spare your life too!"

Li Ao spat out disdainfully and furiously said, "Think I will surrender? Impossible!"

"If you won't surrender, then die!"

Fang Bai spoke coldly, his left hand, which was holding Wei He's corpse, suddenly exerted force, hurling Wei He's body towards Li Ao.

Faced with the parabolic trajectory of Wei He's flying corpse, Li Ao found himself in a dilemma, struggling with the decision to 'catch' or 'not to catch'.

Not to catch it would mean allowing Wei He's corpse to fall to the ground, which would be a grave disrespect.

To catch it, with his power, could he manage?

"If the green hills are preserved, there's no fear of lacking firewood! The situation here is already settled and beyond retrieval. First, escape with my life and plan for a comeback!"

Li Ao gritted his teeth, swiftly dodged the oncoming corpse of Wei He thrown by Fang Bai, lightly tapped the ground with his feet, and darted towards the distant mountains.

Chapter 750: Do You Even Have Integrity?

Although Li Ao was fast in his movement technique, how could he be faster than Fang Bai?

Just as he moved, he saw a blur before his eyes, and Fang Bai had already appeared right in front of him, blocking his path.

Fang Bai had just used the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade to slay Wei He, and the intense killing Qi and the bloody evil Qi had not yet dispersed from his body. Coming with the momentum of a great victory, Li Ao, when facing him, couldn't help but feel his heart race and his legs involuntarily go weak.

"Let me go, and all the wealth of Ghost Doctor Valley will be yours, the spiritual medicines of Myriad Medicines Mountain, too!"

Li Ao knew that if Fang Bai could kill Supreme Elder Wei He, it would be even easier to kill him. To save his own life, he had no choice but to cast aside everything else.

"If I kill you, everything here will still be mine!"

Fang Bai sneered and slowly advanced toward Li Ao.

Li Ao, looking at Fang Bai who was exuding killing Qi and stepping closer, showed a look of terror in his eyes. His complexion changed repeatedly before he suddenly said loudly, "If you agree to let me go, in addition to the wealth and spiritual medicines I just mentioned, I... I have other treasures to give you!"

"Treasures? Ha, I have no interest in your treasures!"

Fang Bai continued his approach, now only two zhang away from Li Ao.

In Fang Bai's opinion, the so-called treasures of Li Ao were probably a collection of rarities and some low-grade spirit stones and spiritual medicines. However, Fang Bai himself had plenty of those and indeed did not hold them in high regard.

Moreover, even if Li Ao could offer treasures that would intrigue Fang Bai, there was already irreconcilable enmity between Fang Bai and Ghost Doctor Valley; to eliminate future troubles, Fang Bai could not let Li Ao go.

Seeing that Fang Bai was unmoved, Li Ao couldn't help but panic. With a flip of his right hand, a blue Essence Stone appeared in his palm and he said, "Are you interested in such Essence Stones?"

Fang Bai's eyes fell on the blue Essence Stone in Li Ao's hand, sensing the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy contained within it. His heart leaped with joy, yet on the surface, he remained impassive and asked, "Where did you get this Wood Element Stone?"

"Although you're trying to appear calm, I can still see that you're very interested in this Essence Stone from the look in your eyes..."

Li Ao, fixating on Fang Bai's eyes, continued, "Since that's the case, then we can make a deal, right?"

Fang Bai asked, "How many of such Essence Stones do you have?"

To be honest, Fang Bai was indeed very interested in the Essence Stone that Li Ao held, for it was a mid-grade Essence Stone. As a resource to aid a martial artist's cultivation, mid-grade Essence Stones play a much more significant role than lower-grade ones.

Hearing that Fang Bai seemed somewhat more relaxed in his tone, Li Ao felt a rush of joy and said, "I still have thousands, even tens of thousands. I will give them all to you if you spare me!"

Fang Bai asked, "Where are those Essence Stones of yours?"

Li Ao shook his head and said, "I will not tell you now! Let me leave first, and I will send someone to inform you later, to tell you the exact location of the Essence Stones. If you try to find them on your own, you won't be able to find them for a lifetime!"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "Do you think I am a fool? If I let you go, and you disappear without a trace, where am I supposed to find you?"

Li Ao said loudly, "I give you my word as a guarantee..."

"Word?"

Fang Bai laughed loudly and said, "You're talking about your word with me? Do you even possess such a thing?"

Li Ao raged, "What do I need to do to make you believe me?"

Fang Bai said, "It's simple. You hand over the Essence Stone, and I'll let you go!"

Li Ao retorted, "And what's to make me trust you?"

Fang Bai replied, "Do you have any other choice besides trusting me?"

Following Wei He's downfall, the disciples of Ghost Doctor Valley lost all will to fight and surrendered one after another. The several Heaven Level Experts who had allied with Ghost Doctor Valley shook off the entanglement of Gui Hongzhi and the other four Sect Masters. They abandoned their own disciples and fled to an unknown location, and the surrounding battles quickly came to an end.

Long Jingtian, Mu Xiantian, and the others, now without adversaries, rushed towards Fang Bai's position. Six Heaven Level experts, joined by Fang Bai, encircled Li Ao.

After scanning his surroundings, Li Ao knew he was trapped and let out a weary sigh. He said to Fang Bai, "Fine, I'll tell you the location of the hidden Essence Stones, but you have to agree before all these witnesses to let me go."

In both the secular world and the Ancient Martial World of the Hidden Sect, martial artists value their pledged word above all else. They dare not break it lightly for fear of being scorned by all martial artists. This was the only demand Li Ao could make of Fang Bai now.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Alright, as long as you reveal the location of the Essence Stones, I promise to spare you!"

Li Ao hesitated for a moment, then clenched his teeth, pointed toward the Valley Master Hall and said, "Beneath the Valley Master Hall lies a treasure vault; the Essence Stones are within it. The mechanism to the vault's entrance is on the armrest to the left of the Valley Master's seat—push the protruding spot there, and the hidden entrance to the treasure vault will automatically open... I've told you everything, now you should let me go, right?"

As he spoke, Fang Bai's Divine Sense enveloped Li Ao, closely observing his slightest expressions, detecting his heartbeat, pulse, breathing rate, and even the flow rate of his blood in order to ensure he was not lying.

"Very good, you haven't lied..."

Fang Bai smiled, no longer paying attention to Li Ao, and turned towards the Valley Master Hall.

"Senior Fang, are you... Are you really just going to let him go?"

Mu Xiantian asked in urgent tones, watching Fang Bai's retreating figure.

Having killed Wei He, if everyone banded together to finish off Li Ao, Ghost Doctor Valley, that thorn in their side, could be completely dealt with. But permitting Li Ao to leave would leave infinite trouble for the future.

The Sect Masters of the five great sects were a thousand times, ten thousand times, unwilling, but with Fang Bai's formidable strength, if he insisted on releasing Li Ao, they wouldn't dare to object.

"I only said that I would agree to spare him; did you agree? And as for those surrendered disciples of Ghost Doctor Valley, I merely said to grant them a way to live—I didn't say their cultivation couldn't be crippled! What to do next doesn't need further explanation from me. You should know..."

After dropping these words, Fang Bai's movements became like flowing clouds and streaming water, suddenly quickening his pace, and in the blink of an eye, he swept into the Valley Master Hall of Ghost Doctor Valley.

The disciples of the five great sects watched Fang Bai enter the Valley Master Hall, not daring to follow him without his permission due to his overwhelming power. They thought to themselves that Ghost Doctor Valley had been dominant in the Hidden Sect World for many years, and there must be countless treasures in their vault. They only hoped that Fang Bai wouldn't claim them all for himself and would share some with them.

But even if Fang Bai were to take all the treasure for himself, they would feel discontent but could say nothing.

After all, today's great victory was almost entirely Fang Bai's merit. Without him slaying Wei He, the disciples of the five great sects might now be facing the same fate as that of Ghost Doctor Valley's disciples.

"Right, Senior Fang only said that he himself would spare old Li, but none of us agreed—haha... old Li, meet your death!"

Mu Xiantian, with a hearty laugh, looked at Li Ao's ashen and exasperated face, exchanged glances with Long Jingtian, Gui Hongzhi, and the others, and they jointly launched an attack on Li Ao.