

Doctor 921

Chapter 921: Scram!

The twelve Martial Artists surrounding Fang Bai, fearing he might harm the girl in the red dress and unwilling to risk damaging anything valuable, dared not move closer. They just kept scolding and cursing, threatening Fang Bai to release her immediately.

Fang Bai didn't pay any attention to the people around him. With a cold smile on his lips, he lowered his head to look at the girl in the red dress under his foot, and said coldly, "Looking at your face, you're quite beautiful. It's a shame that your heart is as venomous as a snake and scorpion! Luckily, I am stronger than you; otherwise, your whip would have claimed a life!"

As he said this, he saw Liu Poshan and the others wanting to come over to help, so he waved them off, and continued, "Although in this Martial Dao World, strength reigns supreme, and the strong are honored, killing someone should still have a justifiable reason! You, acting without asking right from wrong, without considering the circumstances, and harming the innocent at will, not only goes against the very intent of Martial Dao but also contravenes the Heavenly Dao! Someone like you won't achieve much on the path of Martial Dao!"

The girl in the red dress, Gao Shuxian, defiantly struggling, said, "I, Gao Shuxian, am only twenty this year, and I've already ascended to the Heaven Level Realm! My master says I have great hope of reaching the Desolate Level Realm in the future! You say I won't achieve much in Martial Dao? Ha, what a joke! All this talk of Martial Dao and Heavenly Dao, it's sheer nonsense!"

Fang Bai coldly smiled and replied, "A twenty-year-old Heaven Level Martial Artist, is that something to be proud of? I'm not afraid to tell you that I'm also twenty, but if I wanted to kill you now, it would be no different from squashing an ant!"

Called Gao Shuxian, the girl in the red dress, previously somewhat smug in her heart about her own accomplishments, suddenly had no response to Fang Bai's words, finding herself at a loss for words.

Fang Bai was the same age as her, but his strength was clearly much greater. She indeed had nothing to boast about in front of him.

"Do you know who I am? I'm a disciple of the External Courtyard of the Bitao Martial Academy! My master is a steward of the Academy, a Desolate Level powerhouse! If you don't let me go now, get ready

to face the towering fury of the Bitao Martial Academy! When that time comes, you will die a horrific death!"

Gao Shuxian, mentioning the "Bitao Martial Academy," suddenly regained her confidence and fiercely threatened Fang Bai.

Her voice was loud, and not far away, Liu Poshan and Liu Qi, hearing her mention the "Bitao Martial Academy," turned pale.

In a little while, Liu Qingqing was set to depart for the "Bitao Martial Academy" to undergo strength assessment. If she passed the assessment, she would become a disciple of the "Bitao Martial Academy."

If the people here truly were disciples of the "Bitao Martial Academy," would they use their status as senior fellow disciples to trouble Liu Qingqing everywhere in the future?

And this Gao Shuxian, a disciple of the "Bitao Martial Academy," didn't seem to be someone with a broad and forgiving heart at all!

Liu Poshan and Liu Qi looked at each other, worry evident in their gaze.

When Fang Bai heard the words "Bitao Martial Academy," he also thought of Liu Qingqing's impending visit to the Academy and was briefly stunned. He thought that with Liu Qingqing's talent, becoming a disciple of the Bitao Martial Academy would be a sure thing and that his conflict with Gao Shuxian meant he was creating enemies for Liu Qingqing within the Academy!

Seeing that Fang Bai remained silent, seemingly hesitating, Gao Shuxian thought he was scared and said loudly, "Regretting it now? Scared, aren't you? Quickly let me go, hand over all the Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicines you've obtained to me, then kowtow and apologize to me! If you make me satisfied, I might consider sparing your life. Otherwise..."

Her words were not yet finished when Fang Bai's gaze turned cold. He lifted his right leg and then brought it down, stepping hard on her back.

"Ah..."

Gao Shuxian screamed in agony, feeling as though all her bones were about to break. Tears of pain streamed down her face.

"A disciple of the External Courtyard... Heh..."

Fang Bai had once been a disciple at a martial academy in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, and he started from the very bottom as a menial servant disciple, working his way up through the External Courtyard disciples, Inner Court disciples, to Core disciples...

Step by step, he advanced from an unknown and weak martial artist to the pinnacle of Martial Dao and eventually became the Immortal Emperor who dominated nine great Heavenly Domains in the Immortal Realm.

Fang Bai knew that the status of an External Courtyard disciple within a Martial Arts Sect was only slightly higher than that of a menial servant disciple, bearing little say in the Sect. Gao Shuxian was merely older in terms of seniority. As long as Liu Qingqing also became a Heaven Level Martial Artist and with the assistance of Liu Liehu, the siblings wouldn't need to worry about Gao Shuxian troubling them in the future as they could join forces in the academy.

Liu Liehu was currently only at the Profound Level Perfection and had not yet reached the Earth Level initial realm required to become a disciple of "Bitao Martial Academy." However, there was still some time before they were due to take the test at "Bitao Martial Academy," and Fang Bai was confident that within this period, he could elevate Liu Liehu's strength to the Earth Level realm.

Had it not been for the limitation of cultivation resources, with Fang Bai's teachings and guidance from the earlier time, Liu Liehu would have already successfully assaulted the Earth Level Realm.

Though Liu Liehu's talent was better than that of an ordinary martial artist, it couldn't compare to that of someone with an Innate Spiritual Root; thus, he could only proceed step by step in Martial Dao cultivation. Trying to accelerate growth recklessly would be detrimental to his future Martial Dao path.

Gao Shuxian, seeing that brandishing the name of "Bitao Martial Academy" had failed to intimidate Fang Bai and instead incited his scorn, dared not utter any more threats, lest she suffer further.

"Leave behind everything you've gained from this mountain trip, then get lost! Otherwise... you might as well stay here forever!"

Fang Bai spoke with an icy demeanor, each word carrying a hint of murderous intent.

As he spoke, he also lifted his right foot that had been stepping on Gao Shuxian.

To prevent Gao Shuxian and her associates from harboring any thoughts of a 'counterattack and turnaround,' Fang Bai simultaneously released a martial artist aura.

This martial artist aura was only targeted at Gao Shuxian and the other thirteen martial artists; nearby figures such as Liu Poshan and Liu Qi couldn't sense it.

The aura he released was that of a high-rank Heaven Level martial artist. Although such strength couldn't compare to his true might, it was enough to chill Gao Shuxian and her fellows to the bone.

Although they had three Heaven Level initial stage martial artists, five high-rank Earth Level martial artists, and five at Earth Level Perfection, their collective strength wasn't to be underestimated. But Fang Bai was far too powerful for them.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that Fang Bai alone was more than capable of overwhelming the thirteen martial artists on Gao Shuxian's side, and killing them wouldn't be a difficult task.

This instilled deep apprehension in Gao Shuxian and the others.

Under the envelopment of Fang Bai's high-rank Heaven Level martial artist aura, Gao Shuxian and the rest dared not play any tricks and honestly placed the several spirit beasts they had hunted and a large bundle of gathered Spiritual Medicine in front of Fang Bai before fleeing from their presence like escapees.

"Liehu, these things are now in your care!"

With his Divine Sense Diffusion, Fang Bai noticed that Gao Shuxian and the others had gone far away. He then waved to the excitedly scratching Liu Liehu and, pointing to the spirit beasts and Spiritual Medicine on the ground, spoke.

Chapter 922: Worries and Hopes

"Brother Fang, are these things... also include a share for my sister and me?!"

Liu Liehu ran over to Fang Bai's side, looking at the heap of Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicines on the ground in front of him, excitedly rubbing his palms together. He recalled Brother Fang saying earlier that their share of the gains from this trip into the mountains included the two of them, so surely these items counted too, right?

The Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicines abandoned by those thirteen Martial Artists were far more than what the warriors from Liuhu Village had gathered on this trip. It would definitely be possible to exchange them for tens of thousands of Essence Stones and hundreds of Elixir bottles.

The more Cultivation Resources exchanged, the greater the share he and his sister would receive. Just thinking about it made Liu Liehu's heart race and his blood boil with excitement.

"Of course, you have your share!"

Fang Bai said with a smile.

"That's great!"

Liu Liehu excitedly waved his fist and signaled to a few Liuhu Village Martial Artists standing not far away, shouting, "Dashan, Dazhuang, come over and help carry these things back with me! When Brother Fang exchanges them for Cultivation Resources, I'll have my share, and you guys won't be left out either!"

Dashan, Dazhuang, and the others were good friends Liu Liehu had grown up with. Their deep and brotherly bond meant that whenever Liu Liehu came across a good opportunity, they were the first ones he thought of.

Since there were too many Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicines and Liu Liehu didn't have a Spatial Ring, he couldn't possibly carry them all by himself, so he asked Dashan, Dazhuang, and the others to help. He figured once he got the Cultivation Resources from Fang Bai, he would share some with them; either way, he wouldn't let them down.

No sooner had Liu Liehu finished speaking than several young Martial Artists in their twenties emerged giggling from the crowd and approached Liu Liehu and Fang Bai.

Now, Fang Bai's prestige among the warriors of Liuhu Village was growing, and people like Dashan both admired and revered him. After approaching and first giving Fang Bai a bow, they followed Liu Liehu's directions, each shouldering a few Spirit Beasts and taking some Spiritual Medicines, as they walked together towards the mountainside.

Along the way, most Liuhu Village Martial Artists were in high spirits, overjoyed, thinking that this venture into the mountains had been the most bountiful in decades. After returning to the village, the entire Liuhu would probably boil over with excitement!

Some warriors had quietly calculated that their haul could likely be exchanged for nearly a hundred thousand Essence Stones and almost a thousand Elixir bottles.

With so many Essence Stones and Elixirs, Liuhu Village might well be able to cultivate several powerful Martial Artists. And with more powerful Martial Artists, their future ventures into the mountains would yield even more... This virtuous cycle would surely make Liuhu Village more prosperous and stronger.

While Liu Liehu and the others were brimming with excitement, Liu Poshan, Liu Qi, and the rest were silent, weighed down by worries.

"Who would have thought that those thirteen Martial Artists were actually apprentices of Bitao Martial Academy..."

Liu Poshan glanced at Fang Bai, let out a sigh, and said, "In a short while, Qingqing will be heading to Bitao Academy. With her realm and Cultivation Level, becoming a disciple of the Martial Academy shouldn't be a problem. What I'm worried about is whether those thirteen apprentices from earlier, knowing Qingqing has also joined Bitao Academy, might give her a hard time..."

"Dad, I'm not afraid!"

Though Liu Qingqing appeared fragile on the surface, she possessed an unyielding character deep within. Her fists were tightly clenched, and her expression revealed a hint of sternness.

In the past few days, she had been following Fang Bai to practice cultivation techniques and martial arts, listening to his explanations of many profound Martial Dao Arcanes, and she had had many epiphanies. She was on the verge of a breakthrough.

This trip to the mountains had been richly rewarding. With the Cultivation Resources she would exchange for later, she was confident that with the help of these resources, she could make a significant leap in the Martial Dao Realm.

Moreover, the Martial Arts Techniques that Fang Bai had taught her and her brother were capable of defeating those at higher levels. As long as they mastered them, they wouldn't need to fear Gao Shuxian and her ilk provoking them after entering Bitao Martial Academy.

Fang Bai said with a smile, "Village Chief, there's no need to worry. Qingqing is exceptionally talented. After we exchange for Cultivation Resources, I will lend her a helping hand. If we're lucky, she has a great chance of breaking through to the Heaven Level Realm in one go. That way, once she enters Bitao Martial Academy, she will have the opportunity to become a disciple of the External Courtyard and sit on an equal footing with that Gao Shuxian..."

Liu Poshan, Liu Qi, and the others had vacant looks in their eyes, and their expressions all seemed to say, "I don't believe it."

No wonder they made such expressions—Liu Qingqing was currently only at the initial stage of the Earth Level Realm, and to become a Heaven Level Martial Artist, she needed to leap an entire major realm.

Now, with less than a month until Bitao Martial Academy recruited disciples, advancing an entire major realm in one month was sheer fantasy to people like Liu Poshan. They didn't even dare to entertain the thought, let alone believe it.

Fang Bai knew his words were beyond Liu Poshan and the others' understanding. He thought deeds would be more convincing than words and they would know whether he was telling the truth eventually. He continued, "Once Qingqing becomes a disciple of the External Courtyard in Bitao Martial Academy, Gao Shuxian won't be able to surpass her in strength or oppress her in status. It won't be easy for her to cause Qingqing any trouble then..."

With that, he glanced at Liu Liehu, then added, "Although Liehu's talent may not be as good as Qingqing's, he also has the chance to become an Earth Level Martial Artist and enter Bitao Martial Academy. Once the siblings support each other in the academy, they won't have to fear provocations from Gao Shuxian and the others."

Liu Poshan said with a wry smile, "I have confidence in Qingqing entering Bitao Martial Academy, but as for Liehu, this child..."

"Dad, don't underestimate me. I'm not the same Liu Liehu as before!"

Liu Liehu patted his chest confidently and said, "Brother Fang said that with the aid of Cultivation Resources, I can definitely reach the Earth Level Realm within a month! I'm only fourteen this year, and as long as I become an Earth Level Martial Artist, I will meet the qualifications to enter Bitao Martial Academy. Although I can only be a menial servant disciple once I am in the academy, I can still lend my sister a hand. United, my sister and I will be invincible, and you'll see that no one in the academy will dare to bully us!"

Liu Poshan stared at Fang Bai in astonishment, and seeing Fang Bai nod with a smile, he suddenly became excited and said with a trembling voice, "Brother Fang, does Liehu really have a chance to become an Earth Level Martial Artist?"

Liu Poshan doted on his grandchildren Liu Liehu and Liu Qingqing immensely and naturally hoped they would both achieve great things.

Liu Qingqing was somewhat promising; with her Innate Spiritual Root, even without significant opportunities, it was still possible for her to become a Heaven Level Martial Artist in the future. However, Liu Liehu's talent was much less impressive, and Liu Poshan had not held out much hope for him to become an Earth Level Martial Artist. But now, hearing his grandson speak so confidently, hope was rekindled in his heart.

Chapter 923: Allocation

For nearly a century, Liuhu Village had not produced a single martial artist of remarkable talent, and no one had been able to pass the Bitao Martial Academy's test. This had always been a pain in the hearts of all the villagers in Liuhu Village.

If this time both Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu managed to become disciples of Bitao Martial Academy, it would be a monumental honor for Liuhu Village.

With Bitao Martial Academy, the "Great Buddha," looking over them, no one would dare to bully the villagers of Liuhu Village any longer.

Liu Qi stared wide-eyed at Fang Bai, his hands and feet trembling with excitement.

If his own son and daughter really became disciples of Bitao Martial Academy, then as a father, he would proudly hold his head high. Wherever he went, he would have something to boast about.

"There is still about a month left before Bitao Martial Academy begins recruiting disciples. In this month, let Qingqing and Liehu train with me. By then, they will definitely surprise all of you!"

Fang Bai said with a smile to Liu Poshan.

Liu Poshan took a deep breath to calm his excitement and looked deeply at Fang Bai, nodding his head, "Alright, Brother Fang, I believe in you! From now on, I entrust Qingqing and Liehu to you. In a month's time, we'll await the great news from you all!"

When the people entered the mountains, they were on full alert against attacks from spirit beasts, cautious and vigilant; but when they left the mountains, knowing Fang Bai's strength, they relaxed their worries, no longer fearing attacks from spirit beasts. The young martial artists laughed and joked freely, and the older martial artists also walked with smiles and joy in their hearts.

A few days later, dozens of martial artists from Liuhu Village emerged from the vast mountains and returned to Liuhu Village.

At the entrance of Liuhu Village, some villagers, anticipating the return of the martial artists, waited daily at the entrance. When they spotted Fang Bai and the others within their sight, they immediately notified all the villagers.

Soon, hundreds of villagers from Liuhu Village surged out of their homes, gathering at the village square, looking eagerly towards the group of martial artists striding towards them.

Liu Liehu and others also saw the villagers waiting at the entrance. Glancing at the spirit beasts they carried on their backs and the spiritual medicine in their hands, they felt both excited and proud, instinctively puffing out their chests and quickening their steps.

"We're back! This time it's a great harvest!"

Still hundreds of meters away from the villagers at the entrance, Liu Liehu could not help but wave a bunch of spiritual medicine in his hand and shout loudly.

His voice carried far, and when the distant villagers heard it, they immediately cheered.

They knew that the words "great harvest" meant that this trip into the mountains had resulted in an unprecedented collection, and that no one was injured.

In the past, whenever martial artists from Liuhu Village entered the mountains, regardless of the harvest, there would always be injuries, and sometimes, martial artists would even perish. When the martial artists returned from the mountains, the joy of their harvest was often mixed with the sorrow of casualties.

This time, however, the martial artists had brought back the good news of a "great harvest," how could it not bring extraordinary joy to the villagers of Liuhu Village?

Thus, led by a few of the elder villagers, hundreds of them stepped forward to greet the returning martial artists.

Soon, the two groups met.

"Look! Liehu is carrying several spirit beasts, there are Red Fire Chickens, and Snow Jade Rabbits too!"

"Wow, Qingqing is holding a small bunch of Spiritual Medicine, there must be at least thirty or forty plants, right?"

"Dashan is carrying even more Spirit Beasts on his back, let me count... Oh my! Five Red Fire Chickens, six Snow Jade Rabbits!"

"He is also holding a big bunch of Spiritual Medicine! This bunch... hmm, almost fifty plants!"

"And so many people are bringing back Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine!"

"With so many Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine, how many Essence Stones and Elixirs can we exchange for!"

"This time it's really a great harvest!"

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Hundreds of Liuhu Village villagers surrounded dozens of Martial Artists who had gone into the mountains, pointing and discussing the Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine they had brought back, their eyes sparkling with excitement and joy.

Liu Poshan stood in the middle of the crowd, pressed his hands down to signal everyone to quiet down, then said loudly, "Folks, this time we went into the mountains, we have not failed your expectations, and have brought back the Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine urgently needed by our warriors of Liuhu Village!"

"With these Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine, we can exchange them for many cultivation resources for our Martial Artists to cultivate. Given some time, our Liuhu Village will also be able to produce many strong individuals, even Heaven Level Martial Artists, just like Shi Village and other villages!"

Upon hearing his words, hundreds of Liuhu Village villagers felt their chests swell with emotion and their blood surge with excitement; some of the elder villagers were even moved to tears.

Liu Poshan cleared his throat and continued, "Although we have gathered much this time, it was also fraught with great risks. If it were not for Fang Bai's help, perhaps all of us, these dozens of people, would have perished in the vast mountains. Therefore, Fang Bai deserves the greatest credit for this expedition. I have decided to give half of our gains to Fang Bai!"

The villagers of Liuhu Village, being straightforward and kind-hearted, felt only gratitude towards Fang Bai upon hearing Liu Poshan's words, without any objections arising.

Moreover, the bounty collected this time was greater than the total of the last ten years combined; even after giving half to Fang Bai, the remaining share distributed among the Liuhu Village Martial Artists would still be substantial.

As for the share allocated to him, Fang Bai did not hesitate to accept it, as he also needed cultivation resources now.

Hundreds of Liuhu Village villagers, escorting the dozens of their own Martial Artists returning from the mountains, gathered in front of the home of village head Liu Poshan.

Liu Poshan asked the Martial Artists to gather the Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine together, then, smiling, he said to Fang Bai, "Brother Fang, you take half of these items back. Tomorrow morning, let's go to a nearby market to exchange them for cultivation resources. Huzi, later on, help Fang Bai deliver his chosen Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine to his residence!"

Fang Bai initially intended to put the Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine into his Spatial Ring, but then he thought better of it.

After all, a Spatial Ring was a rare item in this world, said to be possessed only by some disciples of major Sects. If he were to reveal it, it might frighten people like Liu Poshan, and if word spread, it could attract the covetous hearts of those with ill-intentions, possibly leading to trouble.

Fang Bai was not afraid of trouble, but he did not want to bring trouble to the villagers of Liuhu Village. If any of them were harmed because of it, he would feel guilty.

So, abiding by the principle that it's better to avoid unnecessary complications, Fang Bai decided to keep it as hidden as possible.

Soon, Fang Bai had selected some Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine, and then with Liu Liehu, he took these items back to his own residence.

Chapter 924: Treasure Pavilion

Fang Bai was an alchemist himself, and he could have used the spiritual medicines he brought back from the mountain to craft elixirs. However, he was keen to see the level of alchemists in the True Martial Realm, so he decided to go to the nearby market tomorrow with Liu Poshan and others to exchange for some Essence Stones and elixirs.

If the elixirs crafted by the alchemists in the True Martial Realm turned out to be subpar, he would simply craft the elixirs himself in the future whenever he obtained spiritual medicines.

Early the next day, Liu Poshan came to find Fang Bai with a dozen martial artists from the village, ready to travel a hundred miles to Xuanyang Town to exchange for Essence Stones and elixirs.

The group loaded the spirit beasts and spiritual medicines harvested from the mountain yesterday onto two wooden carts and then pushed the carts towards Xuanyang Town.

Xuanyang Town was the only market town within a hundred miles, with a population of several thousand. The residents of the town ran various businesses and the place was bustling with activity.

At the eastern part of the town, there was a market specifically set up for martial artists, where they could engage in various trades, and the most common trades were exchanging spirit beasts and spiritual medicines for Essence Stones and elixirs.

With the wooden carts loaded with various spirits beasts and spiritual medicines, one could sense the Essence Energy fluctuations emanating from a distance.

Therefore, when Liu Poshan and his group pushed the carts into the Martial Artists Trading Market, they immediately attracted the attention of many martial artists in the market.

The martial artists from Liuhu Village, who hunted spirit beasts or gathered spiritual medicines in the mountains, usually traded at this martial artists' market, so many people recognized them.

"Village Chief Liu, long time no see!"

"Village Chief Liu has brought quite a lot of spirit beasts and spiritual medicines this time!"

"What does Village Chief Liu plan to exchange this time?"

"We have essence stones of various properties here, and also a variety of elixirs obtained from several famous pharmacists in the county. Would Village Chief Liu like to come in and see if there's anything you need?"

"Come exchange with us! Our prices are fair, and we treat everyone equally!"

"We can offer some discounts to Village Chief Liu!"

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Many martial artists, possessing various cultivation resources, eagerly approached and greeted Liu Poshan warmly, their gazes landing on the two wooden carts by Liu Poshan's side with envy, jealousy, and greed.

Liu Poshan amiably chatted with those martial artists, while Liu Wu, Liu Qi, and the other martial artists from Liuhu Village stood behind him, on high alert as if guarding against those martial artists who might snatch items from their carts.

Following Liu Poshan and the others into the Martial Artists Trading Market, Fang Bai quietly released his Divine Sense, covering the entire market.

He had hoped to find some cultivation resources he needed in the market, but the result was somewhat disappointing.

The cultivation resources traded in this martial artists' market were all lower rank spirit beasts, spiritual medicines, or Essence Stone elixirs, and he hadn't even seen a single spiritual artifact, nothing that caught Fang Bai's eye.

"Are there no spiritual artifacts being traded here?"

Seeing Liu Poshan chatting with a few martial artists in the market, Fang Bai turned and asked Liu Qi.

"Spiritual artifacts?"

Liu Qi was stunned for a moment and then gave a bitter smile, "Spiritual artifacts are much rarer than elixirs. Not just in this small market town, but even in the county's Martial Artists Trading Market, it's hard to see them!"

"I've heard that the large Martial Artists Trading Markets in the provincial capital and the imperial city have spiritual artifacts. However, their value is astonishing, and ordinary martial artists wouldn't be able to get them. Even if they did, they might end up being robbed by stronger martial artists. Worse yet, they could lose their lives!"

Liu Wu chimed in.

Liu Qi nodded emphatically and said, "Liu Wu is right. Spiritual Artifacts are a double-edged sword for ordinary Martial Artists, they can greatly enhance one's strength, but at the same time, they might also bring trouble."

Fang Bai nodded and did not continue to ask.

From the conversations of Liu Wu and Liu Qi, Fang Bai grasped two pieces of information:

First, Spiritual Artifacts were commonly known in the True Martial Realm and could be freely traded and exchanged;

Second, there must be Artifact Refiners in the True Martial Realm, otherwise, Spiritual Artifacts would belong to the category of extremely scarce items, and Martial Artists would not be willing to trade and exchange them.

Artifact Refiners are Martial Artists, and the quality of their skills depends closely on their Cultivation Levels.

Fang Bai had been in the True Martial Realm for some time and knew that the Martial Artists of this realm were bound by the eight great realms of 'Primordial Chaos of Universe,' so there could not be any high-rank Artifact Refiners, which made it difficult to refine high-rank Spiritual Artifacts.

Liu Poshan had soon gotten rid of some Martial Artists who were entangling him and led Fang Bai and others to a shop at the east end of the Martial Artists Trading Market, planning to make exchanges there.

This shop, named "Treasure Pavilion," was the biggest and most bustling in the entire Martial Artists Trading Market.

According to Liu Poshan, the behind-the-scenes owner of Treasure Pavilion was none other than Bitao Martial Academy.

Although standing behind Treasure Pavilion was Bitao Martial Academy, a fourth-rank Sect, they did not bully customers with their power.

On the contrary, making exchanges here was more fair and reasonable than in other shops, and one could also enjoy more passionate and thorough service.

Most importantly, the quality of the Essence Stones and Elixirs they provided was superior to that of other shops, which was why many Martial Artists were willing to do business with Treasure Pavilion.

The Martial Artists from Liuhu Village were also regular customers of Treasure Pavilion; they brought their harvests from the mountains here for trading and exchange every time.

"Haha... Village Chief Liu, welcome! Welcome! It's been a long time since you last visited our little shop!"

As soon as Liu Poshan entered Treasure Pavilion, a moderately fat middle-aged man came over to greet him, smiling and exchanging pleasantries with Liu Poshan.

"Manager Qian, thank you!"

Liu Poshan, the slightly plump middle-aged man, clasped his fist and said, "Recently we had a small harvest from the mountains and specially came to your pavilion to exchange some Essence Stones and Elixirs."

"Say no more! Say no more!"

Manager Qian said cheerfully, "I wonder if Village Chief Liu has brought the items? Could you allow me to have a look so I can estimate their value?"

Liu Poshan clapped his hands, and Liu Liehu and the others pushed in two wooden carts filled with Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine.

Manager Qian scanned the two wooden carts, and his expression suddenly brightened with joy, "Village Chief Liu, you have quite a haul this time!"

He walked over to the two carts, observed them carefully for a moment, and then after a slight pondering, said to Liu Poshan, "There are a total of nineteen Spirit Beasts, among them ten of one hundred years, five of two hundred years, three of three hundred years, and one of four hundred years... Village Chief Liu, are these numbers correct?"

Liu Poshan smiled and nodded.

Manager Qian continued, "There are a total of sixty-four plants of Spiritual Medicine, with thirty-two of one hundred years, twenty-one of two hundred years, ten of three hundred years, and one of four hundred years... Village Chief Liu, are these also correct?"

Liu Poshan nodded again.

Chapter 925: Blood Wolf Group

Liu Poshan and Manager Qian had together checked the quantity of Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine and, after confirming the counts were accurate, they began to discuss the exchange of Cultivation Resources.

"May I ask what Village Chief Liu is planning to exchange this time?"

Manager Qian, having received many Spirit Beasts and Spiritual Medicine from Liu Poshan, was in an excellent mood and asked with a cheerful laugh.

Liu Poshan said, "The usual rules, half Essence Stones and half Elixirs."

Soon, Manager Qian had his subordinates bring the agreed-upon quantity of Essence Stones and Elixirs and said to Liu Poshan, "Village Chief Liu, here we have a total of fifty thousand Essence Stones of various properties and three hundred bottles of various Elixirs. Please, check them."

Liu Poshan carefully inspected them, nodded, and said, "That's right, thank you for the trouble, Manager Qian!"

After a pause, he added, "This time, since the quantity of Essence Stones and Elixirs is quite large, could you lend us a few wooden carts, Manager Qian?"

Manager Qian said, "Wooden carts are easy to arrange. Village Chief Liu, do you need our Treasure Pavilion's Martial Artists to escort you? Hehe, with so many Essence Stones and Elixirs being transported on wooden carts, it will definitely attract a lot of attention along the way. I'm afraid some covetous Martial Artists might not stay in line!"

Liu Poshan clearly understood the implication of Manager Qian's words. There were many Martial Artists in Xuanyang Town, including some who were very powerful. Traveling back with numerous Cultivation Resources, Liu Poshan and his companions were bound to attract enviable eyes, and they might even encounter a robbery halfway.

This kind of situation had occurred before, with many Martial Artists suffering severe losses, and some even losing their lives.

For safety reasons, many Martial Artists who came to Treasure Pavilion to exchange Cultivation Resources would spend some Essence Stones or Elixirs to hire the pavilion's Martial Artists as an escort.

Being part of the Bitao Martial Academy, whatever they escorted was safe from being pilfered.

Liu Poshan glanced at Fang Bai and said, "We appreciate your kindness, Manager Qian, but we'll just hire a few wooden carts."

Manager Qian, suggesting Liu Poshan hire his sect's Martial Artists for escort for his benefit, was slightly furrowed by Liu Poshan's unexpected refusal but said no more.

Moments later, Liu Poshan and others, pushing several wooden carts laden with the exchanged Cultivation Resources, headed back toward Liuhu Village.

As soon as their caravan had left Xuanyang Town, several Martial Artist teams secretly followed them.

These teams varied from as few as seven or eight individuals to as many as several dozen, all targeting the Cultivation Resources Liu Poshan and the others had exchanged.

For disciples of large Sects, tens of thousands of Essence Stones and hundreds of Elixirs might not mean much, but for some unaffiliated Martial Artists, they held a deadly attraction, enough to drive them to desperate acts.

If Fang Bai hadn't been in the team, Liu Poshan would definitely have hired Treasure Pavilion's Martial Artists to escort them. However, now Bai's Heaven Level Realm power, combined with their dozen or so Earth Level Martial Artists, was a formidable force not to be underestimated, definitely ensuring greater security than the Treasure Pavilion's escort could offer.

Not long after leaving Xuanyang Town, Liu Poshan's brow furrowed deeply - he had sensed that they were being tracked by other Martial Artists.

"It seems our journey back won't be so peaceful! Everyone, be on your guard. If anyone dares to provoke us, we respond with civility first, force if necessary!"

Liu Poshan said sternly.

His so-called courtesy before force meant facing people who robbed them, they could offer some cultivation resources; if the other party agreed, both could live in peace. However, if the demands exceeded their limits, they had no choice but to use martial force to fight back.

Around a dozen Liuhu Village martial artists, who had exchanged several carriages of cultivation resources, circled them in the middle, wielding weapons, fully on guard, with anger burning in everyone's eyes.

These cultivation resources had been obtained at the risk of their lives by venturing into the vast Dashan; now that someone intended to snatch them away, how could they not be infuriated?

"I really want to see which shameless bastards dare to show their faces! If one comes, I'll kill one. If two come, I'll kill both! Hmph, do they still think Liuhu Village is as easy to bully as before?"

Liu Liehu rolled up his sleeves, waving his steel knife several times.

His steel knife, forged from Hundred Refined Fine Steel, could not compare with a Spiritual Artifact in might, but it could shave hair and slice through iron like mud, extremely sharp, making it a prized possession that Liu Liehu always carried with him.

Although Liu Liehu didn't have an Innate Spiritual Root, he was naturally endowed with brute strength. This Hundred Refined steel knife weighed three to four hundred pounds, which may be difficult for other martial artists of the same cultivation level to handle, but he wielded it with ease.

As he swung his knife, it whistled through the air impressively.

As the convoy passed through a mountainous area, several groups of martial artists trailing them sped up and caught up, including a group of about thirty martial artists who shamelessly surrounded Liu Poshan and the others.

This group of martial artists, consisting of about thirty members with most at the Earth Level Realm, was led by two men in their forties whose strength was comparable to Liu Poshan's.

Such a force was much stronger than all the martial artists of Liuhu Village combined. If Fang Bai were not present with the current convoy, it would have been difficult to protect their exchanged cultivation resources.

"Are you... the Blood Wolf Group?"

Liu Poshan's gaze swept over the martial artists opposite him. When he saw a ferocious blood-colored wolf's head embroidered on their left arms, his expression subtly changed as he blurted out the question.

Upon hearing this, the other Liuhu Village martial artists' faces drastically changed as well, revealing a trace of fear.

Within several hundred miles of Xuanyang Town, there were many martial artist groups involved in looting and plundering, among whom, "Blood Wolf Group" was the strongest and most notorious.

It was said that the leader of the Blood Wolf Group was a Heaven Level Martial Artist, known for being brave and ruthless, cruel and tyrannical. Since the formation of the Blood Wolf Group, countless martial artists had died at their hands.

This time, the Blood Wolf Group had come to rob Liuhu Village's cultivation resources, but their leader wasn't present, probably feeling that there was no need for him to act personally to deal with these people.

"Good to hear you know our Blood Wolf Group's name! Those who don't want to die, leave all your cultivation resources and scram!"

The leader of the Blood Wolf Group said.

The speaker was tall and burly, with dark skin and muscular build, his body exuded explosive power, strong like a young bull. Coupled with his Earth Level Perfection cultivation, he indeed gave off an intimidating presence.

No sooner had he spoken than the members of the Blood Wolf Group echoed, "Leave the cultivation resources and scram!"

Liu Poshan, suppressing the anger in his heart, squeezed a forced smile onto his face, cupped his fists towards the talking Blood Wolf Group leader, and said earnestly: "These cultivation resources were gained by us not without great difficulty; we will not abandon them! However, I, Liu, always appreciate making friends. I offer you five thousand Essence Stones and thirty Elixirs, will you let us pass?"

Chapter 926: Reap What You Sow

To keep the peace, Liu Poshan was ready to give one-tenth of their earnings from the exchange to the Blood Wolf Group, which was already his bottom line.

The Blood Wolf Group leader's face tightened, and with a cold snort, a metal rod, thicker than his arm and a few inches taller than his body, appeared in his right hand.

He slammed the end of the rod into the ground with force, creating a pit over a foot deep, and said with a chilling voice, "Another word of nonsense, and I'll take your lives too! When the Blood Wolf Group gives their word, they mean it!"

"Who do you think you are to talk to my grandfather like that! If you don't clear the way, believe it or not, this young master will split you in two with a single blow!"

Liu Liehu, unable to stand the Blood Wolf Group leader's arrogance, darted out from the crowd, his steel knife pointing squarely at him.

Seeing that Liu Liehu was just a boy of thirteen or fourteen, with only a Profound Level Cultivation, the Blood Wolf Group leader did not take him seriously at all and cursed, "Where did this brat come from, courting death!"

Before his words had even finished echoing, he swung the iron rod in his hand towards Liu Liehu's head.

Being a warrior of Earth Level Perfection, he was a whole major realm above Liu Liehu. When that iron rod came crashing down with overwhelming force, easily over a thousand pounds, Liu Liehu wasn't foolish enough to try and withstand it. He darted behind Fang Bai with a "whoosh" and cried out, "Brother Fang, save me!"

Among the dozen or so martial artists from Liuhu Village at the scene, only Fang Bai could save him.

"Where do you think you're running to, you little runt! No one can save you from me!"

The Blood Wolf Group leader charged in front of Fang Bai and roared, his iron rod whistling down, intending to crush both Fang Bai and Liu Liehu to death.

He aimed to establish his authority and intimidate the other martial artists from Liuhu Village, pouring all his strength into this unstoppable blow.

Even though they knew Fang Bai could easily defeat early-stage Heaven Level Martial Artists and that the Blood Wolf Group leader's attack couldn't pose a threat to him, Liu Poshan and others couldn't help but worry for Fang Bai.

Fang Bai stood with his hands behind his back, his body as straight as a javelin, an expression of nonchalance on his face, seemingly oblivious to the iron rod the Blood Wolf Group leader was smashing down towards his head.

"Brother Fang, watch out!"

Liu Liehu and Liu Qingqing almost shouted simultaneously.

At that moment, the iron rod, carrying the full force of an Earth Level Perfection martial artist's True Yuan, had descended over Fang Bai's head, brushing the tips of his hair.

"That kid must be scared stiff! He's done for now!"

Some martial artists watching from a distance thought.

They were all there for the Cultivation Resources and were pondering how to get their share once the warriors from Liuhu Village were killed by the Blood Wolf Group, with no one showing any pity for Fang Bai.

Watching Fang Bai, who seemed destined to fall under the iron rod, their eyes were cold and indifferent, their faces expressionless.

They knew that in the next moment, both Fang Bai and the young warrior behind him would become nothing more than a mound of flesh under the Blood Wolf Group leader's iron rod.

A cruel smile flickered at the corners of the Blood Wolf Group leader's mouth; as the iron rod fell, he fixed his gaze on Fang Bai's face, hoping to see fear and despair.

But he was disappointed.

At that moment, he noticed that Fang Bai's lips had curled upwards slightly, revealing a hint of a smile.

What infuriated him was that within that smile, there was a clear contempt and mockery.

"What is he scorning in the face of death? What is he mocking?"

The leader of the Blood Wolf Group wondered, not knowing why, but suddenly a bad feeling arose in his heart, yet the iron club in his hand continued to descend.

At that moment, he noticed Fang Bai's right arm suddenly lifted, raised above his head, and then with his right hand, he flicked his fingers upward lightly, striking right at the tip of the rapidly descending iron club.

"Like a mantis trying to stop a chariot!"

The leader of the Blood Wolf Group suddenly thought of this saying and couldn't help but find Fang Bai's seemingly meaningless act of defiance amusing.

Ding...

A light sound rang out as Fang Bai's fingers flicked the iron club that was smashing down on him, emitting a metallic clanging noise.

Then, the martial artists watching from a distance saw the iron club, weighing over a thousand jin, springing back as if bounced by a spring, actually hitting back towards the leader of the Blood Wolf Group, and the speed and force were even faster and more fierce than when it had been smashed towards Fang Bai.

The leader of the Blood Wolf Group wanted to dodge, but his body seemed to be trapped in a quagmire, completely unable to move, and he could only watch in despair and fear as the iron club fell uncontrollably.

Thump...

The iron club fell, blood mist sprayed, and the leader of the Blood Wolf Group let out a miserable whimper, already reduced to a pile of mush.

A Martial Artist of Earth Level Perfection, who had dominated for decades, actually fell at the hands of an unknown young martial artist, and the opponent had only used one finger—this was truly too unthinkable.

The scene instantly fell silent.

All eyes were on Fang Bai.

In a single move, to kill a Martial Artist of Earth Level Perfection, the strength of this young man was undoubtedly of the Heaven Level Realm!

With such a powerhouse in command, who would dare to covet the cultivation resources of Liuhu Village, isn't that seeking death?

The martial artists observing from a distance secretly rejoiced, thankful they had not made a move like the Blood Wolf Group did; otherwise, it could have been them lying dead.

Seeing that the young man had killed the leader of the Blood Wolf Group and the cold, murderous gaze sweeping their way, the onlooking martial artists' hearts skipped a beat, worried that the young man would turn on them next, with some already slipping away.

Soon, the martial artist groups that had been watching from afar, hoping to get a share of the spoils, dispersed completely, leaving only the several dozen members of the Blood Wolf Group and the martial artists from Liuhu Village facing off.

Actually, the martial artists of the Blood Wolf Group were already scared witless; the man Fang Bai had just killed was the strongest among them, second only to their leader, and his death had robbed others of all their will to fight.

The members of the Blood Wolf Group also wanted to turn tail and run, but to their horror, they discovered that a powerful and invisible aura had them firmly locked in place, each and every one of them as if bound by ropes, filling them with despair.

"A misunderstanding! All a misunderstanding!"

Another leader of the Blood Wolf Group had a stroke of inspiration amidst the panic and said with a forced smile, "Actually, we only wanted to make friends with everyone, with no other intentions. From now on, the martial artists of Liuhu Village will be friends of the Blood Wolf Group, and the Blood Wolf Group will never again covet the cultivation resources of Liuhu Village! Please, go ahead and leave!"

With that, he gestured for them to proceed.

He couldn't wait for Fang Bai and the others to leave quickly; otherwise, even if Fang Bai didn't make a move, just the powerful Martial Artist Aura he released was enough to crush them.

"Brother Fang, what do you think..."

Liu Poshan looked towards Fang Bai, knowing that the lives of these Blood Wolf Group members were in Fang Bai's hands, Fang Bai could let them live or let them die.

Chapter 927: Harvest

"Now, take me to your lair! We can talk about everything once we get there,"

Fang Bai said in an unquestionable tone to the Blood Wolf Group leader, then turned with a smile to Liu Poshan, "Village Chief Liu, you take everyone back to the village first, I will return soon!"

Fang Bai thought to himself that since the Blood Wolf Group was engaged in robbery, their lair must have a lot of Cultivation Resources stored. Currently in need of Cultivation Resources himself, he decided to pull off a 'robber robbing robbers' scenario.

Early the next morning, Fang Bai, who had disappeared for the entire night, returned to Liuhu Village.

During the night Fang Bai disappeared, Liu Poshan, Liu Qi, Liu Liehu, Liu Qingqing, and the others did not sleep at all.

Yesterday, Fang Bai followed the martial artists of the Blood Wolf Group who had robbed their caravan to the Blood Wolf Group's lair. Though he did not say what he would do, Liu Poshan and the others had a vague idea.

It was true that Fang Bai was powerful, but the thought of him alone entering the Blood Wolf Group's lair, facing dozens of people, and with a Heaven Level Martial Artist in charge, inevitably caused them some concern.

Fortunately, Fang Bai appeared in the village early in the morning without a single scratch, which made everyone, including Liu Poshan, breathe a sigh of relief.

"Brother Fang, what did you do at the Blood Wolf Group's lair yesterday?"

Liu Liehu stepped forward and, with shining eyes, said, "Let me guess... Hmm, I bet you wreaked havoc, making those scoundrels cry for their parents, kneel and beg for mercy, and swear never to mess with us at Liuhu Village again—and then they offered plenty of Cultivation Resources as an apology... Right?"

"Wrong!"

Fang Bai shook his head.

Liu Liehu was stunned and muttered, "Could it be... could it be... Brother Fang, you let them go? Those people have committed all sorts of atrocities, killing, looting. God knows how many people have died at their hands..."

"The Blood Wolf Group had a total of forty-nine people. I have killed their leader who was at the Heaven Level Realm and two vice leaders at the Earth Level Perfection Realm, and I have disabled the Cultivation Levels of the rest. The Blood Wolf Group no longer exists!"

Fang Bai stated calmly.

"The Blood Wolf Group just like that, gone?"

This time it was Liu Poshan who spoke, overwhelmed with joy upon hearing the demise of the Blood Wolf Group.

The Blood Wolf Group had long been a malignant tumor within hundreds of miles around Xuanyang Town, notorious for its wicked deeds, with countless people wishing to eliminate them once and for all.

Although there were several small sects and prominent clans in the area with strength not inferior to the Blood Wolf Group, and who disapproved of the Blood Wolf Group's actions, these sects and clans typically adopted a policy of keeping themselves safe, reluctant to step forward and come into conflict with the Blood Wolf Group.

As for the Treasure Pavilion in Xuanyang Town, the Blood Wolf Group never provoked it, so the Bitao Martial Academy, which backed the Treasure Pavilion, also turned a blind eye to the existence of the Blood Wolf Group.

These factors led to the Blood Wolf Group becoming increasingly brazen.

But now, the Blood Wolf Group, which had been a headache for all the local sects and prominent clans, had been wiped out by Fang Bai alone. If this news were to spread, it would surely cause quite a stir.

"The Cultivation Resources accumulated by the Blood Wolf Group over the years have been brought back by me. Village Chief Liu, gather the martial artists of the village, let's redistribute these Cultivation Resources."

After Liu Poshan and the others had digested what he had just said, Fang Bai smiled and spoke again.

Upon hearing this, Liu Poshan couldn't help but get excited, thinking that the Cultivation Resources accumulated by the Blood Wolf Group over the years must be a substantial amount. If they were really distributed to the martial artists in the village, each person would likely receive quite a bit.

However, after his excitement, he quickly calmed down, waved his hands, and shook his head, saying, "The Cultivation Resources of the Blood Wolf Group were obtained by you and rightfully belong to you. We can't accept them!"

Liu Wu, Liu Qi, and others all nodded in agreement.

They each had received quite a bit of the Cultivation Resources exchanged from Xuanyang Town yesterday and were endlessly grateful to Fang Bai. How could they have the face to ask for more now?

On the other hand, Liu Liehu's eyes shone with anticipation. He didn't have so many thoughts in his mind, just feeling that the more Cultivation Resources, the better. As long as Fang Bai was willing to give, he would unceremoniously accept them.

"Brother Fang, where are the Cultivation Resources? The ones you brought back from the Blood Wolf Group?"

Liu Liehu circled around Fang Bai, seeing neither an Essence Stone nor a bottle of Elixir, scratched his head, and asked in wonder.

Liu Poshan and the others were also secretly astonished, wondering if the Cultivation Resources were still in the old lair of the Blood Wolf Group, requiring them to haul it back?

Fang Bai smiled, waved his left hand lightly, and the Spatial Ring on his left finger flickered with a faint light. Immediately, countless Essence Stones and hundreds of bottles of Elixirs appeared on the ground in front of him, instantly filling the air with waves of Essence Energy fluctuations.

Seeing this seemingly endless pile of Cultivation Resources that appeared out of thin air, Liu Poshan and the others were dumbfounded.

In their minds, they all wondered, "Where did all these Cultivation Resources come from?"

A thought suddenly struck Liu Poshan. His gaze fell upon the Spatial Ring worn on Fang Bai's left hand and he asked with a trembling voice, "Brother Fang, the ring on your hand... is it a Storage Spiritual Artifact?"

The Spatial Ring on Fang Bai's finger had a self-concealing function. Once worn on the finger, it would blend in with the skin tone, difficult for the average person to detect.

The Cultivation Resources that Fang Bai got from the Blood Wolf Group had all been thrown into the Spatial Ring upon his return. The fleeting flash of light from the Spatial Ring when he took out the Cultivation Resources had caught Liu Poshan's attention.

Liu Poshan, though he had never seen a Storage Spiritual Artifact, had heard that they were crafted by Artifact Refiners and were exceedingly rare. In the True Martial Realm, only important disciples from some major Sects possessed such treasures.

And Storage Spiritual Artifacts mostly existed in the form of rings.

Therefore, when Liu Poshan noticed the flicker of light on Fang Bai's finger and then saw the sudden appearance of a large number of Cultivation Resources in front of him, he immediately thought of the Storage Spiritual Artifact.

Fang Bai smiled, did not deny it, and nodded, "Indeed, it's a Storage Spiritual Artifact!"

He had already thought of what to say before returning to Liuhu Village, and then added, "This Storage Spiritual Artifact was obtained from the leader of the Blood Wolf Group, and I also learned how to use it from his mouth. Heh... If I did not have this Storage Spiritual Artifact, I would have really had no way to bring back so many Cultivation Resources from the Blood Wolf Group!"

Liu Poshan had originally been pondering whether Fang Bai was a disciple of some major Sect before his amnesia. Hearing Fang Bai's explanation, he believed it and said with an envious face, "Brother Fang, what good fortune! I've heard that in this True Martial Realm, Storage Spiritual Artifacts are even more precious than attack and defense Spiritual Artifacts. With this one Storage Spiritual Artifact, it's worth a great deal of Cultivation Resources!"

After a pause, his expression turned serious again, and he added, "You must not easily reveal this Storage Spiritual Artifact in front of others in the future; otherwise, it might bring trouble upon you."

Fang Bai knew he meant well and nodded with a smile.

Chapter 928: Siblings Promoted

Although Liu Poshan stated that he no longer needed Fang Bai's cultivation resources, Fang Bai still took out a portion and distributed them to the dozens of Martial Artists of Liuhu Village.

Liu Poshan was increasingly grateful for saving Fang Bai from the mountains back then. Had he not saved him, Liuhu Village might still be oppressed by the neighboring Shi Village, his granddaughter Liu Qingqing might have been forcibly taken away by Shi Feng of Shi Village, and the Martial Artists of Liuhu Village would still lack sufficient cultivation resources to train...

The arrival of Fang Bai completely changed the destiny of Liuhu Village.

The once oppressive Shi Village was now nothing to fear, his granddaughter Liu Qingqing had a very high chance of becoming a disciple of Bitao Martial Academy, and the Martial Artists of Liuhu Village had become "wealthy," no longer worrying about cultivation resources for a long time...

Therefore, including Liu Poshan, everyone in Liuhu Village was deeply grateful and respectful towards Fang Bai.

Although young, Fang Bai's prestige in Liuhu Village had even surpassed that of Liu Poshan.

With plenty of cultivation resources, in the following time, all the Martial Artists of Liuhu Village began secluded cultivation.

Fang Bai then took Liu Qingqing and her brother Liu Liehu on a training expedition into the vast mountains.

As the date for the recruitment of disciples by Bitao Martial Academy was drawing near, and Fang Bai and his grandchildren were still not back from the mountains, Liu Poshan, who was in seclusion, started to become restless.

Liu Poshan was not worried that anything might happen to the three of them, but he was concerned that if his grandchildren missed the deadline for Bitao Martial Academy, they would have to wait another three years.

After coming out of seclusion, Liu Poshan sat at the village entrance every day, gazing towards the vast mountains.

Before entering the mountains with Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu, Fang Bai had told Liu Poshan that the day they returned would be when Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu respectively advanced to the Heaven Level Realm and Earth Level Realm.

Liu Poshan was full of anticipation for this.

Once Liu Qingqing ascended to the Heaven Level Realm, she would directly become an External Courtyard disciple of Bitao Martial Academy upon her entry.

It was said that the disciple from Shi Village who was training in Bitao Martial Academy was just a menial servant there, posing no threat to Liu Qingqing. However, Gao Shuxian, an External Courtyard disciple of Bitao Martial Academy who had had a conflict with them in the mountains, was a bit troubling for Liu Poshan.

These days, an idea had been lingering in Liu Poshan's mind. He planned to discuss with Fang Bai upon their return. If Fang Bai agreed, it would solve a deep worry of his, sparing his grandchildren any bullying in Bitao Martial Academy.

That evening, as Liu Poshan was anxiously waiting, three figures emerged from the vast mountains--two men and one woman. Who else could they be if not Fang Bai, Liu Liehu, and Liu Qingqing?

Seeing them return safely, Liu Poshan heaved a sigh of relief and went up to greet them with a smile on his face.

Even from a distance, Liu Poshan could feel a significant change in his grandchildren; they were much different than before they had entered the mountains, a change that was hard to describe with words.

Liu Liehu, only thirteen or fourteen, seemed to have matured a lot. His gait was robust and imposing, as if nothing could stand in his way.

"Earth Level Perfection..."

When Liu Poshan sensed the Martial Artist Aura emitted by Liu Liehu, which was nearly equal to his own, he took in a sharp breath, followed by boundless joy.

Following Fang Bai into the mountains for merely half a month, Liu Liehu had leaped from Profound Level Perfection Realm to become an Earth Level Perfection strongman, far beyond Liu Poshan's expectations.

Liu Poshan had originally hoped that his grandson would break through the Profound Level Realm and enter the ranks of Earth Level strongmen, but Fang Bai had brought him a much grander surprise.

"I can't sense Qingqing's Martial Artist Aura at all. Could it be that she has already..."

When his gaze fell on his granddaughter Liu Qingqing, Liu Poshan's eyes suddenly widened, his heart uncontrollably started pounding rapidly, and his fists clenched involuntarily.

Liu Qingqing was naturally beautiful, and at this moment, she exuded an ethereal quality that made her seem like a fairy descending from the Immortal Realm. Dressed in a light blue gown, she approached gracefully.

"That's right, Qingqing must have advanced to the Heaven Level Realm by now!"

Liu Poshan thought to himself as he quickened his steps.

"Grandpa!"

From the opposite side, Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu had already seen Liu Poshan and were rushing towards him, calling out excitedly.

Fang Bai, with a smile playing on his lips, followed leisurely behind the two.

The past half-month of mountain training had not only been greatly beneficial for Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu, but Fang Bai himself had also made some modest progress.

However, Fang Bai felt some regret that the cultivation resources he had painstakingly accumulated over this short period were already depleted. Had it not been for hunting some Spirit Beasts and gathering some Spiritual Medicine in the vast mountains to continue his cultivation, he might have already returned to Liuhu Village.

A few days ago, Fang Bai counted the days and realized that it was almost time for Bitao Martial Academy to recruit disciples. He then decided to lead Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu out of the mountains and back to the village.

While Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu's advancement could be attributed to Fang Bai's guidance, they themselves had already been on the verge of breakthrough, aided by an abundance of cultivation resources, finally achieving their long-awaited success.

When the three relatives met, Liu Poshan grabbed his granddaughter Liu Qingqing with one hand and his grandson Liu Liehu with the other, examining them from head to toe, unable to stop smiling.

"Grandpa, I am now a Martial Artist at Earth Level Perfection. I want to try out at Bitao Martial Academy with my sister this time!"

Liu Liehu exclaimed excitedly.

"Good... good... go... go with Qingqing! Qingqing, you're a Heaven Level Martial Artist now, aren't you?"

Liu Poshan patted the back of his grandson Liu Liehu's hand, then turned his gaze to his granddaughter Liu Qingqing, seeking to confirm his guess.

Liu Qingqing pursed her lips in a smile, nodded, and then glanced at Fang Bai, saying, "It's all thanks to Brother Fang! Without his guidance and help, Liehu and I wouldn't know when we could have advanced!"

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Alright, no need for courteous words. I don't like to hear them!"

He turned to ask Liu Poshan, "Have I not delayed Qingqing and Liehu's time to go to Bitao Martial Academy?"

Liu Poshan replied, "No, we can leave in the next two days. Your return is quite timely. Qingqing, Liehu, you two go on ahead to the village. Fang Bai and I have a few words to exchange here."

Although curious about what their grandfather and Fang Bai would discuss, Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu nevertheless walked towards the village as instructed.

"Brother Fang, I have a favor to ask of you..."

Once Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu had walked a distance, Liu Poshan turned to face Fang Bai.

Fang Bai hurriedly said, "Village Chief Liu, please refrain from using the word 'ask' in the future. We are essentially family. Just say what you need!"

"I want you to join Bitao Martial Academy together with Qingqing and Liehu."

Liu Poshan said straightforwardly.

Chapter 929: Bitao Martial Academy

Having Fang Bai, his grandson Liu Liehu, and his granddaughter Liu Qingqing join the Bitao Martial Academy had long been a thought in Liu Poshan's mind.

The disciples in the Bitao Martial Academy were numerous, with numerous factions established among them, fiercely competitive with each other, and the slightest carelessness could result in being crushed to the point of vanishing without a trace.

If Fang Bai became a disciple of the Bitao Martial Academy, his protection would mean that Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu would suffer much less hardship and deal with fewer losses within the academy.

Moreover, Fang Bai's joining the Bitao Martial Academy would be beneficial for him as well.

The Bitao Martial Academy is a fourth-grade sect, and its reserves of Martial Arts Techniques and cultivation resources far surpass those of ordinary minor sects.

In the Bitao Martial Academy, based on the different statuses of disciples, they could regularly receive corresponding cultivation resources and also have the opportunity to listen to the experts of the academy explain the Martial Dao and encounter higher-level Martial Arts Techniques.

These were things that Martial Artists dreamt of, and Liu Poshan felt that Fang Bai would not refuse.

"Joining the Bitao Martial Academy..."

Fang Bai pondered briefly, then understood Liu Poshan's thoughts and smiled, saying, "That sounds good. I'll go and keep Qingqing and Liehu company. From now on, in the academy, the three of us can look after each other and discuss together how to solve any problems we encounter."

Liu Poshan hadn't expected Fang Bai to agree so easily and was overjoyed, saying, "With you going along, I can rest completely assured!"

Fang Bai agreed to join the Bitao Martial Academy for his own reasons as well.

Firstly, he knew that any sect would have its share of schemes and intrigues. Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu, being young and naive, would face hostility from the martial artists of Shi Village and suppression from Gao Shuxian once they became disciples of the Bitao Martial Academy. If they did not handle these well, they could potentially fall into a situation of irreversible disaster, which Fang Bai did not wish to see.

Secondly, he had stayed in Liuhu Village for a while and knew that if he remained confined to this small world, he would not be able to obtain more cultivation resources, nor would any opportunities arise. It would be better to go out and gain some experience.

Thirdly, joining a sect like the Bitao Martial Academy with a certain foundation would allow him to understand the True Martial Realm more directly and obtain more information about it.

Thus, when Liu Poshan made this request, Fang Bai did not hesitate much and accepted.

When Liu Qingqing and Liu Liehu learned that Fang Bai was also going to the Bitao Martial Academy, they too were overjoyed.

Previously, they had followed Fang Bai into the vast mountains for training, during which they encountered many dangers, all resolved by Fang Bai. They had witnessed several of Fang Bai's impressive methods, and they admired him greatly.

In their eyes, Fang Bai was like a towering tree that could shelter them from any storm. With him around, they felt fearless.

If the three of them could become disciples of the Bitao Martial Academy and work together within the academy, they felt confident in handling any provocation or threat.

Two days later, in the early morning, under the watchful eyes of hundreds of villagers from Liuhu Village, Fang Bai, Liu Qingqing, and Liu Liehu set off on their journey to the Bitao Martial Academy.

The three of them first traveled to Xuanyang Town, a hundred li away, where they spent three thousand Essence Stones to purchase three "Swiftwind Horses."

Swiftwind Horses were the product of normal horses bred with a Wind System Spirit Beast, named for their speed akin to swift winds.

Swiftwind Horses were fast and had good stamina, and their prices were low, which made them a popular choice among the ordinary Martial Artists of the True Martial Realm for long journeys to save True Yuan and physical strength.

Fang Bai and his two companions mounted Swiftwind Horses and sped towards the Bitao Martial Academy, thousands of miles away.

The Bitao Martial Academy was established ten thousand years ago and is the most powerful Sect in Thousand Lakes Country, as well as the covert ruler of the country. All cultivation resources within the borders of Thousand Lakes Country were owned and managed by the Bitao Martial Academy.

From the headmaster down, the academy had almost ten thousand disciples. Because there had been few geniuses emerging in recent years, the overall strength of the academy had been declining, forcing the academy's leaders to recruit disciples every three years.

Martial Artists under the age of thirty in the Earth Level Realm were the basic requirement for entering the Bitao Martial Academy. This single condition excluded many Martial Artists.

Therefore, whenever the Bitao Martial Academy recruited disciples, tens of thousands would register, but only after a selection process did about a hundred manage to successfully enter the academy.

And of these hundred, the vast majority could only start as menial servant disciples, doing heavy and tiresome work.

Those new disciples who were admitted directly into the External Courtyard of the academy were considered rare geniuses and received significant attention and cultivation from the academy leaders.

As time was limited, Fang Bai and his companions did not have the leisure to enjoy the sights during their journey; under the relentless pace, they finally arrived at the site the day before the Bitao Martial Academy began recruiting disciples.

The Bitao Martial Academy was situated on the edge of a mountainous region, backed by mountains and facing a great lake, providing a quiet environment rich in Essence Energy, an excellent place for cultivation. The founder of the academy had great foresight in choosing this location to establish the Sect.

When they were still hundreds of miles away from the Bitao Martial Academy, Fang Bai noticed an increasing number of Martial Artists along the way.

These Martial Artists were generally under thirty years old, all vigorous and spirited.

They walked in groups of three or two, or seven or eight, and they discussed matters related to the recruitment of disciples at the Bitao Martial Academy.

Clearly, these Martial Artists had the same goal as Fang Bai, Liu Qingqing, and Liu Liehu; they had come to the Bitao Martial Academy to take a power test and hoped to become disciples of the academy.

What made Fang Bai laugh was that the strength of these Martial Artists varied greatly, with Profound Level Martial Artists making up the majority.

These Martial Artists did not meet the recruitment conditions of the Bitao Martial Academy, yet they still eagerly headed toward the academy. Fang Bai finally understood that these people were just giving it a try. Even if they did not pass the test and become disciples of the Bitao Martial Academy, coming here to broaden their horizons and experience the atmosphere was beneficial.

The closer they got to the Bitao Martial Academy, the more Martial Artists from all over came, and occasionally, some Earth Level Martial Artists were seen. However, Heaven Level Martial Artists like Liu Qingqing were nowhere to be found by Fang Bai.

Many of the Martial Artists heading to the Bitao Martial Academy, like Fang Bai and his companions, had also come riding Swiftwind Horses, undoubtedly from far away.

Within ten miles of the Bitao Martial Academy, Swiftwind Horses were not allowed to enter; hence, Fang Bai and the other riders sold their Swiftwind Horses for five hundred Essence Stones each to Martial Artists in a nearby market town and then rested overnight at an inn in the town.

The next morning, refreshed, Fang Bai and his companions walked to the Bitao Martial Academy.

Chapter 930: Test of Strength

When they reached the large square in front of the entrance to Bitao Martial Academy, the place was already bustling with people, as nearly ten thousand martial artists from various regions had gathered, creating a lively scene.

Around seven in the morning, over a hundred disciples from the External Courtyard of Bitao Martial Academy, along with ten from the Inner Court, appeared at the forefront of the square, led by four elders of the academy.

The disciples from the External Courtyard of Bitao Martial Academy were all at the initial stage of Heaven Level. The simultaneous appearance of over a hundred people releasing their Martial Artist Aura imposed a sense of pressure on the nearly ten thousand martial artists present in the square.

These External Courtyard disciples dispersed to the surroundings of the square, responsible for maintaining order.

The ten Inner Court disciples, on the other hand, walked to a stone platform on the front left side of the square, each standing next to a towering Ruyi Stone.

The ten Ruyi Stones on the stone platform were prepared to test the cultivation level and realm of the martial artists in the square.

Soon, the martial artists on the square who had passed the selection would stand in front of the Ruyi Stones to undergo testing.

The Ruyi Stone is a very peculiar stone capable of accurately identifying a martial artist's cultivation level and body attributes, with very few errors.

In front of the Ruyi Stone, almost no martial artist could conceal their true cultivation level and realm.

Of course, exceptions like Fang Bai were another matter.

With ten Inner Court disciples, who were at the middle stage of Heaven Level, standing in front of the Ruyi Stones to supervise, there was no need to worry about martial artists cheating during the test.

The four elders of Bitao Martial Academy, who had reached the middle stage of the Desolate Level, then ascended a high platform directly in front of the square and took their seats on stone chairs, overlooking the nearly ten thousand martial artists from a superior position.

In the eyes of the four elders, the nearly ten thousand martial artists on the square were no different from ants.

Today, the elders intended to select some outstanding individuals from these "ants" to enter Bitao Martial Academy, to teach them Martial Arts Techniques, provide them with cultivation resources, and hope to create a group of strong individuals to enhance the strength of Bitao Martial Academy.

The elders also hoped to find among these martial artists those with Innate Spiritual Roots, the favored sons and daughters of the heavens, and then dedicate their efforts to cultivating them to become the mainstay of Bitao Martial Academy's future.

However, the elders also knew that finding someone with an Innate Spiritual Root was extremely rare, almost one in ten thousand.

Take the entire Bitao Martial Academy, for example, which in nearly a thousand years had produced only two Innate Spirit Root Martial Artists: Ren Jingbo, the current academy head, and Gao Shuxian, a current External Courtyard disciple.

Ren Jingbo was a warrior at Desolate Level Perfection, whereas Gao Shuxian was merely a Heaven Level Martial Artist. The difference in strength between them was vast, one as high as the sky and the other as low as the earth.

However, Ren Jingbo was nearly two hundred years old and nearing the end of his life, with little hope for further advancement in his cultivation.

Gao Shuxian, on the other hand, was only about twenty years old, her future full of boundless potential. Focused cultivation could make her highly promising, possibly leading Bitao Martial Academy to greater heights under her leadership.

Although there were nearly ten thousand martial artists on the scene, not every one of them had the privilege of undergoing the strength test, since before the official testing began, the academy had to conduct a selection, weeding out those martial artists who did not meet the requirements.

After the selection, over one-third of the nearly ten thousand martial artists present were eliminated because their cultivation level did not reach Earth Level.

Another third of the martial artists, due to being overage, were also rejected.

Around three thousand martial artists who met the basic criteria remained, and it was from these three thousand that Bitao Martial Academy would choose its new disciples.

These three thousand martial artists lined up in a long queue in front of the ten Ruyi Stones, supervised by the ten Inner Court disciples, and one by one stepped forward, placing their palms on the Ruyi Stones and releasing their True Yuan, allowing the Ruyi Stones to identify their cultivation level and body attributes.

"Wu Lie, twenty-seven years old, initial stage of Earth Level, Golden Attribute."

"Hong Feng, twenty-five years old, Earth Level Mid-Rank, Water Attribute."

"Feng Ling, twenty-two years old, Earth Level Mid-Rank, Fire Attribute."

"Nangong Shuang, twenty years old, Earth Level High-Rank, Water Attribute."

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One by one, the Martial Artists walked up to the Ruyi Stone to undergo the strength test, and then a disciple from the Inner Court standing beside the Ruyi Stone announced the results.

Soon, over a hundred Martial Artists had taken the strength test, but the qualifications of these Martial Artists did not particularly stand out or dazzle anyone.

The body attribute of a Martial Artist is innate; what this attribute is determines the type of attribute-specific Martial Arts Techniques they will cultivate in the future.

For example, if a Martial Artist's body attribute is Golden, then they can only choose Golden System Techniques for cultivation.

The body attributes of Martial Artists also vary in quality. Ordinary body attributes mean ordinary talents. They can only cultivate lower-rank Techniques and will find it difficult to achieve great things on the path of Martial Dao.

The best body attributes are the so-called Innate Spiritual Roots.

Martial Artists with an Innate Spiritual Root are hailed as Martial Dao geniuses with exceptional talent. They can cultivate high-rank Techniques, and their cultivation level on the Martial Dao path is immeasurable.

"Liu Liehu, fourteen years old, Earth Level Perfection, Golden Attribute!"

When a disciple from the Inner Court of Bitao Martial Academy announced this test result, nearly ten thousand Martial Artists in the square stirred. They looked at Liu Liehu in front of the Ruyi Stone, finding it hard to believe that this fourteen-year-old youth was already a Martial Artist at Earth Level Perfection.

The four Elders of Bitao Martial Academy were also slightly moved. Although this Martial Artist named Liu Liehu did not possess an Innate Spiritual Root, his reaching Earth Level Perfection at fourteen indicated exceptional talent. If carefully nurtured, he might have the potential to become a Desolate Level Martial Artist in the future.

After the test ended, Liu Liehu excitedly waved his fist. Among the hundreds of Martial Artists who had been tested, he was the youngest yet the strongest, and becoming a disciple of Bitao Martial Academy was almost a certainty.

Liu Qingqing's eyes sparkled with joy, happy for her brother.

Then, Liu Qingqing and nine other Martial Artists walked up to the Ruyi Stone, each placing their palm lightly onto it.

Liu Qingqing's appearance captured the attention of many onlookers at the scene.

The Martial Artists in the square were dazzled by Liu Qingqing's ethereal beauty and her extraordinary demeanor. Their eyes widened and gleamed, all inquiring about this stunningly beautiful girl's name and origins.

The four Elders of Bitao Martial Academy also focused their attention on Liu Qingqing. Some appeared thoughtful, others visibly surprised, and some were visibly excited.

The four Elders, all Desolate Level Mid-Rank powerhouses, sensed the aura of a Heaven Level Martial Artist emanating from this sixteen or seventeen-year-old girl as soon as she appeared.

A sixteen or seventeen-year-old Heaven Level Martial Artist was unprecedented in the history of Bitao Martial Academy. The four Elders were almost certain that the girl in the green dress with the ethereal demeanor was indeed a possessor of an Innate Spiritual Root.

The facts proved that the Elders' guess was not wrong.

When Liu Qingqing's palm touched the Ruyi Stone and released her own True Yuan, a dazzling black light emanated from the stone. This black light surged directly from the base of the Ruyi Stone and stopped at a very high position.

The scene fell silent, as nearly everyone's gaze was fixed on Liu Qingqing and the Ruyi Stone in front of her.