

Genius 1041

Chapter 1041: People from Tang Sect

Zhuoma was completely speechless. Tang Xin was telling the truth, it seemed she really didn't give Tang Xin a chance to speak, she directly challenged Qin Fang.

This led to such a tragic outcome, and it really wasn't Tang Xin's fault.

Of course, she didn't mean to blame Tang Xin either, just that she felt aggrieved and couldn't vent her feelings, it wasn't specifically targeting anyone.

Even if she were to blame someone, it would definitely be the instigator, Qin Fang, rather than blaming Tang Xin...

"Ah, let's just go back..."

Revenge was the true purpose of their trip, but now it had utterly failed. Even Tang Xin, her last resort, said it might not be possible to do anything to Qin Fang. What else could she struggle for? She could only helplessly accept such a seemingly helpless and tragic fact.

The people of Gelan Tribe then made their way back, Tang Xin said she had some matters to handle in the mountains, now that Qin Fang knew, it was likely to meet her disciple and good sister, Zhuoma.

Moreover, looking at Tang Xin, she seemed to have some unspoken troubles in her heart, Qin Fang and Tang Xin were merely strangers who met by chance, so it wasn't appropriate to inquire too deeply.

At this point, things had more or less settled down, Zhuoma probably wouldn't dare to harbor any other thoughts about Qin Fang now.

...

Life in the mountains was quite boring for those from outside. Although Qin Fang could pass some time through cultivation, after all, his power came too easily, and hard training wasn't his style.

The old lady's health had stabilized temporarily, she could live for at least half a year more. Although she would eventually pass away, at least for the remaining days, both Sang Duo's family and Uncle Wen's family were very happy.

Originally planning to stay for a few days and leave after the old lady's funeral, Wen Yan decided to stay a little longer to accompany the old lady.

Qin Fang fully supported this decision, filial piety was extremely important, and Qin Fang didn't want his woman to lack even the most basic qualities.

Otherwise, even if he loved this woman so much, he couldn't possibly bring her close to him, because he had to consider his own mother, his only family member, whom he absolutely could not fail.

Wen Yan stayed, and naturally, Qin Fang stayed as well. However, he needed to find something else to pass these boring days, and hunting became Qin Fang's biggest hobby.

Various wild animals roamed the big mountain, and the game was all natural. Although hunting wild animals might not be appropriate, it's also part of nature's laws, and over-protection isn't necessarily effective. Besides, the animals Qin Fang hunted were common creatures like rabbits and deer.

One day, carrying his bow and arrows, Qin Fang went into the mountains to hunt alone, Sang Duo and Uncle Wen were too disheartened to join him anymore, better out of sight, out of mind.

After several days of practice, Qin Fang's archery skills had significantly improved. Previously, they mainly emerged from a formidable combination of One-Handed Weapon Mastery and shooting skills. But there was still a slight unfamiliarity compared to Qin Fang's Gunmanship.

But over these days, this unfamiliarity had completely vanished, and he was handling the bow and arrows with even greater mastery. Dressed in the simple attire of the mountain people, no one from Gelan Tribe or Nayi Tribe would recognize Qin Fang as an outsider.

However, today was noticeably different from before because just as he was about to shoot a plump rabbit, the rabbit startled and quickly vanished into the forest, and at the same time, three young men in ancient costumes appeared in Qin Fang's line of sight.

Seeing these people, Qin Fang couldn't help but be startled. It was impossible for a film crew to be shooting in the mountains, and Qin Fang had previously encountered people in ancient costumes only once; that was Tang Xin from Tang Sect.

Noting these three young men also dressed in ancient attire, Qin Fang immediately guessed their identities, of course, he still routinely sent his Scouting Skill over.

The three young men didn't seem particularly old, appearing to be about twenty-four to twenty-eight years old, definitely not over thirty yet, with very youthful faces.

Though young, their strength was quite formidable. Two had reached Grandmaster Level, and although one hadn't reached Level 5, his abilities were almost comparable to Song Qingshan before he reached Grandmaster Level, meaning he would count as the top young master outside the mountain.

The heritage of Tang Sect was unquestionable, rarely being exposed over hundreds of years, but their strength was definitely growing, not diminishing. Other ancient sects interacted with the outside world to varying degrees and natural

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However, Qin Fang didn't have a particularly good impression of these three individuals. It wasn't that they looked like bad people, but from just one encounter, Qin Fang could sense their condescending arrogance.

Young and strong, a bit of arrogance isn't much of an issue, but when they put on such an overly polite and courteous facade, it just seems too hypocritical. Moreover, the subtle contempt they exuded was blatantly dismissive of Qin Fang, whom they clearly regarded as a "hillbilly barbarian."

"Brother, do you know which way to the Gelan Tribe?"

As soon as the three appeared, they noticed Qin Fang and walked over. The young man leading them wore a faint smile and very politely gave Qin Fang a bow, then courteously inquired.

They spoke Mandarin, not the native dialect of the mountains, which showed that although the Tang Sect had been isolated for hundreds of years without venturing out, they were not so closed off as to be assimilated by these mountain folk.

"Just keep going that way..."

Although these three made Qin Fang somewhat uncomfortable, upon hearing that they were headed to the Gelan Tribe, Qin Fang suspected they might be looking for Tang Xin.

Qin Fang did think about luring Tang Xin out of the mountains at one point, but that was just a fleeting thought. Now, having not seen her for several days, the idea had faded quite a bit.

Since all three were from the Tang Sect and quite young, they were most likely Tang Xin's senior or junior martial brothers, and must have had important business, so it didn't seem right for Qin Fang to obstruct them.

He happened to know the direction, and thus casually pointed them towards the Gelan Tribe.

"Thank you, brother..."

The leading young man immediately thanked him. Then, as if he sensed something, his wrist flicked slightly, and Qin Fang saw several dark shadows fly from his hand, instantly disappearing into the roots of a nearby tree.

One of the young men beside him lightly tapped his foot, and his whole body soared like a giant eagle, landing several meters away after just one leap. He then retrieved two plump rabbits from where the shadows had vanished...

The rabbits were still bloody. The young man pulled out several peculiarly shaped iron implements from their wounds, clearly the Tang Sect's hidden weapons.

"Consider these two rabbits a gift for our first meeting, a present for you, brother..."

The leading young man said with a smile to Qin Fang, as the one holding the rabbits tossed them to Qin Fang. Their gesture seemed casual, but the disdain was even more apparent, as they threw the rabbits to Qin Fang and then immediately turned to leave, soon disappearing into the mountain forest towards the Gelan Tribe.

"Damn, what's with this..."

Qin Fang looked at the two bloody rabbits in his hands, his expression oddly twisted. After spending so much time outside, this was the first time he felt so looked down upon.

Qin Fang had, of course, noticed the rabbits earlier, but because he was talking to the three from the Tang Sect, he hadn't taken immediate action. After all, his hunting was more of a hobby than a necessity for food.

But this misunderstanding had arisen; these three from the Tang Sect thought he was a barbarian from the hills and had "kindly" hunted the rabbits for him... This left Qin Fang not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

"Alas, you consider others barbarians, but to those outside the mountains, aren't you the uncivilized barbarians too?" Reflecting on the arrogance displayed by the three, Qin Fang couldn't help but shake his head.

The people in the mountains live primitively and backwardly, a result of their geographical limitations and unopened minds, perpetuated from generation to generation.

When the Tang Sect went into hiding hundreds of years ago, they might have been considered the most advanced and enlightened of their time. But after centuries of isolation, what they once took pride in as cutting-edge has long since become insignificant. To the outside world, these folks who seem to still live in the Ming-Qing Dynasty era are the epitomes of backwardness and barbarism...

...

In the forest.

The three people from Tang Sect made their way through the woods at a leisurely pace. Their steps seemed small, yet their speed was quite fast. After all, they were all beings with considerable cultivation; it was normal for them to walk faster than ordinary people.

"Senior brother, it's just a barbarian, right? Is there a need to be so courteous with him?"

The young man who had earlier tossed a rabbit to Qin Fang pondered the recent events, speaking with a tinge of indignation. His name was Tang Wei, the weakest among the three, but only a step away from reaching the Master Level.

The leader of the three went by the name Tang Nan, a Grandmaster-level Expert, ranked sixth among the young generation of Tang Sect, much stronger than Tang Xin, who also ranked in the lower end of the top ten.

The remaining silent one was named Tang Zhan, the strongest of the three, also a Grandmaster-level Expert, and held the third rank among the young generation of Tang Sect, second only to two other senior brothers who were slightly older than him.

Ordinarily, the leader should've been Tang Zhan, but peculiarly, it was Tang Nan. This wasn't to say that Tang Nan had the sharpest mind to control the other two, but rather, it was due to his identity—he was the sole son of Tang Yuantao, a Tang Family Elder, and a disciple of the Tang Family Clansmen.

His aunt was the wife of the current Sect Leader of Tang Sect, which destined Tang Nan to have an extraordinary status within the sect, and made him someone that the younger generation dared not to provoke so readily.

"You said it yourself, he's just a barbarian. Giving him a trivial favor is no big deal; maybe he will even go back and tell his tribe that he met an immortal in the mountains..."

Tang Nan's expression was indifferent, and he didn't take the event to heart, just as he had said. To him, the matter was truly insignificant, a mere fleeting moment of showing his face.

"That makes sense! Senior brother, you are truly the greatest..."

Tang Wei immediately nodded in agreement, quickly buttering up his senior brother. As for Tang Zhan next to him, he could be ignored entirely since he had yet to say a word.

Although the three had set out together, only Tang Nan and Tang Wei were truly aligned, while Tang Zhan was there to act as a bodyguard, arranged by Tang Yuantao. After all, the outside world was much more dangerous than the internal affairs of Tang Sect. Though Tang Nan was not weak, he had never faced many setbacks. Worried about his son's well-being, Tang Yuantao sought out Tang Zhan, a silent yet exceptionally calm disciple, as his protection.

Since Tang Zhan was a direct disciple of Tang Yuantao, he executed the command of his master despite not having a high opinion of Tang Nan.

"By the way, senior brother, do you think Sister Tang Xin will be moved by your sincerity this time?"

At that moment, Tang Wei seemed to recall something and couldn't help but ask with some eagerness. Their trip away from the sect was specifically for the sake of Tang Xin.

Tang Xin was one of the top ten disciples of the younger generation, and also one of the only two female disciples among the top ten. Moreover, both of these female disciples were stunningly beautiful, known as the "Twin Beauties" of Tang Sect, attracting the adoration from many male disciples within the sect.

Even the other eight among the top ten disciples were smitten and had launched their courtship campaigns toward the women they fancied.

Tang Xin's departure from the sect was largely connected to this matter. Now at the age for marriage, the elders in the sect were persuading and pressuring her, and she found it quite distressing, especially since she had not yet found someone she fancied.

"Hmph, she better say yes! If she continues to be oblivious, then I won't be so polite anymore..."

The thought of this ignited a flame of frustration in Tang Nan's heart, and the smile faded from his face, showing a clear sign of discontent.

At this moment, Tang Nan didn't resemble the courteous gentleman who had humbly interacted with Qin Fang. A sharp malevolence flashed across his face, revealing a glimpse of his true temperament.

Tang Wei noticed nothing amiss, but Tang Zhan beside him slightly knit his brows, though ultimately, he said nothing...

Chapter 1043: Call for Help

Besides Tang Xin, the other female disciple is Tang Tian, the current Sect Leader's biological daughter. With cultivation ranked fourth, she nearly matches the silent Tang Zhan.

This is also the reason why Tang Nan is Tang Tian's close cousin, as both grew up together like siblings, without any romantic feelings, let alone any intention of uniting.

Of course, Tang Nan isn't the type to fancy a woman stronger than himself, as that would only make him a laughing stock.

Should the couple ever fight and he fails to overpower his wife but instead gets dominated by her, it would be a disgrace, and the ridicule would be abundant if word got out.

That's why he never harbored such feelings towards Tang Tian, instead, Tang Nan has shown great enthusiasm towards Tang Xin, who has both beauty and strength, launching a vigorous pursuit...

However, his pursuit might have been too aggressive, not only failing to win Tang Xin's approval but seemingly even scaring her away, forcing her to take refuge outside the Tang Sect.

Tang Nan seemingly didn't give up his vigorous pursuit just because Tang Xin left; upon careful inquiry, he quickly followed, even obtaining accurate information about her heading to the Gelan Tribe.

Tang Wei didn't pay much attention to Tang Nan's words. The situation had not yet escalated that far, and everything remained uncertain. Even if it did reach that point and Tang Nan resorted to unsavory methods, Tang Wei didn't see a problem...

Because Tang Nan holds an exceptional status within the Tang Sect, being a pure-blooded member of the Tang Clan, which practically places him in a privileged class higher than other disciples not from the Tang Clan.

For female disciples like Tang Xin, who don't belong to the Tang Clan, his presence is exceedingly daunting. If something adverse were to happen to Tang Xin and it blew up to the Sect Elders Council, the Tang Clan would undoubtedly step in to protect him; otherwise, where would the Tang Sect's honor lie?

That is why Tang Nan seems so fearless.

Of course, within the Tang Sect, such incidents would not occur. There are many disciples pursuing Tang Xin, not just one or two. The numbers are quite substantial, including disciples like Tang Nan who share the Tang Clan bloodline. If Tang Nan were to resort to tricks, not only would he fail to win Tang Xin's approval, but he would likely be the first to be eliminated.

Tang Xin, overwhelmed by constant harassment within the Sect, had no choice but to temporarily escape until the fervor of these people somewhat subsided before returning.

Not many knew about this, only those closest to Tang Xin were aware. Unexpectedly, in just a few days, the news started to leak, allowing Tang Nan to pursue her here.

Qin Fang might not even realize that his casual pointing hoped to quicken the Tang Sect members' finding Tang Xin but ended up making things worse, not helping her, and from the looks of it, possibly even harming her.

However, these details are obviously unknown to Qin Fang; he has only met Tang Xin twice and can hardly be considered familiar, at best merely an acquaintance.

He does possess the Mind Reading Technique, but Tang Xin, always calm and composed, is unaffected by Qin Fang's skill; naturally, he couldn't be aware of these matters.

Not paying too much attention to this, Qin Fang continued hunting in the woodland until he was satisfied with his gains, then packed up his bow, arrows, and game, leisurely descending the mountain to return to the Nayi Tribe.

Yet, upon his return, not long after he started handling the game, he saw a pony rushing over hurriedly.

The knight on the horse, very familiar to Qin Fang, turned out to be Zhuoma, whose buttocks he had swollen a few days ago. Yet unexpectedly, this girl was here—could it be that the whips were ineffective and she was planning to engage in horseback aggression?

Of course, this was merely Qin Fang's joke to himself. If that approach were effective, Qin Fang would have been whipped into mincemeat long ago.

"Quick... quick... quick..."

Zhuoma rode up to Qin Fang, then dismounted in one swift move, reaching out to grasp him while panting heavily.

Perhaps due to excessive urgency or nervousness, her words were unclear, repeating the same word several times without making any clear statement.

"What's the rush? Speak up..."

Qin Fang, looking unimpressed, could vaguely sense Zhuoma's urgency as if something significant had happened. However, with Zhuoma speaking so unclearly, understanding her was difficult.

Qin Fang, while talking, gently caressed Zhuoma's back with his palm, not to take advantage, but to use his True Qi to calm Zhuoma's agitated breath.

"Quick, come with me, something has happened..."

It took Zhuoma a while to catch her breath; her face was pale as she looked at Qin Fang. She did not mind the contact of Qin Fang's hand on her body but said anxiously, "Master... Master has been captured by them..."

Qin Fang was startled by her words, obviously not expecting this, but his mind quickly shifted, and the figures of those three people immediately popped into his mind.

"Captured? Are you talking about those three people from the Tang Sect?"

However, Qin Fang wasn't completely sure and immediately asked. Since Zhuoma said so, she must know the situation best. Relying solely on his own guesses was useless; he still needed to see what the facts were.

"It's them... How did you know?"

Zhuoma almost nodded without thinking, but then she suddenly paused, her eyes filled with surprise, finding it hard to imagine how Qin Fang could have known that it was three people from Tang Sect.

"Let's not talk about that. Why would those three want to capture your master..."

Qin Fang ignored her, just frowned and asked, apparently, his unsolicited pointing out of the direction seemed not to be a good thing, but rather made a bad situation worse.

"That Tang Nan likes my master, but my master doesn't like him at all. This time he wanted to capture my master and even said... even said..."

Zhuoma said with a pale face, explaining some of the situation she knew to Qin Fang, but at this point, she paused somewhat, her face showing some very abnormal expressions.

Finally, she bit her teeth and said, "He even said he wanted to make things irreversible by forcing a union..."

At these words, Qin Fang also managed to clarify all the facts. It turns out that the person who appeared very modest and polite was actually a hypocrite, capable of committing such despicable acts of bullying men and women.

Outside the mountain, such things were also not uncommon. Those second-generation rich and officials often did such things. There was even an official who, when his love was not reciprocated, threw gasoline on the girl, causing severe burns, and there were even more outrageous things that happened but were not exposed.

But he didn't expect that even within the Tang Sect, an ancient hidden sect that had been secluded for hundreds of years, such villainous Young Masters still existed.

Inevitably, Qin Fang couldn't say much, but the problem was that the woman about to be harmed was also considered a friend to Qin Fang, who had even once thought about coaxing her to leave the mountain with him.

"My master doesn't like that bast*rd Tang Nan at all; she likes you..."

Seeing Qin Fang still hesitating, Zhuoma became even more anxious. Tang Xin was captured by Tang Nan and his two followers, each of whom was extraordinarily powerful. Even her master Tang Xin couldn't resist them, and Zhuoma with her limited skills was even less a match, unable to fend off even the weakest, Tang Wei.

Among the high-level fighters she knew, it seemed that only the deeply despised Qin Fang could help her. Of course, Song Qingshan, Qin Fang's bodyguard, was also said to be extremely powerful. These two might be able to help...

As for others, even if she could gather hundreds of warriors from the Gelan Tribe, they wouldn't be able to handle these three villains.

Hundreds of people might be able to shoot these three with arrows, but Tang Xin wouldn't be spared either. Not to mention, the capabilities of those three were too terrifying, especially their proficiency with hidden weapons, which was simply astonishing and made people tremble with fear.

If it really came to a large-scale conflict, although the other side had fewer people, their strength was formidable. Even if her hundreds of warriors could wipe out the opponents, the loss on their side would be severe, not achieving victory without losing dozens of lives.

Moreover, the people of the Gelan Tribe wouldn't likely offend those from the Tang Sect over an outsider. Even if they were lucky to kill those three, they would have to face the siege of even more experts from the Tang Sect. A night attack could easily annihilate thousands of people from the Gelan Tribe.

This kind of annihilation of an entire tribe had happened several times over the centuries. The people in the mountains thought it was divine punishment for offending the gods, but Zhuoma vaguely knew that it was the work of Tang Sect.

The people of the Gelan Tribe couldn't act, and Zhuoma couldn't just watch her master and close sister Tang Xin be harmed by such a scoundrel like Tang Nan.

After thinking it over, the only enemy with the strength she deeply hated who could help was Qin Fang, so she put aside her pride and quickly came to the Nayi Tribe to seek help.

And to attract Qin Fang's intervention, at this moment, she blurted out this sentence, directly making Qin Fang's eyes widen in shock, his face surprised.

Chapter 1044 Saving People

Whether Zhuoma's words were true or just an excuse for her to ask Qin Fang to come down from the mountain for a rescue mission, there was no longer a need to distinguish carefully.

In fact, after learning the truth about the situation, Qin Fang had already intended to save the person, but Zhuoma's sudden statement caught him completely off guard.

He had met Tang Xin by chance, and they could be considered friends at best. What truly concerned Qin Fang was the compatibility of their True Qi – this was also why he really wanted to lure her out of the mountain.

However, he knew that this was not something he could force. Tang Xin, accustomed to living in the mountains, was like someone from an isolated ancient world. Perhaps she held certain expectations for the outside world, but she equally harbored considerable fear.

After all, the unknown world always presents a sense of insecurity, even though her strength was very formidable, and most people wouldn't be able to harm her.

Qin Fang had decided to save the person, but before he had a chance to express it, Zhuoma threw him this curveball which, rather than helping, only added some trouble for Qin Fang.

If it were someone else, they might be ecstatic to have a beauty like Tang Xin admiring them, but for Qin Fang, this became a problem.

He already had enough women around him; getting involved with Tang Xin would only cause more chaos, especially given her formidable strength. Qin Fang wasn't even completely sure he could subdue her, let alone the women around him with much less strength.

If a fight were to break out within the harem, Tang Xin could sweep all the others aside on her own. And given Tang Xin's way of doing things, a short sword would suffice to cut everyone down...

If that really happened, Qin Fang wouldn't even be able to cry!

With that single sentence, Qin Fang was left speechless, frozen in bewilderment – neither consenting nor refusing seemed like a good option.

Suddenly, his gaze swept across Zhuoma's face, noticing a hint of nervousness in her expression. A thought struck him, and he quickly cast the Mind Reading Technique.

The result was swiftly revealed – turns out this girl fabricated such a lie just to get Qin Fang to take action, and it was not true at all.

Sigh~~

Qin Fang secretly breathed a sigh of relief and felt much more at ease.

"Little girl, don't spout such nonsense when it's unnecessary, I've agreed to save the person already..."

Qin Fang stood up, tapped Zhuoma's head as a reprimand, and while she made a bitter face, he gave her a sweet date to eat, making her smile again.

Of course, in her heart, she was still murmuring, "How did he know I was lying? Could he be one of those Old Immortals who can predict the future?"

Qin Fang would not delve into the girl's thoughts anymore. Now that he had agreed, it was imperative to take action quickly, or else it would be too late when the rice was cooked.

"Qin Shou Brother, come with me, I need your help this time..."

Since he had decided to go for the rescue, he certainly couldn't do it alone. In such vast mountains, just tracking someone down was already strenuous, not to mention fighting and taking back the person.

Another person would increase the chances of success.

The tribesmen in the village were indeed available for mobilization, but their speed was too slow, and the enemy was too powerful to avoid easily.

Only he and Song Qingshan were capable of taking action, so naturally, he had to turn to Song Qingshan.

"Let's go..."

Song Qingshan didn't say much either. In fact, he had been aware of the situation while Zhuoma and Qin Fang were talking.

The Tang Sect may be a formidable force, but to advance further on the Martial Way, one must not fear any opponents, even when facing Grandmaster-level Experts, one must have the courage to fight them.

If even such courage were lost, then it would be destined that nothing great could be accomplished in this lifetime.

Of course, the opponents Qin Fang had to face this time were mere ordinary Tang Sect Disciples, perhaps quite powerful, but clearly unlikely to step into the Grandmaster Level.

Grandmaster-level Experts are those who can establish their own schools and are not achieved merely through simple increments in strength. Instead, it's more about an understanding of a certain Realm.

In the Martial World, there is never a shortage of stunning prodigies, but to possess the Realm of a Grandmaster at a young age is absolutely impossible.

The Grandmaster Realm requires significant accumulation, possessing an incredibly formidable foundation. Song Qingshan has never heard of a Grandmaster who entered this level before the age of forty.

Even many young geniuses, who have stepped into the Master Level in their twenties, reaching the Master Level Peak Realm by thirty, may need ten or twenty years, or even longer, to overcome that most crucial threshold; many spend their whole lives without success.

This can be seen in the example of Qin Fang's master, Cai Pingyuan, who has been at the Master Level Peak for many years without a breakthrough opportunity, never managing to take that arduous step.

Qin Fang once wanted to give him Golden Dragon Saliva to consume, but Cai Pingyuan directly refused. Master Cai's accumulation was already sufficient; it was just a slight epiphany on the Realm that was lacking, and Spiritual Medicine was of no use to him. Consuming it would be wasteful, so he naturally declined.

However, he did not turn down that drop of Golden Dragon Saliva, planning to use it to nurture the future talent of the Cai Family and to continue the family's inheritance, although currently, the child has not yet been born.

When the old gentleman said these words, his eyes were fixated on Qin Fang as if this matter had fallen upon Qin Fang's shoulders, making Qin Fang quite embarrassed.

Since it's impossible for Grandmaster-level Experts to appear before the age of forty, the strongest among the younger generation reaching the Master Level Peak would already be considered the top among elite masters.

Being able to spar with such a master is something that a young Martial Artist like Song Qingshan desperately wants, not to mention that this master comes from one of the few secretive Great Sects like the Tang Sect.

Song Qingshan felt excited just thinking about it and naturally had no reason to refuse, especially since these few Tang Sect Disciples had committed such deeds, which is truly a disgrace to the Martial World. If spread, it would absolutely cause a very intense blow to the Tang Sect...

Taking a shot at a hidden Great Sect like this is, in fact, the favorite thing for small factions like the Tianying Sect to do. Previously, the fastest way to gain fame in the Martial World was to defeat disciples from these Great Sects. For a faction to make a name for itself, this is naturally a very good way as well.

So, Song Qingshan didn't feel any psychological pressure at all...

Not to mention, the Tang Sect had remained hidden for hundreds of years without appearing; who knows if they would lash out this time? Why fear them?

Moreover, the relationship between him and Qin Fang had reached this point where they could be considered one; Qin Fang treated him well, and he could not be so ungrateful.

"Then we set off..."

With Song Qingshan's help, it would be a bit more convenient to search for people. Even during a rescue, having Song Qingshan around to distract the opponents would allow him to act more calmly.

Zhuoma's strength was too weak. Although she was more familiar with the terrain of the mountains, it was not practical if she could not keep up with Qin Fang and the others. Now, with the urgency of the situation, any delay could add to the danger Tang Xin was in, and Qin Fang couldn't take along such a burden.

Besides, Qin Fang had been immersed in the mountains day after day and was already very familiar with the surrounding terrain. With his leg strength, the range of his activities was many times larger than that of an average hunter, and he was able to delve much deeper, which now turned out to be quite advantageous.

Of course, Zhuoma was not completely worthless, as she had specifically pointed out a place that was said to be Tang Xin's favorite. Every time she left the mountain, she would certainly visit that spot, and Tang Xin even made a painting of it, which hung in her boudoir.

Not many in the Tang Sect knew about this, but Tang Nan was clearly one of them. With such an incident occurring, a furious Tang Nan might very likely take Tang Xin there this time.

Qin Fang noted the location and dared not delay any further, immediately setting off with Song Qingshan towards the deeper parts of the mountains.

From the situation of this incident, Tang Nan's action was a challenge to Tang Xin. If Tang Xin agreed to him, then all would be well, but Tang Xin had left to avoid him in the first place, so she naturally wouldn't agree, prompting Tang Nan to turn hostile and take her captive.

Since it's about taking someone captive, meaning to present a *fait accompli*, Tang Nan obviously wouldn't bring Tang Xin back to the Tang Sect. To accomplish his goal, he must be somewhere deep in the mountains.

With Tang Wei and Tang Zhan by his side, if Tang Nan didn't have that particular vice, then he would indeed choose a suitable location. The place Zhuoma specifically mentioned might indeed be highly possible...

But this was just Qin Fang's speculation and could not be completely certain, so other locations in the mountains still needed to be searched.

"Qin Shou Brother, let's split up into two groups and focus on searching some concealed areas, but we must keep track of time. We'll meet there in half an hour... If we find their tracks in the meantime, immediately signal to contact!"

After Qin Fang gave a brief instruction, he and Song Qingshan each took a different route, covering several key areas where Tang Nan and the three could have passed through. Time waits for no one, so they had to hurry, and the most likely spot would be their meeting point. This was effectively casting a wide net and focusing on the catch...

Chapter 1045: Stirring Up Trouble

Deep within the great mountain, a peak towered into the clouds, with a cascading waterfall plunging three thousand miles, as if it fell directly from the ninth heaven to the mortal world.

Below this waterfall, there was a shimmering pool, surrounded by lush greenery and vibrant flowers, a truly seductive scene.

Hidden beneath the waterfall, there was a natural passageway leading to a relatively concealed cave, akin to the Water Curtain Cave in its presence. This was Tang Xin's favorite place, where she often came to clear her mind.

But at this moment, this cave had been taken over by others.

"Sister Tang Xin, as a clever woman, you must also know how to make the right choice. Brother Tang Nan, in terms of status, position, and strength, is one of the best among our peers. Such a heroic figure is your most suitable match..."

Tang Wei played the role of a flatterer perfectly, much like the fat translator who persuaded opponents to surrender for the enemy during the resistance, a complete sycophantic and traitorous appearance. Even when trying to coax Tang Xin, he never forgot to fawn over his master Tang Nan.

Tang Xin's gaze was icy cold, silent as she waited for Tang Wei, her eyes as though she wished to completely freeze him to death. Of course, her look towards Tang Nan was even colder.

"To tell you the truth, if I were a woman and encountered a heroic figure like Brother Tang Nan, I would have surely given myself to him willingly long ago. Why would you be so reticent?"

Tang Wei seemed to know that Tang Xin would not be easily persuaded and continued to ramble, his tone growing slightly more forceful.

"Then you go ahead..."

But as soon as he uttered this sentence, Tang Xin, who had been silent all along, unexpectedly countered with such a remark... Instantly freezing the smile on his face, turning it into an extremely ugly contortion.

He was indeed a lackey, but what he sold was his dignity, not his body... In his view, the body was worth much more than dignity. He had no immediate desire for his tenderness to be explored.

"Brother..."

Stopped short by Tang Xin's remark, Tang Wei couldn't continue his spiel and could only look at his master Tang Nan with a face full of helplessness.

Clearly, the soft approach was not going to work. Tang Xin was completely impervious to this tactic.

"Tang Xin, you should understand that I really like you very much. As long as you agree to marry me, I will make you the happiest woman in the world..."

Tang Nan glared at Tang Wei fiercely, almost on the verge of calling him a waste. Nevertheless, he walked up to Tang Xin and spoke with a very gentle tone, just as he did when confronting Qin Fang, the modest gentleman.

"Over my dead body!"

Tang Xin had long seen through the facade of the seemingly righteous Tang Nan. Before, they had nothing to do with each other, and she didn't want to provoke trouble. But now that both were at the age of marriage, Tang Nan suddenly launched an aggressive offensive, catching her completely off guard.

Perhaps Tang Nan really liked her, Tang Xin, but she could never fancy such a hypocritical man. Not to mention this spineless person was now resorting to force, which only reinforced her previous convictions.

"Tang Xin, I'll give you one more chance. As long as you agree to this marriage, I will forgive the past matters and treat you well..."

Tang Nan's expression turned dark and terrifying. His hands clenched into fists, veins popping on his arms. It seemed he was on the verge of erupting but was still trying his best to contain himself.

Taking a deep breath, he forcibly held back his anger and asked again, his eyes becoming sharper, as if this was truly the last chance.

"Hmph!"

But clearly, Tang Xin was not going to give him such an opportunity. She would rather die than marry a hypocritical pretender like Tang Nan. She didn't even bother with words and expressed her decision with a cold snort.

"Unappreciative..."

Tang Nan burst into rage, scolding loudly, "Tang Wei, Tang Zhan, do it... Since this woman is unappreciative, then I will make her understand properly..."

Seeing that his gentle approach had utterly failed, Tang Nan completely ripped off his mask of deception, revealing his horrendous true face, and immediately ordered Tang Wei and Tang Zhan, who were beside him.

As Tang Nan's number one bootlicker, Tang Wei naturally didn't hesitate, lunging forward with a fist aimed at Tang Xin.

Tang Zhan was the strongest amongst them, several levels above Tang Xin. Although he wasn't as blatantly obsequious as Tang Wei, he quickly closed in for the attack.

Tang Xin's expression shifted slightly. Although she anticipated this turn of events, she didn't expect that Tang Nan would be such a complete hypocrite, shedding his last disguise and making a move right here.

"I would rather die than let you succeed..."

If it were only Tang Nan and Tang Wei, Tang Xin believed she had the power to fight, or at least to protect herself to some extent. But with Tang Zhan present, unless she could immediately break through to the Grandmaster Level, she had no chance of escaping the current predicament.

Unable to go down fighting, Tang Xin could only choose a quick death. Her short sword drawn, she attempted to end her own life...

Chapter 1046 Interference_2

Alas,

Just as her sword moved, Tang Nan made her move.

A black meteor flashed by and immediately struck the short sword in Tang Xin's hand, producing a clear and ringing collision sound. However, the force behind it was extremely formidable, instantly skewing Tang Xin's short sword off course.

While Tang Zhan approached like a ghost, with a flick of his wrist, he effortlessly snatched the short sword from Tang Xin's hand and, in passing, precisely pressed her acupoint, instantly subduing Tang Xin... Now immobilized, Tang Xin didn't even have the chance to take her own life!

"Thinking of suicide? It's not that easy..."

A smile hung on Tang Nan's face, revealing a trace of lasciviousness. Although Tang Xin was resolute, Tang Nan did not give her the opportunity.

"Such a beauty like you cannot escape from the palm of my hand. I will make sure you enjoy yourself..."

While speaking, Tang Nan walked towards Tang Xin, his eyes filling with an ever more intense desire, clearly intending to consummate his conquest there.

Tang Wei and Tang Zhan naturally did not dare stay to disturb Tang Nan's good fortune, so they prepared to disengage and leave the place.

Clap, clap, clap~~

Just at that moment, the sound of applause suddenly rang out, abruptly diverting the attention of Tang Nan and Tang Xin. Everyone turned their heads to look, and saw two young men walk in from outside the cave.

"It's you..."

"How did you get here?"

Everyone's expression shifted slightly as they spoke in unison, though Tang Nan and Tang Wei were surprised at how this "barbarian" Qin Fang found this place, while Tang Xin was amazed that Qin Fang had come at all.

"Actually, I didn't want to come, but thinking of the heartfelt invitation from the brothers, I felt a bit sorry, so I made a special trip to express my thanks... Ahem, am I interrupting? If so... just continue as if we brothers don't exist!"

Qin Fang wore an indifferent smile on his face, speaking in a tone that was both calm and teasing.

Tang Xin looked puzzled, not understanding how Qin Fang was connected to Tang Nan and the others, but from their expressions, it was not difficult to see that Qin Fang was here to help and rescue her.

Despite her current mood being far from cheerful, as she had almost lost her innocence, seeing the scene before her still made it inevitable that a benevolent smile appeared in her eyes.

"Who are you?"

At this, Tang Wei immediately stepped forward and barked fiercely.

Tang Wei was probably the most frustrated of them all. He had not anticipated anyone daring to interfere, yet someone had actually come to do just that.

Even more unthinkable for him was that he knew the troublemaker - the same mountain barbarian he had previously looked down upon, an existence as insignificant as an ant in his eyes.

And yet it was this very ant that had come to stir up trouble, using an excuse so absurd that the three people present felt completely speechless - as if Qin Fang really had come to express his gratitude.

Anyone with a functioning brain could see that Qin Fang was merely mocking them. Qin Fang personally knew Tang Xin, and it seemed like they were quite familiar with each other.

"Who I am isn't important; the fact that I know who you are is enough..."

Qin Fang spoke nonchalantly. Naturally, this matter wouldn't easily be settled amicably, but avoidance where possible was the best policy. Only an idiot would volunteer his own name – that was just asking for trouble.

Song Qingshan was like Tang Zhan, not much of a talker either. Announcing his own name didn't hold much significance; after all, if they were to fight each other, the opponent could certainly guess his identity from his moves. So, whether to reveal his name or not didn't matter anymore.

"Friend, this matter doesn't concern you. Since you already know our identities, we hope you won't interfere unnecessarily. Otherwise... it won't be good for you!"

Tang Nan's expression was equally stern. Just as they were about to succeed, these two troublemakers popped out of nowhere. It was no wonder his face looked unhappy.

Qin Fang seemed like an ordinary person, his depth not apparent. That was because Qin Fang's stealth techniques were exceptionally formidable. Perhaps only a Grandmaster-level Expert could see through him, but people like Tang Nan clearly lacked this ability, so when they initially came across Qin Fang, they didn't take him too seriously, assuming he was just a barbarian from the mountains due to his rustic attire.

However, the moment Qin Fang appeared, Tang Xin's expression visibly changed, and even her gaze brightened slightly, as if she was pleased at heart, but then immediately it turned into a look of worry.

Such changes in expression, which Tang Nan—who had been closely observing Tang Xin—immediately noticed, made his already gloomy face from being interrupted become even more dark and terrifying. A very unpleasant thought started to rise in his heart...

Qin Fang's strength was inscrutable, but the power of Song Qingshan, who was beside Qin Fang, was clearly felt as a significant threat to them.

Because of the gap in strength, Tang Wei didn't feel it as clearly, but Tang Nan and Tang Zhan both changed their expressions slightly and their eyes were noticeably filled with caution.

Tang Nan, in particular, felt a substantial threat, vaguely sensing that Song Qingshan's abilities were either on par with or slightly stronger than his own.

Tang Zhan felt the same – although he didn't think Song Qingshan had reached his level yet, he still posed a very formidable threat.

Seeing the change in these two experts, even the slower Tang Wei soon caught on...

With Song Qingshan being like this, everyone naturally wondered about Qin Fang's strength. Given the relationship between Qin Fang and Song Qingshan, it was easy to speculate about many interesting things.

"I've already said, mind your business, and I'm just here to express my personal thanks to you three... oh, as for him, he's just here for the ride..."

Upon hearing Tang Nan's words, Qin Fang's expression didn't change at all, still joking as if he was truly just watching a drama.

Realizing that the three opponents were paying more attention to Song Qingshan than to him, Qin Fang knew the reason all too well. Still, he didn't point it out and just made a bored joke about it.

At the same time, Qin Fang was continuously surveying the cave, secretly calculating how to rescue Tang Xin.

Tang Xin, with her acupoints pressed and unable to move, was in great danger of not being able to defend herself, let alone help them. The three opponents had positioned Tang Xin intentionally or unintentionally behind them, not giving Qin Fang and Song Qingshan a chance to act, making them hesitant to make a move.

A forceful approach was not wise. With only two of them, if one were to attempt a rescue, it would leave the other to face three adversaries. Even if Song Qingshan had mastered the elite defensive cultivation technique like the Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Shield, it was not guaranteed he could withstand the siege of three opponents.

If a forceful approach wouldn't work, the best strategy was to outsmart them, which was also the most efficient and least effort-consuming method, naturally reducing complications to the weakest level.

If it wasn't necessary, Qin Fang truly did not want to offend these three people too badly...

An encounter with Shangguan Tianling had already put Qin Fang in deep trouble before. Although he had discarded those bodies into the deep ravine, crushing them to pieces, making it unlikely for the Heavenly Pool Sect to trace anything back to him from the corpses, being an enemy of the sect had indeed brought a lot of pressure on Qin Fang.

In Qin Fang's view, the Heavenly Pool Sect wasn't particularly terrifying. As long as Qin Fang's power increased, he naturally had ways to counter it, especially since he had guns, which left him fearless against these experts.

However, he had to be quite wary of the Tang Sect, for the sect's martial arts achievements were high, and their proficiency with poisons and hidden weapons was equally remarkable...

Furthermore, the people of Tang Sect had no regard for government views. Although the Heavenly Pool Sect dared not touch the Tang Family directly, the people from Tang Sect certainly wouldn't have such considerations, which was exactly why Qin Fang didn't want to excessively offend them.

Of course, if it came down to it, Qin Fang didn't mind taking harsh measures...

Chapter 1047: Fight Two with One

Once the situation becomes irreversible, Qin Fang would not hesitate to take decisive actions.

Although Tang Nan and his two companions are formidable, if Qin Fang were to resort to a deathblow, it would be easy for him to leave them with no place to be buried. In a relative sense, Qin Fang also possesses a certain degree of confidence and arrogance.

But the prerequisite is still to rescue Tang Xin first...

"It seems that this brother is really intent on picking a fight..."

Hearing Qin Fang's words, Tang Nan's expression darkened further, and his tone also became quite hostile, a chill in his eyes that struck fear into others, exuding a bone-chilling coldness.

Upon hearing Tang Nan's words, Tang Wei had already drawn his sword, slightly spreading his stance, adjusting his body, ready to strike at any moment.

Tang Zhan was in a similar state, only he appeared even more vigilant and cautious, his eyes fixated on Song Qingshan, clearly deeming him as his opponent...

As for facing Qin Fang, with Tang Nan and Tang Wei dealing with him, it seemed that would be more than enough.

A battle between the two sides was on the verge of erupting.

Qin Fang's face was calm, but deep inside he was contemplating a strategy to break the current deadlock.

With Tang Xin in the enemy's hands, their side inevitably felt some apprehension about making a move, and Tang Nan was an unreliable character. Though he appeared to be a gentleman on the surface, he was in fact the epitome of a villain, capable of doing anything should the situation take a turn for the worse.

Before encountering Qin Fang, Song Qingshan's strength was indeed top-notch among the younger disciples outside of the hermetic sects, almost unbeatable.

But taking into account these ancient, reclusive sects, he could only be considered an average expert, not particularly outstanding.

Song Qingshan knew this very well himself, otherwise he could have advanced to Grandmaster Level much earlier, instead of waiting until both the Great Strength Eagle Claw Technique and the Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Cover had reached the Master Level before attempting to break through...

In terms of talent, he was not significantly inferior to the prodigies from the hermetic sects, but his strength was clearly at a disadvantage, due to not only differences in cultivation techniques but also a lack of resources.

These resources could be people or things. The Tianying Sect could not compete with the Tang Sect or Shaolin Temple, and even when compared to the Heavenly Pool Sect, they were far behind.

However, after encountering Qin Fang, Song Qingshan recalled the astonishing scene that nearly took his breath away, and then Qin Fang generously offered him a drop of Spiritual Medicine that even the entire Tianying Sect could not procure during his attempt to reach Grandmaster Level. The medicine's purification boosted his strength from second-rate to the level of a top-tier expert almost instantly...

Initially, he might have relied on the advantage of his cultivation technique to be on par with a Mid-Master Level expert, but now his strength had advanced beyond that... Mid-Master Level was already invincible, and even facing those at the Master Level Late Stage, he possessed the strength to fight, or at the very least, defend himself without doubt, thanks to his powerful defensive cultivation technique, the Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Shield.

The cultivation of the three Tangs was incredibly formidable, with Tang Wei comparable to the pre-Grandmaster Level Song Qingshan, almost invincible among those below the Grandmaster Level; Tang Nan himself was a Grandmaster-level expert, at least on par with an average Mid-Master Level powerful individual, if not rivaling those at the Master Level Late Stage; while the strongest, Tang Zhan, was the one Qin Fang and Song Qingshan were most wary of, already firmly in possession of Master Level Late Stage cultivation...

With such a disparity in strength, there is no doubt that Qin Fang's side is at a relative disadvantage. Should a fight break out, his side would certainly be at a loss.

Firstly, their strength was slightly weaker, and secondly, they were also at a numerical disadvantage.

Facing two against three, with the individual strength of each opponent surpassing that of Qin Fang's side, how could they possibly fight?

But since they had decided to rescue someone, they couldn't give up halfway, no matter the difficulty. There might still be a good chance of victory.

"If you insist on thinking that way, then I have nothing more to say..."

Simply bluffing, Qin Fang held no hope that Tang Nan would be deterred by it. Plainly speaking, he was here to stir up trouble, and there was no expectation of an easy resolution before Tang Xin was rescued.

"Senior brother, why waste so much time talking to him? It's three against two, we have them completely under control..."

Tang Wei, with sword in hand, was filled with impatience and disdain. Among their group of three, each individual was quite formidable, whereas on Qin Fang's side there were only two, whose strength might be strong but clearly not up to their level.

"Make your move..."

Tang Nan found the reasoning sound and immediately signaled Tang Zhan with a glance, then issued an order. With a short sword in hand, he made a slight move and charged towards Qin Fang.

Tang Wei followed closely behind, gripping his short sword firmly, ready to unleash his sword technique in coordination with Tang Nan to slay the disruptive Qin Fang on the spot.

Tang Zhan didn't move, but his vigilant gaze was locked on Song Qingshan, as if he was ready to strike at him the moment he dared to make a move.

"This place is too cramped, it's inconvenient to fight here. If you're brave enough, let's take it outside..."

Though Song Qingshan and Qin Fang hadn't exchanged a word, they seemed to have an excellent unspoken understanding. Seeing that Tang Nan and Tang Wei had already made a move against Qin Fang, and knowing that the most formidable threat among the three was Tang Zhan, Song Qingshan immediately taunted him before quickly heading outside the cave.

"This one's on you; I'll go kill that one..."

Tang Zhan seldom spoke. Apart from his personality, it was also his pride that held him back. In fact, he really disdained associating with Tang Nan, but he couldn't change this fact.

Qin Fang might be strong, but Tang Nan and Tang Wei's combined strength was definitely not inferior to his. If even they couldn't handle Qin Fang, Tang Zhan's presence would be of no use either.

However, Song Qingshan's provocation was enough to pique his interest. With a brief word, he immediately gave chase, his target being Song Qingshan, leaving the situation inside the cave to Tang Nan and Tang Wei.

Provoked by Song Qingshan, Tang Zhan immediately pursued to kill, and with their departure, only four people remained in the cave.

Tang Xin, who had her acupoints sealed, stood motionless and could essentially be ignored, leaving Qin Fang to face off against Tang Nan and Tang Wei, two against one.

Both of their strengths were formidable. Tang Wei was comparable to a Grandmaster-level Expert, while Tang Nan was a genuine Mid-Master Level Expert.

If it hadn't been for the spiritual medicine Golden Dragon Saliva, Qin Fang wouldn't have been able to enhance his body to its current level, nor would his strength have reached such heights. Under normal circumstances, it would be nearly impossible for him to face these two opponents alone...

But now, it was not necessarily the case. Even if he couldn't defeat the enemies, self-preservation was entirely manageable, and this was still without Qin Fang resorting to his trump card...

Ding ding ding~~

Tang Nan and Tang Wei attacked swiftly, their short swords striking fast. A black military spike appeared in Qin Fang's hands, and with a slight movement, he instantly parried their swords, producing a series of clear, ringing clashes.

Tang Sect's short swords were practically standard issue weapons. All Tang Sect disciples used swords of this specification, whether it was the three Tang Sect male disciples present or Tang Xin, all wielding the same model crafted by Tang Sect blacksmiths using Hundred Refined Fine Steel, certainly formidable weapons.

It cannot be denied that in the ancient art of sword-making, certain levels were reached that modern people have yet to grasp. However, this was limited to the top-tier craftsmen, such as the Grandmaster Swordsmith Ou Yezi, who forged absolute divine weapons.

Ordinary blacksmiths clearly couldn't reach such heights, so they could only use materials like Hundred Refined Fine Steel to make relatively good weapons, just like those of the Tang Sect.

Whereas the military spike in Qin Fang's hands, also a standardized weapon, was made using modern alloy materials. This military spike, exclusive to the Mercenary Corps, and was of excellent quality, mixed with titanium alloys, making the spike inherently tougher...

When the blades collided, they produced clear and delightful sounds, even sparking off flecks of fire that seemed particularly dazzling in the silent cave.

"Indeed, a fierce dragon will not be subdued when crossing the river... It seems we did underestimate you..."

The just-executed move was merely a simple test. Tang Nan and Tang Wei hadn't used their full strength, and neither had Qin Fang, resulting in a quiet and straightforward exchange.

However, after this probing, Tang Nan and Tang Wei dared not underestimate Qin Fang anymore, and their eyes held more respect, recognizing that Qin Fang's strength was somewhat greater than they had anticipated.

"Mutual feelings..."

Qin Fang's expression remained unchanged, speaking indifferently.

Yet his mind was extremely vigilant. Although they hadn't shown their full strength in the probe, Tang Wei and Tang Nan, worthy disciples of the Tang Sect, had solid cultivation and were far from being half-baked experts found elsewhere. Moreover, their moves were very coordinated, presenting a significant threat to Qin Fang in that brief exchange.

Qin Fang had already seen Tang Nan as a formidable opponent, and with the addition of the well-synchronized Tang Wei, his pressure surged, his eyes losing their previous ease and lightness, turning instead solemn and cautious...

"Hmph, cease your lip service; let's see the truth under our hands... I, Tang Nan, would like to see whether the experts outside the mountains are worthy of my Tang Sect disciples' notice..."

Tang Nan didn't bother with more trash talk. Having successfully provoked his anger, he naturally wanted a swift battle to quickly finish his foe.

Chapter 1048 Tang Sect Twin Marvels

Although it was a moment too late, Tang Nan and Tang Wei made their move once again.

The two split to either side, attacking from left and right, aiming straight for Qin Fang's vital ribs with extremely fast sword strikes that came at tricky angles and with cunning techniques.

This time, it wasn't a mere probe. Their attacks were ruthless and venomous, coordinated with tacit understanding, the sequences orderly and structured. The layered brilliance of their swordplay and their mastery of rhythm immediately caused Qin Fang's already cautious gaze to grow even sharper.

"Bring it on..."

With a loud shout, Qin Fang lightly tapped with his foot, barely moving his body, but shifted back overall, managing to dodge the combined assault of Tang Nan and Tang Wei's swords.

After narrowly escaping this ordeal, Qin Fang obviously couldn't just stand by. With another fierce tap of his foot, he abruptly changed direction from retreating to surging forward, switching from a single

military spike to wielding two. He conjured a series of black phantoms, lunging straight at Tang Nan and Tang Wei.

Clang clang clang~~

Tang Nan and Tang Wei missed with their strike at the end of their move's momentum. Qin Fang seized the moment to counterattack, his dual military spikes boldly deflecting their weapons. His accelerated body didn't slow down as he charged straight towards Tang Xin, who was not far ahead.

From beginning to end, he never intended to deal Tang Nan a fatal blow. His true objective was still to rescue someone. As long as he could save Tang Xin, his goal would be accomplished.

"Stop him..."

Tang Nan's face changed, he hadn't expected Qin Fang to be struggling against the two of them and still unwavering in his intention to rescue.

This move took them by surprise, and by the time they reacted, they were already at a disadvantage.

"Stop!"

Seeing Qin Fang's actions, Tang Wei's expression tightened. If Qin Fang managed to rescue someone despite their joint attack, it would be a severe loss of face for the Tang Sect disciples.

With a loud cry, Tang Wei erupted with a surge of powerful force, transforming into a bullet, merging with his short sword to become one, akin to the legendary sword unity technique of lore, forming a thick, black sword shadow, thrusting straight for Qin Fang's back.

This move was as fierce as thunder, with a terrifying attack power. Even though Tang Wei was the latter to act, Qin Fang could feel the chilling sword qi on his back very clearly.

Without turning back, Qin Fang knew that the opponent had used a killer move, and the observant Tang Xin, seeing Tang Wei use such a secret technique, her eyes instantly revealed extreme shock.

She seemed to want to warn Qin Fang, but her acupoints had been struck, leaving her unable to move or speak. She could only use her eyes to convey her concern, hoping to remind Qin Fang.

Qin Fang had a keen sense of danger, sensing trouble as soon as Tang Wei made his move. Seeing Tang Xin's worry, he understood that the strike from behind was extraordinary.

Tang Xin knew Qin Fang's strength but still showed such worry, a clear sign that the move was exceptionally unusual and might be one of the Tang Sect's secret techniques.

Faced with such strong killing intent, Qin Fang almost subconsciously believed it was Tang Nan's move, as Tang Wei's strength was far inferior to his. It was Tang Nan's Mid-Master Level cultivation that Qin Fang found truly daunting.

With Tang Wei's strike, Qin Fang's rescue plan was doomed to fail. Tang Wei's reactionary speed seemed to be even faster than his own. He hadn't caught up yet, but any slight hesitation would surely result in a sword through the heart.

Despite wearing the allegedly impenetrable Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor, it was not invincible – it only provided 10 points of defense. Any attack surpassing this level could break through its protection...

When facing bullets, this thing was not even as good as a bulletproof vest, its only advantage perhaps being its lightness, to the point that one hardly felt its presence when worn.

Tang Wei's sword strike was terrifying in its attack power, probably not much weaker than the force of a bullet, definitely capable of breaching the defense of Qin Fang's Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor.

Qin Fang dare not slack off and had to avoid Tang Xin; otherwise, dodging would immediately spell disaster for her as well.

In a split second, Tang Wei's attack was closing in. It looked like his short sword would easily pierce Qin Fang, but suddenly, Qin Fang's body seemed to trip over something, as he swiftly executed a limbo move, falling backwards...

Tang Wei, united with his sword and incredibly fast, had no time to react. He flew right over Qin Fang, sword in hand.

Qin Fang's speed was also extremely fast. After dodging Tang Wei, he immediately leapt up, still wanting to continue moving toward Tang Xin with an unyielding determination to rescue her.

Boom~~

Tang Wei's sword heavily struck a nearby boulder. A series of clinking and clanging sounds could be heard as the boulder almost instantly had a hole carved into it, then it collapsed with a crash, stirring up a cloud of dust.

This secret technique of Tang Wei truly caused Qin Fang's complexion to change. Had he not luckily evaded it, even if he had forcefully received the blow, he would most likely have been seriously injured, possibly losing his combat capability directly.

But if that were the case, not only would Qin Fang's plan to rescue fail, but he himself would likely perish... After all, aside from Tang Wei, there was an even more formidable Tang Nan.

However, Qin Fang didn't even have time to catch his breath when a very concealed and powerful killing intent followed closely behind.

Sizzle~~

Suddenly, a streak of cold light flashed with unbelievable speed. The chilling coldness, even from a distance of two to three meters, seemed already palpable.

This was precisely what Qin Fang felt at that moment, a chill running down his spine, a sensation that emerges only during extreme crises.

And such a crisis came from this very streak of cold light...

It approached so swiftly that there was almost no chance to evade. Qin Fang's pupils contracted slightly as he saw his neck's vertebrae distort in a bizarre manner, the originally straight neck oddly bending into a hunchback-like shape, forcing a groove to appear at his throat.

Hiss~~

Even so, Qin Fang still distinctly felt a cold sensation on his neck, with a faint hint of stinging pain. It was clear that his reaction speed was just a tad slow, allowing Tang Nan's sneak attack to succeed.

"Hmm? Hidden weapons..."

Qin Fang was slightly startled, having not expected Tang Nan to possess such a skill. If not for his quick bodily response, he would have fallen for Tang Nan's trick. Feeling the coldness on the front of his neck, Qin Fang couldn't help but break out in a slight cold sweat.

The Tang Sect was known in the world for its hidden weapons and poisons, touted as the "Tang Sect Twin Marvels". In this regard, Qin Fang was aware. Comparatively, the martial arts of the Tang Sect were not as renowned. At least, they were nowhere near as deafening as the Seventy-two Ultimate Skills of the Shaolin Temple that resounded throughout the Martial World.

Tang Nan's attack was clearly the Tang Sect's hidden weapon, which Qin Fang now personally experienced, despite having previously witnessed Tang Nan deploying hidden weapons.

However, back then, the skill shown in handling the hidden weapon was not particularly extraordinary; it was just aiming at a somewhat slow-reacting rabbit. Such hidden weapon skills were almost useless against opponents of considerable strength.

Moreover, Qin Fang had encountered few Tang Sect experts; aside from these three, there was only Tang Xin and Zhuoma, who barely counted as half a member, having not formally joined yet.

Tang Xin did not use hidden weapons, and her methods were mainly based on sword techniques, similar to Tang Wei and Tang Zhan, who also wielded swords.

According to the results from Qin Fang's Scouting Skill, the hidden weapon skills of these two were negligible. However, Tang Nan possessed a Level 3 hidden weapon skill. Yet, compared to Tang Nan's Level 6 Grandmaster strength, a mere Level 3 speciality in hidden weapons was not very remarkable...

But the attack just now was performed with a method that was extremely strange and fast. It was something that fighters below the Grandmaster Level could hardly block, and only a freak like Qin Fang could manage such a feat.

Perhaps it was this very unwarranted disdain that almost cost Qin Fang dearly. It was his innate instinctual response to danger that gave him a sharper sense of perception and reaction than ordinary people, allowing him to narrowly escape from that recent peril.

"Poison..."

Yet Qin Fang's astonishment was not over. He soon discovered that the hidden weapon was not so simple. His body immediately experienced an extremely unpleasant sensation, and his physical condition showed signs of poisoning.

The Tang Sect Twin Marvels consisted of hidden weapons and poisons.

In practice, hidden weapons and poisons were unified. The reason the Tang Sect could dominate the Martial World was precisely because of their poisonous hidden weapons that were unpredictable and deadly, leading to countless tragic deaths from sudden poison attacks.

Moreover, poison seemed to have become a taboo of the Tang Sect, as if only the Tang Sect was allowed to research and use it, forbidding others from doing so. Otherwise, the Tang Sect would inevitably take action against them.

This was evidenced by the words of Shanguan Tianling before his death... Moreover, the event of Tang Xin executing the Black Witch Doctor also served as indirect proof.

The Black Witch Doctor bred Gu Insects, a particularly formidable type of poisonous insect. The Tang Sect's action of executing the Black Witch Doctor upon sight was not based on the numerous evil deeds the witch doctor might have committed.

Figures like Mulun, who were evil and had committed heinous crimes, deserved execution, an act of justice for the people. However, some of the Black Witch Doctors killed by the Tang Sect were merely in the early stages of breeding Gu and were met with the same fate—merciless slaughter!

Chapter 1049: Nothing More Than That

The Tang Sect Twin Marvels have dominated the Martial World for a millennium, and naturally, there are compelling reasons for their tyranny. This time, Qin Fang truly experienced their formidable power.

The techniques of hidden weapons are extremely unpredictable and insidious, making them almost impossible to guard against. They are indeed extraordinary and powerful.

Although Tang Nan made a sneak attack and took the initiative, Qin Fang's reaction was also quite swift. Even with his peculiar Metamorphosis, forcibly shifting his own neck, he still could not evade that piece of hidden weapon. This illustrates just how formidable the Tang Sect's techniques are.

In the past, Qin Fang read in novels about how miraculous Little Li's Flying Dagger by Li Xunhuan was and thought after practicing martial arts that such experts did not exist in reality, suspecting them to be merely legends or fictionalized plots.

However, this time, Qin Fang has been convinced. He even believes that Little Li's Flying Dagger might truly exist. Given the bizarreness of the Tang Sect's hidden weapon techniques and considering that Tang Nan's specialty with hidden weapons is merely at LV3, those in the Tang Sect who have reached the pinnacle in the art of hidden weapons would be even more indefensible.

Poison is also one of the Twin Marvels, striking fear into the hearts of the Martial Artists. Qin Fang had seen Tang Nan use hidden weapons before, but they were not poisoned. He did not expect the one used this time to be smeared with poison, revealing the malevolence behind it.

However, Qin Fang was already experiencing its tyranny... But he was not anxious at all.

If he was not afraid of the most powerful Heart Gu cultivated by the Black Witch Doctor, why would he fear the Tang Sect's poison?

Moreover, the Little Dragon inside his body seems to be the nemesis of all deadly poisons, and whatever poison it encounters, it always ends in being completely devoured.

Furthermore, Qin Fang had been poisoned not just once or twice. The first time, he might have been anxious, and the second time still very nervous, but after the third and fourth times, he became accustomed to it, no longer surprised by such things.

Additionally, human bodies are such that exposure to poison increases resistance over time. Especially Qin Fang's body, which has been strengthened by Golden Dragon Saliva, can withstand a lot of poisons even more so.

This is the poison of the Tang Sect. For ordinary people's toxins like serpent venom or arsenic, Qin Fang wouldn't even bother with them; although he wouldn't eat these poisons as food, he also has very little fear of them.

By this time, Tang Wei had also returned to Tang Nan's side, with a somewhat pale complexion, but his aura was still very strong, not much diminished, clearly still capable of fighting.

The wound on Qin Fang's neck was very small, but at this moment, it was tainted with a hint of black color, a sign of the poison's damage. Qin Fang had secretly taken a Detoxification Pill from the Props Box and was also consuming Baozi to replenish Life Points. Despite the poison's potency, it couldn't threaten Qin Fang's life.

"Kid, with our Tang Sect's poison in your system, I suggest you find a place to wait for death... If you continue to be uncooperative, I won't mind dismembering you such that not even a complete corpse will remain!"

Tang Wei had a smirk of triumph on his face, and he was in no rush to make a move again, speaking to Qin Fang in such a manner, as if they had already secured victory.

His strike just now was a full-force effort, which also took a toll on his own energy, but it did not achieve the desired effect. Initially, he felt some annoyance, but seeing Tang Nan's hidden weapon hit its mark, his mood instantly turned triumphant.

"The Tang Sect Twin Marvels truly live up to their reputation..."

Quietly looking at the smug Tang Wei, Qin Fang just scoffed disdainfully and then turned to regard Tang Nan, who seemed calm and assured, as if already confident in their victory.

"Humph..."

Having succeeded with his strike, Tang Nan had stopped considering Qin Fang as a threat. It was rare for anyone poisoned by the Tang Sect's toxins to survive long.

If it were disciples from sects as famous as the Tang Sect, they would carry life-saving elixirs, and taking one immediately might not necessarily save them, but it could at least delay the poison. Returning to their Sect quickly might offer a chance of survival.

But for someone like Qin Fang, who didn't seem to have any intention to save himself, the outcome was obvious—he would soon succumb to the poison.

The site of Qin Fang's poisoning was extremely perilous, situated only a short distance from the throat—a very dangerous location close to the brain and heart, where the poison could strike at any moment, leading to a significantly swifter death.

Tang Xin was now in utter despair, her beautiful eyes already filled with sparkling tears. Qin Fang was poisoned for her sake, and her heart trembled intensely. The gratitude she felt was indescribable. If she could move, she probably would have thrown herself into Qin Fang's arms and wept bitterly.

Women are emotional creatures. Even a female hero like Tang Xin is no exception. They are easily moved by certain events, especially ones involving danger to life without fear—it's easy for women to be captivated.

In ancient times, when a hero saved a damsel in distress, the most common repayment was the promise of marriage...

Chapter 1050: That's All There Is To It_2

In modern society, such women are already very rare, yet Tang Xin grew up in Tang Sect, where people still seem to live in a distant ancient era, and women's thoughts are relatively much simpler, especially those women practicing martial arts, who are most easily moved by the sight of heroic figures.

At this moment, Tang Xin was truly touched and also immensely regretful. The tears instantly flowed down like running water, wetting her thin veil and revealing her stunningly beautiful face, adding a few touches of tragic beauty.

Qin Fang simply felt the threat brought by the poison. Undeniably, this poison was indeed quite formidable, solely based on its toxicity, it was definitely above the snake poison previously prepared by Qin Fang for Shangguan Tianling, and only slightly weaker than the Gu poison Qin Fang had recently survived.

Tang Sect specialized in poisons, and the Black Witch Doctor also specialized in poisons, whose strength was not easy to discern because the Black Witch Doctors had almost vanished from Miao Jiang.

Mulun, who harmed so many and yet lived so long, was certainly an anomaly, which of course was also related to his personality and living environment.

Ferocious and merciless, Mulun spared no one he dealt with, making the existence of this Black Witch Doctor a mystery.

People from Tang Sect rarely ventured out, unless by chance, like Tang Xin, so naturally, it was almost impossible to discover the existence of the Black Witch Doctor Mulun, allowing him to live even longer.

Does Tang Sect kill the Black Witch Doctor on sight because the Gu insects threaten the status of the Tang Sect Twin Marvels? Only those from Tang Sect would know this, Qin Fang was merely making a simple guess.

However, considering the fierce toxicity Qin Fang suffered from both, Mulun's Gu poison was slightly stronger, while the poison on Tang Nan's hidden weapons was somewhat weaker.

This does not mean that Tang Sect's toxins are inferior to the Black Witch Doctor's Gu insects, it simply implied that the two were not on the same level...

"However, thinking that such trivial poison could kill me? Laughable, truly laughable..."

While several people from Tang Sect were showing different expressions for the Tang Sect Twin Marvels, Qin Fang suddenly let out a cold laugh, openly showing disdain and contempt, as if to suggest that the Tang Sect Twin Marvels were nothing significant.

The three from Tang Sect were momentarily stunned, Tang Wei and Tang Nan's faces showed considerable surprise and immediately turned to significant anger, but Tang Xin was looking at Qin Fang with shining eyes, as if she had thought of something.

Black Witch Doctor Mulun died at Qin Fang's hands, his Gu poison was extremely peculiar, and the various Gu insects were mysterious and elusive.

The reason why people from Tang Sect could kill the Black Witch Doctor was that everyone from Tang Sect carried a very special fragrance pouch, a secret concoction of the Tang Sect filled with a very special substance; no Gu insect could approach it, otherwise, they would become extremely weak and debilitated.

This was a medicine developed by Tang Sect, and also the reason the people from Tang Sect were fearless against the Black Witch Doctor. Therefore, although Qin Fang could command Little Dragon's Heart Gu to attack, once it detected someone from Tang Sect, it would immediately stay far away, not daring to approach at all.

Otherwise, if the Heart Gu bit someone, no matter how demonic the person from Tang Sect, they wouldn't be able to withstand it; the toxicity of the Heart Gu was absolutely terrifying, but ironically, the people from Tang Sect were the nemesis of all Gu insects.

Qin Fang was not a member of Tang Sect, naturally, he could not possess such special medicine, yet he managed to kill Black Witch Doctor Mulun, indicating that he himself had considerable understanding of poisons and Gu insects, naturally relying on certain bases.

Tang Sect Twin Marvels, each was extremely domineering and also the foundation on which Tang Sect had stood for thousands of years.

But the limitations of the Tang Sect Twin Marvels are extremely severe—one must possess considerable strength, status, and position in order to practice higher and more sophisticated techniques and to possess more powerful and rare poisons.

Despite the large number of disciples under the Tang Sect, and many disciples from outside the Tang Clan rising to power, no one has ever dared to usurp the position of the Sect Leader, which can only be inherited by a member of the Tang Clan. This is why the status of Tang Clan disciples is higher than that of non-clan disciples.

The root of this lies in the Tang Sect Twin Marvels, which can only be cultivated by Tang Clan disciples; other disciples are not permitted...

If one's contribution to the sect is exceptionally tremendous, one might be granted the teaching of one of the techniques, but it is restricted to that one individual alone—it cannot be passed on or shared with one's own family...

Considering the four individuals Qin Fang encountered from the Tang Sect, apart from Tang Nan, a Tang Clan disciple, the other three, including the strongest, Tang Zhan, did not know the Twin Marvels.

Otherwise, if the three had attacked together, Qin Fang would have had to directly resort to his most powerful secret moves just to get through this ordeal, and even then he could not guarantee that there would be no damage on his side.

Tang Nan's status in the Tang Sect isn't low, but ultimately he belongs to the younger generation with very limited say, and his strength is just so-so. He can be taught hidden weapon techniques by his father, Tang Yuantao, but not the administered poison.

The poison has to be collected from the clan, and each person's quota is extremely restricted. The excessively rare, uncommon, and domineering poisons can only be used by the Sect Leader and clan Elders, and each usage must be made known to many individuals to get approval.

This is why the poison Tang Nan could collect was very ordinary—it might suffice against standard experts, but appeared rather inadequate against extremely powerful experts.

For example, a Grandmaster-level Expert like Old Master Wu, despite being poisoned with Gu, could suppress the severe toxin with his strong Inner Breath and even continue to battle.

However, in these mountains, there aren't any formidable foes, so there wouldn't usually be a need for such fierce poisons; ordinary ones would suffice for killing the enemy. Yet, unexpectedly, they met someone like Qin Fang.

"Hmm? Tang Wei, make a move... I want to see just what capabilities you indeed possess..."

Hearing Qin Fang's words, although Tang Nan's initial reaction was disbelief, seeing Qin Fang's unchanged complexion and no worsening of the wound, Tang Nan couldn't help but start to worry.

But promptly, considering that Qin Fang might be suppressing the onset of the poison with his True Qi, Tang Nan's face immediately showed a ferocious expression and promptly signaled to Tang Wei to attack Qin Fang.

A Grandmaster-level Expert can completely suppress the effects of poison, but at the Master Level, one may not have such formidable strength. If one recklessly uses True Qi, it can easily lead to an accelerated outbreak of the toxicity, resulting in a quicker death.

"Since you're seeking death, I will not be polite! Rest assured, I'll make sure you die a miserable, very miserable death..." Tang Wei naturally obeyed Tang Nan completely, and given that he was already quite annoyed with Qin Fang.

He had thought the poison would be sufficient to kill Qin Fang, but unexpectedly, Qin Fang's life was stubbornly resistant... yet he wasn't worried, since Qin Fang wasn't as strong as they imagined, and there were plenty of ways to kill Qin Fang.

During the conversation, Tang Wei once again raised his sword to attack; although his speed was not as swift as before, his sword techniques had become even more arcane and mysterious—a secret sword technique of the Tang Sect.

Tang Nan was also not idle; a deer skin glove had already been fitted on his hand at some point, and a small hidden weapons pouch appeared on his waist. The gloved hand was already gripping several hidden weapons, looking ready to strike at Qin Fang at any moment...