

Genius 1591

Chapter 1591 - The Shock of a Single Elixir!

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The Ryu Family is located at the foot of Hanna Mountain, occupying the best location, and directly designated as the Ryu Family's private property. Tourists are generally prohibited from entering this area unless they are from the Ryu Family.

However, today was clearly different. The Ryu Family was adorned with lights and decorations, as if celebrating some very important celebration, and everyone's face was filled with bright smiles.

Yet this was just an ordinary day, not a holiday, and there was no celebration. The reason for the cheerfulness was solely because of the arrival of one person.

Of course, this person was none other than Qin Fang, who helped the Ryu Family defeat their century-old enemy, the J Family...

To eradicate the J Family, Qin Fang did not personally go, but it was the Ryu Family joining forces with other opportunistic second-rate families to accomplish this goal.

But Qin Fang had eliminated the J Family's pillar, the Master Level Late Stage Jin Zhengming, and frightened off Cui Zheming of the J Family alliance, which directly removed most of the J Family's support.

As a result, the J Family completely collapsed...

It was rumored that the J Family still had a master wandering overseas, but with the family's destruction, even a master wouldn't make any difference now, and they couldn't make a comeback.

Qin Fang was aware of this situation, but he didn't pay much attention. After all, he had plenty of enemies, many of whom were extraordinarily powerful. Why would he care about a mere Korean?

"Mr. Qin, welcome..."

Qin Fang's arrival was warmly welcomed by the Ryu Family. Liu Xianhe, the head of the family, led all the important figures of the Ryu Family to personally attend, eagerly awaiting Qin Fang's arrival.

Perhaps before this, they didn't care much about Qin Fang, possibly even unfriendly. But after this incident, they had a combination of reverence and fear for Qin Fang.

They revered him for removing a significant enemy for them, a mountain that was weighing on the Ryu Family had completely collapsed, and the Ryu Family also reaped rich rewards.

The J Family had been entrenched in Busan for centuries, a huge port and the second-largest city in Korea after Seoul, with abundant resources.

Although Jeju Island also has considerable resources as a travel destination, it couldn't compare with the J Family, which was one reason the J Family had maintained the upper hand for so many years.

But this time, the J Family was exterminated, and their assets were divided among the various major families. As the initiator of this event, the Ryu Family naturally reaped the greatest rewards, controlling nearly thirty percent of the J Family's assets... even more than the Fu Family and the Cui Family.

This was understandable, as it was initiated by the Ryu Family. If major families like the Fu Family and the Cui Family intervened, the smaller families would struggle to even get a taste of the profits.

"Just a small gift, inadequately expresses my respect..."

Faced with the Ryu Family's enthusiastic hospitality, Qin Fang certainly couldn't arrive empty-handed.

He respectfully presented a small gift with both hands, a very small bottle that seemed unassuming.

"This is... an Elixir?"

Liu Xianhe was slightly taken aback, looking at the small bottle with some curiosity, and couldn't help but open it to take a look, instantly turning his face into one of complete shock.

Qin Fang came from Dragon Country, the birthplace of Martial Arts. Most Koreans were unwilling to acknowledge this, but true martial artists like Liu Xianhe understood it best.

Elixirs are also a specialty of Dragon Country, most of which have been lost, with only a few remaining among some ancient sects in Dragon Country.

Even the methods of refining these Elixirs are mostly lost, with only a few sects capable of making some, thus each Elixir is extremely valuable.

Since Qin Fang made a visit, and the Ryu Family put up such a grand display, Qin Fang naturally couldn't fall short and thus gave such a gift.

Elixirs are indeed very precious, even in the Dragon Country Martial World, even the Heavenly Pool Sect, only the elders and above can obtain one.

The Tang Sect is much more resourceful than the Heavenly Pool Sect, but even they don't have many Elixirs. Qin Fang killed many people from the Tang Sect, found a lot of poisons, but Elixirs... there were none!

Qin Fang couldn't help but grumble, wondering if the Tang Sect people were too busy making poisons, leaving no one to research healing Elixirs and Miraculous Medicines.

But these were the Tang Sect's decisions, and Qin Fang couldn't interfere.

But one thing is certain, regardless of the sect, Elixirs are strictly controlled, with rare Spiritual Medicine, almost impossible to find, better Elixirs are hard to make, and the success rate is so low that many sects dare not waste them lightly.

So each Elixir is very precious, even considered a life-saving treasure, cherished rather than given away.

But today, the Ryu Family truly witnessed the world, Qin Fang, who helped them eliminate a great enemy, casually gave out a precious Elixir, leaving them utterly astonished.

Chapter 1592 - The Shock of a Single Elixir! (Part 2)

"Just a Blood Replenishing Pill... I still have hundreds of them! What a bunch of bumpkins with no sense..."

Qin Fang could only chuckle to himself at the naivety of these Koreans, but there wasn't much more to say. He silently mused to himself, ridiculing them as much as he could.

The gift Qin Fang gave was indeed an elixir, and it truly had excellent effects, even better than those crafted by the Tianchi Sect.

However, such an elixir is incredibly precious and priceless for others, but for Qin Fang, it's merely a pill that adds twenty Life Points.

In his Props Box, he had hundreds of these Blood Replenishing Pills. If he took them all out, at least a hundred people from the Ryu Family might die of a heart attack... it's just too overwhelming.

"Mr. Qin, this gift is too generous... our Ryu Family cannot accept it!"

But when Liu Xianhe realized that the "humble gift" Qin Fang spoke of was actually an elixir, his breathing became rapid. After much deliberation, he handed the bottle containing the elixir back to Qin Fang, politely declining his kindness.

Of course, when Liu Xianhe said he couldn't accept it, he was just being diplomatic; otherwise, Qin Fang might develop a negative impression.

An elixir is indeed invaluable, but compared to the friendship with a promising young martial artist like Qin Fang, they're entirely different matters.

The choice was already crystal clear.

Qin Fang merely smiled and didn't even glance at the little bottle with the elixir.

While a Blood Replenishing Pill may be an extremely precious elixir for others, possibly hard to find even in Korea, for Qin Fang, it was nothing—something he could toss away without care.

Liu Xianhe's response was within Qin Fang's expectations. If Liu Xianhe accepted it so readily, rumors would start spreading quickly, especially among those families eyeing Qin Fang, eager to cling to him...

The Ryu Family didn't make mistakes, so even if those families had the thought, they were powerless. But if the Ryu Family slipped up like this, it might be exploited to drive a wedge between Qin Fang and the Ryu Family...

"What I, Qin, give away, I've never taken back. If the Ryu Family insists, I'll just throw it into the sea..."

This was Qin Fang's plan, and he spoke without hesitation, making it clear that if Liu Xianhe continued to reject the elixir, Qin Fang would throw it into the sea without a second thought.

The Ryu family lived at the foot of Hanna Mountain, and the sea wasn't far from there; Qin Fang might genuinely throw the elixir into the sea...

Even if he didn't, tossing it into the deep mountains would make it very hard to retrieve.

"Mr. Qin, this..."

Liu Xianhe was taken aback by Qin Fang's stance. Looking between Qin Fang's expression and the elixir in his hand, Liu Xianhe found himself in a dilemma.

"You don't believe me, Family Head?"

Qin Fang wasn't bothered by Liu Xianhe's dilemma, instead smiling and asking.

"Family Head, since Mr. Qin insists, you should accept it..."

At this crucial moment, someone always stepped in to give Liu Xianhe a way out. Liu Xianjun, standing beside him, advised.

Liu Xianhe's decision came from the perspective of the Family Head and the family's interests, not right or wrong.

But seeing Qin Fang's attitude, it was evident he wasn't joking. Continuing to reject the elixir could mean Qin Fang would indeed discard it.

Rather than waste it, it's better to accept Qin Fang's goodwill. Since Qin Fang already visited as a guest, Liu Xianhe knew how to handle this situation.

"Since Mr. Qin is so generous, I won't refuse... Please come in!"

With Liu Xianjun offering a step down, Liu Xianhe no longer insisted. He put away the small bottle containing the elixir and quickly welcomed Qin Fang inside.

"Go and inform the Old Master, and bring some Yunluo Tea leaves..."

Simultaneously, Liu Xianhe instructed an Imperial Guard beside him.

Yet he kept the elixir with him, not allowing anyone else to take it, as it was too important for even his own family to trust completely.

The Ryu Family's Old Master was very aged, his body worn and nearing the end, rarely going out. Meeting him wasn't easy.

Despite Qin Fang's visit seeming like the entire Ryu Family attended, the Old Master couldn't possibly appear, as his health wouldn't allow.

However, the Old Master had always been interested in Qin Fang. From the moment Qin Fang appeared in Korea, the Old Master expressed a desire to meet this young talent.

Yet not only did Qin Fang come, he caused quite the stir upon arriving at the Ryu Family, which surprised many...

Though the Ryu Family had existed for centuries, their foundation wasn't particularly strong, with Yunluo Tea being their most priceless product, produced in limited amounts each year.

When Qin Fang initially met Liu Xianhe, he had Yunluo Tea. At that time, Qin Fang was highly impressed, further drawing Liu Xianhe's interest despite his initial pride.

Now, with Qin Fang's favor yet unaccounted for, offering an elixir as a gift made Liu Xianhe feel the Ryu Family owed Qin Fang greatly.

For this reason, he sent for some Yunluo Tea, hoping to recover a bit of face for the Ryu Family, as it would be hard otherwise.

In terms of martial arts, the Ryu Family was average, particularly weak in Liu Xianhe's generation, and their next generation unreliable.

But the Ryu Family's status as a top second-tier family indicated their exceptional standing, largely credited to Yunluo Tea.

Apart from Yunluo Tea, Liu Xianhe couldn't think of anything else to impress Qin Fang...

Being martial artists, they regarded non-martial elements lightly. Money and wealth meant little beyond practical needs.

"Thank you, Family Head..."

Hearing "Yunluo Tea," Qin Fang flashed a subtle smile.

For just a casual visit, Qin Fang could have given small gifts, not needing to present an elixir...

This elixir was a great treasure. Judging by the surrounding reactions, it was evident.

Yet Qin Fang had his plans, his focus on Yunluo Tea...

Yunluo Tea signified the Cold Abyss, representing the Thousand-Year Cold Jade beneath, Qin Fang's actual sought-after treasure. Investing an elixir was merely to prevent the Ryu Family from becoming quickly suspicious before Qin Fang's upcoming theft of the Thousand-Year Cold Jade beneath the Cold Abyss...

The challenge was finding where the Yun Luo Tea Tree grew, a task Qin Fang had to undertake painstakingly...

Naturally, to locate the Yun Luo Tea Tree, Qin Fang had to mingle with these Koreans, a difficult integration for someone generally disinterested in Korean matters, but necessary to uncover the Yun Luo Tea Tree's location...

Chapter 1593 - An Unexpected Discovery!

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Just a single Blood Replenishing Pill, it was nothing more than a common item in Qin Fang's Props Box, but to these Koreans in the Liu family, it was equivalent to Elixirs and Miraculous Medicines.

Otherwise, the Blood Replenishing Pill has a decent healing effect for some injuries, but it doesn't reach a miraculous level, only because elixirs are extremely rare, leading to its glorification.

But having said that, if one is seriously injured, taking a Blood Replenishing Pill still has a significant chance of saving a life... and with timely treatment, even life-threatening injuries might be salvaged.

Calculating in this way, this Blood Replenishing Pill is indeed a life-saving elixir.

The delivery of this Blood Replenishing Pill by Qin Fang was truly worthwhile...

Ever since Qin Fang stepped through the Liu Family Gate, the Liu family's gaze towards him became increasingly eager, no longer just treating him as a guest or friend but almost with reverent awe.

However, Qin Fang was quite indifferent to this appreciation, as he hadn't come over with any good intentions...

He had already sent Tang Feifei and the three women back to Seoul, which might not be particularly safe but was at least safer than Jeju Island.

The downfall of the J Family made Qin Fang's name resonant within the Korean Martial World, and many families were in a state of observation, with some families comparable to the Liu family extending olive branches to him.

Even the Fu Family and Cui Family, though not as direct, expressed goodwill one after another...

Korea was not a particularly powerful country, its people tended to have nasty mouths, but when it came down to real action, they were negligible.

Not only in the Martial World, but in the Underground World too, experts from Korea were almost non-existent, and even when they existed, their numbers were exceedingly limited, incomparable to other countries.

The reception by the Liu family was exceptionally grand, even more lively than their own family celebrations could possibly be. The small town occupied by the Liu family was dazzlingly lit up.

Qin Fang accepted everything that came his way without any rejections, essentially acting like a marionette, allowing Liu Xianhe and the others to orchestrate everything.

From visiting important buildings of the Liu family to being introduced to key figures, and later toasting at the banquet, Qin Fang did not refuse anything, agreeing to everything.

This straightforwardness of Qin Fang made the Liu family feel very honored, ensuring a pleasant host-guest experience... Until after a well-fed and content affair, a "drunk" Qin Fang was escorted back to his quarters.

Though Qin Fang's alcohol tolerance might not claim the world's best, he undoubtedly had few competitors, brushing off a thousand drinks as child's play.

Though the Liu family bombarded him with many drinks, Qin Fang was not actually inebriated but was still very clear-headed... He had intentionally done this as preparation for the upcoming actions.

The Liu family revelled all night, and though Qin Fang appeared the most exhausted, the Liu family wasn't much better off. Many key individuals were almost as inebriated as Qin Fang made them out to be, even if not completely drunk, they were not far off.

Waiting until midnight, when almost everyone had rested, Qin Fang quietly got up and quickly sneaked out.

The Stealth Skill had been advanced to a high level by Qin Fang, combined with his Master Level Peak cultivation, making it nearly impossible for those with lower cultivation to notice him when he used this skill...

Of course, this excluded experts with special abilities. For example, Sasaki could previously discern Qin Fang's hiding spots ahead of time.

Qin Fang wasn't quite sure if the Liu family had such individuals, but the Liu family had only two grandmaster-level experts, one being Liu Xianjun at mid-master level, and the other an elderly near-death Patriarch Liu...

The old patriarch could essentially be ignored. Although his cultivation realm was grandmaster level, his aging body meant his true power was far from what it once was, likely not even reaching grandmaster cultivation now.

It was also said that the patriarch's hearing and sight had deteriorated considerably, rendering him almost no better than useless...

Nevertheless, Qin Fang's target this time was none other than this old patriarch.

Within the entire Liu Family, only two people could possibly know the location of that Yun Luo Tea Tree... the former family head, Patriarch Liu, and the current head, Liu Xianhe.

There was virtually no chance of extracting this information from Liu Xianhe. Although he valued Qin Fang and was extremely grateful, the Yun Luo Tea Tree was the foundation of the Liu family, and they would never reveal it.

If it was so easily divulged, the Liu family would have been wiped out hundreds of years ago, and certainly wouldn't exist until now.

So Qin Fang set his sights on the yet-unseen Patriarch Liu...

Of course, Qin Fang wasn't planning on using coercion or bribery on the old master. Although he's here to seize the Liu family's treasure, he wouldn't stoop to such low means.

As for how to learn the location of the Yun Luo Tea Tree from the old master, Qin Fang had already devised a plan in his mind.

He even went to great lengths to arrange and design a specific execution plan for it; otherwise, Qin Fang wouldn't have delayed coming to the Liu family until now.

"Raging Potion..."

Qin Fang had such a miraculous potion available in his possession for quite some time now. Originally, he had two bottles, but he's already used one, leaving only this last one.

Precisely because of its rarity, Qin Fang had kept it in the Props Box without using it...

However, once the exchange system was introduced, the potion's rarity diminished somewhat. As long as Qin Fang spent a substantial amount of experience points, he could obtain as many bottles as he wanted without any issues.

Of course, since Qin Fang had this potion on hand, he wouldn't waste experience points on it. His experience points were quite precious, and he was unwilling to waste any unless absolutely necessary.

The Raging Potion could cause short-term agitation, and even some mental disruption... It's a well-developed potion, much more reliable than the Berserk Potion Qin Fang acquired.

Regarding whether Patriarch Liu's body could withstand the potion's effects, Qin Fang already had a plan. He would use acupuncture techniques to seal several vital acupuncture points of Patriarch Liu, ensuring his survival even if any mishaps occurred...

Without assurance, Qin Fang wouldn't rashly use such potions. He didn't want to invite trouble for himself or harm innocent people.

Having finalized the plan in his mind, Qin Fang was ready to execute it. He stealthily slipped through the layers of guards at the Liu family, heading towards the inner depths of the Liu residence.

Patriarch Liu resided in the family's ancestral home, which was four to five hundred years old. Though it had been repaired over the years, it still felt ancient and worn.

During the day, Qin Fang had already visited this place to familiarize himself. Although Patriarch Liu hadn't appeared, Liu Xianhe had shown Qin Fang the location.

Originally, Qin Fang intended to pay his respects, but Patriarch Liu was already asleep, forcing Qin Fang to give up since he couldn't morally drag the old master out of bed.

But now, no one could interrupt Qin Fang, who was making his way towards the ancestral residence, easily bypassing the surrounding guards of the Liu family and swiftly reaching the ancestral home.

"Huh, someone's there?"

As soon as Qin Fang arrived, he noticed the light was still on in Patriarch Liu's room, with a shadow moving inside. He paused momentarily.

It was already midnight, and the whole Liu family was quiet. Everything was still, with few rooms remaining lit.

At Patriarch Liu's advanced age and poor health, he was usually resting. Yet his room light was on, which puzzled Qin Fang slightly.

But Qin Fang wasn't deterred by this unusual sight; instead, he quickly approached the window of that room.

It's quite normal for an elderly man like Patriarch Liu to have a few attendants nearby, assisting him late at night, whether due to waking up or other reasons, and it was reasonable for them to have the lights on. Thus, Qin Fang paid it no heed.

The ancestral home was an old-style building, entirely wood in structure, with windows resembling ancient Dragon Country architecture, covered with a thin layer of paper easily pierced.

Qin Fang avoided causing too much disturbance, which might alert those inside. Using a Silver Needle, he discreetly pierced a small hole and peered inside.

"Hmm?"

What he saw startled him immensely.

There were indeed people in the room, more than one. Besides the old man with white hair and a sickly appearance, there was another person... someone familiar to Qin Fang.

Yet this familiar person's expression wasn't good. His face was filled with fury as he glowered at the old man, one hand gripping the elder's throat.

"Old fool... you think if you don't tell, I won't find out where it is? Hahaha... so naïve!"

The familiar person revealed a sinister look, staring at the old man with wild, crazed eyes, seemingly ready to end him with just a stretch of his hand...

Chapter 1594 - Mechanism Key!

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"Could it be such a cliché situation..."

Seeing this scene, Qin Fang's expression became quite odd, and he couldn't help but murmur to himself, as that acquaintance was actually another grandmaster-level expert from the Ryu Family, Liu Xianjun.

Liu Xianjun is from the Ryu Family, he is Liu Xianhe's cousin, technically Patriarch Liu's nephew, not his biological son, but the son of Patriarch Liu's brother.

The Ryu Family is indeed a martial arts clan, and Patriarch Liu, as the family head, even though he's the former one, should be a person whose words carry great weight. Even the current family head, Liu Xianhe, makes many decisions based on his opinion.

Although Liu Xianjun is very powerful, his status is clearly not as high as Liu Xianhe's. At first glance, the scenario Qin Fang thought of was a clichéd battle for inheritance rights.

But it seems somehow not quite right...

Liu Xianhe took over as family head years ago. If Liu Xianjun wanted to contest it, he could have acted long ago. Waiting until now is unnecessary.

Moreover, Qin Fang found it odd because earlier while drinking, Liu Xianjun clearly had quite a bit to drink and was indeed quite tipsy.

But when Qin Fang arrived, he saw Liu Xianjun standing there perfectly fine, and he didn't seem intoxicated at all.

"You old bastard, you think you've hidden it well, but you didn't realize that I've known for a long time that the key has always been hanging on you..."

Liu Xianjun released Patriarch Liu, lifted his clothing, and it was faintly visible that there was indeed a key at his waist...

It seemed like an ordinary key, nothing special.

But seeing Liu Junxian so tense, it seemed like it was some priceless treasure.

When he realized the key had been taken by Liu Xianjun, Patriarch Liu immediately became agitated, his face turning crimson and breathing with increasing difficulty, as if struggling to keep up.

"Old bastard, I'd advise you not to get too worked up. If you accidentally have a stroke, you can't expect to survive..."

Yet Liu Xianjun didn't seem to care at all, with a deep sneer at the corner of his mouth, speaking with vicious sarcasm, as if he had a grave and irreconcilable enmity with Patriarch Liu.

"Wh... why?"

Patriarch Liu didn't stop because of Liu Xianjun's mockery, his face becoming even redder, his eyes filled with anger, and he laboriously uttered these words.

"Don't you know the reason?"

Liu Xianjun's face suddenly became even more menacing, looking angrily at Patriarch Liu as if he wanted to strangle him right there.

As a bystander, Qin Fang couldn't make much sense of this groundless quarrel, and could only watch the two of them speechlessly.

The Mind Reading Technique has a specific range; it's usually used when close, too far, and it's of no use.

Patriarch Liu was extremely agitated, which would be the best time to use Mind Reading Technique, without the need for Raging Potion. If Qin Fang were in Liu Xianjun's position, he could probably extract all the secrets with the technique.

But Qin Fang was outside the room while Liu Junxian and Patriarch Liu were inside, at least three meters away, so the Mind Reading Technique couldn't be used, and Qin Fang could only watch as such a good opportunity was wasted...

"You... you know everything?"

Although Qin Fang couldn't understand what was going on, the situation inside suddenly took a twist. Patriarch Liu's expression was startled, seemingly surprised beyond words, and he looked at Liu Xianjun dumbfounded, unable to face him...

"You thought you concealed it well, but I knew ten years ago... Why can Liu Xianhe inherit the Ryu family, and I, Liu Xianjun, cannot!"

Liu Xianjun's face became extremely ferocious, looking like a monstrous villain, absolutely frightening enough to make children stop crying.

Even as an outsider, Qin Fang felt that Liu Xianjun seemed to have gone mad, appearing mentally unhinged.

"I..."

Patriarch Liu was rendered speechless by his words, opened his mouth, but ultimately said nothing, his face growing more ashen, seemingly aging significantly in that instant.

"Hmph..."

Liu Xianjun didn't care at all about Patriarch Liu's reaction, just snorted angrily and said, "The Yun Luo Tea Tree is mine... no one will take it away! Especially not Liu Xianhe..."

Qin Fang had no interest in these inheritance struggles, finding them nothing but clichéd soap opera drama.

But the words Yun Luo Tea Tree made Qin Fang's eyes light up, realizing that his trip here might have been worthwhile, and that Liu Xianjun wasn't just after power.

"What... what do you want to do?"

It wasn't just Qin Fang who was drawn in by those words; even Patriarch Liu's expression changed dramatically upon hearing Liu Xianjun's words, asking in disbelief.

Chapter 1595 - Mechanism Key!

"What do I want to do? Hahaha... you ask me what I want to do?"

Liu Junxian's face twisted eerily into a smile upon hearing the patriarch's words. His tone turned chillingly sinister.

"Since I can't have the position of family head, then this Yun Luo Tea Tree will be mine..."

Unashamed of his intentions, Liu Xianjun spoke with a crazed demeanor. His eyes betrayed a greedy gleam, clearly showing that he was determined to possess the Yun Luo Tea Tree.

"No! Absolutely no! Yun Luo Tea Tree... it cannot... cannot leave... Cold Abyss! Otherwise..."

Patriarch Liu was instantly agitated upon hearing this, even more agitated than Liu Xianjun. His breathing became labored, and his face turned from red to pale, as if he might faint at any moment.

"Old fool... don't you see the time has come? You think your words still have any weight? I'm determined to take the Yun Luo Tea Tree away... once I do, a new family will soon be born..."

Liu Xianjun seemed utterly deranged, possibly driven by his immense ambition. He regarded the patriarch's warnings as mere excuses to prevent the tea tree from being taken, and didn't seem to heed them.

"I, Liu Xianjun, will make you watch helplessly as this newly formed Liu Family comes into being..."

Outside, Qin Fang found it impossible to associate the insane Liu Xianjun with the calm and composed grandmaster-level expert he had known.

Perhaps he had hidden his true self too well or was simply a master actor, deceiving everyone, including Liu Xianhe, Qin Fang, and Patriarch Liu...

"No! Absolutely no..."

Patriarch Liu became even more agitated, struggling to stand despite his extreme weakness, his face ghostly pale and bloodless, a chilling sight.

"Hmph, what you say is useless! I will definitely take the Yun Luo Tea Tree away... so stay put here quietly for me!"

Unfortunately, Liu Xianjun had no intention of wasting more words with the patriarch. He swiftly struck the back of the patriarch's neck.

Though Patriarch Liu was a grandmaster-level expert, perhaps even late-stage, his depleted energy made it easy for even a child to defeat him, let alone Liu Xianjun, a mid-master level expert...

The chop was almost casual, and the patriarch immediately fainted, his eyes rolling back!

Qin Fang did not intervene; had Liu Xianjun wanted to kill the patriarch, he could have done so already without these theatrics.

Thus, Qin Fang wasn't worried about him delivering a fatal blow; he merely knocked him out. Whether Patriarch Liu would survive this ordeal was another matter.

But that had nothing to do with Qin Fang, as this was an internal dispute of the Liu Family, best left untangled by outsiders.

After all, Qin Fang was just a guest of the Liu Family, bound by their rules. At night, he should remain in his room rather than rashly running to the family's ancestral house, risking exposure and complications...

After the patriarch was knocked out, Qin Fang used his reconnaissance skill to check on him. Though his condition wasn't good, it didn't seem life-threatening for now.

Still, Qin Fang refrained from acting, even if he could easily take down Liu Xianjun. It was not the right moment.

The key Liu Xianjun obtained seemed crucial in finding the Yun Luo Tea Tree, but even possessing it wouldn't help Qin Fang.

Liu Xianjun's actions suggested he had already reviewed all necessary information and knew exactly how to find the Yun Luo Tea Tree.

"Hope you don't disappoint me..."

Therefore, Qin Fang was in no rush to act. Dealing with Liu Xianjun was easy, but finding the tea tree was evidently more important.

From Patriarch Liu's reaction, it seemed true that the Yun Luo Tea Tree couldn't leave Cold Abyss. Liu family ancestors might have tried before, likely to fail.

Should Liu Xianjun recklessly remove the Yun Luo Tea Tree, it might just wilt completely...

Qin Fang didn't care about the tea tree's fate.

The Liu Family, blind to their own Treasure Mountain, focused on a mere pile of gold, ignorant of its insignificance.

Qin Fang's gaze was fixed on Liu Xianjun, who had acquired the key. The next step was heading to the location of the tea tree.

That's Qin Fang's destination too; only this time, he didn't need to act personally; someone was already leading the way.

Liu Xianjun took the key and left the patriarch's room, quickly making his way toward the depths of the Liu Family's ancestral home.

Qin Fang naturally followed, aware that the key was crucial; without it, he'd risk being left out, an unacceptable situation.

"Huh, someone else?"

Hidden in the shadows, Qin Fang closely trailed Liu Xianjun, surprised to find out that he wasn't alone, with two others accompanying him.

These two were strong, even slightly stronger than Liu Xianjun himself, both master-level late-stage experts...

"Since when did the Liu Family have so many experts?"

These two appeared familiar with Liu Xianjun, likely allied, yet evidently not part of the Liu Family, otherwise they wouldn't be in such a weakened state.

Even with so many experts, they might not rival the Cui or Fu Families, but could still be top tier in the second-class families... yet reality begged to differ.

This only indicated that Liu Xianjun sought collaboration with outsiders in a covert scheme to obtain something.

First was the attempt to seize the precious Yun Luo Tea Tree from the Liu Family...

Qin Fang noticed the two experts but remained unconcerned. Before his breakthrough, perhaps he'd be cautious, but now... things had changed.

With these two experts, plus Liu Xianjun, all three together, Qin Fang was confident in eliminating them effortlessly... so he followed quietly behind them.

The Liu Family resided in Hanna Mountain, their ancestral home built into the mountain, a common setup among many families and clans.

In Qin Fang's knowledge, many sects and families in Dragon Country were similarly situated; these Koreans were merely copying the Dragon Country way.

Located by the mountain's side, Liu Xianjun led the group deep into the ancestral home, toward a rugged stone wall.

Qin Fang followed them through the ancestral house to the bottom of a steep cliff, watching as Liu Xianjun began feeling around the stone wall.

It took five to six minutes before Liu Xianjun found a narrow crack in the wall corner and inserted the long, very ancient key.

The key was unusually long, over ten centimeters, yet interacted with the stone wall crack...

Chapter 1596 - The Grandmaster in the Secret Cave!

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Clack, clack, clack, clack~~~

Very soon, however, Qin Fang realized that this seemingly old key was indeed a crucial item. After poking around in that crevice for quite some time, Liu Xianjun appeared to have found the knack, and only then did he slowly start to turn it...

Following that, the stone wall emitted such a sound, and then a crack slowly appeared on what was originally a seamless stone wall.

"There truly is a stone door here..."

Seeing the stone wall reveal such a stone door, a bright smile appeared on Liu Xianjun's face, as if he had finally gained something.

The two experts beside him only exchanged a smile between themselves; what kind of eye contact occurred between them, only they themselves knew.

Qin Fang, observing in the dark, although these three were quite skilled, they didn't detect his presence. So once these three stepped into the stone door one after another, Qin Fang promptly followed them in silently.

Behind the stone door was a very rugged passage, stretching further into the depths. On such a night, it appeared even more sinister and terrifying.

The passage was very long, and the stone walls only had spaced-out ever-lasting lamps, which seemed to have been lit for a long, long time. Now, they had grown quite dim, with some of the ever-lasting lamps already extinguished.

However, this didn't hinder Liu Xianjun and his group; it was as if they anticipated this and had readily brought along illumination tools, which made things much brighter.

Following behind, Qin Fang also enjoyed some of the light, although such a dim environment didn't really affect him much...

The passage was very long, seemingly endless, and the path was quite challenging to navigate. Occasionally, they climbed tens of meters upwards, then suddenly descended hundreds of meters, only to possibly ascend again...

In short, they walked up and down for a really long time, and Liu Xianjun and the others began to grow impatient, even wondering if they were lost inside.

Although from start to finish there seemed to be only this one path, having walked so long and far without reaching the destination would make anyone impatient.

Even Qin Fang himself couldn't help but entertain such thoughts.

"Hmm..."

However, just as Qin Fang was feeling a bit impatient, he suddenly noticed that there seemed to be a slight change in the surroundings, as if the temperature had dropped a bit.

Jeju Island is a place on an island, and although positioned somewhat northerly, the temperature is indeed quite suitable. Even on a night like this, with the gentle ocean breeze blowing, the temperature was still quite comfortable.

Inside the passage, due to poor ventilation, the temperature had risen slightly, but this noticeable drop in temperature was too significant to ignore.

"The temperature has dropped!"

Not only did Qin Fang notice it, but Liu Xianjun in front couldn't help but exclaim; such a noticeable drop in temperature was indeed obvious, impossible to miss.

"We shouldn't be far from the Cold Abyss now..."

Noticing the obvious temperature drop in the passage, Liu Xianjun couldn't help but mutter to himself, while Qin Fang's face also showed a slight smile.

The sudden drop in temperature, to such an extent, naturally indicated a significant change in the external environment, and within such a cave, the only possibility was nearing that Cold Abyss.

The reason the Cold Abyss was so icy was because there was a piece of Thousand-Year Cold Jade deep within it.

The Thousand-Year Cold Jade, incredibly rare, lay submerged under the pool in that spot for countless years. Its bone-piercing cold turned the entire pool into a Cold Abyss.

The Yunluo Tea Tree grew on the edge of the Cold Abyss, nourished by the Cold Pond Water, imbued with some Cold Jade Ice Crystal, and thus became an extremely rare and famous tea.

Qin Fang had no interest in the Yunluo Tea Tree; he came for the Thousand-Year Cold Jade.

This Cold Jade was inherently bone-chilling; if a person sat on it, they might even freeze to death. Only an Inner Sect expert could use their power to resist this cold, allowing them to persist.

However, through this kind of resistance, followed by using their power to adjust their breathing, they could immediately reap considerable benefits, definitely accelerating their cultivation immensely.

Such a divine object left in such a Cold Abyss merely to energize a few tea trees was truly a waste of heavenly resources.

Especially since these tea trees were protected so rigorously, as one can infer from the concealed state of this passage...

Qin Fang couldn't care less about the Ryu Family's issues.

Whether Liu Xianjun uprooted the Yunluo Tea Trees or the Ryu family's people stopped him, Qin Fang wouldn't worry about it.

All he wanted was to secretly take away the Thousand-Year Cold Ice from under the Cold Abyss, leaving the rest to the Ryu Family to handle themselves.

If they wanted to fight or kill amongst themselves, Qin Fang wouldn't interfere. He had already helped the Ryu Family a great deal, almost saving them from the brink of death and even strengthening them a bit.

Chapter 1597 - The Grandmaster in the Secret Cave! (Part 2)

Then he took the Thousand-Year Cold Jade in passing, which wasn't too ruthless...

Not to mention, although the Thousand-Year Cold Jade was taken, the Cold Pool Water wouldn't heat up anytime soon, and the Cold Jade Ice Crystal contained within it would still remain, so essentially, the Ryu Family wouldn't find out that the Thousand-Year Cold Jade had long been lost.

Liu Xianjun and those two experts noticed the temperature around them dropping, realizing that the Cold Abyss was near, so the three of them immediately accelerated, racing ahead at full speed.

Qin Fang didn't want to waste time and followed closely behind...

Yet the three in front were all Grandmaster-level Experts; Qin Fang's cultivation although higher than theirs, he dared not get too close, as it would be too easy to be detected.

In such a narrow passage, this was quite disadvantageous for him; though Qin Fang was still confident he could easily wipe out these three, he wanted to avoid alerting them, so he intentionally kept a certain distance...

Bam~~

And right at this moment, a strange sound came from the three people at the front, and immediately a figure quickly flew backward.

Qin Fang's reactions were also quite quick; he immediately understood something had happened ahead, dodged the person flying back, and adhered to the top of the passage to advance.

"This is the Ryu Family's forbidden ground... Without the Family Head's permission, no one is allowed to pass!"

And it was at this moment that such a voice reached Qin Fang's ears, surprising him a little, never expecting anyone to be inside this cave.

Glancing at the unlucky person who was struck back, it wasn't Liu Xianjun himself, but one of the two experts by his side.

The person who acted had strength far superior to his, and at the moment, he was clearly seriously injured, looking as if he might drop dead at any moment.

"Who are you?"

Liu Xianjun glared coldly at the person blocking their way, his eyes displaying extreme madness.

The other expert quickly rushed to their companion, took out a pill from their body, and forcibly fed it to their comrade, showing no compassion, even the act of administering the medicine was forced.

That pill, whose ingredients were unknown, had a quite magical effect; shortly after taking it, the person who was heavily injured could now shakily stand up.

"I am from the Ryu Family..."

Blocking Liu Junxian and the others was an elderly man with white hair and a beard that hadn't been trimmed for a long time, the white hair covering his entire face, seemingly a senior in age.

Facing Liu Junxian's question, the old man just calmly responded... leaving Liu Xianjun momentarily speechless.

"I am the Family Head of the Ryu Family, and you dare to block me?"

Faced with this mysterious figure, seemingly unreported within the Ryu Family, Liu Xianjun hesitated but then asserted.

Liu Xianhe, who had passed the position of Family Head to Patriarch Liu, was highly unaccepted by Liu Xianjun; although he showed no overt actions, he did employ many underhanded means in private, even believing he was the sole deserving of the Family Head position...

Now that the Ryu Family was growing prosperous, and Liu Xianhe, as Family Head, was even more secure, although his power was significantly stronger than Liu Xianjun, there was almost no chance of taking the Family Head position by force.

However, Liu Xianjun never gave up on his desire for the Family Head position; this time, he even turned against Patriarch Liu for the Yunluo Tea Tree.

"Since you are the Family Head of the Ryu Family, please present the Family Head token..."

The elder remained extremely calm and quietly stated.

"Uh..."

Liu Xianjun was immediately stunned; he only wanted to bluff his way through but didn't expect such a thing existed. However, the Family Head token was likely in the hands of Patriarch Liu or Liu Xianhe, a piece he neither saw nor heard of...

Now questioned by this elder, he was utterly dumbfounded, realizing his claim to the Family Head position was self-proclaimed with no actual token to show.

"There's no such Family Head token; you dare fool me?"

No one knew what Liu Xianjun was thinking, but he immediately thought of a plan and angrily shouted.

"If I say it exists, then naturally it does..."

The elder slightly raised his eyebrows, looking extremely calm as he spoke, "Do you think this old man would joke around with you at this age?"

Liu Xianjun's face instantly turned gloomy, feeling quite helpless and unwilling towards this situation.

"Attack..."

At this point, Liu Xianjun knew there was no room for maneuver, immediately signaling his two experts behind him, wielding his longsword as the three charged at the elder rapidly.

"Such idiots..."

Seeing Liu Xianjun and the others make a move, Qin Fang couldn't help but curse.

In fact, Liu Xianjun was correct; there was no real Family Head token, merely a tale the elder concocted to deceive others.

Unfortunately, Liu Xianjun failed to hold onto his beliefs; if he had, perhaps the elder would have let them pass.

Now, having initiated an attack, Liu Xianjun was basically confessing he wasn't the Family Head but trespassing on the Ryu Family's forbidden ground, so how could the elder let him off?

Not to mention, the other two experts weren't part of the Ryu Family, yet they appeared together in the Ryu Family's forbidden ground, proving many points.

Liu Xianjun perhaps relied on having two experts beside him to dare challenge the elder, but Qin Fang clearly knew that although these three had impressive skills, even combined, they were too weak compared to the elder.

The common belief was that the strongest in Korea were the Fu Family and Cui Family because they stationed Grandmaster-level Experts; other families seemed weaker because their best experts were only at the Grandmaster Level, including the Ryu Family...

Even Qin Fang previously thought this way; otherwise, Jin Zhengming, who had just entered the Grandmaster Level Late Stage, wouldn't have dared to be so arrogant.

But evidently, that wasn't true; the elder guarding the Ryu Family's forbidden ground was a Grandmaster-level Expert, whose cultivation even made Qin Fang shy away.

Rushing up like this, Liu Xianjun and the others, don't think holding weapons ensures victory, as the outcome was already clear...

Without truly confronting a Grandmaster-level Expert, one wouldn't possibly understand the true terror they hold... It's not merely a contest of strength.

Qin Fang had already faced two Grandmaster-level Experts; even though he could be deemed invincible below the Grandmaster level, he had zero confidence in defeating Grandmaster-level Experts, even those newly advanced!

"You fools making rash moves is rather advantageous for me; I'll slip in first..."

Watching the three Grandmaster-level experts assault a Grandmaster-level expert, Qin Fang naturally wouldn't partake in that suicidal assault; instead, he quietly avoided them, slipping deeper into the passage.

Though Qin Fang moved quickly, he was extremely cautious, ensuring he was not discovered by the others, especially the Grandmaster-level elder.

The elder seemed to sense something vaguely but merely glanced inside without noticing anything unusual, his thoughts disrupted by the three experts' fierce attack, failing to notice Qin Fang slipping away.

When the elder glanced over, Qin Fang stuck to the stone wall, holding his breath entirely, only moving on after the elder withdrew his gaze, continuing deeper into the cave's depths...

Chapter 1598 - Spiritual Medicine Seven Stars Grass!

...

Qin Fang was quite unexpected to find such a master-level expert stationed at the Ryu Family.

However, it now seems to be a good thing...

With this grandmaster-level expert blocking the way, unless Liu Junxian has some ultimate hidden abilities or any death-defying back-up plan, it's hard to shake this old man.

If Qin Fang's predictions are correct, Liu Junxian's three people might not be able to get past...

This grandmaster's strength is likely not far from the Bloody Demon Tu San's, much stronger than Elder Alai from the Green Gang whom Qin Fang faced before.

Qin Fang has no interest in Liu Junxian and his group's tragedy; he just takes the opportunity to rush towards the Cold Abyss while Liu Xianjun in the back is holding off that grandmaster-level expert for him.

Starting from that point, the temperature in the passageway is increasingly dropping; the cold feeling grows more distinct, indicating the Cold Abyss is indeed close.

Fully unleashing the Traceless Snow Stepping Technique, Qin Fang's speed rises to a high level; the time delayed at the rear may not last long, so he must hurry to seize the chance.

The cold feeling intensifies, almost causing Qin Fang to feel some chill, but due to his special constitution, such cold does not affect him.

However...

"Who's there?"

As Qin Fang just stepped into a dark cave, the incoming cold immediately hit while faintly carrying a human's voice.

Not only a person, but also a swift silver sword light, appearing exceptionally dazzling under the Cold Pool Water's projection.

"There's actually someone else here..."

Qin Fang was slightly surprised that besides that grandmaster expert, there's another quite skilled expert within this secret place of the Ryu Family.

Judging from the attack speed, this person is undoubtedly at the master level, even reaching the intermediate stage of master level, stronger than Liu Xianjun despite being at the same stage; at least, this swordsmanship isn't much inferior to Jin Zhengming at the time.

Bang~~

Unfortunately, an intermediate stage master level is, after all, an intermediate stage master level, quite a notch below a peak master like Qin Fang.

Even Jin Zhengming, such a late-stage master-level expert, was defeated by Qin Fang easily, so this one is naturally not even a concern.

Qin Fang didn't even see the opponent's face clearly, just shifted his body slightly to dodge that seemingly lethal sword easily, then bypassed the attacker while gently raising his wrist and slashed a hand knife at the rear neck...

This intermediate stage master-level expert had no time to react and just felt darkness before instantly losing consciousness.

The longsword clattered down onto the ground, while he dropped powerlessly by the Cold Abyss' edge; if not for Qin Fang's quick eye and swift hand to grab him, he might have already fallen into the Cold Abyss.

That chilling Cold Abyss; this person perhaps accustomed to the low temperature here, but once fell into the Cold Abyss, a life might soon be lost.

Though Qin Fang came to seize the Ryu Family's treasures, he didn't intend to harm anyone; this expert is clearly related to the Ryu Family, even if not by surname, bound to have very close ties, else residing in such a hidden place wouldn't be possible...

This expert was quite unlucky, had no chance to showcase his decent swordsmanship before being swiftly knocked out by Qin Fang, almost losing his life.

Qin Fang originally thought that having a grandmaster-level expert stationed in this passageway meant no other experts around, since a grandmaster-level expert is top-notch in Korea.

If the Ryu Family spread this news, they might not become a first-rate family but certainly the most top-tier in second-rate family; someone dim-witted like Jin Zhengming probably wouldn't dare mess with the Ryu Family...

With such thoughts, Qin Fang didn't carefully observe the change on the small map, just rushed quickly, too fast to mind much.

Luckily, this person was just an intermediate stage master, had there been another grandmaster, that would be unfortunate for Qin Fang indeed.

Throwing this expert aside, he used the Silver Needle to seal his vital energy temporarily in Turtle Breathing State, preventing him from freezing due to inability to gather energy to resist the Cold Abyss' chill.

Anyway, after taking the Thousand-Year Cold Jade from the Cold Abyss, Qin Fang would leave here and lift the restriction then...

After tossing the person aside, Qin Fang couldn't be bothered to pay any attention to him and instead focused intently on studying this Cold Abyss.

The Cold Abyss wasn't particularly large, with a diameter of about five meters. However, a faint mist rose from the pool's surface, rippling the moment it touched one's skin.

The temperature in the cave was very low, likely below freezing, yet there were no signs of the pool water freezing, which seemed very strange.

Amid the layers of mist, a few green plants could be vaguely seen growing along the edge of the Cold Abyss, among which several tea trees were the most conspicuous.

These were clearly the Yun Luo Tea Trees, treated as treasures and the lifeline of the Ryu Family.

However, Qin Fang wasn't interested at all, and instead, he was more intrigued by a small, tender-looking grass growing beside the Yun Luo Tea Trees.

"Is this... a spiritual medicine?"

Seeing the small grass, Qin Fang's expression changed instantly, more shocked than when he had encountered the Grandmaster-level expert.

Although Yun Luo Tea Trees were good, it was due to the Cold Jade Ice Crystals released by the Thousand-Year Cold Jade that made them such treasures.

Drinking Yun Luo Tea regularly aids significantly in cultivation improvement, akin to spiritual medicine, though it pales in comparison to true spiritual medicines.

Qin Fang had a superb spiritual medicine like the Golden Dragon Saliva on hand, and had even acquired treasures such as the Millennium Clam Pearl from sunken ships, yet he had given them away as gifts without hesitation.

The Cold Jade Ice Crystal was slightly better than the spiritual water brewed from Millennium Clam Pearls, but Qin Fang had no interest in it. Thus, he didn't value Yun Luo Tea either.

Qin Fang's real target was the Thousand-Year Cold Jade at the bottom of the Cold Abyss...

Only Qin Fang hadn't expected to find such a spiritual medicine growing beside the Thousand-Year Cold Jade at the edge of the Cold Abyss... undeveloped, but a spiritual medicine nonetheless, far more potent than the Yun Luo Tea that had been growing for who knows how long...

It could even be said that all the Yun Luo Tea Trees combined couldn't compare to one leaf of this spiritual medicine!

Suddenly, Qin Fang understood why a Grandmaster-level expert would choose to stay in such a sunless cave.

He also realized why the Ryu Family, clearly weak, could have a Grandmaster-level expert guarding it—Yun Luo Tea Trees weren't the priority, neither was retrieving the Thousand-Year Cold Ice. The real key was... this spiritual medicine.

Spiritual medicine is extremely important for martial artists, especially for advancing to higher levels. Without the assistance of spiritual medicine, solely relying on one's cultivation might take decades to make a breakthrough.

The Grandmaster-level expert earlier was already quite old, possessing deep internal power, but he was roughly at the Grandmaster Mid-Stage, unlikely to advance to the Great Grandmaster stage.

On the other hand, the expert at the Mid-Master Level who Qin Fang had just defeated seemed relatively young, appearing in his early thirties. His future prospects were promising, and with the help of this spiritual medicine, stepping into the Grandmaster level might not be impossible.

Qin Fang pondered for a moment, and it seemed he understood why the Grandmaster and Master experts would reside in such a cave, waiting for this spiritual medicine.

"This is... Seven Stars Grass!"

Qin Fang quickly walked over, ignoring the nearby Yun Luo Tea Trees, squatted down to observe the spiritual medicine, and using his Scouting Skill, he quickly learned its name.

Seven Stars Grass is a Middle Grade Spiritual Medicine, quite a decent level within spiritual medicines. In this day and age, superb spiritual medicines have completely vanished, superior elixirs are nearly nonexistent, and coming across a Middle Grade Spiritual Medicine is already remarkable and exceedingly rare.

As the name implies, Seven Stars Grass has seven faint purple spots scattered on its green leaves, which is the origin of its name.

The Seven Stars Grass was relatively easy to identify, and its maturity period was among the shortest of spiritual medicines, sprouting a new leaf every seven years until all seven leaves grew and it officially entered maturity.

The maturity period for Seven Stars Grass is typically around three to five years, during which its medicinal properties are at their peak. Whether used as medicine or consumed directly, its effects are quite potent.

Once past maturity, Seven Stars Grass gradually wilts, eventually producing a seed containing over 50% of its medicinal properties, equivalent to a Low-Grade Spiritual Medicine.

Of course, if Seven Stars Grass hasn't reached maturity, its medicinal properties would not be fully developed, and its potency would diminish with each missing leaf.

The Seven Stars Grass in front of him hadn't reached maturity yet but already had six leaves, with the seventh beginning to sprout, seeming like it wouldn't be long before it matured...

This made Qin Fang understand why the Grandmaster-level expert was determined to prevent Liu Junxian and the others from entering the Cold Abyss. He was worried the longer they lingered, the more likely it was that Seven Stars Grass's maturation could be compromised, thwarting his grand plans. Thus, he wouldn't allow them in to cause any disruptions...

Chapter 1599 - Thousand-Year Cold Jade

...

"Alas, what a pity..."

Seeing this Seven Stars Grass, even Qin Fang was tempted, wishing he could pull it out right now, but he couldn't do that.

Once spiritual medicine takes root and grows, it cannot be transplanted at will before it enters the mature stage, otherwise, it can easily harm its essence.

For example, this Seven Stars Grass, its roots and stems are extremely fragile, and once damaged, it will quickly wither, and a large amount of medicinal properties will be lost...

Even someone like Qin Fang, who has the Herb Gathering Technique skill, can pick this spiritual medicine intact, but the Seven Stars Grass is not yet mature; once picked, part of its essence will be lost, possibly forming seeds prematurely and causing Qin Fang's efforts to be in vain.

Moreover, the seeds that form prematurely in this self-protective way are less potent than those formed at maturity and are also quite difficult to use in medicine...

That's why Qin Fang said, "what a pity." This spiritual medicine is right before his eyes, but he can only watch it, unable to touch it. Such spiritual medicine doesn't grow easily; each plant is very precious, and letting it go to waste is essentially a crime.

Qin Fang didn't want to do such a thing, so he could only shake his head helplessly, and his gaze returned to the area of the Cold Abyss.

There are other types of plants around the pool, also dependent on the Cold Pool Water for growth, and likewise contain Cold Jade Ice Crystal, but they're not important to Qin Fang, who doesn't even bother to take a glance.

Squatting by the Cold Abyss, the piercing cold came straight at him, so much so that even someone with Qin Fang's physique could feel the chill. One could only imagine how low the temperature of this Cold Abyss is.

Gazing at the Cold Abyss, which was as still as dead water, Qin Fang extended a finger to gently test the water of the Cold Abyss...

"Hiss~~"

But almost at the moment of touching the surface of the water, an extreme cold swept over, and Qin Fang clearly felt his finger suddenly being encased by something extremely solid.

To be precise... the water from the Cold Abyss that touched his finger almost instantly froze, completely encasing one of Qin Fang's fingers in ice, while a strong chill swept through Qin Fang's entire body instantly.

"Such low temperature..."

Even though Qin Fang had already speculated that this Cold Abyss with the Thousand-Year Cold Jade was not simple, the actual contact still left him speechless in shock.

Pulling his finger out of the Cold Abyss, he saw it was encased in a thick layer of ice, the finger beneath vaguely visible, appearing pale from the cold.

Qin Fang even tapped it a few times deliberately. The ice layer was quite solid; though these taps seemed casual, they were quite forceful. However, the ice layer neither cracked nor showed even the slightest trace...

"Indeed, overbearing!"

This discovery also made Qin Fang's brows furrow, clearly indicating that the terrifying nature of this Cold Abyss was quite troublesome even for him.

The reason Qin Fang came here was entirely for the Thousand-Year Cold Jade beneath the Cold Abyss. That was the real priceless treasure, making the Yun Luo Tea Tree look like nothing in comparison.

Even the Seven Stars Grass, Qin Fang thought, if not for the existence of the Thousand-Year Cold Jade, it might not even be able to grow here freely and reach near maturity.

But since the Seven Stars Grass cannot be picked, Qin Fang has no choice but to temporarily give it up and focus on planning for the Thousand-Year Cold Jade beneath the Cold Abyss...

However, the overbearing Cold Pool Water has now become a very major obstacle preventing Qin Fang from obtaining the treasure.

Qin Fang is not afraid of this cold, as even though it brings a slight discomfort to his body, it cannot harm him. This is Qin Fang's biggest reliance on coming here to obtain the treasure.

However, what Qin Fang did not anticipate was the situation unfolding, indeed giving him a headache...

This Cold Pool Water appeared calm and unruffled, not forming a layer of ice, but now it seems it's not because the temperature isn't low enough but due to another reason.

Qin Fang doesn't care what the reason is; his headache now is figuring out how to successfully dive to the bottom of this Cold Abyss...

This overbearing cold, with just a single touch of the water surface, immediately forms a thick layer of ice. Moving just one finger is no problem, but diving to the bottom would mean Qin Fang's entire body would be submerged, and he would be encased in a thick layer of ice...

Encased in ice, breathing becomes a problem, let alone normal movement. Even if the Thousand-Year Cold Jade is within reach, Qin Fang could only look but not touch...

Moreover, with that thick ice layer in the way, Qin Fang might not even be able to see it!

"Damn, this is so frustrating..."

Qin Fang couldn't help but curse.

After all the efforts to reach Treasure Mountain, he first saw a mountain of gold, only to find it too big and heavy to move. Then, looking at the gleaming Treasure Mountain, there was a hungry tiger blocking the path...

This situation made Qin Fang quite frustrated, and naturally, his energy was slightly unsettled, causing his True Qi to swell involuntarily.

Chapter 1600 - Thousand-Year Cold Jade

Bang~~

As a Grandmaster Level peak powerhouse, the True Qi within his body was extremely rich and powerful. When it surged with full force, it was indeed a terrifying thing.

He only heard a crisp sound beside his ear, and Qin Fang immediately felt his frozen fingers suddenly become free. The thick layer of solid ice was cracked by his surging True Qi and fell off his fingers automatically...

"Hmm..."

This scene immediately caused a slight change in Qin Fang's expression. His eyes revealed a glimmer of excitement, as if he had thought of something.

"Perhaps... this is the way!"

Looking at the solid ice that had shattered into several pieces on the ground, if put together, they would fit perfectly over Qin Fang's fingers.

However, even now that they were shattered, they still maintained a fairly complete shape.

Of course, that's not the main point, the main point is... Qin Fang's True Qi could easily break the solid ice that he couldn't even chip before. This equated to Qin Fang finding a suitable opportunity to dive to the bottom of the Cold Abyss.

After hesitating for a moment, Qin Fang immediately submerged one arm entirely into the Cold Abyss, fully immersing it within.

Almost in a very short time, a thick layer of ice immediately formed, completely sealing Qin Fang's arm without any visible gaps or leaks.

But Qin Fang did not show any change in expression, as this was within his expectations, of course, he wouldn't find it strange.

Bang~~

True Qi surged and the thick layer of ice cracked on response, shattering into pieces that fell to the ground.

"It really seems to work..."

The second experiment was also successful. No matter how the ice outside was struck, it remained solid, but from the inside, the ice seemed to become very fragile, completely unable to withstand Qin Fang's True Qi shock.

At the same time, Qin Fang vaguely discovered that the thickness of this layer of ice seemed to have limitations—once it reached approximately three centimeters, it stopped getting any thicker, maintaining that thickness...

And the ice with this thickness couldn't withstand Qin Fang's True Qi shock at all. He could easily crack it, allowing Qin Fang to escape.

"Once more..."

This discovery was still just Qin Fang's hypothesis. To be certain, he needed to verify it through repeated experiments.

This time Qin Fang was more ruthless, directly immersing his lower body fully into the water. Without any suspense, that half of his body was immediately encased completely in solid ice, becoming very heavy. If Qin Fang wasn't pressing his hands on the stones at the edge of the Cold Abyss, he might have sunk completely by now.

Bang~~

This time Qin Fang did not lift his body out before initiating the True Qi shock but used it while half his body was still in the water.

A faint sound could be heard, and slight ripples appeared on the water's surface, while the ice encasing Qin Fang's legs below cracked immediately.

Unexpectedly, the ice, which should have refrozen him immediately, did not reform as quickly. Instead, it paused for about five seconds before starting to freeze again, and the speed was not as instantaneous as it had been before.

"Could it be... this is the way to break the predicament?"

This discovery surprised Qin Fang greatly, as if he had found a solution to the problem. A sliver of excitement welled up in him.

Although soon Qin Fang's lower body froze up again, the previous helplessness and worry on his face were gone, replaced with growing confidence.

Repeated experiments with True Qi shocks to break the ice layer further confirmed that Qin Fang's hypothesis wasn't merely a guess, gradually forming into a fact.

Moreover, Qin Fang found that the more he broke the ice layer, the slower it froze back. This was quite favorable, enabling Qin Fang to move a small distance in the water using this time gap.

After finishing multiple experiments, Qin Fang estimated that the battle outside was nearing its end. To avoid prolonging the issue, he could not afford further delays.

"Success or failure depends on this move..."

He took a slight breath for underwater breathing and resolutely leapt into the Cold Abyss. With almost visible speed, he was enveloped in a thick layer of ice and began to sink slowly towards the bottom.

The sinking speed wasn't fast, nor was it too slow. The ice remained the same thickness without increasing as he sank further down.

Encased in the thick ice layer, Qin Fang could barely see anything through the ice, so he relied on the Mini-map Function to navigate.

Granted, this function was adept at finding enemies, but beneath the Cold Abyss where there wasn't a single Ghost Shadow, it seemed somewhat redundant.

However, this didn't disturb Qin Fang, as the Mini-map also highlighted important items like Spiritual Medicine, ore, and treasures—though those needed to be within a certain close proximity to be detectable, unlike enemy searching, which was more straightforward.

For a treasure like the Thousand-Year Cold Jade, once it appeared on the Mini-map, it indicated that Qin Fang was quite near it—which was why he was willing to slowly descend while encased in the thick ice layer.

Sealed within the ice, his movements were severely restricted, but this saved him a lot of trouble, allowing him to reach the Cold Abyss bottom with ease and approach the Thousand-Year Cold Jade effortlessly.

Of course, Qin Fang wasn't without preparation for returning to the surface later.

He specifically carried a slender steel wire with him, one end tied to his body, the other staying on the water's surface, stretchable and retractable, accompanying Qin Fang as he descended.

This was in case of emergencies, leveraging the wire's strength to help swim back up to the surface faster if necessary...

While the ice block continued to descend slowly, Qin Fang clearly felt the outside temperature drop more, noticeable even from inside the ice—indicating that he was getting closer to the Thousand-Year Cold Jade.

Luckily, the temperature drop didn't thicken the ice further, allowing Qin Fang some assurance; if it did thicken again, he would have to abandon the plan and return to the surface to strategize anew.

"Thousand-Year Cold Jade..."

After nearly three minutes of descending, a green dot finally appeared on Qin Fang's Mini-map, and his Scouting Skill was immediately deployed, bringing an excited smile to his face.

Having toiled for so long, he finally saw the target...

At this moment, the Thousand-Year Cold Jade was just under two meters directly beneath Qin Fang. If the ice continued to descend, he might soon land right on it.

"This Thousand-Year Cold Jade is mine..."

Just a little bit more and he could reach the Thousand-Year Cold Jade. Once touched, Qin Fang could collect it effortlessly, unlike others.

Two meters...

One meter...

Fifty centimeters...

Thirty centimeters...

The distance was getting closer and closer. Qin Fang could barely contain himself as his whole body surged with True Qi, producing successive banging sounds beside his ears. The ice encasing him cracked into countless fissures and exploded rapidly...

Almost simultaneously as the ice exploded and Qin Fang joyously broke free, he reached out towards the Thousand-Year Cold Jade with the fastest speed...