

Genius 1651

Chapter 1651 - Epiphany! Endgame!_3

"This is originally everyone's opportunity... If others had your talent, they could have experienced an epiphany here as well..."

Cui Haoyu lightly shook his head and lamented.

"Perhaps you don't know, but hundreds of people have come here, yet only forty-two people could gain enlightenment, and among those forty-two, aside from five who fell due to accidents, the remaining thirty-seven all crossed into the Grandmaster level..."

Recalling this history, Cui Haoyu couldn't help but sigh. The Cui Family and the Fu Family have passed down their legacy for centuries since Master of Yijian Fu Cailin, with generations numbering in tens. However, experts who could step into Grandmaster level were few and far between.

And among these Grandmaster-level experts, most have had insights here at this place, including himself and Fu Qinglin...

Therefore, being able to gain insight here is almost regarded as a very good stepping stone into the Grandmaster level, a point the Cui and Fu families very much agree on.

Unfortunately, none of the four people who came here experienced enlightenment. Although it's not certain that these people can't step into Grandmaster level, at this moment, they felt somewhat disappointed.

The sword intent of these two words seems like a shortcut; if one can gain insight into it, then it's akin to stepping onto the fast track, swiftly advancing forward...

"Alright, it's almost time, limited time. You should all enter the Chess Sword Formation Remnant together!"

The four individuals from the Cui and Fu families didn't have any enlightenment, so Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin's complexion turned a bit unpleasant. Hence, they didn't want to talk much about it, urging Qin Fang and the others to set off quickly.

Qin Fang naturally would not go against this; he had already gained some benefits and was even more expectant of the Chess Sword Formation Remnant. Although he didn't expect to crack the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, he was very willing to gain a little more benefit at least.

Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin, along with numerous elders from both families, gathered around this stone wall, forming a circle with the two Family Heads at the center, blocking the view.

Of course, these elders kept their backs to the Family Heads, facing Qin Fang and the others.

Qin Fang and the other four, although feeling somewhat peculiar, still stayed quietly in place. However, Qin Fang noticed that Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin seemed to take out something resembling a key and began fiddling with it in front of the stone wall.

Crack, crack, crack, crack~~

Qin Fang, keenly perceptive, faintly heard these slight mechanical sounds, seemingly of a mechanism being triggered, and then noticed a stone door slowly emerging from the wall, revealing a deep cave inside.

After the stone door opened, these elders moved aside to clear a path.

"The few of you just need to keep moving inside to reach the destination of the Chess Sword Formation Remnant... But I must remind you that, no matter what happens on the way, you must remain calm, only then can you ensure your safety! Otherwise..."

Cui Haoyu pointed to the deep cave as he spoke, his expression unusually solemn, evidently suggesting that this cave was not straightforward and harbored unknown threats.

"Understood..."

Qin Fang didn't speak, but the other four had clearly been briefed by their seniors. Although they seemed very excited, they were suppressing their emotions.

Looking at the deep cave, Qin Fang appeared slightly hesitant.

As he constantly felt that Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin were scheming against him, this cave would undoubtedly be the best place to execute their plan.

Once he stepped inside and the stone door closed, Qin Fang would inevitably be sealed inside with no escape.

Although the secret place of the Ryu Family was also within a mountain, Qin Fang at least knew the way to open it; but the Chess Sword Formation Remnant was different, judging from Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin's seriousness, it was clearly very concealed.

"Young Master Qin, what's wrong?"

As Qin Fang hesitated, the other four had already entered one after another without a second thought, leaving Cui Haoyu to ask him this question when he saw Qin Fang standing there.

"Nothing!"

Qin Fang shook his head. Though still wary at heart, seeing the other four have already entered, he ultimately decided to go ahead.

Even if Cui Haoyu were plotting something bad, Qin Fang reasoned it unlikely that they'd sacrifice four pivotal disciples of their families just to deal with him alone, so he decided it was worth the risk.

Moreover, Qin Fang had nothing else planned.

Thus, he quickly moved toward the dark cave and stepped inside swiftly.

The cave was pitch black and profoundly dark, to the point of being unable to see one's fingers; the four who went inside were completely silent, yet Qin Fang still chose to enter despite this.

"Buzz~~"

As Qin Fang crossed inside, his ears were immediately captured by a distinct, muffled sound, causing his senses to nearly go numb at that instant.

A strange intense light flashed before his eyes, and then faded into a haze; once the light diminished, Qin Fang found himself not in a dark tunnel but within a bright cave.

"Friendly reminder: You are in an illusion array... Exercise caution!"

At the moment of Qin Fang's astonishment, his mind immediately received such a notice, causing him a moment's pause.

"Could this be the Chess Sword Formation Remnant?"

This was indeed an illusion array, as indicated by the system's clear message; however, a gigantic Go board appeared before Qin Fang, already arranged with numerous pieces forming a remnant, leading him to this query...

Chapter 1652 - Breaking the Deadlock!

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Unfortunately, aside from Qin Fang, there wasn't another soul to be seen here. In the vast cave, he stood there quietly all by himself...

"Illusion Array..."

Qin Fang knew a little about formations, which he had picked up during his time in Hong Kong when he associated with Thousand Gate Chess Elder Song Qianqiu.

Although he couldn't claim mastery, he had at least a modest understanding.

Moreover, the path of formations itself falls under the category of Thousand Skills. Qin Fang's Thousand Skills had now reached an advanced level, and he had attained some proficiency in this area.

Of course, there was an enormous gap between him and Thousand Gate Chess Elder Song Qianqiu, but ordinary Thousand Skills were still quite formidable...

However, looking at this seemingly completely real space in front of him, along with everything around, he couldn't discern a single flaw, as if everything were real.

"What a formidable Illusion Array!"

Even though Qin Fang was reluctant to admit it, the fact was that this Illusion Array was indeed exceedingly powerful, undoubtedly crafted by a very skilled formation master.

Upon considering the identity, status, and strength of Master of Yijian Fu Cailin, it wasn't surprising to know such a formation expert.

However, Qin Fang now faced a problem, which was that...

"How am I supposed to get out of here?"

This Illusion Array was so realistic that he couldn't find a single flaw. Qin Fang took a simple walk inside the cave but found no exit anywhere.

In other words, he was trapped inside this cave.

In fact, this was an Illusion Array, and perhaps the cave didn't even exist at all. Everything around was an illusion. If he could find a way to break the array, perhaps everything around him might shatter instantly.

But the problem was...

Everything in the Illusion Array was so real that when Qin Fang reached out to touch the stone walls, the cold chill was unmistakably clear, far from illusory.

He even punched heavily on the stone wall, and a distinct pain coursed through his hand, while fragments of the wall trickled down.

The realism of this Illusion Array left Qin Fang feeling quite helpless; he simply couldn't find any flaw. The person's skill in formations must be exceedingly strong, and compared to them, Thousand Gate Chess Elder Song Qianqiu, a formation Grandmaster, was probably not on the same level at all.

Qin Fang had interacted with Thousand Gate Chess Elder Song Qianqiu for some time, and they had even had minor exchanges in formations. Song Qianqiu naturally went easy on Qin Fang, but with Master-Level Detective Skills and Advanced Cheating Skills combined, Qin Fang could still find some slight flaws in the formations laid by Song Qianqiu.

Though such flaws were extremely subtle, they were enough for Qin Fang to break free from the predicament...

But now...

Qin Fang wore a wry smile. With the enhancement of the Qianji Ring, his advanced Thousand Skills were equivalent to having been boosted to a grandmaster level. Combined with the same grandmaster-level scouting skills, he still couldn't find a single flaw.

The comparison between Song Qianqiu and the expert who arranged the formation before him was, at this point, self-evident...

"It seems... there's only one way!"

Since breaking the array was no longer an option, Qin Fang's attention focused on the Chess Sword Formation Remnant before him, which might be Qin Fang's only way out.

Originally, when Qin Fang fell into the Illusion Array, his first reaction was that he had been set up by Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin. Such an almost flawless Illusion Array was beyond their control.

Moreover, several disciples from the Cui and Fu families had also entered this Illusion Array. If they intended to trap Qin Fang, they would have had to involve those few people as well.

So after pondering, the ultimate solution still lay in the Chess Sword Formation Remnant; the Illusion Array merely ensured the existence of this remnant.

Qin Fang knew a little about Go, not to a great extent, but he had dabbled somewhat during his interactions with Song Qianqiu.

Song Qianqiu was known as the Thousand Gate Chess Elder, but his chess skills were admittedly poor, often losing more than winning against opponents of Qin Fang's level.

Indeed, his main focus was on the Dao of Formation, but his chess skills were quite weak.

Back then, Qin Fang, at leisure, studied chess with Song Qianqiu, even visiting Song Qianqiu's home to browse through some books on chess accumulated over the years, containing works from modern chess masters as well as some lost chess manuals.

"It seems unlike any endgame I've ever seen..."

Staring at the endgame in front of him, Qin Fang compared it to the chess manuals in his mind, ultimately unable to find any identical or even similar endgame.

Yet, from Qin Fang's perspective, the endgame before him was quite exquisite, not inferior to any renowned games passed down through the ages.

Of course, this is understandable, otherwise, this Chess Sword Formation Remnant would not have remained unsolved until today.

Go originated in the Dragon Country and has been passed down for thousands of years, but in modern times, the Dragon Country's proficiency in Go is not the strongest in the world.

Instead, the country that irks Qin Fang, Korea, has surpassed the Dragon Country in Go proficiency, even surpassing Japan, with Koreans winning world championships for many consecutive years.

The Cui and Fu families hold an absolutely transcendent status in Korea, even though both families are quite low-key. If they had not replicated this formation to seek out Go experts to solve it, Qin Fang would absolutely not believe it.

For many years, Korea has produced many astonishing Go players, yet this Chess Sword Formation Remnant remains unchanged—there is something fishy here.

Could it be that these experts aren't capable enough?

Qin Fang shook his head, this answer is certainly unreliable.

Could it be a problem with the game itself?

Thinking of this, Qin Fang instinctively thought of the Zhenlong Chess Formation in Elder Master Jin's novel. It seemed there was nothing peculiar about the formation itself, yet every move would lead the player into a realm of illusion, striking at the softest part of one's heart, making it nearly impossible for anyone to escape.

Of course, only those with simple, pure hearts would be unaffected by these illusions...

However, when Qin Fang thought of this, he couldn't help but smile wryly. It was clear that he was not like the simple-minded Xu Zhu; his nature was quite impure.

"Forget it, just take it step by step..."

Qin Fang himself didn't know if the Chess Sword Formation Remnant was similar to the Zhenlong Chess Formation, but even if it were, Qin Fang still couldn't solve it, so he might as well take a chance; after all, Qin Fang never intended to solve this formation, which naturally made things a lot simpler.

He glanced briefly at the board; the black and white pieces were tangled and in a deadlock, yet it was clear that the black side held the absolute advantage... it could soon encircle and slaughter the white dragon.

Unfortunately, Qin Fang could only choose the side of white.

Qin Fang studied it carefully for some time, but the chances of the white dragon breaking out were slim, and even if it did, black had basically controlled most of the area and would still win with a significant advantage.

"What's the point of playing... just admit defeat!"

Seeing the state of the game, perhaps Qin Fang himself wasn't very interested, or perhaps his Go skills were too lacking, he didn't even have the desire to continue, picked up a piece, and casually threw it away.

Resigning by throwing the piece!

Anyway, he couldn't win, so rather than suffer through it, he chose a clean break, which saved a lot of hassle.

Buzz~~

Almost simultaneously with Qin Fang's resignation, he heard a buzzing sound that nearly deafened him.

Fortunately, this sensation only lasted for a moment and quickly vanished, but Qin Fang's vision suddenly underwent a significant change.

On the originally vast board, the black and white pieces lay quietly as if lifeless... of course, the pieces are lifeless entities.

However, now it was completely different. Qin Fang even felt that each piece in front of him seemed to contain infinite vitality.

Shua~~

And almost as Qin Fang was startled, he saw a black piece suddenly leap up on its own, then fly towards him with astonishing speed.

"Hmm?"

Qin Fang's eyes narrowed sharply; such a scene was incredibly bizarre, yet simultaneously, he maintained considerable vigilance.

Pop pop pop~~

However, the black piece showed no politeness; as it neared Qin Fang's body, it transformed abruptly into a formidable swordsman, turning into an astonishing sword light, slicing toward Qin Fang.

"Good timing..."

Originally, Qin Fang was incredibly surprised at the transformation of this piece, but when the sword light appeared, his expression changed instantly.

This sword light was supremely sharp, as if it could cleave the very sky, making even a master-level peak expert like Qin Fang feel a slight tremor.

Yet simultaneously, before the sword light arrived, Qin Fang experienced an ethereal feeling as if he slightly grasped something from the sword light.

Facing the approaching sword light, Qin Fang showed no tension, even a hint of excitement appearing in his eyes. He clasped his hands, inner strength surged forth, and a stream of sword Qi instantly shot out between his fingers, heading straight for the sword light.

Bam~~

The sword Qi from Qin Fang wasn't particularly strong, but it conveyed an incisive feel, colliding with the piece-transformed sword light, resulting in a crisp sound before completely dissolving...

Chapter 1653 - Sword of the Game

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As that chess piece disappeared with the sword light, it transformed into specks of starlight, floating in the surrounding air until they slowly faded away, as if they had never existed...

However, although these specks of starlight gradually dissipated, if you observed closely, you would find that they were slowly merging into Qin Fang's body.

At the same time, Qin Fang distinctly felt something faintly emerging in his mind.

Swish~~

Unfortunately, Qin Fang didn't have the time to examine it closely, because almost at the same moment that the sword light from the chess piece shattered, two more pieces immediately sprang up from the chessboard, transforming into two sword lights that swiftly attacked again...

Unlike the last time, this was not two black pieces, but a pair of one black and one white, moving at considerable speed. They seemed to come simultaneously, yet vaguely had a sense of precedence.

The sword lights were still sharp, immediately making Qin Fang feel immense pressure, a compounded intensity that was far from a simple addition of one plus one.

Qin Fang's expression remained calm, his wrist shook, and the Flowing Shadow Sword was already comfortably in his hand...

It must be said, this Illusion Array was indeed formidable. Although Qin Fang knew that everything here might be an illusion, he couldn't find a single flaw. Even his Props Box could still be used here.

The Flowing Shadow Sword was used when killing Shi Yuan Yilang, and had since been placed in the Props Box. Even when Qin Fang ventured alone into this Chess Sword Formation Remnant, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin did not discover that Qin Fang was carrying a weapon.

With the treasured sword in hand, Qin Fang circulated his internal energy, and simultaneously the Demonic Divine Art erupted wildly, as his aura rapidly surged upwards.

Thump thump~~

The two chess pieces came very quickly, as swift as lightning, but Qin Fang's reaction was equally swift. The Traceless Snow Stepping Technique allowed Qin Fang to exhibit himself freely in this space, and just as the sword light from the two chess pieces approached, he rapidly struck out with his treasured sword.

Now Qin Fang's One-Handed Weapon Mastery had reached Grandmaster Level, his only passive skill at this level. The effect was not very apparent when Qin Fang used a gun, but it was completely different when using a sword.

Although Qin Fang had hardly practiced any sword techniques, holding the Flowing Shadow Sword was like handling an old companion familiar for decades, without the slightest hesitation.

With two sword strikes, the two chess pieces shattered in succession less than a meter in front of Qin Fang, likewise transforming into specks of starlight that quickly diffused into the air.

However, when these two chess pieces shattered, there was a slight difference in the starlight they transformed into, and with careful observation, you could see the colors were slightly different.

Qin Fang, however, had no mind to observe these differences. Even when he noticed something, he quickly shifted his focus, because there was movement on the chessboard again.

More chess pieces jumped from the board, then transformed into sword lights and flew at him at a higher speed, with a total of three pieces attacking simultaneously.

These three chess pieces, in the form of the Three Powers configuration, formed a small sword formation that attacked Qin Fang in a wedge formation...

The speed was very fast and inconsistent, making Qin Fang furrow his brows even tighter, not daring to relax in the slightest.

Thump thump thump~~

However, Qin Fang was now completely focused, gripping the Flowing Shadow Sword tightly, and as the three pieces approached, he quickly countered.

The process was not complex, and even rather effortless, as Qin Fang managed to shatter the three pieces without letting them hit him.

But in reality, only Qin Fang knew that although the process ended quickly, the danger was considerable. Just one slight mistake, and the sword light from the three chess pieces would have punctured his body immediately...

Qin Fang did not know what the consequences of being pierced by such sword light would be. Would he be directly eliminated and sent out of this Illusion Array, or would he truly suffer severe injuries... Qin Fang was unclear about these.

Although Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin invited him to be the fifth to join the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, they clearly withheld much information from him. At least the other four had knowledge of certain things about this Chess Sword Formation Remnant that Qin Fang clearly did not.

Initially, Qin Fang didn't mind. He thought that by capturing Fu and Cui family disciples and using some minor means, he could learn the secrets he wanted.

Unfortunately, this Chess Sword Formation Remnant was nothing like Qin Fang imagined. Once inside, he was immediately trapped within this Illusion Array.

And here, apart from himself, there was not a Ghost Shadow in sight. Clearly, the other four individuals were also separated.

At this point, Qin Fang somewhat understood why Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin, knowing that the four together were no match for him, still dared to invite him in.

Because even if Qin Fang had any ill intentions, he still would not be able to harm any people from the Cui or Fu families...

Thump thump thump~~

Qin Fang was not entirely sure what the Chess Sword Formation Remnant should look like, but he was decidedly frustrated because those damned chess pieces seemed like assassins on a deadly pursuit, relentlessly targeting Qin Fang.

Their number increased with every piece Qin Fang struck down. Although it increased by only one each time, Qin Fang roughly estimated with a glance that there were no fewer than a hundred fifty pieces on the chessboard, and they might even approach two hundred.

He could barely manage to hold on now, but he was growing increasingly exhausted. The chess pieces were incredibly bizarre, capable of forming complex combat formations.

Starting from the most basic Three Talents Formation, moving to the Four Symbols Formation, then to the Five Elements Formation, Six Harmonies Formation, Seven Stars Formation, Eight Trigrams Array, and finally the Nine Palaces Formation... The more chess pieces there were, the stronger these combat formations became.

Qin Fang's Traceless Snow Stepping Technique was pushed to its limit, yet the mounting pressure was causing him to nearly collapse.

"Damn it, I'm losing big time..."

Seeing the growing number of deployed chess pieces, Qin Fang's face turned a bit green, and he inwardly cursed, "This is a trap!"

For every chess piece he didn't smash, the number on the board certainly wouldn't increase. The number of these pieces was determined by the amount on the board.

And he hadn't really played a move; he had directly conceded by placing his piece down, neither adding a new piece nor getting the white dragon devoured by the black pieces.

The result of this was... too many chess pieces on the board, and he was struggling to cope, especially with the combined assault formations making him feel utterly worn out!

...

However, Qin Fang was unaware that outside the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, there was yet another commotion.

Thud, thud~~

The stone door on the stone wall remained open, contrary to Qin Fang's expectation that it might have shut. The cave inside was still pitch black, seemingly engulfed in darkness.

However, soon enough, someone was ejected from within... Only to perform a very classic fall, sprawling there, dazed and confused, as if they had been knocked senseless.

Cui Haoyu, Fu Qinglin, and the others merely glanced over indifferently, not looking surprised at all, as if this was expected.

Upon closer inspection of that location, one could clearly notice that the ground there was slightly higher than the surroundings, as if it had been specially hit like that.

However, two elders from the Fu Family approached and dragged the stunned Fu Family disciple aside to regain consciousness.

Bang~~

Almost as soon as the first person was carried away, another figure was hurled out from the pitch-black stone door, following almost the same trajectory and force, even performing the same classic fall, ending up stunned just like before... eventually dragged away by the nearby elders.

This time it was a disciple from the Cui Family, although slightly later than the one from the Fu Family, it was almost the same.

In the next three minutes, the remaining two people were also thrown out one after another, in the same posture, same trajectory, same outcome...

Only Qin Fang remained inside the cave, without any sign of emerging...

The disciples from the Cui and Fu families gradually regained consciousness, faces filled with shame, seemingly embarrassed.

Unfortunately, their family heads, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin, did not spare them a single glance, instead keeping their eyes fixed straight on the direction of the cave behind the stone door.

As the seconds ticked by, Qin Fang still hadn't emerged, and instead of any signs of displeasure, a hint of anticipation appeared on the faces of the two.

Simultaneously, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin's demeanor appeared incredibly tense; one could tell by their tightly clenched fists within their robes, knuckles turning white.

Evidently, while Qin Fang was fighting fiercely inside, they were equally nervous outside, as if they were experiencing it all firsthand.

Up until...

Rumble, rumble~~

With this sequence of sounds ringing out, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin exchanged a glance, almost simultaneously moving, appearing in the blink of an eye before the stone door.

The two stood one on each side, with their auras rapidly surging, their Grandmaster Level Cultivation suddenly bursting forth wildly.

The elders from the Cui and Fu families, initially confused, suddenly realized something upon seeing the two family heads reveal their true strength so ferociously, yet not appearing to intend to engage in battle.

The elders promptly abandoned the younger disciples of both families, rushing to the vicinity of the stone door, tightly encircling the area, each drawing upon all their cultivation...

Chapter 1654 - Breaking the Chess Sword Formation Remnant!

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Everyone appeared extremely tense, yet simultaneously somewhat excited... Vaguely, they seemed to feel that the effort that the Cui and Fu families had put in for hundreds of years without success was finally seeing success in their generation.

The Chess Sword Formation Remnant had existed for so many years. Countless young talents from the Cui and Fu families had delved into it, but the results were the same as the four earlier, none of them could endure to the end.

But now, this outsider from Dragon Country was almost breaking the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, causing the two families to feel excited yet clearly uncomfortable.

This was supposed to be a matter for the Cui and Fu families. They had strived for a thousand years without success, yet Qin Fang, an outsider, solved it immediately upon appearing. This disparity was really...

The two families, nearly ten experts, almost all at the Master Level Late Stage and above, including two Grandmaster-level Experts, were now blocking the stone gate, waiting for the final conclusion of the Chess Sword Formation Remnant inside...

Only...

"What exactly is going on?"

Inside the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, Qin Fang was now squatting there, panting heavily, with sweat soaking his clothes. At this moment, he didn't even have the strength to nurse a baby.

Although Qin Fang felt that everything around him was an illusion and his current exhaustion should also be illusory, this almost depleted feeling made him extremely tired.

In this illusory space, the enormous chessboard still stretched across, but all the pieces had vanished without a trace.

Of course, they didn't disappear into thin air, because Qin Fang had destroyed all these pieces.

It was only at this moment that Qin Fang understood why the Chess Sword Formation Remnant had not been unraveled for hundreds of years, because this was simply not something human power could contend with.

With his current Master Level Peak cultivation, combined with the terrifying ecstasy of the Demonic Divine Art, plus the continuous unleashing of unlimited physical strength, even a Grandmaster-level Expert was just so-so. But even so, Qin Fang was still almost driven to a dead end by the sword lights transformed from these pieces...

Earlier, Qin Fang could handle it more easily, but after nine pieces, starting from the tenth piece, it was no longer a simple Nine Palaces Sword Array but transformed into multiple mixed sword arrays, with all sorts of variations...

This abnormal sword array almost shot Qin Fang into a sieve upon appearance, the terrifying assault really made Qin Fang feel as if he was facing the Blood-handed Demon Tu San in full bloom once again... so powerless!

However, Qin Fang was supposed to fail like the four disciples of the Cui and Fu families and be thrown out after failing to break the Chess Sword Formation Remnant.

Although he persisted much longer than those four disciples, the final result still ended in failure.

Coincidentally, when the sword lights were almost unavoidable and imminent, to save himself, Qin Fang instinctively used the guns in the Props Box.

And so...

The Gatling Fire God Cannon originally discarded in the Props Box once again demonstrated its terrifying attack power, along with Qin Fang's infinite magazine support.

Afterwards, the test of the Chess Sword Formation Remnant became much easier.

Those pieces were indeed incredibly formidable, with each transformed sword light almost equivalent to the full force strike of a Grandmaster-level Expert, but these pieces were barely jumping up and hadn't yet transformed into sword light when Qin Fang was already riding on the Gatling Fire God Cannon to blast them away...

The terrifying figure of 6000 rounds per minute, combined with the unlimited supply from the infinite magazine, was nearly a perfect match, making the subsequent considerations rather dull.

The sword array of the Chess Sword was exceedingly terrifying, especially when ten or more pieces attacked, each time capable of slaying a Grandmaster-level Expert.

According to Qin Fang's estimation, when the number of pieces reached eighteen or more, even a Great Grandmaster Level Expert might have to suffer regret here.

Qin Fang did not know why the Master of Yijian Fu Cailin originally arranged such a Chess Sword Formation Remnant, as it was almost not intended to leave any legacy for posterity, because no descendant could break such a sword array... Unless it was an expert of his level, perhaps they could achieve it.

But by happenstance, this Master of Yijian Fu Cailin probably never expected that centuries later, hot weapons have surpassed cold weapons, becoming the main weaponry of this world.

He arranged these sword arrays indeed exceedingly powerful, but they ultimately contained this flaw, which the descendants of the Cui and Fu families seemed to have never thought of, instead allowing Qin Fang to take a great advantage.

The illusion array was extremely formidable, even though Qin Fang turned the heavens over with the Gatling Fire God Cannon inside, the outside still did not know what was happening inside.

The Go pieces were numerous, over three hundred in total. Although the number activated each time was not large, the gradual increase was equally terrifying.

Unfortunately, encountering someone like Qin Fang, this seemingly unfathomable Chess Sword Formation was broken in such a bizarre manner.

After annihilating all these pieces, Qin Fang was still in a state of disbelief, feeling that everything seemed so unreal... So when all was settled, Qin Fang couldn't help but ask himself a question.

"Damn, how do I get out?"

All the pieces had disappeared. Generally, at this point, it would mean that the Chess Sword Formation had been solved by Qin Fang. But the problem was, the place was empty, still the same as before. Apart from the absence of pieces, Qin Fang was still trapped in this Illusion Array.

"No, I definitely can't just sit here and wait for death..."

It was clear that Qin Fang wasn't one to await his doom passively. He came to venture into this Chess Sword Formation with the expectation that failure would result in being teleported out, just like those four others.

But Qin Fang broke this seemingly unsolvable Chess Sword Formation, something even the Master of Yijian, Fu Cailin, would never have anticipated.

Especially as it was solved in such an unimaginable way, thus the final assessment seemed to make this Illusion Array somewhat unreliable.

Hence, Qin Fang found himself in this awkward predicament, neither being teleported out nor breaking the Illusion Array, and instead, being trapped inside.

However, though Qin Fang realized there might be a problem here, given his previous experience, he understood that this Illusion Array was not flawless.

Qin Fang still carried the Gatling Fire God Cannon to protect himself. This Chess Sword Formation behind the stone door was both esoteric and strange, and relying solely on Qin Fang's martial prowess seemed far from adequate. Hence, it was more dependable to use such thermal weaponry.

After all, Qin Fang was not solely a martial artist; he was also an exceptionally skilled gunman...

The cavern wasn't very large, mostly occupied by the colossal chessboard. With the disappearance of the pieces, the entire cavern seemed spacious.

Qin Fang walked slowly within, beginning to search for a way out...

The Scouting Skill was continuously deployed, as it was most effective in helping Qin Fang at this time.

"It turns out there's more to this place..."

Truth be told, though the Scouting Skill wasn't omnipotent, its utility was immense. Within just a few minutes, Qin Fang had located the flaw in this Illusion Array.

Qin Fang approached a corner of the cavern, where there was a large chess container. It originally held many chess pieces, but with the pieces gone, only an empty container remained.

However, Qin Fang didn't care about this, and with a heavy kick, the hefty chess container creaked, slowly sliding and revealing a dark tunnel beneath.

This tunnel was different from the stone door he entered before. Through the light outside, Qin Fang could clearly see the cascading stone steps...

Qin Fang was at a point where doing nothing wasn't an option. Trapped as he was, there was no choice but to venture boldly.

He retrieved an emergency lamp from the Props Box, switched it on, and stepped into the tunnel, vanishing entirely from the Illusion Array.

Unbeknownst to Qin Fang, as he entered the tunnel, the chess container gradually resumed its original position, and the Illusion Array returned to its previous form, with the chess pieces slowly being restored.

The tunnel was very dark, nearly pitch black, but with the lamp in hand, Qin Fang paid it no mind. Being a significantly powerful expert, he harbored no fear.

A mini-map unfolded entirely, monitoring every movement within the tunnel. Should any unknown creature lurk in the darkness, Qin Fang would discover it immediately.

However, this tunnel had been sealed for hundreds of years. No creature could survive that long, so it was naturally devoid of life—Qin Fang hadn't even seen a mouse.

Qin Fang walked steadily; the tunnel's air wasn't foul since he felt a faint airflow, indicating it connected to the outside and that he needn't fear suffocation.

The stone steps were layer upon layer, quite level, without much sign of human tread; they seemed somewhat ancient, implying no one had visited for many years.

And so, Qin Fang continued down the stone steps, moving slowly with everything prioritized towards safety. It took nearly twenty minutes before he noticed a glimmer of light ahead, seemingly finally escaping that cursed Chess Sword Formation's Illusion Array...

As Qin Fang saw this glimpse of light, he couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement within, having felt so oppressed up until that point.

Chapter 1655 - Ziyao Stone!

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Outside the stone door, Cui Haoyu, Fu Qinglin, and others were also waiting all along, but as time slowly passed, Qin Fang's figure remained absent.

"What's going on exactly?"

At this moment, Cui Haoyu's expression was somewhat unpleasant as well. He glanced into the deep, dark stone door and couldn't help but mutter under his breath.

Qin Fang had entered the Chess Sword Formation Remnant along with four others from the families of Cui and Fu, but these four had come out early, while Qin Fang hadn't even left a trace.

"Could something unexpected have happened?"

Fu Qinglin's complexion was not any better than Cui Haoyu's. He furrowed his brow and muttered as well.

He and Cui Haoyu had hoped that Qin Fang would help them crack the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, which had been passed down through generations for hundreds of years.

Throughout these hundreds of years, even though neither the Cui nor Fu families were able to solve it, they did gain some insights.

Through the efforts of many generations, they discovered the only way to solve the Chess Sword Formation Remnant was to find a young master to forcefully break the formation.

But now the world is entirely different from hundreds of years ago. Young masters back then might have quickly reached the Grandmaster Level, with some talented prodigies even reaching the Great Grandmaster Level, but now... just look at the current foundation of the Cui and Fu families for a glimpse.

Originally, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin hadn't planned this, until the sudden rise of Qin Fang gave them a glimmer of hope.

This is also the reason why Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin appeared at the Game of Swords tournament, as it required both of them to personally invite Qin Fang; the others below them didn't have enough influence.

The outcome satisfied them. Qin Fang agreed to their request and proceeded to break the formation as they had hoped...

But the earlier commotion inside seemed to indicate that Qin Fang had already cracked the Chess Sword Formation Remnant. By now, Qin Fang should have emerged, yet after waiting for so long, even his shadow hasn't appeared, leaving Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin understandably anxious...

"Could it be that Qin actually obtained the Patriarch's Sword Dao legacy?"

Cui Haoyu suddenly entertained this possibility and couldn't help but glance at Fu Qinglin, who seemed to harbor the same suspicion, exchanging a worried look in mid-air.

Soon, this worry transformed into a trace of cunning, as their eyes quickly exchanged a look of malice.

Evidently, they had resolved entirely to the point where it seemed that even if Qin Fang truly obtained the Sword Dao inheritance of Master of Yijian Fu Cailin, they were determined to keep Qin Fang from leaving, or even... they never intended to let Qin Fang leave alive!

It's undeniable that the plans of Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin were well-thought, but is the reality as they anticipated?

Clearly, it is not!

At least not for Qin Fang, who had entered a very secluded valley at this moment.

"Game of Swords Valley..."

This place is extremely hidden, and whether it remains within Bagong Mountain, Qin Fang isn't quite certain, but judging by a walking distance of about twenty minutes, it should still be in the mountains.

The valley is located beneath a stone cliff, very small and concealed, nearly impossible to detect, as when Qin Fang looked up, he saw it covered by a large mountainside, with only some gaps allowing a ray of light to leak through...

And on that cliff, the three characters "Game of Swords Valley" were carved, clearly indicating a connection to Master of Yijian Fu Cailin.

Qin Fang even suspected that this valley was where Master of Yijian Fu Cailin secluded himself in his later years, rather than Sword Forest...

Compared to the characters on the stone wall in Sword Forest, these three characters seemed quite ordinary, but Qin Fang faintly felt that they held a profound inner brilliance, as though they had reached the Realm of Simplicity and Perfection...

Qin Fang was far from reaching that realm, so he could only faintly sense a little, but he couldn't be sure, yet it had already instilled him with considerable respect for this top master from hundreds of years ago.

The valley wasn't very large. There weren't many plants, perhaps due to the long absence of human care, it became quite desolate, especially as those vines nearly filled the valley completely.

Looking around, Qin Fang saw only these plants, unable to see any exit for the time being, so his immediate priority was to deal with these plants first.

With the Flowing Shadow Sword in hand, this sharp prized sword was put to great use this time. In Qin Fang's hand, it instantly became an effective tool for chopping wood, slicing non-stop, turning the thick vines into lifeless souls at the mercy of the blade.

Then Qin Fang set fire to burn these vines clean. Thus, Game of Swords Valley became a lot cleaner and tidier.

At this moment, Qin Fang noticed a stone house, like a cave, beneath the stone wall. There was a stone table, stone stools, and even a chessboard drawn on the stone table.

Undoubtedly, these must have a very close connection with the Master of Yijian, Fu Cailin...

Given that he had arrived at this place, suspected to be the retired hideout of Master of Yijian, Fu Cailin, Qin Fang naturally couldn't do nothing. He glanced around the valley, finding nothing unusual and no imagined treasures like spiritual medicine...

This was also understandable. Spiritual medicine has always been rare and over years, even spiritual medicine collected by Master of Yijian, Fu Cailin, must have already withered. Leaving seeds could be considered Qin Fang's good luck.

With nothing outside, Qin Fang swiftly entered the stone house, sealed for hundreds of years. If he hoped to find anything worthwhile, it seemed he'd have to explore inside.

This stone house was not large, in fact, rather small.

There's a saying that though a sparrow is small, it has all the organs; this is quite fitting for the stone house, which had a full set of desk, chair, bed, cabinet, etc.

It was even a two-room suite; the outside counted as a living room, while inside was a smaller storage area.

There wasn't much in the living room. Though stone-made "furniture" was naturally eternal, it didn't hold much value. The rest had rotted over time and thus were uninteresting to Qin Fang.

Nonetheless, Qin Fang wasn't bothered and stepped into the storage area, hoping to find something of value there...

The storage area was much like the living room outside, with paper books already rotted and no remnants left behind. Qin Fang's attention was caught by a chessboard made from an unknown material and a piece of black stone prominently placed.

It's fair to say that most things inside the warehouse were damaged, except these two that remained fairly intact.

This was understandable; the chessboard seemed to be made from some kind of metal and had undergone special treatment, remaining as it was after hundreds of years, without a trace of rust.

The black stone spoke for itself, regardless of hundreds or even thousands of years, it probably remained unchanged...

Yet this piece of stone had attracted the attention of the master Fu Cailin, a top-notch expert, so Qin Fang naturally couldn't treat it as a regular stone.

Almost upon seeing this stone, Qin Fang immediately used his Scouting Skill on it.

"This is..."

When the result of the Scouting was fed back to him, Qin Fang's eyes widened, and his face bore an expression of excitement, even appearing somewhat thrilled.

"This is... Purple Obsidian! It's actually Purple Obsidian..."

Suddenly, Qin Fang seemed to be in a frenzy, hugging this purple-black stone and shouting with joy.

The Flowing Shadow Sword needed three primary materials to be elevated to a Divine Artifact, besides auxiliary materials which were easy to collect. These were Galaxy Divine Iron, Tianxin Sand, and Purple Obsidian.

Among these, Galaxy Divine Iron had been obtained by Qin Fang after slaying Nakano at the Master Level Peak, while he had no clues regarding the remaining two.

Qin Fang had almost forgotten about these two materials until he unexpectedly acquired one here.

"Hahaha, now only Tianxin Sand is left..."

With Galaxy Divine Iron and Purple Obsidian in hand, two of the three primary materials needed to upgrade the Flowing Shadow Sword to a Divine Artifact level have been obtained. Only Tianxin Sand remains to be found for the sword's upgrade to become a divine-grade sword...

Thinking of owning a weapon comparable to the Ten Great Divine Weapons sent Qin Fang into uncontrollable excitement.

Yet, regarding when he'll obtain Tianxin Sand, Qin Fang wasn't very certain; maybe he'll find it soon, or perhaps never, it's all a matter of luck, unpredictable by anyone.

However, Qin Fang wasn't anxious. When he got Galaxy Divine Iron, he felt similarly hopeless, as searching for these almost vanished treasures amidst the vast humanity was like looking for a needle in a haystack, almost hopeless...

Yet this "almost impossible" possibility turned into reality now; there's no reason Qin Fang shouldn't believe he could find the remaining Tianxin Sand?

Chapter 1656 - Returning Fully Loaded!

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As for the Ziyao Stone that was in hand, Qin Fang naturally accepted it without any hesitation, tossing it into the Props Box, placing it alongside that piece of Galaxy Divine Iron.

"Ah, what a pity..."

After taking care of this Ziyao Stone, Qin Fang meticulously checked everything around, confirming that there was indeed nothing else here, and then sighed helplessly.

Several hundred years had passed, and this place was not completely sealed off. The erosion from centuries of wind and rain had damaged many treasures that were not easy to preserve, leaving only these two items that are resistant to decay.

From the treasures of Master of Yijian Fu Cailin, Qin Fang only managed to acquire these two items. As for the so-called Sword Dao inheritance, Qin Fang did not find it.

Or rather, Qin Fang had already obtained it before coming here... it just wasn't as mysterious as Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin imagined.

The words carved into the stone wall of the Sword Forest, with their iron strokes and silver hooks, allowed Qin Fang to comprehend a strand of Sword Qi, and every time Qin Fang shattered a chess piece in the Chess Sword Formation Remnant, he vaguely gained some fragmented insights into Sword Dao.

Qin Fang pondered that this is the wealth Master of Yijian Fu Cailin left for his descendants, and the more chess pieces one can shatter, the greater the rewards.

For a monster like Qin Fang, who destroyed all the chess pieces (of course, Qin Fang achieved this result by cheating)... the harvest is even more tremendous.

Previously, Qin Fang was pressured by those chess pieces and had no mind to sort out what he had obtained, but after using the Gatling Fire God Cannon, he was freed, allowing him to focus on comprehending some related aspects of Yijian, whereupon he discovered the hidden secrets within.

All three hundred-plus chess pieces ultimately fell under Qin Fang's sword and gun, resulting in significant gains, as if he had acquired a complete set of Yijian Swordsmanship.

However, this set of swordsmanship was quite scattered, and Qin Fang would need some time to fully integrate it. By then, he would have a set of swordsmanship comparable to the Demonic Divine Art.

This swordsmanship is likely the ultimate skill of Master of Yijian Fu Cailin, possibly a masterpiece he created in his later years, originally intending to pass it on to his descendants, but unexpectedly, it benefited Qin Fang, an outsider, instead.

After confirming there was nothing else of value, Qin Fang began to study how to leave here...

Returning to that Illusion Array was clearly something Qin Fang would not do, as that broken Illusion Array was not something he could break presently.

Moreover, this valley was clearly outside the range of the Sword Forest, and considering the not-so-pure intentions of Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin, Qin Fang figured it would be best not to show himself.

The commotion Qin Fang caused in the Illusion Array, Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin might not have seen it, but such intense gunfire might not have gone unnoticed.

Especially since Qin Fang hadn't shown up for so long, he estimated those two guys were already plotting against him, and going there now might not end well.

"Hmph, the two old guys, let them be arrogant for a while, next time I'll come to deal with them..."

Although Qin Fang's current strength was almost comparable to Grandmaster-level Experts, there was still some slight gap; facing the joint forces of two Great Grandmaster Level Experts, Qin Fang had no chance of victory.

Rather than being hunted by two great experts, it would be better to leave unnoticed, which would be much better... As for the future, after Qin Fang breaks through to the Grandmaster Level, he will naturally come back to trouble these two people.

This valley was very secluded, with its upper part covered by huge rocks, and the surroundings were likely places like cliffs, with only some very narrow crevices to pass through.

Clang~~

However, Qin Fang was quite satisfied with this, instantly summoning the Flowing Shadow Sword to his hand, and simultaneously taking out some specialized climbing tools from the Props Box.

Fortunately, he was prepared early on; these tools had been ready for a while, and they were now just coming in handy.

First, he used the tools to automatically shoot a grappling rope, threading it through the crevices above the cliff and shooting it out. Qin Fang tested it several times, and once it was stable, he used the rope along with the Flowing Shadow Sword in his hand as tools, swiftly flying towards the top of the cliff.

Although the process seemed thrilling, in reality, it was quite smooth, taking barely half a minute for Qin Fang to easily climb up the cliff.

The narrow crevice might be difficult for others to navigate, but Qin Fang simply used Metamorphosis to transform his body into a flat shape and easily slipped through.

Thus, Qin Fang climbed up the cliff unnoticed and then identified the direction, heading straight for the foot of Bagong Mountain...

...

Back at the Sword Forest, the experts from the Cui and Fu families were still waiting for any movement from within the stone door, each with a rather grim expression and slightly tense demeanor.

Of course, they had already been waiting for quite some time, but the stone door remained silent inside, as if not a single sound could be heard.

At this point, even Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin showed a hint of impatience, vaguely sensing that things seemed to have deviated from their initial expectations.

For thousands of years, the Chess Sword Formation Remnant had remained intact, with no one ever succeeding in unraveling it. Therefore, what the situation would be like once the remnant was cracked, even Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin were unsure.

But they vaguely felt that Qin Fang had cracked the remnant and obtained the swordsmanship legacy of Master of Yijian Fu Cailin, so he should be coming out by now.

Yet, the fact was, not only had Qin Fang not come out, but there was no movement from within.

Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin exchanged a glance, both showing considerable helplessness. The Chess Sword Formation Remnant, to those who had entered it, was a closed space.

Never mind the dark cave behind the stone door, if they tried to force their way in, the result would certainly be extraordinarily tragic.

For centuries, countless people had tried before, yet none succeeded, all meeting tragic ends... This is why Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin could only wait at the entrance.

Otherwise, they would have rushed in to capture him long ago, why bother waiting here painfully?

"Keep your eyes on it, as soon as he comes out, notify us immediately!"

Cui Haoyu's expression was quite dark, having spent so much effort and finally having the Chess Sword Formation Remnant cracked, yet Qin Fang seemed to have vanished.

It was impossible for the two Family Heads to remain here indefinitely, so they exchanged a glance and reluctantly instructed their elders before going to rest aside.

As a result, the elders appeared quite miserable, continuously standing there, highly focused, staring intently, not daring to move a bit.

The waiting dragged on from the afternoon to the evening, from daylight to Black Night... Behind the stone door, the dark cave remained silent, not a bit of movement.

Cui Haoyu and Fu Qinglin's faces turned green, vaguely feeling that things seemed to have gone wrong, the situation had seriously deviated from their expectations.

But at this time, even if they wanted to retreat, it was impossible. If they withdrew now, who knows if Qin Fang might suddenly emerge from inside.

If they missed this opportunity, it would indeed be too unfortunate... Ultimately, they could only grit their teeth, intending to persist against Qin Fang.

However... Qin Fang clearly didn't plan on waiting it out with them. He pinpointed the Fu Family Ancestral Home's location and chose to descend the mountain in the opposite direction.

Although the entire Bagong Mountain was Fu Family's territory, their manpower was limited, unable to cover every aspect. Perhaps more personnel were near the Fu Family's old residence, but other locations were different.

And the position Qin Fang chose to descend was by a cliff, usually sparsely populated, especially at such times and for someone as skilled as Qin Fang...

The experts from the Cui and Fu families were still guarding there awaiting a rabbit, while Qin Fang, supposed to be "a doomed rabbit," had already returned to Incheon Urban Area, leaving there at the fastest speed and heading back to Seoul in Korea.

For Qin Fang, though this trip to Incheon wasn't particularly pleasant, even risking life and death several times, the rewards were immensely significant.

His strength had seen considerable growth, even surpassing the level from when he first arrived... not in terms of realm, but in terms of strength level.

Simultaneously, Qin Fang harvested several extremely rare and valuable treasures, such as the formula for the Demon Blood Pill, Ziyao Stone, Yijian Swordsmanship, etc., marking crucial gains making the trip worthwhile.

Back in Seoul, seeing Qin Fang's safe return, Tang Feifei and the other two showed bright smiles, genuinely relieved and happy for his safety.

However, they also brought some good news for Qin Fang.

"You came back at the right time, we've completed our one-month exchange study and are preparing to return home!"

Originally, Tang Feifei and the other two had been in Korea for a month, and it was time for them to return.

Knowing Qin Fang had important matters to attend to, they had planned to bid him farewell and leave directly, but now that Qin Fang returned, it was just perfect to leave together.

"That's good too..."

Although this news wasn't exactly great, it was still good news for Qin Fang, given the tension with the Cui and Fu families. Tang Feifei and their departure counted as a blessing.

Otherwise, given the influence of these two families in Korea, even Qin Fang would find it somewhat troublesome.

Chapter 1657 - Enemies Gather!

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Tang Feifei and her friends originally came as exchange students to learn, and now that the time is up, naturally, they have to return home...

As for Qin Fang himself, he's a free person and can go wherever he wants, so it doesn't matter to him whether he stays in Korea or goes back home directly.

Just like that, Qin Fang and the girls, before the Cui and Fu families could react, boarded a flight directly to Jiangzhou City.

At this moment, nearly a month has passed since Qin Fang last left Jiangzhou by ship and now set foot on this land again.

Tang Huaiyuan led the Tang Sect people out of the mountains to hunt down Qin Fang, but unfortunately, what should have been a very easy task turned out to be not smooth at all.

Although someone secretly helped the Tang Sect people, the result greatly infuriated Tang Huaiyuan, especially when his brother Tang Huaiming was actually murdered...

And according to reliable information, the person who murdered Tang Huaiming was none other than their target... Qin Fang.

As soon as Tang Huaiyuan received the news, he immediately went north to Blue Island, but when he arrived there, he could only retrieve a pile of ashes and didn't even get a chance to see those disciples for the last time.

Tang Huaiming took away almost two-thirds of their men, but not only were they unable to complete the mission, they were all buried at the hands of Qin Fang.

The martial arts of the Tang Sect are very powerful, and their poisons and hidden weapons are known as dual necessities, but once they entered this modern society, they were shocked to find that their advantages were no longer so apparent.

An ordinary person with a gun could easily kill these grandmaster-level experts, and of the seven people left with Tang Huaiyuan, three were picked off by sniper fire.

Tang Huaiyuan only then realized why some people say Ninghai is Qin Fang's backyard. In just one month, three people were assassinated; if they stayed any longer, they would all end up here sooner or later.

So, in desperation, Tang Huaiyuan had to move to another city, and as Jiangzhou is the most prosperous metropolis in Dragon Country, it became the first choice for Tang Huaiyuan and his people.

So, just as Qin Fang and the others stepped into Jiangzhou City, Tang Huaiyuan and his group had just found their footing there. Although Brother Da received the news, he hadn't yet had the chance to inform Qin Fang.

Tang Feifei and the two other girls didn't stay in Jiangzhou for long. After Qin Fang accompanied them on a brief tour, the three girls returned to Ninghai with their classmates, but Qin Fang himself stayed behind.

When night fell, Qin Fang was naturally with Chu Yunxuan, indulging in intimate things people love to do...

After everything calmed down, Qin Fang lay there with Chu Yunxuan, her fair arm like a lotus root, and began to discuss serious matters.

"Reid Pharmaceuticals has been driving me crazy over the past month. Every day, I can only avoid them..."

Qin Fang had no choice but to leave at the time, and with Reid Pharmaceuticals being somewhat unscrupulous, Qin Fang just left them hanging.

But with Qin Fang's departure, Chu Yunxuan simply shrugged, indicating she couldn't make decisions, prompting Reid Pharmaceuticals to become anxious.

They had no choice but to be anxious because Qin Fang's move was so ruthless, intending to call for tenders from all major pharmaceutical companies worldwide... If he really did this, Reid Pharmaceuticals would hardly stand out among so many major pharmaceutical companies.

To calm Qin Fang's anger, they even immediately recalled that fool Alex back to the United States and let Helen take full charge of the cooperation.

Even Reid Pharmaceuticals' president, who is Helen's biological father, especially instructed Helen to secure this cooperation at all costs.

"How's Helen?"

After learning these things, Qin Fang couldn't help but think of the glamorous Helen Dayangma. He and Chu Yunxuan orchestrated this to get Helen promoted.

"She refused the head office's arrangement and now is content to be an outsider..."

Chu Yunxuan smiled mischievously as she said this with a playful grin.

"Uh..."

Qin Fang was momentarily stunned, then realized that the two women had set this up, forcing Reid Pharmaceuticals to show sincerity.

Of course, this sincerity is not only for Qin Fang and their formula but also for Helen...

Helen's previous position at Reid Pharmaceuticals was quite awkward, and her power was heavily restricted. Even this time, it was Helen who had originally initiated the collaboration and was supposed to lead it without any trouble...

But her cold-hearted father insisted on sending that fool Alex to steal the credit, which stirred up all the ensuing chaos.

Reportedly, Alex's stupidity has left many major shareholders within Reid Pharmaceuticals extremely enraged. If it weren't a family business, someone would have already dealt with that fool Alex because what he did was not for the company's benefit and even depleted the shareholders' interests.

Helen will definitely take advantage of this opportunity to gain some control over the shares, so she can confront that fool Alex.

"There's no rush for this, we'll wait..."

Since the setup was a collaboration between Chu Yunxuan and Helen, Qin Fang naturally wouldn't disrupt it. With a calm smile, he noted that although the delay might affect his earnings, he wasn't in dire need of money at the moment and didn't mind waiting.

Moreover, compared to Qin Fang not making money, Reid Pharmaceuticals is much more anxious. The longer the delay, the more changes will occur. If other major pharmaceutical groups catch wind of this, they will surely jump in, making it even harder for Reid to secure the collaboration rights.

"By the way, how's Ron doing now?"

The collaboration on the Heart Nourishing Pill can be set aside temporarily; Qin Fang then thought of Ron, who had plotted against him.

Originally, Qin Fang shouldn't have mentioned Ron in front of Chu Yunxuan, but now Chu Yunxuan felt nothing towards Ron; he was just a person she had once known.

Or rather, Chu Yunxuan and Ron were now enemies... because Ron had sent someone to assassinate Qin Fang, something Chu Yunxuan would never forgive.

"He stays mostly in the hotel, only occasionally going out for a walk. Nothing seems out of the ordinary... However, according to the information Wu Jian gathered, this person seems to be secretly accumulating strength."

Mentioning Ron, Chu Yunxuan furrowed her brows slightly, unsure about the potential issues hidden within.

"Accumulating strength... hmm!"

Ron is merely an ordinary person, perhaps a very wealthy one, but this ordinary person possesses powers others don't.

The last attempt to assassinate Qin Fang involved Bill, a Level 6 Grandmaster with impressive gunmanship nearly equal to Qin Fang's, and his public identity was Ron's bodyguard.

Qin Fang initially thought that Bill's mysterious disappearance would cause Ron to flee Jiangzhou or even Dragon Void in the Dragon Country out of fear. Yet, the guy's audacity was unexpectedly immense, as he stayed in Jiangzhou.

As for accumulating strength, it's just the kid seeking stronger experts to target Qin Fang, something Qin Fang had anticipated. However, he left hastily back then, thus failing to deal with the guy promptly.

"Looks like I'll need to make some time to pay him a visit..."

The fact that Ron dared to send Bill to assassinate him indicates the deep enmity Ron holds. For opponents like him, Qin Fang never hesitates to eliminate them directly.

Though Ron's background isn't simple, potentially supported by a terrifying family, Qin Fang isn't worried about that. He's not afraid to provoke them, even less so about Ron.

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, a trace of unusual emotion flickered in Chu Yunxuan's eyes, but she quickly returned to normal, showing no significant change in expression.

In response, Qin Fang merely sighed internally, but he chose not to voice certain thoughts.

"By the way, Brother Da sent word that people from the Tang Sect have recently arrived in Jiangzhou..."

Thankfully, Chu Yunxuan quickly changed the topic, delivering this explosive news to Qin Fang's ears... Since Qin Fang had been in Korea, Brother Da and the others couldn't relay the news promptly, so it had to be passed through Chu Yunxuan.

"Uh... this is quite troublesome!"

Sure enough, upon hearing the news, Qin Fang was taken aback. Among those Qin Fang was wary of, Tang Huaiyuan was naturally at the top.

This fellow is an elder of the Tang Sect, holding an extremely important position, not on the same level as Tang Huaiming, and he's a Grandmaster-level expert. He likely carries some extremely deadly poisons and hidden weapons, possibly even the Ten Great Hidden Weapons of the Tang Sect.

Leaving aside the hidden weapons and poisons, Qin Fang had previously dealt with Storm Pear Blossom and wouldn't be intimidated by facing the Ten Great Hidden Weapons again; he even contemplated acquiring another one of them.

Poisons are even less concerning. Qin Fang's special constitution makes him immune to poisons as long as he doesn't run out of drugs to replenish his Life Points.

The real threat to Qin Fang is Tang Huaiyuan's Grandmaster Level Cultivation... especially Tang Huaiyuan, who has been a top-tier Grandmaster for many years, likely stronger than Korea's Cui and Fu, and possibly even more formidable than the Bloody-handed Demon Tu San.

Chapter 1658 - Chased the Wrong Person!

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But Qin Fang wasn't the kind of person who liked to overcomplicate things. Even though these enemies had gathered in Jiangzhou, he still remained the same as before, doing what he needed to do.

The night passed without incident, and Tang Feifei and the others safely returned to Ninghai. Qin Fang and Tang Cheng arranged for people to protect them in secret, ensuring their safety was not an issue.

Moreover, Tang Feifei's own abilities were quite impressive. Although she hadn't reached the Master Level, dealing with ordinary people was no problem for her.

Qin Fang even guessed that his brother-in-law, Tang Cheng, might not be able to defeat Tang Feifei.

Of course, this was a good thing, not bad news at all...

Besides, since that mission with Anlang, Tang Cheng had developed True Qi in his body, and reaching the Master Level was only a matter of time. Being a Soldier King in the special forces, his fighting skills were already formidable, and his strength was equally terrifying.

Since we're here, let's make ourselves comfortable.

Although there were problems with Reid Pharmaceuticals regarding the cooperation on the Heart Nourishing Pill formula, Qin Fang still planned to resolve the matter quickly so that he could comfortably head to Japan.

As for the fact that his enemies in Jiangzhou were quite numerous, Qin Fang remained relatively calm for now. At least with his current Master Level Peak, and possessing the Demonic Divine Art and Yijian Swordsmanship, even if he wasn't yet a match for Grandmaster-level experts like Tang Huaiyuan, it wouldn't be easy for Tang Huaiyuan to take him down, so he wasn't too concerned.

Upon hearing that Qin Fang had returned, the happiest people were naturally Chu Yunxuan, and then her cousin Wu Jian, who eagerly ran over.

"Brother Qin, I know a place that's pretty good..."

Since the matters with Reid Pharmaceuticals were temporarily unresolved, Qin Fang had nothing much to do, and Wu Jian, being a local in Jiangzhou, naturally took the initiative to introduce some places to Qin Fang.

"I think you should forget it. Besides knowing bars and nightclubs, what good places do you know?"

However, Chu Yunxuan immediately rolled her eyes in disdain, although she knew Qin Fang wouldn't fool around in such places, she still felt uncomfortable.

"Sis, how could you say that? Would I take my brother-in-law to such places? We're talking about proper places, very proper..."

Wu Jian looked dejected, trying to explain helplessly.

"Actually, it's a newly opened teahouse..."

To make Chu Yunxuan aware of some details, Wu Jian briefly introduced the newly opened teahouse...

Though Chu Yunxuan didn't seem too interested, Qin Fang couldn't help but frown slightly.

"Wu Jian, let's go check it out then..."

Qin Fang then voluntarily suggested, and while Chu Yunxuan was slightly surprised, she didn't say much, tacitly agreeing to Qin Fang's request.

"Brother Qin, is there a problem?"

Wu Jian noticed Qin Fang's expression and couldn't help but ask.

"It's nothing, let's just go take a look..."

Qin Fang shook his head, saying nothing more.

The teahouse had a rather cliched name, called Baihua Tea House... Although it was labeled as a teahouse, it was actually more of a high-end private club.

Despite not being open for long, it had already garnered some fame in Jiangzhou, and most people with some status in Jiangzhou knew about this teahouse.

Coincidentally enough, the teahouse opened shortly after Qin Fang left Jiangzhou. Although there was no direct correlation, the fact that it became well-known in such a short time indicated it had something special about it.

The club was located in an old house with some history in Jiangzhou, which clearly showed the strong background of the club—something not easily acquired with just money.

However, the interior of the club was decorated in an antique style, appearing very "ancient." In Jiangzhou, an Eastern Magic Capital, it gave a sense of being a "hidden paradise."

But this was just the external environment. The services of this club sounded somewhat reminiscent of an ancient brothel—but not the kind engaging in flesh trade. All the women here were Qinggui Persons, all highly talented and incredibly beautiful.

Visitors to this place could engage in conversations with these beauties about music, chess, calligraphy, painting, tea ceremonies, or even discuss business strategies, among other things.

But listening to this, Qin Fang felt it seemed a bit too fantastical. Although today's businesses often relied on extraordinary tactics, clubs like this were still rare.

Of course, Qin Fang didn't go with just Wu Jian; Chu Yunxuan accompanied them too. This wasn't demanded by Chu Yunxuan but rather Qin Fang's own decision.

Since this place was supposedly proper, there wasn't any reason not to bring along a female companion. After all, it was just another expenses matter—a price he was capable of paying.

Moreover, Qin Fang had a faint suspicion that this place was not simple, so bringing Chu Yunxuan along was part of some backup planning.

"Brother Qin, we're here..."

Wu Jian was not visiting this place for the first time, so he was familiar with it and quickly led Qin Fang to the Baihua Tea House. Its location wasn't in a bustling urban hotspot, but rather in a relatively secluded corner.

Chapter 1659 - Chasing the Wrong Girl! (Part 2)

If it weren't for someone familiar, finding this place wouldn't be that easy... Yet, even so, when Qin Fang and the others arrived, the parking lot outside the club was already filled with all kinds of luxury cars. Those who came here were not ordinary characters.

That's not surprising, as Wu Jian mentioned, even a glass of the cheapest boiled water here would cost you One Thousand Yuan. Basically, entering and spending here costs amounts in the tens of thousands, making it a well-packaged gold-digging den...

This place also operates on a membership system, and others wishing to enter would have to go through very complicated procedures. Wu Jian was already a member here, saving them the hassle, and directly led Qin Fang and Chu Yunxuan inside.

This ancient residence is said to be an ancient building from the Ming and Qing dynasties, and it's quite rare in the Jiangzhou area, especially one that is relatively well-preserved like this.

However, it seems that some simple renovations and modifications have been made here. Although it hasn't been modernized, some essential facilities are still included.

As Qin Fang's group of three entered, Qin Fang and Wu Jian didn't stand out much, but the extraordinarily beautiful Chu Yunxuan immediately drew the attention of countless men the moment she appeared.

This teahouse club, although not a brothel, still predominantly sees male visitors. As for why they come here, it's a matter of mutual understanding.

They hadn't managed to book any stunning beauties from the teahouse when they suddenly saw Chu Yunxuan appear, naturally making her quite conspicuous.

Qin Fang didn't mind, and Chu Yunxuan acted as if she hadn't noticed, long accustomed to such gazes. Even if the men around were wealthy or noble, she still didn't care for them.

Wu Jian had already reserved a spot, so the three of them naturally headed straight there without stopping along the way.

Due to the unique architectural structure of this club, Qin Fang's spot wasn't a private room like in other clubs but a small table...

Around their small table were numerous similar small tables with teapots, teacups, and some sunflower seeds and desserts.

Observing the surrounding environment closely, it felt like an ancient theater setting, as if Qin Fang and the others were theatergoers, with a stage-like platform set up about four or five meters in front of them...

Of course, the backdrop of this stage featured an impressive portrait of a beauty. The artistry was notably good, and although it may not be the work of a renowned artist, the skill level was comparable.

"Brother Qin, this is how it is here. While it feels a bit like watching an opera, it's not really the case... Someone will come out soon."

After sitting down, Wu Jian explained the setting to Qin Fang and Chu Yunxuan.

Qin Fang nodded, not saying much, his expression remaining quite calm, though a flicker of inscrutable emotion was present in his eyes.

Not far from Qin Fang and his group, a few young men were gathered around a table, munching on sunflower seeds, eating desserts, and exchanging jokes.

"Young Master Kui, we just saw a girl, she's truly stunning..."

Suddenly, a young man came over with a grin, speaking to a young man at the table, "What do you think? Interested?"

"Young Master Chen, if there really was such a beauty, would you still be standing here? You would've already made a move, right..."

The young man called Young Master Kui just smiled indifferently, sarcastically.

"Do you think I don't want to? It's just that I know the man next to her... We have some acquaintance, not really convenient to make a move!"

Young Master Chen wore a helpless expression as he spoke.

Though these playboys were often unreliable, frequently swapping women around, when it came to acquaintances, they disdained stealing someone else's girl.

"Oh, who is it... that even you, Young Master Chen, have to give face to?"

Young Master Kui and the young men around couldn't help but laugh, clearly curious.

No one at this table had a simple background, and Young Master Chen was no exception, being considered a notable figure among Jiangzhou's playboys.

Even so, seeing Young Master Chen apprehensive, the others grew curious.

"That guy from the Wu Family... My old man won't let me fall out with him!"

Young Master Chen shrugged helplessly.

"Oh, it's him..."

Upon hearing Young Master Chen's words, the others immediately understood, each showing varied expressions.

People in Jiangzhou's playboy circles naturally knew Wu Jian's background, but since his father, Wu Ling, hadn't been settled there for long, his roots weren't deep, and fewer playboys were friendly with him; most kept their distance.

For instance, the group at this table, not only had little interaction with Wu Jian, but some even disregarded him...

"Since it's that guy, I won't hold back then..."

Especially that Young Master Kui, who seemed to not regard Wu Jian at all, immediately stood up, ready to flirt.

Chapter 1660 - Chased the Wrong Girl! (Part 3)

"Let's go, let's all go join the fun..."

The other playboys, seeing Young Master Kui on the move, were all gleefully planning to see the commotion too. After all, even if Wu Jian got offended, it would be Young Master Kui's offense, and at most they would just be bystanders.

"Brother Qin, let me tell you, there are several beauties here that are truly stunning... Just between us, even compared to my sister, they're not one bit inferior! Especially that Miss Qin Xin, she's a peerless beauty... If I could even kiss her, I wouldn't mind living ten years less..."

Wu Jian naturally didn't know these things and was whispering some insider information to Qin Fang, especially when talking about this lady reputed to be the star of the club, showing an envious, admiring expression.

"Is it really that exaggerated?"

Hearing Wu Jian's words, Qin Fang didn't doubt there were beautiful women, but seeing Wu Jian speak so mystically, he couldn't help but laugh.

"Of course there is... If you don't believe me, when Miss Qin Xin comes out later, you'll see for yourself!"

Regarding Qin Fang's doubts, Wu Jian gave a very serious confirmation, clearly having great confidence in Miss Qin Xin.

"Young Master Kui, how about it? I wasn't lying, was I? She's an absolutely top-tier beauty, even not inferior to Miss Qin Xin..."

Just then, Young Master Chen was already leading Young Master Kui and others to a spot not far from Qin Fang's group. Qin Fang happened to have his back to them, so from that angle, they could only see Wu Jian and Chu Yunxuan.

"Mm, indeed a beauty... But, why does she look a bit familiar!"

Young Master Kui rubbed his smooth chin, nodding in agreement, clearly quite approving of Young Master Chen's taste.

Yet looking at Chu Yunxuan's alluring silhouette, he felt like he had seen this beauty somewhere before, but couldn't quite recall at the moment.

"Young Master Kui, I think you've just been with too many women. Every beauty seems familiar to you when you see them..."

The other playboys beside him were joking cheerfully. Though they had played with countless women, it seemed this Young Master Kui was the real standout, even making them acknowledge his superiority.

"Maybe..."

Young Master Kui thought, perhaps that was indeed the case. He often saw women who seemed familiar, yet it was actually their first meeting.

"Just wait and see me return triumphantly..."

Putting aside his doubts, Young Master Kui tidied his clothes and walked towards Chu Yunxuan in a crab-like manner.

Qin Fang seemed to be contemplating something, so Chu Yunxuan didn't disturb him, instead making small talk with her cousin Wu Jian.

This gave the impression that Qin Fang wasn't an important figure, so even Young Master Kui, approaching from behind, didn't notice him.

"This beautiful lady, I'm Kui Mingyu. May I have the honor of inviting you for a drink..."

Young Master Kui, showing a bit of a romantic playboy's flair, immediately issued a warm invitation to Chu Yunxuan who was in conversation upon arriving.

He even extended a hand to Chu Yunxuan, seemingly intending to hold her fair, tender hand.

"Uh..."

Chu Yunxuan was surprised by this move while talking to Wu Jian, casting a bewildered glance at Young Master Kui beside her.

But after a look, Chu Yunxuan was even more surprised, and her expression became somewhat playful, seemingly holding back laughter.

"Handsome, are you sure you want to invite me for a drink?"

Chu Yunxuan immediately smiled sweetly, asking with a hint of flirtation.

This smile was like flowers blooming, refreshing the surrounding air significantly, giving Young Master Kui a heart-throbbing feeling, prompting him to hastily express himself.

"Of course, since when have I, Kui, not kept my word? Whatever you want to drink, it's no problem as long as you ask!"

Young Master Kui wished he could pat his chest in guarantee.

"Really? That's so generous... But, I should first ask my boyfriend!"

Chu Yunxuan's smile grew even brighter, as if genuinely tempted, yet Young Master Kui got an unexpected response instead of her nodding in agreement.

"Boyfriend?"

Young Master Kui was stunned, instinctively glancing at Wu Jian across from him, but Wu Jian merely gave Qin Fang a strange look.

"What's the matter, Young Master Kui? Are you trying to hit on my girl?"

By now, Young Master Kui's gaze had shifted to Qin Fang, slowly asking at this point.

Truth be told, Qin Fang was a bit surprised by Young Master Kui's actions, not expecting someone would try to hit on his girl here, especially since the one doing it was someone familiar, none other than the Young Master of the Qing Gang whom he had once severely beaten up.

"Uh..."

Young Master Kui froze slightly, finally noticing Qin Fang next to Chu Yunxuan, causing his face to turn green instantly...

"Qin... Young Master Qin..."

Seeing Qin Fang sitting there with a smile, Young Master Kui felt every bone and every part of his skin aching.

"I... I... I was joking with... your girlfriend!"

This guy reacted relatively quickly. As soon as he realized the one sitting beside him was the same Qin Fang who had given him a hard time but whom his father forbade him from seeking revenge, his words changed instantly, flattering instead.