

Genius 1981

Chapter 1981 Netherworld Ghost Qi!

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"Sofia... does she have the same purpose as me?"

Seeing Sofia's reaction again, these two are clearly together, and Qin Fang couldn't help but come up with this thought.

He could come to the island to find his father, so why couldn't Sofia? Looking at their ages, they could easily be father and daughter...

Of course, this is just Qin Fang's speculation, whether it's true or false is hard to determine.

Hesitating for a moment, Qin Fang continued to lie on the ground pretending to be dead. He wanted to see what this mysterious man in the black robe was planning!

However, based on Qin Fang's personal guess, Sofia bringing these guys here likely harbored ill intentions, especially since her first move was to throw poisonous hidden weapons, clearly to take their lives.

What happened next was just as Qin Fang had predicted; a few people came later, all just snuck in from the water channel, and got hit by hidden weapons before they could react, then Sofia tossed them to Qin Fang's side.

"Shit..."

Of course, things didn't go smoothly all the time. When the last intruder, that black giant, came in and saw the hidden weapons being shot, his body immediately trembled with an extremely bizarre strength, surprisingly deflecting those hidden weapons!

Vaguely, Qin Fang heard the angry roar of the black giant, who then rushed from the water directly towards Sofia and the mysterious man in the black robe.

"Indeed, Grandmaster Mid-Stage..."

Perhaps angered, this black giant no longer hid his strength, bursting out with his full combat power, his terrifying Grandmaster Mid-Stage strength unleashed fully.

Bam bam bam~~~

But Sofia seemed no weaker, surprisingly fighting this black giant seriously.

Her strength nearly reached Grandmaster Level, though it was slightly lacking, she seemed to have some special secret technique allowing her to barely withstand the attacks of the black giant!

The fight between them was intense, but the black giant was still in absolute advantage. It was only a matter of time before Sofia would be defeated.

Yet, this wasn't the strangest thing. What truly amazed Qin Fang was the reaction of the mysterious black robe man... He stood there dumbfounded, without any intention to intervene!

"What's going on?"

Witnessing this scene, Qin Fang frowned, unclear about the situation, it seemed the black robe man didn't care about Sofia's life or death!

"Not right!"

But because of this, Qin Fang's attention to the black robe man increased, slowly noticing something unusual.

"This is..."

When Qin Fang carefully observed the seemingly motionless black robe man, he finally noticed the movements hidden under the large black robe.

At the moment, his hands were concealed under the robe, yet they gathered an extremely terrifying and evil power...

"No weaker than a Late Grandmaster Level Expert's full strike!"

Soon, Qin Fang estimated the strength of this power, his expression becoming quite serious, and looking at the black robe man with a change in his gaze.

"Die for me!"

At that moment, the situation between the two fighters became clearer, the black giant's strength was a few tiers above Sofia's.

Although Sofia used some secret technique to temporarily boost her strength and barely withstand the black giant's attacks, this secret technique had flaws, couldn't last too long, and she was beginning to weaken...

The black giant, a ruthless expert, naturally wouldn't miss such an opportunity. Seizing the moment, he directly grabbed Sofia's hands, ready to tear her apart alive...

An expert of his caliber possessed terrifying strength and ruthless methods, Sofia might be strong, but she wasn't his match.

Being caught in this situation, the likelihood of being killed was very high...

As for sparing ladies, that's nonsense! In the Underground World, this bunch of madmen rarely spare women just because they're female...

Mercy represents cowardice!

People like this find it hard to survive in the Underground World!

"Jie jie jie jie..."

But just as the black giant prepared to tear Sofia apart, a hoarse and sinister laugh sounded behind him.

The sound was extremely eerie, having a metallic screech like glass being scraped, quite grating, also sending a chill through one's heart!

No!

Not just a chill!

The air temperature nearby drastically dropped, as if one was inside a freezing cellar!

"Netherworld Ghost Qi..."

When that change occurred, even Qin Fang, pretending to be dead on the ground, couldn't help but feel his hairs stand on end, almost exclaiming in shock.

Puh~~~

And just when Qin Fang reacted, the black robe man finally acted, his arm slightly trembling, the hands instantly unleashing two bursts of violent power!

This was the power he gathered earlier... now shot directly at the Grandmaster Mid-Stage black giant's back.

Chapter 1982 Netherworld Ghost Qi! (2)

These two currents of energy were released, the surrounding air dropped by a few degrees again, and it made people shiver involuntarily; it was clear how sinister they were.

"Shit..."

Feeling the assault of these two sinister and cold energies, the burly black man couldn't be bothered with killing Sofia anymore, and could only curse angrily before trying to evade.

But...

Soon, his eyes widened, flickering with terror, as he was horrified to find that his body was unexpectedly paralyzed.

His feet stood there rigidly; even though his brain had already issued commands, his feet just wouldn't obey!

Bang!!!

Unfortunately, even when he realized it, there was no time left, and he could only watch helplessly as those two masses of energy struck his back.

A muffled sound, not as impactful as expected, was like two raindrops falling on a human body with no ripples caused, simply disappearing without a trace!

"Sigh..."

But Qin Fang, who was pretending to be dead, couldn't help but sigh lightly because this formidable black man was already hit, and worse off than those poisoned before, as he was killed in one strike.

"Ignorant fool!"

This black man was killed just like that without any sign, appearing extremely baffling and unfathomable, leaving others unable to comprehend it.

However, with the black man dead, Sofia was naturally freed, easily escaping the clutches of the deceased black man, and couldn't help but softly curse.

Then, she extended her slender finger, lightly touching the motionless black man's body, using very little strength, and his body fell straight to the ground.

What's even more bizarre is that, even when falling, this black man's body maintained the previous posture, not a single change.

Even the sound of him hitting the ground was very dull and stiff, without the slightest sense of flesh!

"I suddenly understand what's going on..."

Things have developed to this point; although everything still seems shrouded in fog, Qin Fang has already roughly grasped the clues.

The root of all this lies in the source of those two strange energy masses released by the man in the black robe.

"Netherworld Ghost Qi... I thought it was just a legend; I never expected it to really exist!"

Qin Fang felt a sense of awe in his heart, while also becoming involuntarily tense.

In the Dragon Country Martial World, there are countless varieties of True Qi, and basically each Internal Cultivation Method cultivates different True Qi.

However, roughly speaking, based on the origin of these True Qi types, they can be categorized; for example, Orthodox Sects cultivate Vast Righteous Aura, Buddhist Sect's unique Vajra Power, Demon Sect's Heavenly Demon Qi...

Aside from these, there's an even more bizarre power, which is the Heretic Dao True Qi cultivated using certain sinister secret techniques...

This category is far more complicated, almost every one is different because each Heretic Dao master walks a different path.

Due to their unnatural origin and take fast-tracking methods, these Heretic Dao True Qi types are very sinister... most are quite malicious.

Yet, although most Heretic Dao True Qi are very strong, they also have significant flaws; while they can cultivate powerful strength in a short time, the cost is ridiculously high.

Referencing Shadow's situation is a notable example; she and her husband are frantically searching the world for remedies, and even in desperation, ventured onto Devil's Island.

There are many kinds of Heretic Dao True Qi, mostly hard to categorize specifically, but some are renowned; each one mentioned can terrify countless people!

These Heretic Dao True Qi have stirred up bloody storms in the Martial World, with each instance requiring a heavy price to suppress the chaos.

For example, the most famous ones... Bloodthirsty Demon Technique, Netherworld Ghost Qi, etc.!

Among them is the Netherworld Ghost Qi, reputedly the most ferocious Heretic Dao True Qi!

In the Dragon Country Martial World, masters cultivating Netherworld Ghost Qi have appeared very few times over millennia, usually hunted and killed before causing significant trouble.

If they do mature, they will certainly be a formidable presence in the Martial World, respected even by the Demon Sect.

Just that this kind of Heretic Dao True Qi has been exterminated many times; the secret manuals have long been lost, and cultivation requires very special conditions.

As society progresses, these conditions are gradually disappearing, making it almost impossible for anyone to successfully cultivate them... Even Qin Fang thinks nearly no one can succeed anymore.

However... Qin Fang was clearly mistaken!

This man in the black robe before him is actually cultivating Netherworld Ghost Qi and has already mastered it!

"Now this is troublesome..."

Thinking about this, Qin Fang couldn't help but smile wryly,

because out of curiosity, he joined this strange little group, suspecting Sofia tricked these guys into treasure hunting together.

But surprisingly, instead of finding treasures, their lives... might not be saved!

Chapter 1983 - Netherworld Ghost Qi!

From the ruthlessness of Sofia and the black-robed man, it was already apparent what they were thinking!

As for that big black man, he hid his strength, most likely planning to turn on the others and eliminate them all.

But he never expected that there would be no treasure, no backstabbing success, and he would be the first to lose his life...

While Qin Fang was pondering what to do next, Sofia already had Qin Fang and a few others thrown onto a prepared small boat and then slowly rowed along the waterway forward.

The black-robed man, however, was not squatting on a boat with Qin Fang and the others but was leisurely walking along the path beside them.

Don't be fooled by his slow pace; he was actually moving quite fast, even slightly faster than they were rowing the boat, so his figure was always ahead of Qin Fang, getting farther away!

"Should I leave from here or continue to follow?"

Seeing the black-robed man getting farther and farther away, Qin Fang couldn't help pondering in his heart, facing a very tough decision.

Sofia's strength was mediocre; even that big black man nearly killed her, so Qin Fang had no problem taking action...

The only thing that made Qin Fang wary was that black-robed man; his Netherworld Ghost Qi was quite formidable and hard to guard against, easily catching you off guard.

This kind of heretic dao true qi was too bizarre. Even a master like Qin Fang didn't dare to say he had a surefire way to counter it, so he didn't plan to confront him head-on.

If he sneaks away now, given the distance and defenses, Qin Fang's success rate could be nine out of ten or nearly impossible to fail.

But likewise, if Qin Fang leaves now, it would definitely alarm the black-robed man, thus losing the chance to understand his real motives!

"This black-robed man gathered so many people, he must have some unspeakable purpose..."

That's undoubted, which is also what made Qin Fang curious and struggling with his decision.

"Afraid of what?! Go for it..."

But men shouldn't be wishy-washy. Hesitation can lead to trouble. Since that black-robed man has such issues, there must be a reason.

If it's not clarified, it would be too much of a pity...

The most crucial point was that while the black-robed man's Netherworld Ghost Qi was very formidable, there seemed to be significant issues with his body.

Especially since Qin Fang accidentally discovered earlier that after releasing the Netherworld Ghost Qi, the black-robed man's state became increasingly weakened, his strength significantly diminished!

Most people might not notice the difference, but Qin Fang's Scouting Skill had unveiled all of it clearly...

Thinking of this, Qin Fang felt it might be a chance to stick it out, so he clenched his teeth and decided to continue feigning death.

The small boat rocked as it continued down the waterway, going for an unknown distance, roughly around ten minutes.

"Could it be we're entering the mountain's depths?"

Although Qin Fang was playing dead, he was always keeping track of the time and distance, and his mind was racing with thoughts.

This waterway was artificially built, definitely leading to some infrastructure above. Qin Fang wasn't a fool; these must be some kind of facilities on Devil's Island.

Built deep within the mountain, extremely secluded, this sewer might be rarely frequented, and this black-robed man who cultivated Netherworld Ghost Qi surely has some hidden agenda.

Qin Fang even suspected the black-robed man's identity; he might be hiding not just from them, the uninformed trialists, but possibly even deceiving those on Devil's Island.

"Hiss~~~"

Qin Fang's thoughts were quickly interrupted as the boat reached a dead-end, slipped through a barrier, and entered a new realm.

"This is..."

Inside, Qin Fang noticed nothing else, but his attention was solely captured by the blood pool in the center of this space!

Indeed, a blood pool!

Flowing within was not water but fresh red blood, giving off an extremely eerie and mysterious vibe...

"Netherworld Blood Pool..."

Seeing this blood pool, Qin Fang's face went green, almost turning back to flee.

Cultivating Netherworld Ghost Qi was extremely challenging at first; few could meet the conditions... that's why practitioners of Netherworld Ghost Qi were so rare.

Additionally, a Netherworld Blood Pool is needed... similar to Blood Demon Sect of the Demon Sect, cultivating Blood Demon Divine Art also requires a blood pool!

However, the blood pool required for Netherworld Ghost Qi is even more special; it needs blood from various masters, while ordinary blood is mostly useless.

But if one could find a naturally formed blood pool, it would truly be a heavenly fortune, terrifying to the extreme!

"How could such a place have a naturally formed Netherworld Blood Pool..."

At this moment, Qin Fang truly wanted to curse.

Because the blood pool in front of him was naturally formed, not man-made... these natural ones are even more terrifying!

"No wonder there's someone able to cultivate Netherworld Ghost Qi, turns out it's this thing causing the trouble..."

Yet at the same time, the question in Qin Fang's heart finally had a reasonable explanation. With this naturally formed Netherworld Blood Pool, all difficulties in cultivating Netherworld Ghost Qi were resolved...

"Damn it, can't stay any longer, must escape immediately!"

Seeing this blood pool, Qin Fang understood what the black-robed man brought them here for, simply to "fertilize" this Netherworld Blood Pool... they were the "fertilizer!"

Chapter 1984 - Netherworld Ghost Lotus

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No wonder Qin Fang wanted to slip away—this Netherworld Blood Pool is simply too brutal and bizarre... It's a rarity that's terrifying beyond measure.

The existence of such a Netherworld Blood Pool is nearly inconceivable... The more peaceful the times, the less it should exist.

But now, Qin Fang actually saw one here, which shocked him immensely, even feeling a bit horrified.

This is an extremely rare occurrence, yet now it's happening!

The Netherworld Blood Pool is formed from the most sinister ghostly death energy between heaven and earth, requiring very special geological structures, among other things, and years of accumulation to gradually take shape.

All these conditions are indispensable!

Therefore, over many years, Netherworld Blood Pools have practically never existed... Perhaps it's somewhat possible to create one artificially, but naturally formed ones are even rarer than spiritual medicine!

Speaking of spiritual medicine, Qin Fang has traveled to so many places, and only found one in the hidden treasure repository of the Musashi School.

This is something Musashi School hid for hundreds of years, and if not for Qin Fang accidentally stumbling upon it, he might never have truly seen spiritual medicine.

Even so, Qin Fang was completely surprised to have seen a Netherworld Blood Pool, which is far rarer than spiritual medicine.

"Naturally formed, can't help but run..."

Qin Fang smiled wryly; he didn't want to innocently become "fertilizer." With a thought, he prepared to slip away from here.

His gaze gradually shifted to the black-robed man and Sofia, observing their movements to facilitate his departure.

"Eh, what's that?"

But just as Qin Fang was planning to slip away while the two were unaware, his body suddenly froze, and his gaze involuntarily focused on the very center of the Netherworld Blood Pool...

"Netherworld Ghost Lotus?"

Without hesitation, Qin Fang immediately threw a scouting skill at the object hidden in the center of the Netherworld Blood Pool.

Soon the results were fed back, and Qin Fang's mind once again trembled; not only did his previous worries vanish, but he felt a faint excitement.

Perhaps because the color of this Netherworld Ghost Lotus is similar to the surrounding pool's "blood" color, Qin Fang didn't pay close attention at first.

But after observing the black-robed man's actions, Qin Fang noticed this slight anomaly; only after a careful observation did he barely discover it.

However, this discovery is extremely important to him... almost instantly changing his previous decision.

"Turns out it's a newborn Netherworld Blood Pool... scared me to death!"

Qin Fang couldn't help but curse inwardly, also relaxing a bit, "Turns out the black-robed man had Sofia trick so many people here for it..."

"Want to use me as fertilizer... afraid you both aren't enough!"

Looking at the busy black-robed man and Sofia, Qin Fang's mind gradually calmed down, already pondering how to act.

This Netherworld Blood Pool being naturally formed is indeed an excellent training ground for an expert who cultivates Netherworld Ghost Qi.

If an artificial Netherworld Blood Pool allows a cultivator to reach the seventh level in Netherworld Ghost Qi, then a naturally formed Netherworld Blood Pool can bring them to the supreme ninth level!

In the history of the martial world, there have been many heretic dao experts who dominated the world, among them about three or four supreme experts who cultivated Netherworld Ghost Qi, but only one truly reached the peak.

This person even became the world's number one expert at the time... extremely powerful and unmatched, even the Righteous Alliance and Demon Sect had to retreat.

The reason was simple: this expert relied on a naturally formed Netherworld Blood Pool for cultivation... their Netherworld Ghost Qi was pure to the fullest extent, naturally making their strength terrifying to the utmost.

Now, this black-robed man cultivates Netherworld Ghost Qi and found such a Netherworld Blood Pool; if he grows, he could very likely become the second supreme-level expert of heretic dao.

In this era of increasingly thinning spiritual energy, becoming a great grandmaster-level expert is nearly reaching peak mastery; breaking into the Supreme Realm is almost impossible.

But with this Netherworld Blood Pool, a cultivator of Netherworld Ghost Qi can easily reach the great grandmaster level; breaking into the Supreme Realm, while difficult, is much easier than for other great grandmaster-level experts. Perhaps not 70-80% assured, but there's still a 50% chance!

However, the premise is... the Netherworld Blood Pool must be a matured Blood Pond!

If the Netherworld Blood Pool has just formed and is in its newborn phase, its power is weakened considerably, with a discount that's not ordinary.

This Netherworld Blood Pool is in its newborn phase, likely forming in less than twenty years... Even with its relatively fast maturation, it still requires thirty to fifty years to fully mature.

Chapter 1985 Netherworld Ghost Lotus! (Part 2)

Judging by the current state, it's only about half mature...

"Fertilizer is indeed fertilizer, but it's not for boosting growth—it's for accelerating it..."

Qin Fang couldn't help but sneer inwardly; he finally understood the meaning behind these two people's actions. They brought these individuals here to speed up the maturation of the Netherworld Blood Pool.

Though it seemed a bit like forcing growth, the black-robed man's current physical condition was inadequate for him to continue until the Netherworld Blood Pool fully matured.

While this would weaken the efficacy of the Netherworld Blood Pool, it would still be far superior to a purely artificial one.

Given the current cultivation level of this black-robed man, forcibly maturing the Netherworld Blood Pool would allow him to rapidly enhance his cultivation.

Reaching the Supreme Realm might be unlikely, but achieving the Great Grandmaster Level would not be difficult... especially since the Netherworld Ghost Lotus has already formed within the pool.

"Netherworld Ghost Lotus... that's a treasure nearing the level of Spiritual Medicine!"

Looking at the Netherworld Blood Pool with the Netherworld Ghost Lotus at its center, Qin Fang couldn't help but sigh.

For Netherworld Ghost Qi, Qin Fang had no interest; this Heretic Dao true qi was indeed incomparably tyrannical, and cultivating it to the highest level would make one invincible in the world.

However, this practice was akin to suicide...

Power could be rapidly achieved, strength could be rapidly achieved, but lifespan would also be rapidly depleted.

Historically, among masters who practiced Netherworld Ghost Qi, the one who lived the longest was no older than fifty. It's said that he only began practicing it by chance after the age of forty, meaning he didn't live more than ten years...

The faster the growth in strength, the shorter the lifespan. A master once invincible by the age of thirty vanished completely a few years later...

Therefore, Qin Fang had no interest in Netherworld Ghost Qi, nor in the Netherworld Blood Pool.

Yet, the Netherworld Ghost Lotus born from the Netherworld Blood Pool was a treasure too precious for Qin Fang to ignore...

The Netherworld Blood Pool naturally formed by channeling a violent evil energy from the heavens, while the Netherworld Ghost Lotus was a spiritual entity born within it.

Although its name sounded eerie and evil, the Netherworld Ghost Lotus and Netherworld Ghost Qi were two completely opposite extremes.

Perhaps it reflects the saying "extremes produce opposites": the Netherworld Blood Pool could be the most evil place, yet the Netherworld Ghost Lotus was the most sacred treasure within the world.

Compared to it, even the legendary Millennium Snow Lotus pales in comparison...

If the Netherworld Ghost Lotus were to mature fully, it might not match the superb spiritual medicine like the Golden Dragon Saliva, but it would undoubtedly be considered a superior elixir, a rare existence.

The only pity is that the current Netherworld Ghost Lotus has no chance to mature completely... its quality stops short, just a step from becoming a spiritual medicine!

"What a pity..."

Gazing at the Netherworld Ghost Lotus within the Netherworld Blood Pool, Qin Fang could only sigh lightly; given ten more years, it would definitely reach the level of spiritual medicine.

However, this was impossible; the black-robed man certainly couldn't wait that long... he was beyond the point of waiting.

His act of bringing several masters to forcibly accelerate the Netherworld Blood Pool's maturation already revealed his true intentions...

Due to cultivating Netherworld Ghost Qi, the black-robed man is more a ghost than human, and his body grows increasingly frail.

That's why every practitioner of Netherworld Ghost Qi needs a Netherworld Blood Pool—the blood energy is crucial to offset the corrosive effects of Netherworld Ghost Qi on the body!

Of course, there's duality in everything. The blood energy of the pool can make the practitioner's body stronger, but it's at the cost of stimulating one's potential, ultimately leading to a loss in lifespan!

It's like a drug; the urge is unbearable without it, the pain is overwhelming, and indulging harms the body severely...

The black-robed man has reached a critical point; without the Netherworld Blood Pool's power, survival is impossible.

His realm remains intact, but his strength weakens; if it declines further, his life might end entirely!

Therefore, he urgently needs this Netherworld Blood Pool to bolster his strength, and the Netherworld Ghost Lotus to extend his lifespan!

"This thing absolutely cannot fall into his hands..."

Yet at the same time, Qin Fang couldn't just walk away; the Netherworld Ghost Lotus must not end up in the hands of this black-robed man.

Say no more; once the black-robed man's strength recovers, Qin Fang would find escape impossible... and having someone with the Netherworld Blood Pool, Netherworld Ghost Lotus, and practicing Netherworld Ghost Qi means the rise of a Supreme Level evil figure!

Chapter 1986 Netherworld Ghost Lotus!

From the moment this black-robed man made his move, it was clear that he absolutely didn't care for anyone's life, a complete butcher-level existence.

If his Netherworld Ghost Qi is fully cultivated, who knows how many people will suffer... it could even mean that no one on Devil's Island might survive.

With so many powerful experts on Devil's Island, if they are all thrown in as "fertilizer," even if the Netherworld Blood Pool achieves its complete peak effect, it wouldn't make a significant difference.

"Hiss~~"

Initially, Qin Fang didn't think in this direction, so he was just a bit tense himself, but on reconsideration, even he couldn't help but take a deep breath.

This wasn't just a simple one-sided guess from Qin Fang; in his view, the possibility was almost one hundred percent...

While Qin Fang was pondering these thoughts, the two over there weren't idle either. The corpse of the already deceased black man was thrown into the Netherworld Blood Pool by Sofia.

Though his body was completely frozen earlier, immobilized by the Netherworld Ghost Qi, and he was killed in an instant... when thrown into the Netherworld Blood Pool, he unexpectedly let out a scream!

Though the sound wasn't loud, it was quite chilling, as the black man had been dead for over half an hour.

This was the last sound he made while alive, but because he died so quickly, it got stuck and never came out.

It wasn't until the body was thrown into the Netherworld Blood Pool, and the frozen body loosened a bit, that the sound slowly emerged...

Gurgle gurgle gurgle~~~

The moment the corpse was thrown into the Netherworld Blood Pool, what was once calm and without a ripple, began to stir.

As the black man's body slowly dissolved into the blood pool, it began bubbling like magma, making such a sound.

"The Netherworld Ghost Lotus is also accelerating in growth..."

However, Qin Fang's attention wasn't on these bubbles, but rather fixated on the Netherworld Ghost Lotus in the blood pool.

Initially, the Netherworld Ghost Lotus was just a bud, ready to bloom, typically taking at least ten years to fully blossom.

But now, Qin Fang clearly noticed that the petals of the Netherworld Ghost Lotus were beginning to loosen... this was not a good sign!

The Netherworld Ghost Lotus is crimson, completely different from the pure white snow lotus, requiring keen observation to notice its changes.

"Kekekekeke~~~"

Seeing the change in the Netherworld Ghost Lotus, the black-robed man seemed to become excited, letting out a sharp, piercing laugh.

"It does work! Continue..."

The change in the Netherworld Ghost Lotus, Qin Fang could see, and the black-robed man could certainly see it too, even more clearly than Qin Fang.

This was why he became so excited. The Netherworld Blood Pool was not yet fully mature and had significant defects.

This Netherworld Ghost Lotus had the same problem but could similarly be forced to mature. Now, the black-robed man was executing such a task.

A mature Netherworld Ghost Lotus is a superior elixir, but the time needed is simply too long, and this black-robed man couldn't hold out.

Another person was thrown into the Netherworld Blood Pool, emitting a similarly shrill scream... Unlike the black man who had been dead for a while, this one was still alive.

Qin Fang glanced around; among the few peers with him, including himself, all had been hit by poisonous hidden weapons, and among the five, two were already dead, leaving three survivors including himself.

The one just thrown down was one of the three. Sadly, he was too deeply poisoned, rendering self-defense or escape impossible, only to become "fertilizer" for the Netherworld Blood Pool.

"Kekekekeke~~~ Not enough! Not enough! Continue, continue..."

Another thrown down, the petals of the Netherworld Ghost Lotus shuddered, seeming to show signs of blooming, further agitating the black-robed man's emotions, who kept instructing Sofia beside him.

"Damn it, can't wait any longer, act now!"

Meanwhile, Qin Fang couldn't afford to wait anymore, as Sofia was already approaching him, and the next one to be thrown in was evidently Qin Fang himself.

If he delayed any longer, Qin Fang wouldn't need to escape, he'd be melted away by the Netherworld Blood Pool... becoming "fertilizer" for the Netherworld Blood Pool and the Netherworld Ghost Lotus.

Bang~~

Almost as Sofia approached, Qin Fang, who had been playing dead, suddenly moved slightly and then raised his hand to fire a shot.

As for his target, it wasn't the near Sofia, but the bizarrely skilled black-robed man over there.

At the same time Qin Fang fired, his other hand wasn't idle, unleashing his strongest power, lunging directly at the blonde beauty Sofia in front of him.

And he attacked with a killer move, having no thought for sparing any sentiment...

At that moment, Qin Fang couldn't afford any mishaps; neither of these two could be left alive, or else the unlucky one would most likely be Qin Fang himself.

Puff~~ Bang!

Qin Fang attacked with the most ferocious killer move at once.

With his current strength, he had stepped into the Grandmaster Level, surpassing Sofia naturally, and his prowess exceeded even Grandmaster Mid-Stage Experts.

Moreover, with Qin Fang's sudden attack, Sofia was momentarily stunned and was subsequently struck down by Qin Fang.

Her graceful figure soared in mid-air, then heavily struck the hard stone wall beside, instantly knocking her unconscious...

Qin Fang's brutal blow rendered the blonde beauty Sofia nearly incapacitated, with no chance of regaining combat capability.

"Kekekekeke~~~ You really couldn't hold back..."

But before Qin Fang could rejoice, an unbearably piercing voice reached his ears, coming from the black-robed man.

Chapter 1987 Ghost Qi Yin-Yang!

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"Missed the shot..."

Upon hearing this voice, even Qin Fang paused for a moment, his spirit slightly sinking, his body completely tensed up.

With his marksmanship, suddenly launching a lethal attack, generally a Grandmaster Level expert would not be able to dodge it, even a Great Grandmaster Level master could potentially be struck.

Qin Fang's gunmanship was divine, aiming flawlessly, absolutely intending to deliver a headshot...

However, he himself hadn't expected to miss, realizing this black-robed man was far more difficult to deal with than he had imagined.

"This is not a good omen!"

Sofia was considered temporarily disabled by Qin Fang, posing no further threat. The remaining few people were either dead or nearly so, not affecting him.

The only one making Qin Fang feel extremely tricky was this black-robed man in front of him.

"It seems you've already set your sights on me..."

Qin Fang fixed his gaze on the black-robed man, his body taut, all his cultivation fully unleashed, constantly vigilant against this mysteriously powerful adversary.

While Sofia posed no threat to Qin Fang, easily crushable, the black-robed man was a tremendous threat to him.

The Netherworld Ghost Qi was excessively sinister and its power astonishing... The black giant's strength wasn't much weaker than Qin Fang's, yet he couldn't even muster a decent resistance, swiftly eliminated by this black-robed man.

The Netherworld Ghost Qi was so eerie, striking without awareness... By the time one realized, it was too late!

As for the black giant, he was actually already targeted by the black-robed man while dealing with Sofia, just extremely covertly.

But once such concealed dark tactics fully erupted, it was enough to disable the black giant.

In other words, even without the black-robed man releasing that eerie Netherworld Ghost Qi, the black giant would still end up dead.

It was merely a matter of time...

The black-robed man's intervention was simply to assist Sofia, considering the black giant's strength far exceeded Sofia's, dragging the battle would certainly lead to Sofia's death!

This too weighed heavily on Qin Fang... The black-robed man's Netherworld Ghost Qi also made Qin Fang quite apprehensive.

"Your Breath Concealment Technique is quite impressive... At least far superior to that black giant!"

The black-robed man's voice remained grating, and those ghostly green eyes barely visible beneath the dark hood sent chills down one's spine.

Coupled with his unpredictable voice, it made one's back cold and scalp tingle!

"We both share the same skill!"

Qin Fang chuckled, speaking with a calm demeanor.

Despite sounding relaxed, only he knew the immense pressure he was under...

"It seems I underestimated you!"

Yet, to Qin Fang's surprise, merely a simple response shifted the black-robed man's tone slightly.

Such a change made Qin Fang's brows slightly furrow, faintly sensing something amiss.

"Huh?"

Qin Fang sensed something wrong, becoming even more cautious, his Scouting Skill swiftly deployed, promptly discovering an anomaly.

"Is this the Netherworld Ghost Qi?"

It was then Qin Fang noticed a peculiar energy slowly infiltrating his meridians.

This bizarre, peculiar energy appeared abruptly without any trace, even penetrating Qin Fang's meridians silently, without triggering any counteraction or repulsion from other True Qi within him...

Without Qin Fang's Scouting Skill, once this strange energy fully entered his meridians and controlled important organs, he might still be unaware of its existence!

Undoubtedly, this was the covert trick the black-robed man used to target the black giant earlier... It was precisely the Netherworld Ghost Qi Qin Fang dreaded most.

Realizing such exotic True Qi invaded his body without encountering any resistance, or even triggering an alarm, brought a sudden chill down Qin Fang's back.

"No wonder the black giant showed no sign beforehand... This is too covert!"

Even Qin Fang had a heart-skipping moment, deeply startled.

If not for his perceptiveness using the Scouting Skill, he might have faced the same fate as the black giant...

Even though Qin Fang discovered it early, it still shocked him, but he quickly agitated all his True Qi to expel this exotic True Qi!

Finding nothing usually means peace and harmony for all, but once Qin Fang actively began expelling, it became entirely different.

No matter if it's exotic True Qi, Qin Fang can also forcefully expel his own cultivated True Qi from his body!

"Truly eerie..."

Qin Fang's expression remained calm, his eyes fixed on the black-robed man opposite, seeming tense yet vigilant, but in reality, he was forcing out the invading True Qi.

Chapter 1988 Ghost Qi Yin-Yang! (Part 2)

This Netherworld Ghost Qi is so formidable that even Qin Fang can't help but to feel a bit of a headache.

The Netherworld Ghost Qi invading Qin Fang's body isn't large in quantity, but it's very cunning. Almost as soon as Qin Fang's True Qi attacks, it immediately scurries around like a slippery loach.

However, Qin Fang's own True Qi is so overwhelming that under such intense pressure, the Netherworld Ghost Qi is gradually diminishing...

Yet, as the Netherworld Ghost Qi decreases, expelling it becomes increasingly difficult. These leftover traces of Netherworld Ghost Qi are even slipperier than loaches, no matter how Qin Fang suppresses or expels them; they always manage to survive, leaving Qin Fang a bit frustrated.

Don't be fooled by Qin Fang's relaxed exterior; inside his body, a fierce battle is taking place—like a cat-and-mouse game, he's quite overwhelmed.

"Hmph... you think you can easily ambush me? Not that simple!"

But Qin Fang isn't a pushover. His True Qi already consists of many types, mixed together, and he's long been accustomed to this kind of chaotic coexistence.

Realizing that expelling all this Netherworld Ghost Qi might be impossible, he changed tactics and adopted the method he typically used... absorb and fuse with the leftover Netherworld Ghost Qi!

After the brief clash earlier, Qin Fang had gained quite an understanding of this Netherworld Ghost Qi; it's indeed a sinister True Qi from the Heretic Dao, something even Qin Fang himself is quite wary of.

This early realization is fortunate; if it had been discovered later, it would have been really troublesome, let alone expelling it—he might not even be able to control the power of his own True Qi!

"Absorb, fuse... hope this isn't a mistake!"

Unable to expel them, Qin Fang frowned but couldn't let them run amok either. This eerie True Qi is highly sinister, seemingly capable of slow regeneration, quite like "wildfires can't be extinguished, they grow anew after the breeze of spring."

This is why Qin Fang reluctantly opted for absorption and fusion; as long as he integrates these Netherworld Ghost Qi into his own True Qi, it won't pose any threat to him.

However, Qin Fang is somewhat worried about the possibility of this fused True Qi posing any threats... After all, he's the first to do this, and he'll have to figure it out gradually!

"Wait, this Netherworld Ghost Qi seems to..."

Yet, this desperate move of his suddenly led to a revelation, his state of mind shifting involuntarily.

As he absorbed and fused these Netherworld Ghost Qi, while these traces of Netherworld Ghost Qi gradually merged with Qin Fang's own True Qi, some unique variations captured most of Qin Fang's attention.

Gurgle gurgle gurgle~~~

At this moment, while Qin Fang and the Black Robe Man were maintaining silence, mutually hostile, the Netherworld Blood Pool suddenly underwent a slight change, with those blood-red bubbles agitating.

Seeing such a sight, Qin Fang and the Black Robe Man's gazes simultaneously turned in that direction, though their reactions were completely opposite.

"Hahaha..."

The Black Robe Man immediately laughed maniacally, with ghostly cries akin to a night owl that were incredibly piercing. The more piercing they were, the more they reflected his current excitement and thrill.

"Not good..."

Compared to the Black Robe Man's excitement, Qin Fang's mood was visibly worse, his brow deeply furrowed, gaze becoming immensely serious.

This seriousness led to changes in the atmosphere, mood changes; even the good mood from Qin Fang's recent discovery was overshadowed by this sudden shift.

"Why has the Netherworld Blood Pool ripened so quickly..."

This reflected Qin Fang's current, quite poor, mood.

Initially, he thought that throwing a few corpses into the Netherworld Blood Pool might not accelerate its maturation.

Yet his estimates were wrong; only two or three corpses were tossed in, and already the Netherworld Blood Pool showed signs of ripening!

"Hiss~~~ So refreshing!!"

Standing next to the Netherworld Blood Pool, the Black Robe Man seemed to have ignored Qin Fang's presence, feeling the changes brought by the Netherworld Blood Pool. He took a deep breath, revealing an exhilarated sensation that refreshed his spirit, speaking in a tone of deep intoxication.

Qin Fang even utilized his scouting skills' special effect, observing the Black Robe Man was absorbing the Netherworld Ghost Qi emitted by the Netherworld Blood Pool into his body.

Originally just at the Grandmaster Level Peak in realm, his strength was fragile and feeble. But now... it was continually growing, having already restored to the Grandmaster Level, yet still increasing!

"No, I can't delay anymore..."

Things reached this point; Qin Fang couldn't drag on further, or else he would lose his last opportunity.

Bam~~

Without any hesitation, Qin Fang immediately raised his hand and shot forth.

At this moment, he had no choice; he must quickly take down this Black Robe Man... Otherwise, if the Black Robe Man restores to the Grandmaster Level Peak cultivation, even if Qin Fang has a gun, it will be difficult to escape alive...

Chapter 1989 Ghost Qi Yin-Yang!

The reason Qin Fang didn't rush to attack the black-robed man was partly because there was some distance between them, and it would take time to get closer.

But there was another more important reason, which also left Qin Fang quite helpless.

The Netherworld Ghost Qi was exceedingly sinister. Although Qin Fang was more cautious and had stronger combat prowess, he dared not get too close to the black-robed man.

The black-robed man killed the black-skinned man by accumulating two streams of Netherworld Ghost Qi, and only succeeded with Sofia's cover...

This guy had a rather impressive technique with hidden weapons. Although it might not match the experts from the Tang Sect, it was already quite formidable.

After all, in the martial world, there were quite a few masters of hidden weapons. The Tang Sect was just the most famous, but there were many powerful hidden weapon masters outside, some perhaps even more formidable than those from the Tang Sect!

By keeping a distance, Qin Fang had enough buffer space. Even though the opponent's hidden weapon skills were strong, Qin Fang was confident in his ability to dodge them.

This Netherworld Ghost Qi was too formidable. Once hit, it would be a source of endless trouble... Just like earlier, when a small amount infiltrated, Qin Fang had to expend great effort to eliminate most of it, yet some remained!

If directly hit, with a massive influx of Netherworld Ghost Qi entering Qin Fang's body, Qin Fang would likely end up like the black-skinned man, killed with a single blow!

If the distance were too close, Qin Fang's room for evasion would shrink significantly, dramatically increasing the chance of getting hit... This was not a choice Qin Fang wanted.

After much thought, using the gun seemed more practical...

Admittedly, for those who reached Grandmaster Level or above, the threat of ordinary firearms would be greatly reduced. For those at Great Grandmaster Level, the threat was even negligible.

As for those who reached the legendary Supreme Realm, apart from large-scale high-explosive bombs, ordinary firearms posed no threat. Such experts could even catch bullets with their bare hands!

"Kekekeke~~~ Want to kill me? That's not enough..."

Nevertheless, this black-robed man was evidently much harder to deal with than Qin Fang imagined. Even though he was busy absorbing the Netherworld Ghost Qi released by the Netherworld Blood Pool, he still effortlessly dodged Qin Fang's shooting.

"Qinggong?"

Qin Fang also noticed the opponent's footwork, and his face grew more solemn. This black-robed man possessed some extremely mysterious movement technique, on par with Qin Fang's Traceless Snow Stepping Technique.

The Traceless Snow Stepping Technique was already one of the top-notch movement technique secrets in the martial world, a signature skill of the Great Sect Snow Mountain Sect.

But this black-robed man had a movement technique not inferior to the Traceless Snow Stepping Technique, which was troubling Qin Fang considerably.

"Youming Ghost Step..."

Qin Fang quickly thought of a movement technique of the same source as the Netherworld Ghost Qi, regarded as one of the first-class movement technique secrets in the martial world.

This movement technique was extremely mysterious, created in conjunction with the Netherworld Ghost Qi, and only experts who cultivated the Netherworld Ghost Qi could master it. Others, even with the secret manual, could not cultivate it... This alone barred many from entering.

Unfortunately, this black-robed man not only cultivated Netherworld Ghost Qi but had also become proficient in Youming Ghost Step, and even discovered this naturally formed Netherworld Blood Pool and a Netherworld Ghost Lotus!

Seeing this scene, Qin Fang really felt like asking the black-robed man if he was God's illegitimate child, having all the benefits to himself...

Even Qin Fang was quite satisfied with his own luck, but compared to the one before him, it was somewhat lacking...

Discovering the Youming Ghost Step, Qin Fang finally understood why the black-robed man moved so effortlessly, yet arrived here before them.

"Hmph~~"

At this moment, while Qin Fang was in shock, the opponent was not idle either.

Perhaps provoked by Qin Fang's actions, the black-robed man began to act...

The Netherworld Ghost Qi could always be absorbed slowly, especially after the Netherworld Blood Pool fully matured, to be absorbed at will.

But the present Qin Fang did not intend to let him cultivate in peace and even discovered such a big secret, so naturally, he didn't plan to let Qin Fang go.

With a cold snort, the surrounding temperature began to drop suddenly, similar to the changes when he dealt with the black-skinned man before.

Sensing this change, Qin Fang's heart trembled slightly, his eyes intensely focused on the black-robed man, his True Qi oscillating, resisting all external forces!

Meanwhile, as Qin Fang was preparing defensively, he clearly felt a stream of exotic True Qi silently approaching him...

"Here it comes again!"

However, Qin Fang, having experienced this once, naturally wouldn't allow the black-robed man to succeed this time. With a surge of True Qi, he immediately repelled this stream of Netherworld Ghost Qi!

Yet, Qin Fang didn't entirely resist it. Taking advantage of the moment when the two streams of True Qi clashed, Qin Fang used his own vast True Qi to envelop a strand of Netherworld Ghost Qi into his body, and in the shortest time, fused and absorbed it...

Qin Fang had his reasons for doing this, as he had previously discovered something and now sought to verify his hypothesis.

"So, the Netherworld Ghost Qi is actually divided into Yin and Yang energies..."

This was what Qin Fang had discovered earlier, that the Netherworld Ghost Qi wasn't just a single type of True Qi; in fact, it divided into two parts: Yin and Yang, yet originating from the same source...

Qin Fang, by separately fusing a thread of Netherworld Ghost Qi twice, finally distinguished the subtle differences between the two instances of Netherworld Ghost Qi, bringing him a discovery that was immensely surprising and exciting...

Chapter 1990 Breaking Through the Netherworld Ghost Qi!

...

This Netherworld Ghost Qi is divided into two parts, a discovery that seems useless, but in reality... for Qin Fang, it's quite valuable.

"So that's how it is, that's how it is..."

If before, Qin Fang had personally witnessed the entire process where the black-robed man took down the burly black man, making him extremely wary of this black-robed man, then now... Qin Fang's mood has clearly changed from before.

The previous anxiety has completely disappeared, the idea of wanting to escape has entirely vanished, and even... the gaze towards the black-robed man has become somewhat playful.

"Want to kill me... now, you have no chance!"

As he spoke, the True Qi in Qin Fang's entire body started to tremble, a strong surge of blood Qi erupted from him, making the rather small space turn bizarre.

"Blood Demon Divine Art?"

Unexpectedly, when the black-robed man felt this aura, he couldn't help but exclaim... he actually recognized this unusual aura on Qin Fang.

"You're from the Blood Demon Sect?"

The black-robed man immediately ceased his actions, staring blankly at Qin Fang, his movements stalled, and the eerie green eyes flickered, intimidating anyone who looked.

"Hmph..."

Qin Fang snorted coldly, neither admitting nor denying, but the aura on him revealed many things.

Of course, he didn't want to say anything, for words lead to mistakes, so he let the other guess...

Judging by the black-robed man's reaction, he certainly knew about the Demon Sect, possibly even having some connection.

The Blood Demon Divine Art is a secret of the Blood Demon Sect, reserved for powerful elders to cultivate...

Of course, Qin Fang's current strength is already at Grandmaster Level, though it's a bit of a stretch to practice the Blood Demon Divine Art, it's not too over the top.

In fact, this highlights that Qin Fang's status in the Blood Demon Sect is not simple... likely an extremely important figure!

Perhaps due to this speculation, the black-robed man didn't continue to attack, estimating he was apprehensive, as the Demon Sect's power is undeniably strong, with the Blood Demon Sect being one of the two strongest sects in the Six Sects of the Demon Gate, comparable or even superior to the Thousand-Year Sects.

The black-robed man didn't immediately make a move, nor did Qin Fang, eyeing the black-robed man with a calm gaze...

Actually, Qin Fang was taking advantage of the brief time to accelerate the absorption and fusion of the Netherworld Ghost Qi... he already devised a method for the opponent's Netherworld Ghost Qi, naturally seizing this opportunity!

"Hehehehe... Even if you're from the Blood Demon Sect, so what! Today... you must die! It's just that... you know too much!"

However, before Qin Fang could completely absorb and fuse those Netherworld Ghost Qi, the black-robed man, briefly intimidated by Qin Fang, had already come to his senses.

He might not know Qin Fang was absorbing and melding his Netherworld Ghost Qi, but when his gaze shifted to the Netherworld Blood Pool and the Netherworld Ghost Lotus beside him, those eerie green eyes instantly turned sharp and sinister...

"Damn! Forgot about that..."

Hearing the black-robed man's words, and linking it to his reaction, Qin Fang immediately thought of a problem, couldn't help but curse himself softly.

The Blood Demon Sect cultivates the rare blood-based demonic art, which isn't completely a Heretic Dao, yet has a rather eerie shortcut.

This shortcut is related to the Blood Pool... the Blood Demon Sect is called a Demonic Path mainly because of this.

The Blood Demon Sect cultivates blood, and in the Blood Pool, nothing else matters, only the flowing liquid, which is all blood...

Though this isn't real human blood, nor any animal blood, not even genuine blood, its effectiveness far exceeds any blood.

Put simply, with the assistance of such a Blood Pool, one could easily advance the Blood Demon Divine Art to the seventh or eighth level, close to the highest ninth level...

If the black-robed man valued the Netherworld Blood Pool for its Ghost Qi, then the Blood Demon Sect valued the "blood" flowing inside.

The Netherworld Ghost Qi is released from this "blood", though abundant, seems to suffer a minor loss compared to the "blood".

Coincidentally, the aura Qin Fang released resembled the Blood Demon Divine Art, leading the black-robed man to think Qin Fang is a master of the Blood Demon Sect, which only added to his tension.

If earlier, the black-robed man was wary of Qin Fang's Blood Demon Sect identity, then now... it's precisely this identity that makes the black-robed man determined to kill Qin Fang!

"Die for me..."

The black-robed man's movement was swift, the Youming Ghost Step is no less than Qin Fang's Snow Traversing Step, with a slight movement, the black-robed man was already before Qin Fang.

Bang~~