

Immortality 1131

Chapter 1131 Crisis_2

This is a leave application.

Gu Changhuai also found a “legitimate” excuse.

The gist of it was that the Taoist Court required the urgent help of Mo Hua, a Disciple in the Early Stage of Foundation Establishment from Taixu Gate, to draw some Formations for the Taoist Court, requiring a two-day leave.

Given the urgency of the matter, your approval is kindly requested.

This letter was delivered into the hands of Elder Song, who was in charge of overseeing the disciples’ attendance.

Elder Song’s face immediately darkened upon receiving it.

Again, this Little Mo Hua!

This was utterly preposterous.

Taixu Gate, being one of the Eight Great Gates within the Qianxue State Boundary, was not so easy to gain entry to.

And this child had the nerve to run about frequently and even had the audacity to ask for leave so often.

And instead of asking for leave himself, he had the Taoist Court request it on his behalf, exhibiting quite the attitude.

Elder Song wanted to reject the request immediately.

But after some thought, his resolve wavered.

He carefully put away the letter and made a trip himself, handing it over to Elder Master Xun.

Upon meeting Elder Master Xun, Elder Song suddenly lost his nerve and said in a subdued voice:

"Elder Master, this child... he, he's asking for leave again

Elder Master Xun, who was at his desk fiddling with something with a serious expression and furrowed brows, exuded a subtle but intense authority.

Which made Elder Song speak in a very careful and guarded manner.

Elder Master Xun uttered a noncommittal "hm" without even looking up.

Having said his piece, Elder Song didn't dare repeat himself and just stood there waiting meekly by the side.

After a while, Elder Master Xun sighed slightly, then finally lifted his head, the imposing aura dissipating from his body, once again becoming the white-haired, aged Gentleman.

"What did you say?"

"Oh," Elder Song finally took a deep breath and said quietly, "That... Mo Hua, the child, is asking for leave again

"For what reason?"

"He says the Taoist Court needs his help."

"How many days?"

Elder Song replied displeased, "Two days

Elder Master Xun spoke nonchalantly, “Just two days; grant the leave, what’s the big deal? It won’t delay much of his Cultivation

Was this really a matter of delaying Cultivation...

Inner thoughts brewed in Elder Song’s mind, but he didn’t dare express them outright and instead tactfully said, “I fear it may break the Sect’s regulations and send a bad influence

Elder Master Xun raised an eyebrow, “Break what?”

"The Sect’s

Elder Song looked at Elder Master Xun then hesitated, finally saying with resignation:

"Him taking leave like this all the time isn’t right; I’m afraid it will lead to criticism from fellow disciples

Elder Master Xun’s old face turned stern, “Criticism? If other disciples have the capability, let them be the ones the Taoist Court asks to do work and for whom leave is requested. I would approve as many days as they asked for.”

"Do they have the ability?”

"A Formation isn’t something you can excel at alone. You need to use it and let others know of its worth.”

"Always cooped up in the Sect, studying and practicing without understanding the application – that’s the real issue.”

Elder Song was left speechless.

Seeing this, Elder Master Xun softened his tone and spoke more gently:

"Moreover, this is a good thing

Elder Song was taken aback.

Elder Master Xun continued, “The Taoist Court asking Mo Hua for help means they are essentially asking our Taixu Gate for help.”

"Why would they ask our Taixu Gate for help and not one of the Four Great Sects, like Tai'a Sect, or Rushing Void Sect, or any of the other Eight Great Gates and Twelve Streams?"

"Clearly, it means that our Taixu Gate has proper teachings, and our disciples are capable."

"Tell me, isn't this a boon to our Taixu Gate?"

Elder Song was momentarily stunned, finding it difficult to contest these points.

After pondering for a moment, he began to sense that, perhaps, this was indeed the case...

Aside from Mo Hua, he had not seen the Taoist Court willing to send a leave request for any other disciple to the Sect.

Isn't this a testament to the great skills of Taixu Gate's disciples and the Sect's effective teachings!

For a moment, Elder Song felt a sense of pride swell within...

Elder Master Xun gave Elder Song a placid look, “Understood?”

Elder Song couldn't help but nod.

Elder Master Xun then concluded decisively, “That settles it. Leave the letter here, I have other matters to attend to.”

Hearing this, Elder Song immediately bowed and said respectfully:

"Then I won't disturb you any further, Elder Master."

After leaving the letter behind, Elder Song took his leave.

Once Elder Song was gone, Elder Master Xun went back to immersing himself in studying the object on his desk.

It was a Compass.

Circular as the heavens and squared as the earth, with intersecting meridians and parallels, marked by celestial stems and earthly branches, full of profound and complex principles.

Elder Master Xun stared at the Compass, deep in deduction, but his brows only furrowed further, his expression growing more solemn.

After a long while, he sighed deeply in frustration, murmuring to himself:

"Our Taixu Gate's divination methods... are indeed insufficient

"We can't figure it out

A sharp glint flashed across Elder Master Xun's cloudy eyes.

Lately, he had been preoccupied with a deep sense of concern as if Taixu Gate had been marked by a terrifying entity because of certain matters.

This affair was of great significance, affecting the Sect's destiny.

No matter how much he pondered, plotted, and deduced over and over again, he could not disperse the fog of confusion nor discern the truth within.

Suddenly, he could only perceive that Taixu Gate appeared to be bound by layers of purple, decaying Karmic chains.

A pair of blood-red, terrifying eyes was watching Taixu Gate with covetous intent.

This crisis was lurking in the darkness.

There must certainly be someone targeting Taixu Gate, propelling a wicked conspiracy.

Yet on the surface, nothing seemed amiss.

Elder Master Xun frowned and then remembered something his senior brother had once said, giving rise to a sigh.

His senior brother was right; if it were the glory days of Taixu Gate, there would be no need to worry about these demons and spirits. Even with myriad Heavenly secrets, a thousand dangers of karma, and ten thousand threads of Evil Thoughts, they could all be severed by a single sword!

Chapter 1132 Crisis_3

Just...

Elder Master Xun's eyes dimmed.

Now that the Divine Swords are all sealed, and sword arts are Forbidden Techniques, no one can cultivate them, no one dares to, and no one longer pursues them.

Otherwise, I wouldn't have to force myself to study these clumsy Heavenly secret algorithms...

Elder Master Xun felt physically and mentally exhausted.

He looked again at the compass, and before long, he felt his Divine Sense withering and a piercing pain in his Sea of Consciousness.

Elder Master Xun rubbed his eyebrows, then closed the compass on the desk and rested his eyes.

After a while, he opened his eyes again, intending to continue his deductions, but he accidentally saw a letter on the desk.

It bore the seal of Gu Changhuai.

"Gu Family

Elder Master Xun nodded slightly.

It seems Young Master Mo has quite the good relationship with the Gu family.

The thought of Young Master Mo lifted Elder Master Xun's mood quite a bit, making his Divine Sense not feel so dry.

This child's talent in cultivation is somewhat lacking.

But his talent in Divine Sense is exceptional.

Now only in the Foundation Establishment Early Stage, his Divine Sense has already reached the astounding level of Sixteen Patterns, which is truly unbelievable.

He is really a treasure for my Taixu Gate.

As for Seventeen Patterns...

Elder Master Xun pondered for a moment and shook his head.

The barrier of the ultimate Middle Phase in the Foundation Establishment Realm is too profound. It's not something that can be broken through overnight.

It's estimated that only by reaching the Foundation Building Middle Stage, or even the Late Stage, and with the upgrade of his realm, he could make a breakthrough in the barrier of the Sea of Consciousness in one fell swoop.

We cannot rush this...

During this period, it's time to settle down, learn more Formation Patterns, and secure a stronger foundation.

Elder Master Xun was momentarily stunned; he realized that it's been quite a while since he last paid attention to Young Master Mo.

But this child is honest, talented, and hardworking, very reassuring, so there's no need for any reminders.

Not only that, he even taught some of the Formation classes on my behalf.

Elder Master Xun felt comforted.

He prepared to continue deducing the compass, but as soon as his Divine Sense moved, he sensed something was not right.

Young Master Mo's figure was blurry and indistinct; he was occupied and busy, but it seemed like he wasn't Drawing Formations.

Elder Master Xun paused, a heaviness settling in his heart.

What exactly was Young Master Mo doing?

Apart from Drawing Formations, what else could he do?

Except for Drawing Formations...

Elder Master Xun thought about it; Young Master Mo's physical body isn't strong, and his Spiritual Power is weak, a delicate little kid, what can he do?

Elder Master Xun frowned, feeling slightly uneasy.

...

On the other hand, in the small fishing village.

Gu An and Gu Quan had rushed to the small fishing village upon the orders of Gu Changhuai, bringing several Spiritual Artifacts for protection.

A Pure Heart Mirror.

A Soothing Jade.

And a repelling evil hairpin.

These three Spiritual Artifacts, treasured by the Gu family, although only Second Grade, are very precious due to their special effects and rare materials.

It's uncertain whether Young Master Mo would find them useful, but there's no harm in trying.

Additionally, using the Gu Family's secret order, Young Master Mo also summoned more than twenty Foundation Establishment cultivators from the Gu Family.

The risk in the well is unknown, and surely not everyone can go down, and there are not many soothing Spiritual Artifacts.

Young Master Mo planned for himself, Gu An and Gu Quan, both in Foundation Establishment Late Stage, to first go down into the well with the Pure Heart and Soothing Artifacts to scout out the situation, and then decide based on the circumstances.

This was currently the most prudent approach.

Later, Young Master Mo ordered Gu An and Gu Quan to, in the capacity of Taoist Court Officials, command all the Fish Cultivators in the small fishing village to stay at home and not go out, and had other Gu Family cultivators stationed strictly within the village.

Before departure, however, a Fish Cultivator found Young Master Mo.

He was Old Yu's eldest son, and father to Little Shunzi and Little Shuizi, Young Master Mo remembered his name to be "Yu Dahe."

Without another word, he knelt down, his expression resolute as he pleaded:

"Young Master, let me go too!"

Young Master Mo helped him up and shook his head: "No, it's too dangerous."

Yu Dahe remained kneeling, his eyes becoming slightly red, "Little Shunzi and Little Shuizi, they are my own sons

Mo Hua sighed, pondered for a long time, and then agreed, "Alright."

Yu Dahe's expression brightened, filled with gratitude.

Mo Hua's mind stirred slightly.

This time, the destination was a fishing village contaminated by the Evil God.

Since he was not a Fish Cultivator and did not understand many of the matters related to Fish Cultivators, bringing Yu Dahe along should be very helpful.

Moreover, the ones being rescued were his two sons.

If these two children could not be saved, Yu Dahe, as a father, would have to endure double the pain of losing his sons; rather than that, it might be better to let him take a chance.

Afterward, Mo Hua, along with Gu An, Gu Quan, and Yu Dahe, went to the well behind the small fishing village.

Gu An had already been observing along the way and now couldn't help but ask,

"Young Master, is the Crossing River Dragon hidden in this well?"

Mo Hua nodded.

Gu An and Gu Quan exchanged looks.

Yu Dahe also weakly said, "This is the well our village drinks from, people can't be hidden inside

"Just watch

After saying this, Mo Hua took out his brush and ink and began to draw a Formation around the well.

Once the Formation was drawn, the Formation Patterns lit up, and the well suddenly trembled, then revealed its true appearance just like that night.

This was a dry well, and indeed, the actual entrance to the Evil God.

At the same time, crimson blood mist gushed out.

However, only Mo Hua could see this kind of blood mist.

The expressions of Gu An, Gu Quan, and the others showed shock; they hadn't expected the secret to truly be hidden within the well.

However, they couldn't see the bloody color within the mist, feeling only that the mist had gotten thicker, and their bodies felt cooler; although it was daytime, it felt somewhat gloomy.

Just as Mo Hua was about to go down, he suddenly remembered something.

He recalled that on that night, when the Crossing River Dragon jumped into the well, it was carrying a basket of fish, containing several large dead fish.

Those dead fish had big heads and patterned bodies, and looked somewhat ugly.

Mo Hua was somewhat puzzled.

What was the purpose of the Crossing River Dragon bringing those dead fish?

He pondered for a moment, feeling that since the Crossing River Dragon took them, he definitely needed to bring them too.

When in doubt, it's always right to learn from others.

Mo Hua took out paper and pen, drew the appearance of those dead fish, and then asked Yu Dahe, "What kind of fish is this?"

Yu Dahe frowned, looked for a long time, and finally remembered, "It should be the Dead Pattern Fish."

"Dead Pattern Fish?" Mo Hua was slightly stunned, but without asking further, he directly said, "Can you get them?"

"Yes!" Yu Dahe asserted confidently.

Then he ran off to the front of the village without another word and returned about 30 minutes later with three large dead fish, the very gray and ugly "Dead Pattern Fish."

It looked like they were borrowed from a family in the village.

Mo Hua nodded his head.

Now that the preparations were complete, they could go down the well.

Before descending, Mo Hua pondered for a moment, and then cautioned one more time,

"I'll say this in advance; this well is extremely dangerous. Once inside, you must obey my instructions thoroughly, without the slightest error, otherwise the consequences could be very dire

Yu Dahe was taken aback, then clenched his teeth and solemnly nodded.

Mo Hua also said to Gu An and Gu Quan,

"Little Brother An, Little Brother Quan, the same goes for you."

Gu An and Gu Quan's expressions were slightly stern, but they also firmly nodded.

They were born into the Gu Family and served as Court Officials in the Taoist Court, dealing with Sin Cultivators and Evil Cultivators on a regular basis, which was not without risks.

Though not embracing death, they were not the type to fear it.

Moreover, they did not think that their lives were more precious than that of Young Master Mo in front of them.

For Young Master Mo, who was so young and only at the early stages of Foundation Establishment to risk himself, how could the two brothers hesitate?

"Young Master Mo, we'll listen to you."

Gu An and Gu Quan said in unison.

Mo Hua nodded slightly, then took a deep breath, looked at the bottom of the well shrouded in a blood mist, deep and impenetrable, and said solemnly,

"Let's go down."

"Yes!" Gu An and the others nodded.

Then Gu An and Gu Quan jumped down first.

Yu Dahe, murmuring his two sons' names in his heart and with a resolute expression, followed closely behind.

Lastly, it was Mo Hua; he no longer hesitated and leapt into the well, the entrance to the Evil God, shrouded in a bloody mist.

Chapter 1133: Leeches

Mo Hua landed using Water Passing Step, his posture gentle, only his feet felt slightly numb.

After settling down, Mo Hua looked up and saw that the mist at the bottom of the well was not thick, but the blood-red color was even more uniform, slowly flowing at the bottom.

In the midst of the blood mist, it seemed like something was hatching.

A slight tremor went through Mo Hua's heart.

He felt that he was somehow closer to some kind of origin.

"Young Master?"

Gu An and the other two softly inquired.

Once they reached the bottom of the well, breathlessness inexplicably overcame them, their hearts unsettled, thus they all turned to look at Mo Hua.

Mo Hua observed his surroundings for a moment, noticing at the base of the dried-up well was a stone-built corridor leading in all directions, its extent unknown.

Gu An and the others, not being able to see the bloody color, did not know which way to go.

Mo Hua nodded and said, "Follow me."

Mo Hua chose a path and walked straight ahead.

Gu An walked slightly ahead, alongside Mo Hua, while Yu Dahe followed just behind Mo Hua, and Gu Quan was guarding the rear.

The three of them were subtly protecting Mo Hua.

Gu An and Gu Quan were instructed by Gu Changhuai to ensure Mo Hua's complete safety.

Yu Dahe knew that the lives of his two young sons hinged on this Young Master, thus nothing must go wrong with him.

The corridor was dry and dark, and the atmosphere was oppressive.

After walking for a while, they suddenly came upon a pool of stagnant water, which seemed to have been dug out into a big pit, filled with water.

Mo Hua's gaze slightly condensed.

He remembered his Little Tiger, who seemed to have fallen into the water, was attacked, and was instantly crushed to pieces.

Mo Hua released his Divine Sense, scanning for a moment, his gaze sinking.

"There is a Monster Beast in the water."

The presence of this Monster Beast was elusive and powerful, because it was submerged in water, making it hard to detect.

Apparently, the mastermind behind the small fishing village had raised a Monster Beast and placed it in the water to block the way, to prevent discovery.

Gu An and Gu Quan looked at each other, their hearts slightly shocked.

The water was mixed, and with their Divine Senses, they had not noticed the Monster Beast hidden in the water.

Although he is a Formation Master, was Young Master Mo's Divine Sense too sensitive?

He is only at Foundation Establishment Early Stage, right...

Yu Dahe timidly asked, "Young Master, can you tell what kind of Water Demon it is?"

Mo Hua shook his head.

Gu An pondered and said, "Should I go back and call for more people to come down and join forces to kill this Monster Beast?"

"No," Mo Hua shook his head, "This Monster Beast is likely a Second Grade Late Stage Water Demon, too powerful in the water. Probably it would take at least seven or eight Cultivators proficient in water system skills, skilled in water nature, at Foundation Establishment Late Stage, to possibly hunt it down."

Mo Hua deduced based on his experience as a Monster Hunter.

Gu An and Gu Quan frowned.

Seven or eight at Foundation Establishment Late Stage, the Gu Family could gather, but those proficient in water system skills, skilled in underwater combat was overly demanding.

Fish Cultivators in the small fishing village were skilled in water nature, but they were not skilled in combat, and none were at Foundation Establishment Late Stage.

"Also," Mo Hua continued, "if we act here, forcibly killing this Water Demon will definitely cause a big commotion, very likely alerting the Crossing River Dragon, allowing them to escape."

"Those two children might not be saved either

"Young Master, then what Yu Dahe looked at Mo Hua, his eyes pained, filled with hope.

Mo Hua sighed softly, "Let me think

He looked at the dangerous deep pool in front of him, his eyes reflecting his thoughts, and he couldn't help but think of one issue.

How did Crossing River Dragon manage to get across?

Although Crossing River Dragon was skilled in water nature, he was only at Foundation Establishment Middle Stage, definitely not a match for this Water Demon.

And being a Monster Beast, the Water Demon wouldn't differentiate between friend or foe in its attacks.

Mo Hua recalled his encounter with Crossing River Dragon again, naturally thinking of those dead fish.

According to Yu Dahe, these fish were called "Dead Blotch Fish."

Mo Hua then asked, "What are Dead Blotch Fish used for?"

Yu Dahe said, "This fish is poisonous. After death, it has gray blotches on its body, similar to 'cadaveric spots', so it's called Dead Blotch Fish. Eating it causes blood stasis, bodily paralysis, just like a 'corpsed', unable to move

Mo Hua suddenly realized.

"So that's how it is."

Crossing River Dragon and his group used the "Dead Blotch Fish" to feed the Water Demon, preventing it from moving, then they crossed the river.

Mo Hua thought for a while, then had Gu An throw a Dead Blotch Fish into the water.

As soon as the Dead Blotch Fish hit the water, the water churned and a huge ugly head of the Water Demon appeared, swallowing the Dead Blotch Fish in one gulp.

Mo Hua's pupils contracted.

Gu An and the others also looked terrified.

This Water Demon's species was unknown, but it was huge, about the size of five or six men, its head malformed, its mouth gaping wide, and its Monster Blood thick. Its skin was covered in Scale Armor, virtually indestructible.

Its bulging eyes, black and yellow pupils, were cold and cruel.

This was a Second Grade Peak Water Demon, of unknown age.

After swallowing the Dead Blotch Fish, the Water Demon's pupils scattered a bit and its body involuntarily paralyzed for a moment, but in just ten breaths, it was back to normal.

Mo Hua paused, then took a deep breath of cool air.

Feeding it the fish and paralyzing the Water Demon was not enough to safely cross.

This Water Demon's Blood Qi was too dense.

Eating the Dead Blotch Fish could only paralyze it for ten breaths' time; to cross the river, one must swim to the opposite shore within these ten breaths, otherwise, once it woke up, the Water Demon would still devour anyone trying to cross.

Gu An and the others clearly understood as well, their faces turning pale.

Mo Hua looked at Gu An and the others, not speaking, but his gaze carried a hint of inquiry.

Yu Dahe, with a determined face, gritted his teeth and said, "I am going to save my son, even if it means death, I have no complaints."

Chapter 1134: Blood Leech _2

Gu An and Gu Quan nodded slightly after hearing the words.

Gu An then added: "Young Master, you needn't worry about us."

However, Gu Quan looked at Mo Hua with some concern, "Young Master, perhaps you shouldn't take the risk."

"It's fine," Mo Hua said, "I can also swim quite fast in the water."

Previously, when he had time, he had roughly learned the Crossing River Dragon's White Wave movement technique. Although he was not particularly proficient in it, he could manage to use it when necessary.

After pondering for a moment, Mo Hua said: "There are also three dead Patterned Fish, let's feed them all to the Water Demon in a bit, and then we'll immediately swim to the other side."

"Feed them all?" Gu Quan was astonished, "What about when we return?"

"No need to worry about returning."

Mo Hua said casually.

When they would be coming back, they wouldn't need to worry about startling the enemy. A Water Demon trapped in stagnant water was nothing but a sitting duck, and he had a hundred ways to send it to heaven.

Gu An and Gu Quan were unaware of Mo Hua's plan, but after their experience in the Bi Mountain Demon Cavern, they had gradually become accustomed to following Mo Hua's instructions.

After the Water Demon ate one fish, it slowly sank back into the water.

It seemed to be oblivious to the events on the shore, and was only extremely sensitive to prey in the water.

The three discussed and then decided to cross the river.

Gu An, Gu Quan, and Yu Dahe, each holding a fish, simultaneously threw them into the distant water.

As the Patterned Fish hit the water, the Water Demon reappeared, swallowed two of the fish, and like before, its pupils became unfocused and slightly paralyzed.

"Go!"

The instant the Water Demon was eating the fish, Mo Hua decisively instructed.

Soon afterwards, they all jumped into the water and vigorously swam towards the opposite bank.

Yu Dahe was a Fish Cultivator with excellent aquatic ability, so he swam very quickly.

Mo Hua, though not a Fish Cultivator, was practiced in the Water System Body Skill, Water Passing Step, and had also learned White Wave technique; he was like a nimble fish in the water, and his speed was also not slow.

Gu An and Gu Quan were inferior in movement technique, but their Cultivation was deep, allowing them to keep up.

However, both purposefully slowed down a bit and stayed behind Mo Hua to protect him.

The Second Grade Peak Water Demon, after swallowing two Patterned Fish, was only paralyzed for about fifteen breaths. Its sinister black and yellow pupils then started to move again.

Mo Hua sensing the danger, immediately said: "Hurry up!" and then propelled his body skill to the limit, using his hands and feet to desperately make headway.

The shore was within sight.

Gu An along with the others also started exerting their full strength, moving towards the bank.

At this time, the Water Demon was fully awake from its paralytic state, its bulging eyes rotating, and its ugly nose sniffing the scent of living humans.

It disregarded the other dead Patterned Fish and slowly sank into the water.

The figure of the Water Demon was submerged at the bottom, but at the same time, a pattern of an undercurrent appeared on the water's surface, rolling quickly towards Mo Hua and the others with great speed.

Mo Hua and his companions were shocked and swam desperately.

Finally, the aquatically adept Yu Dahe was the first to reach the shore, and right after getting out of the water, he immediately turned around and pulled Mo Hua up from the riverbed.

Gu An and Gu Quan also reached the bank.

But before they could climb ashore, with a "boom" sound on the water's surface, an ugly Water Demon's head emerged, its jaws wide open, lunging to swallow Gu An and Gu Quan.

In the water, the two could not dodge in time.

Mo Hua reacted quickly, his fingers together as he summoned several Fireballs, hitting the protruding eyes of the Water Demon, delaying it for a moment.

Taking that instant, Gu An and Gu Quan concurrently drew their swords, unleashing sword energy, and chopped at the Water Demon's lower jaw.

But the Water Demon had thick skin and flesh; the blows were not deep, barely breaking the skin.

Yu Dahe immediately took out a poisoned algae-juice harpoon from his Storage Bag and threw it straight at the Water Demon's throat.

This was the common method Fish Cultivators used to deal with aquatic Monster Beasts when fishing.

The harpoon pierced into the Water Demon's mouth, the poison algae seeped into its throat, causing excruciating pain to the Water Demon, which rolled over and sank back into the water.

Seizing the opportunity, Gu An and Gu Quan both climbed onto the shore.

After that, the group quickly retreated.

However, in just a short moment, the Water Demon emerged again.

The entire harpoon was swallowed in its resentment, the Water Demon furious. But with the scent of living humans in the water gone, it could only let out an angry roar towards the shore.

The roar was low, but the foul wind was fierce.

Carried by the foul wind, Mo Hua stumbled a few steps and fell to the ground with a "plop," appearing somewhat disheveled.

Gu An immediately helped Mo Hua up, "Young Master, are you alright?"

"I'm fine."

Mo Hua rubbed his forehead, looked back with some annoyance at the Water Demon, and silently thought to himself: "Ugly freak, just wait until I come back, and see how I'll deal with you."

The ugly and sinister eyes of the Water Demon were still staring at Mo Hua, completely unaware that it had been marked on Mo Hua's "blacklist."

Once ashore and away from the water, the Water Demon was powerless.

The group was temporarily safe and continued to move forward.

After who knows how long, they discovered an opening up ahead, with a faint light emanating from it.

Passing through the opening, they were greeted by a sudden expanse; no longer confined by a narrow well, but an overcast realm stretched before them.

A fine drizzle filled the sky, and the ground was a muddy path paved with pebbles.

A light, yellowish mist hung faintly in the air.

In the eyes of Gu An and the others, the mist was pale yellow.

But to Mo Hua, the color of the mist was a deeper blood red.

Not far away, the vague outline of a fishing village merged with this bloody mist, exuding an aura of death and eeriness.

Gu An cursed under his breath: “Those human traffickers from Crossing River Dragon, how on earth did they find such a creepy place to hide.”

Yu Dahe nodded in agreement, puzzled: “I’ve never heard of such a place nearby... Is this a fishing village? Why does it seem like there isn’t a single person around?”

Chapter 1135: Leech_3

“Let’s go over and take a look first,” Mo Hua sighed.

He was well aware that this fishing village was not just about human traffickers.

The group followed the muddy path under their feet towards the distant fishing village.

But after only a few steps, Mo Hua suddenly grabbed Gu An, exclaiming:

"Stop!"

Gu An was startled and looked around, somewhat puzzled as he watched Mo Hua, not knowing what had happened.

There was clearly nothing around.

Yet, Mo Hua's pupils trembled slightly.

He saw a cloud of blood mist in front of Gu An, within which wriggled something like a blood leech, an evil object.

This blood leech was entirely red, filthy and bloody, drifting in the air with the blood mist.

It swam right in front of Gu An.

Gu An couldn't see it at all.

If he had taken one more step forward just now, he would have directly touched these blood leeches.

What would happen upon touching a blood leech, Mo Hua did not know yet.

However, based on his experience, he guessed these blood leeches were likely Evil Spirits split from the Evil God, which could potentially burrow into the Sea of Consciousness of any living being with Divine Sense and begin polluting and parasitizing.

"There's danger," Mo Hua stated gravely.

Gu An and the others looked around at the dense fog, their hearts chilled.

"Follow me, do not wander off!"

Mo Hua cautioned sternly.

Since he had brought the three into the well, it was imperative to ensure their safety.

Yu Dahe was an unfortunate Fish Cultivator, living a hard life.

Gu An and Gu Quan were even more important as they were companions sent by Uncle Gu to protect him; allowing anything to happen to them was even more unthinkable.

All three nodded.

Mo Hua then began walking in front, leading the three others, cautiously avoiding the blood leeches as they moved forward.

After a moment, the blood mist thickened, and there were many more blood leeches.

Mo Hua could avoid them, but following him, Gu An and the others might still get parasitized by the trailing blood leeches.

Mo Hua was a bit troubled, then suddenly startled by another thought.

He could see the blood leeches, therefore he could find his way.

Crossing River Dragon, who couldn't see the blood leeches, how had he avoided them and found the path into the village?

There must be some trick to it.

Mo Hua released his Divine Sense, surveilling the surroundings for a moment, when suddenly his eyes lit up. He squatted down and began digging through the soil and stones at his feet.

Gu An and the others watched, perplexed, but understood their boundaries and did not disturb Mo Hua.

After a while, Mo Hua finally unearthed something from the ground.

It was a stone slab of the Formation!

On the slab, intricate and profound Formation Patterns were etched.

Though Mo Hua had never seen these Patterns before, they seemed very familiar to him. The style of the Formation resembled exactly those Patterns drawn by Crossing River Dragon at the well's mouth.

"Divine Tao Array!"

Mo Hua was delighted.

He quickly marked down these Patterns, one by one.

However, the Divine Tao Array on the stone slab was incomplete; the few Patterns alone could not form a complete Array structure, nor clarify the intentions of the Patterns.

Mo Hua took a few more steps forward, then squatted and dug again.

After a moment, he indeed dug out another slab.

On this slab, the Divine Tao Array Patterns were still incomplete, with a mixture of new and old.

Mo Hua compared them scrupulously, noting down the new Patterns before continuing to flip forward, eventually recording five completely new Divine Tao Array Patterns from several slabs.

He then took out a piece of paper and continuously simulated, combined, and pieced these five Patterns together.

After dozens of attempts, Mo Hua finally managed to connect these five Patterns together, forming a simple but functional Divine Tao Array prototype where the power of Divine Thought flowed in a circular, closed loop!

This prototype was still very rudimentary, similar to the Five Elements Formation he first learned during his initial studies in Formation.

But indeed, it was a complete, introductory Divine Tao Array.

Mo Hua compared this Array to the Patterns drawn by Crossing River Dragon at the well's mouth, discovering some techniques.

Strictly speaking, the Patterns drawn by Crossing River Dragon were not a Divine Tao Array.

His Patterns acted as a temporary barrier by cleverly halting the flow of the Divine Tao Array's power, achieving a temporary "unsealing" effect to open the well's seal.

In other words, the "unsealing" Patterns drawn by Crossing River Dragon were based on a complete set of Divine Tao Array.

This whole set of Divine Tao Array was engraved in the bloodstained, dry well.

Or perhaps...

Mo Hua looked out into the distance, towards the fishing village enveloped in the gloomy blood mist.

This entire village, contaminated and erased by the Evil God, was built upon this "Divine Tao Array".

Both the well's mouth Patterns and the stone slab Formations were merely a small part of this extensive Divine Tao Array.

Mo Hua was shocked, but simultaneously, more doubts arose.

Where did this Divine Tao Array come from?

Who constructed this Array in this fishing village?

What was the purpose?

What exactly was the application of the Divine Tao Array?

Mo Hua frowned.

"It seems I need to delve deeper into the fishing village, the core of the Divine Tao Array is likely hidden inside

There should still be some stone slabs of the Divine Tao Array buried underfoot, but time was limited, Mo Hua could not afford to lift each one to check.

After resolving the matter with the Evil God, he planned to turn over every inch of the ground.

Mo Hua nodded to himself.

At this moment, Mo Hua also understood the function of the stone slab's Array.

These Arrays served to isolate the blood mist, especially to drive away the "blood leeches"-like Evil Spirits within it.

Linked sequentially, these Arrays carved a safe path through the blood mist.

Crossing River Dragon surely used this path to remain uncontaminated by the Evil God and uninfested by the blood leeches, thus smoothly entering the inner part of the fishing village.

Mo Hua began to unravel the Divine Tao Array.

Now this meandering “Divine Way” path also clearly appeared in his vision.

Having a path was always safer.

Mo Hua himself could see the blood leeches, it didn’t matter whether there was a path or not, but it was different for Gu An and the others.

They couldn’t see the danger, and even following him posed lethal risks.

"Follow me, step on my footprints, don’t go astray and don’t look around,” Mo Hua said.

Gu An and the others, aware of the stakes, all nodded.

Then Mo Hua took the lead, walking in front, while Gu An and the others carefully followed Mo Hua’s instructions, not daring to miss a step.

Thus, they cautiously took one step after another, not knowing how long they had walked, until the four finally crossed the territory infested by the blood leeches and stepped onto the land of the vanished fishing village.

It was a land soaked in fresh blood.

Chapter 1136 Sword Scar

The moment he stepped onto the land, Mo Hua’s Divine Sense fiercely stung.

A bright red appeared before his eyes.

Grim laughs, pained cries, and despairing wails resounded around his ears.

It was as if cause and effect were reversed, time flowed backward, and the tragic scenes that happened in this fishing village hundreds of years ago fleetingly surfaced before Mo Hua's eyes.

This fishing village had been completely bloodwashed...

Suddenly, Mo Hua glimpsed a thread of truth.

Amidst the blood mist, the pitiful wails rose and fell; all the Fish Cultivators were slaughtered, their blood seeping into the earth, dyeing the soil and contaminating the deity that had descended upon the village...

A pale golden deity.

This deity...

Mo Hua exhausted his Divine Sense, attempting to discern the deity's face, but just then, the blood mist surged, obscuring everything.

The eyes of this deity also turned a vivid red, showing a murderous intent towards Mo Hua, who dared to pry into karma.

Mo Hua broke out in a cold sweat and suddenly opened his eyes.

The surroundings dark and ominous.

The air carried the smell of fish, along with the stench of many years of decay, and the mud beneath his feet was a dark red color.

It seemed blood and soil had merged, yet it had dried and been quiet for many years.

Besides that, the surroundings were very silent, the blood mist was not thick, and there were no floating blood leeches, appearing a bit safer than outside the village.

"Young Master Mo, are you alright?" Gu An worriedly asked.

Mo Hua had suddenly turned pale and fainted, seemingly having seen something terrifying, looking rather awful.

"I'm fine." Mo Hua wiped the cold sweat from his forehead, "The atmosphere is too oppressive, I just had a nightmare to adjust my mood."

Gu An and the others:

Mo Hua again recalled the scenes that had emerged in his mind a moment ago, forming a rough speculation.

The Fish Cultivators of the small village, after being contaminated by the Evil God, were all silenced.

The cultivator who exterminated the village was just a dark, fierce silhouette, his face unclear, and his identity indiscernible.

The small fishing village originally had a deity.

This deity, shrouded in pale golden light, clearly of no low rank, had been contaminated by the Evil God.

As for the outcome...

Mo Hua glanced at the now blood-red fishing village and sighed.

The believers were slaughtered, the village contaminated.

The fate of this deity was obvious.

It is now not an Evil God, but has become one.

However...

Mo Hua slightly furrowed his brows.

This experience of the village, why does it feel so familiar, as if he had seen a similar scene somewhere else.

Mo Hua concentrated, his pupils narrowing.

The Xie family!

The Xie family, destroyed by the Fire Buddha, they too had been slaughtered entirely, dying in a horrific state, and the moment he stepped into the Xie family's house, the signs of karma and retribution emerged.

Mo Hua remembered the incident with the Xie family.

Although the Fire Buddha had died, the Bi Mountain Demon Cavern had been annihilated, and its Demon Palace destroyed, Mo Hua still felt that some deep karma had not been resolved.

Could there be a connection between the Xie family and the small fishing village?

Mo Hua raised his head and looked toward the deepest part of the fishing village with a thought-provoking gaze.

But the matter at hand was still to rescue people.

He could not let two innocent children become sacrifices to the Evil God.

"I'll go invisible first to check out the situation; you guys find a place to hide. If you hear any noise, come over to rescue me. If there is no noise, stay put and don't let yourself be discovered."

Mo Hua instructed.

Gu An and Gu Quan were a bit apprehensive, but still obediently nodded.

Yu Dahe was anxious for his son but had to suppress his restlessness and wait patiently.

Mo Hua nodded slightly.

Although Gu An and Gu Quan were carrying the Water Concealing Jade, this type of Spiritual Artifact had limited concealing effects, and both of them lacked experience in hiding.

This professional activity of invisible eavesdropping was still best left to him.

Just as Mo Hua was about to leave, he suddenly remembered something and took out three calming Spiritual Artifacts from his chest, handing them to Gu An and the others.

"This is for calming the spirit, each of you take one, and keep them with you."

These three Spiritual Artifacts were familiar to Gu An, exactly those that Young Master Changhuai had instructed them to specifically retrieve from the Gu Family's vault and give to Young Master Mo.

Gu An was a bit puzzled, "Young Master, these spiritual calming artifacts, what are they used for exactly? They must be for more than just soothing the mind, right?"

"They are to protect the Sea of Consciousness."

"Protect the Sea of Consciousness?"

"Yes." Mo Hua nodded, "Explaining is a bit complicated, just carry them with you, they are very important for saving your lives."

"Okay!" Seeing Mo Hua speak so earnestly, Gu An solemnly accepted them, but then looked at Mo Hua with some concern, "You gave us the Spiritual Artifacts, what about you, Young Master?"

"I don't need them." Mo Hua confidently said.

These artifacts were not of much use to him.

His Divine Sense itself was a superior artifact for protecting the deity!

Although Gu An and Gu Quan did not fully understand, they still thought Young Master Mo was very impressive...

Afterward, Gu An and the others waited in place.

Mo Hua, his body hidden, began to familiarly inspect the situation in the fishing village.

The fishing village was completely abandoned, with collapsed stone walls, withered thatch, and some signs of destruction left from when the village was wiped out.

Mo Hua took a few steps and then saw, not far away, a large fisher's house with faint lights visible and several figures seeming to appear and disappear.

Mo Hua's eyebrows slightly raised, and he tiptoed toward it.

But before he got close to the fisher's house, something in the corner of Mo Hua's eye suddenly caught his attention, giving him pause.

"What's this

Mo Hua turned back and walked closer to look, finding a stone pillar by the roadside that had been chopped off halfway, leaving clear sword marks.

Chapter 1137 Sword Scar

"Sword marks?"

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, and he couldn't help thinking:

"Could this be the remnants of a battle left by that Sword Cultivator predecessor, who once entered the fishing village and fought with either people or Evil Spirits?"

Mo Hua touched the broken surface of the stone pillar with his hand.

The surface was smooth, indicating that the Sword Qi was extremely sharp.

However, over the years, the Sword Qi had long dissipated, and a sticky layer of dirt had formed on the surface.

Mo Hua wanted to try observing the sword mark to comprehend some uses of Sword Qi.

But his rudimentary understanding of sword techniques was far from sufficient to support him in this high-level comprehension of the Sword Dao.

If not Sword Qi, then what about Sword Intent?

Mo Hua released his Divine Sense to perceive the Sword Intent.

On the surface of the break, extremely faint traces of sword light appeared, lingering for hundreds of years, leaving Mo Hua greatly shocked.

However, these traces of sword light were still too weak to comprehend much of anything.

Mo Hua's pupils were deep, and the pattern of Heavenly secret appeared in his eyes. Using Tricky Calculation, he amplified the Heavenly Secret Calculation, and upon focusing his gaze once more, the spirit of the surface sharply intensified.

A very sharp, pale blue cold light revealed its edge.

Mo Hua's eyes felt slightly stung, and even inside his Sea of Consciousness, he felt an intense pressure, as if an expert in the Sword Dao was pointing a razor-sharp treasure sword directly at his brow.

Afterward, everything vanished in an instant.

The slight traces of sword light on the break completely dissipated.

Within the Heavenly Secret Calculation, the sword principles entwined with cause and effect also disappeared without trace.

Mo Hua stood there for a moment, filled with wistful regret.

"This is... Divine Thought turning into sword

That purity of killing intent to the extreme, the icy peak of Sword Intent, and the stunningly brilliant Sword Qi transformed by Divine Thought all deeply shook Mo Hua's heart, preventing him from calming down for a long time.

Mo Hua was in a trance for a moment and then his eyes sparkled with renewed brilliance.

"This is... Divine Thought turning into sword

"And it's very likely that it's the Taixu Mind Transforming Sword True Jue of the Taixu Gate

He had finally witnessed with his own eyes and personally experienced the real Sword of Divine Thought, transformed by Divine Sense!

Mo Hua touched the broken stone pillar again.

Unfortunately, there was nothing left on it.

But no matter.

Where there is one, there is a second.

The Sword Cultivator predecessor who entered the village, polluted by the Evil God and fraught with dangers, would not have only drawn his sword once.

There must be other traces of "Divine Thought transforming into sword" in this fishing village.

As long as he observed them one by one, even if he couldn't learn the real Divine Thought turning into sword, it won't be a problem to merely grasp the rudiments and the methods of using Divine Sense by imitating what he could.

Mo Hua was full of anticipation.

He just didn't know where else in the fishing village one could find sword marks...

As Mo Hua pondered this, he suddenly paused, realizing that there was urgent business he had yet to attend to.

"Saving people is the priority, saving people is urgent

Mo Hua silently chanted to himself.

The matter of the "sword mark" could wait until later.

After that, he continued to make his way stealthily towards the large fishing house up ahead.

There were no Formations around the fishing house, nor were there other means of protection.

Apparently, the Cultivators staying in the fishing village didn't expect outsiders to find this place, so they did not set up additional defenses.

This made things convenient for Mo Hua.

The door of the fishing house was tightly closed, with muffled voices inside.

Mo Hua climbed to the roof of the fishing house with nimble fingers and feet, peering through the gaps in the thatching.

Although the fishing house was large, the furnishings were meager, and a lamp was lit inside, casting a dim light.

There were several Cultivators inside, sitting around a table drinking.

Most of these Cultivators wore black robes, with one exception—a man with a full beard and dark, robust muscles, none other than Crossing River Dragon.

The wine was strong, with a thick aroma. There were also several dishes of dried fried snacks and dried fish on the table, to accompany the drinks.

As the men ate and drank, they complained about various things in casual conversation.

Mo Hua listened carefully and picked up complaints about the “damn weather,” “the gloomy place,” “someone died,” and “bad luck.”

And then, surprisingly, there was talk of... Gu Changhuai?

"That bastard Gu Changhuai

"I don't know what kind of madness has gripped him, he has had his eyes on me for several months, lingering like a yin soul

"Sooner or later, I'll kill him!"

"Blow it out of your ass! You, just at Foundation Establishment, think you've got the guts of a bear and a leopard, wanting to kill someone in the Golden Core Realm?"

"You know jack shit! Don't disregard the poor youth! Soon I too will reach Core Formation, alchemize cinnabar into the Dao, refine a Top-Grade Golden Core, study the Sect Protecting Sword technique, and have it out with that Gu character."

to utterly humiliate him in every way, before killing him!"

"Enough with the pipe dreams

"It's strange though, that Gu guy, a Third Grade Supervisor, usually only catches Sin Cultivators of the Golden Core Realm. So why has he suddenly gone mad this past year, targeting those at Foundation Establishment?"

One of the men in black spoke in a heavy tone, "Does he... know something?"

The atmosphere turned somewhat taut for a moment.

The leader among the men in black sharpened his gaze, took a sip of the wine, and spoke softly:

"According to what the Gentleman said, there is an expert manipulating behind the scenes, deliberately opposing us through Gu Changhuai."

"Who is it?"

Somebody said impatiently, "Damn it, you fool, if he's called an expert, then of course it's not someone we can know, is it?"

"A true expert, which one does not hide deeply?"

"You motherf

"Enough!" the leader in black said coldly, "We're all noble family's sons, watch your language."

"Yes, Big Brother

The others mumbled.

Everyone silently drank, and after a while, someone found a new topic, and they chatted again.

But the talk was frivolous, mostly crude jokes.

They mostly discussed which family's daughter was beautiful, which Sect's women had nice figures, or what fun there was with girls of certain Spiritual Roots...

Listening to this for a while, Mo Hua's brows furrowed deeply.

Chapter 1138: Sword Scar

Can't these people have some dignity?

I don't want to listen to this, when all of you gather together, can't you talk about serious matters?

But they just won't conform to Mo Hua's wishes and continue with their lewd talks.

After a while, someone suddenly asked Crossing River Dragon, "Li Yu, you son of a bitch, why haven't you said a word and just keep drowning yourself in drinks?"

Crossing River Dragon appeared somewhat lost in thought, and frowned:

"I just feel something is off

"What's off?"

Crossing River Dragon's gaze hardened slightly, "I just feel like someone is watching me

Mo Hua, who was on the roof, felt chills down his spine and quickly retracted his gaze, laying low honestly, though the Water Passing Step was already activating, ready to flee at a moment's notice.

Down below, Crossing River Dragon continued: "To be honest, ever since I was in the Taoist Prison, I felt like I was being watched. After faking my death and escaping into the Mistwater River, at first, it was fine and I was free.

But after some time, I don't know why, it seemed like something was watching me again.

It wasn't constantly watching, but intermittently. There would be a pause in between, usually about a ten-day span, I also don't know why

Mo Hua silently thought to himself, because I have to go back to class...

Crossing River Dragon appeared slightly puzzled, "But that's impossible, on land I won't say, but in the water, relying on the White Wave Skill and White Wave movement technique, merging with the Mistwater River. After so many years, no one has been able to track me..."

So, this matter is very strange

The lead figure in black deepened his gaze, "Did you check?"

"I checked." Crossing River Dragon nodded, "I have tried every method available to me, but found no trace."

"Then that's it."

"It must be your overthinking."

"But," Crossing River Dragon hesitated, a trace of seriousness flashing in his eyes, "just now, I suddenly felt a faint sense of being spied on again"

The people present felt a chill and then cursed:

"You coward!"

"Always suspicious for nothing"

"Don't become a paranoid bird, timid and overly cautious just because you were caught once by a few novice Sect Disciples"

"Being tracked outside by someone is still plausible, but how could someone really find this place?"

"If someone really did come in the lead figure in black spoke in a deep voice."

Everyone quieted down for a moment.

The lead figure in black scanned the room and continued, then there must be a traitor among us.”

The expressions of the people stiffened.

The lead black-clothed figure coldly said, “Someone has leaked the well’s Formation Patterns, the method to feed the river monster, and the Divine Way path to the village

The expressions of the cultivators present tightened.

"Big Brother, you know me

"Big Brother, I have always been devoted to my duties

"Big Brother

The lead black-clothed figure waved his hand to indicate:

"I understand, each of you is loyal to the core, so the village’s secrets couldn’t possibly have leaked.”

"And in the territory of the Second Grade State Border, without knowing the well’s Formation Patterns, without knowing what feeds the monster, without knowing the way to the village, it is impossible for anyone to enter the village undetected.”

The lead black-clothed figure looked at Crossing River Dragon and said: “So you don’t need to worry.”

Upon hearing this, Crossing River Dragon completely relaxed and apologetically smiled,

"Big Brother is right, we are all brothers, bound by a blood oath, who would dare to leak these secrets?”

The lead black-clothed figure nodded in satisfaction and continued:

"Just be at ease and follow the instructions given by the young master, he will not treat you unfairly and will surely keep you safe."

Crossing River Dragon respectfully replied, "Yes."

Mo Hua frowned upon hearing this on the roof.

Another 'Young Master?'

Which young master is this referring to?

Mr. Jin?

It shouldn't be...

As Mo Hua was pondering, he heard someone below ask:

"Big Brother, how much longer do we have to stay in this village?"

"Yes, it's sinister and eerie everywhere, this really isn't a place for the living."

The lead black-clothed figure indifferently said: "Soon, after the River God finishes the offerings, we will take them for alchemy. After the alchemy is done, then we can leave

Mo Hua felt a chill in his heart upon hearing this.

The River God finishes the offerings?

Taking them for alchemy?

Could the offerings, and those used for alchemy, be Old Yu's two grandsons?

"Does 'after the River God finishes the offerings' mean the River God is already 'eating'?"

Mo Hua's expression grew solemn.

"Not much time left

The situation was more urgent than he anticipated.

Mo Hua silently left the roof of the large fishing house, looked around, then chose a direction and headed towards the back of the fishing village.

Behind the large fishing house was another sealed fishing house.

Mo Hua reached the roof, found a crack and peered down. The moment he saw the scene inside, his pupils constricted.

It was an Alchemy Room.

Inside the Pill Room, there were dissected bones of cultivators everywhere.

In the center of the Pill Room was a White Bone Pill Furnace, inside which burned a ghastly green fire, looking somewhat sinister.

In front of the furnace were several types of herbs laid out.

These herbs, intertwined in purple, green, and red, looked bizarre and were slowly wriggling.

In front of the White Bone Pill Furnace, there was a cultivator who was performing alchemy.

This person, with disheveled hair and wearing an alchemy Taoist robe, had his face marked with Blood Patterns and emitted an evil and mad aura, indicating he was an Evil Pill Master.

Chapter 1139: Di Sha Formation

White Bone Pill Furnace, gloomy furnace fire, Sinister Pill Master.

This scene seemed hauntingly familiar.

Mo Hua frowned, involuntarily recalling the blood-stained Pill Furnace, the eerie herbs, and those cultivators who met their unjust deaths, which he had seen in the main hall of the Black Mountain Stronghold at Big Black Mountain...

"These human traffickers kidnap cultivators to refine Human Pills

Mo Hua's gaze turned slightly cold.

Inside the house, the Sinister Pill Master was focusing intensely, controlling the sinister green flames to concoct Evil Pills.

The area around the Pill Furnace was extremely bloody.

There were human bones and even living hearts.

These seemed to be the "herbs" or "catalysts" for Alchemy.

From the signs, it was clear that countless cultivators had fallen victim to these traffickers and the Sinister Pill Master.

A heaviness settled in Mo Hua's heart.

"Those two children

His eyes swiftly swept around the Pill Room, and finally in the very center of the Pill Room, he spotted an ancient altar.

At the head of the altar, there was a Divine Statue with the body of a man and the face of a fish—the River God.

Below it, two children were kneeling, bound by ropes, their foreheads touching the ground, motionless as if they were sculptures, worshipping the statue of the River God.

They were the two missing grandsons of Old Yu.

Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief, then furrowed his brows again.

The children were still alive, but in poor condition, with weak breaths, and their Divine Sense was faint, almost undetectable. He wondered if they had been consumed by the River God...

"We must rescue the children quickly

He glanced around the Pill Room once more and then memorized everything in the vicinity before quietly retreating.

After leaving, Mo Hua circled around.

He noted down the number of cultivators in black, their positions, their estimated cultivation, and the layout of the fishing hut, before returning to the village entrance to find Gu An and the others.

"I found Little Shunzi and Little Shuizi," Mo Hua whispered.

Gu An and Gu Quan's eyes lit up, while Yu Dahe looked particularly excited.

"But, there are quite a few traffickers

Mo Hua took out a piece of paper and drew a simple map, marking the layout of the fishing hut and the positions of the people in black.

"There are a total of nine people, the leader of the men in black and a Sinister Pill Master, both are at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage."

"Crossing River Dragon, whom I recognize, is at the Foundation Building Middle Stage."

"The others, I don't know, but are also basically all at the Middle Phase of Foundation Establishment."

Nine people, two at Foundation Establishment Late Stage and seven at Middle Phase.

Gu An and Gu Quan frowned.

The number was a bit large, and the situation was somewhat tricky.

Gu An pondered for a moment and said, "We can rescue them, but we might not all make it out safely after the rescue."

Mo Hua suggested, "Let's call for help, get more of our people involved, and take down these traffickers in one swoop."

Gu Quan whispered, "Even so, we might not be able to capture all the traffickers; some might escape

"No worries," Mo Hua declared, "I have a plan."

Gu An and Gu Quan looked at each other but still followed Mo Hua's instructions.

Gu An began using a Letter Token to summon help.

Several other Gu family cultivators were stationed in the small fishing village.

Following Mo Hua's instructions, Gu An called ten cultivators who were proficient in movement technique and experienced in water, briefing them on all the necessary details about entering the well, including directions and methods to feed the Water Demon.

Then came a long wait.

Yu Dahe was extremely anxious,

Mo Hua was also getting impatient, but he knew acting rashly, even if they managed to save the children, might alert the enemies and trap them.

Rushing might ruin everything.

So, instead of rushing, it was better to gather more people and prepare thoroughly for a lasting solution.

Moreover, although the man in black intended to offer the children as sacrificial food to the River God, Mo Hua had observed the sacrifice wasn't merely about "eating."

As there surely were other secrets involved, and such a sacrifice would obviously take some time.

As it stood, there was still enough time.

After what seemed like forever, Gu An's expression shifted as he looked at the Letter Token, then spoke to Mo Hua, "They've arrived."

Mo Hua nodded and whispered, "Let them wait at the village entrance. I'll go meet them."

Outside the village, there was a blood mist containing blood leeches.

Without leading the way himself, it was likely that all of these ten Gu family cultivators would fail there.

Gu An nodded, "Okay."

Mo Hua then stood up, walked alone through the blood mist, avoided the blood leeches, and reached outside the village.

The ten Gu family cultivators stationed outside the village saw Mo Hua and respectfully greeted him:

"Young Master Mo!"

Mo Hua noticed they were wet and holding dead speckled fish in their hands, indicating they had just swum past the Water Demon.

Only one person's right leg was covered in blood, the flesh appeared to have been gnawed off revealing ghastly white bones.

"Moved too slow across the river and got bitten by that beast. I've already taken some Pills, it's nothing serious."

That Gu family cultivator's face was pale, enduring the pain, but his expression was resolute.

Mo Hua admired their courage, then cautioned:

"Follow me closely once we go, remember, not a single mistake!"

The Gu family cultivators looked a bit puzzled.

The matters of Evil Spirits, they didn't quite understand.

Mo Hua explained, "There's a very dangerous Formation outside the village."

Only then did they realize and respectfully responded, "We will follow Young Master Mo's instructions!"

Mo Hua nodded, then took the lead, guiding the ten through the blood mist, avoiding the Evil Spirit blood leeches, following the path paved by the Divine Tao Array, all the way into the village to meet up with Gu An and the others.

Now, his side had a total of fourteen people.

With more allies, they had the advantage!

Mo Hua circled a few positions on the map.

"Direct confrontation is still quite risky, so we'll ambush

"You all hide as per the positions I've marked."

Chapter 1140: Di Sha Formation_2

"Then I'll first set up a Formation and blast them, it should at least severely or moderately injure them

"Two of you go and rescue those two children."

"The rest will take the opportunity to launch a joint attack and capture these human traffickers."

"Disable their limbs, shatter their Qi Sea, and then lock them up with the Spirit-binding Locks."

"If there's anyone who resists, kill without mercy, don't hold back!"

Mo Hua said decisively.

The cultivators from the Gu Family seemed enlightened.

This Young Master Mo was meticulous and decisive in action, much like an archivist from the Daoist Court.

At that moment, they even felt as if it was Young Master Changhuai who had shrunk, issuing commands to them.

Of course, there was one difference.

Young Master Changhuai wasn't adept with Formations.

Speaking of Formations...

Gu Quan said with confusion, "Young Master, don't Formations need to be set up in advance? It seems there's no opportunity to set up one now

Mo Hua confidently replied: "Don't worry, I have my methods!"

Gu Quan was momentarily stunned, then nodded unconsciously.

It's best to leave the professional work to the professionals.

When it comes to Formations, he couldn't possibly surpass Young Master Mo.

If Young Master Mo says it's possible, then it surely is.

"Wait for me, I'll go set up the Formation

Mo Hua had just stood up, but after a few steps, he turned back.

"Young Master Mo, what's wrong?" Gu An asked in confusion.

"Hold on, let me think about which Formation to use Mo Hua pondered.

His earlier plan was to use an earth-fire type Formation, but the fishing village was too dark; the fire-series Spiritual Ink Formation Patterns were too conspicuous.

Moreover, this mission was about rescuing people, and failures had to be minimized.

The risk had to be lowered as much as possible.

"I need to find a powerful, low-key, discreet Killing Formation that wouldn't be conspicuous on the ground

Mo Hua thought to himself.

He then took out the Taixu Token, flipping through it until he found a Formation that suited his needs.

Four hundred seventy merit points for a Second Grade Sixteen Patterns Formation, the Di Sha Formation!

Although it was a bit painful to spend so much, Mo Hua didn't hesitate to buy it.

Formations are meant to be used, and merit points are meant to be spent.

After purchasing the Di Sha Formation, the Taixu Token lagged for a moment.

Though they weren't in the Qianxue State Boundary, they weren't too far away; the Original Magnet was weak, but not completely isolated.

A few moments later, the complete Second Grade Sixteen Patterns Di Sha Formation Diagram appeared in the Taixu Token.

Mo Hua's spirit lifted, and he immediately delved into studying it.

Gu An couldn't help but ask quietly, "Young Master Mo, are you

Mo Hua's Divine Sense was immersed in the Taixu Token. While his hand gestured over the ground, he casually said, "Hold on, I'm learning a Formation."

Gu An's mouth fell open, "You're learning it now?"

Mo Hua matter-of-factly replied, "Of course, if I don't know it, I have to learn it now!"

Gu An's expression was complex.

That wasn't the issue...

However, he didn't dare to disturb Mo Hua further, and the group quietly watched as Mo Hua focused on drawing patterns on the ground that they simply couldn't understand.

Mo Hua learned the Di Sha Formation very quickly.

Though the name of the Formation included the word "earth," it wasn't purely one of the Eight Trigrams "Kun" Formations but instead leaned more towards the orthodox Five Elements Earth System Formation.

It incorporated some of the principles of Eight Trigrams and was related to the Earth.

Mo Hua was proficient in Five Elements Formation, and had communicated with the Earth Dao Meaning, thus he understood it twice as fast.

Moreover, it was more than that.

Ever since swallowing the Divine Marrow, Mo Hua felt that his understanding of Formations was faster and deeper than before.

Some Formations seemed engraved in his very instincts.

The Divine Marrow contained the essence of deity origins.

Deity origins, born from adhering to the Great Dao.

Formations are also manifestations of the Great Dao.

So, by devouring the Divine Marrow and refining deity origins, could he resonate with the Great Dao, thereby understanding Formations more deeply?

Mo Hua silently speculated in his mind.

Regardless, he now learned Formations increasingly fast.

The Di Sha Formation was no exception.

Mo Hua quickly sketched the Formation Patterns a few times and essentially mastered the Formation.

"It's learned!" After a while, Mo Hua nodded.

Gu An and the others were stunned.

Was it already learned?

Were Formations that easy to learn?

If they didn't know Mo Hua better, Gu An might have suspected that Young Master Mo was just playing with them...

Isn't it said that Formations are difficult to learn and acquire slowly?

Was that statement wrong?

Gu An and the others fell into self-doubt.

Mo Hua, unaware of their thoughts, then said:

"I'll go set up the Formation. You all lie in ambush according to the plan. As soon as the Formation explodes, act immediately!"

The crowd snapped out of their daze and responded solemnly:

"Yes!"

Mo Hua nodded slightly, then stealthily climbed onto the roof of the large fishing house, first heading to the roof of the Pill Room to check on the two children.

The two children were still kneeling before the altar, like offerings to deities, but their breaths were still present.

Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief.

In addition, the Evil Pill Master was still engaging in Alchemy, the men in black robes and the Crossing River Dragon were still drinking, some were dozing off.

These people were completely unguarded.

It was the perfect moment for Mo Hua to start.

He took out several bottles of Earth Series Spiritual Ink from his Storage Bag, then took out a handful of Spirit Stones, ground them into powder, and mixed it with the Spiritual Ink to provide Spiritual Power for the Formation.

Then, using Divine Sense to control the ink, he maneuvered the Spiritual Ink to flow over the ground.

In the pitch-black night, the Spiritual Ink, sticking close to the ground like a venomous snake lying in wait, slid stealthily forming the Formation, encapsulating the entire fishing house.

As time trickled by and the Spiritual Ink slowly stretched, the Formation also gradually perfected.

Mo Hua, lying on the roof, concentrated intently on crafting the Formation, when suddenly a slight sound caught his attention.