

Martial Arts 671

Chapter 671: He's That Strong?_2

"Brother Chang is right, President, we have already decided a long time ago to live and die with the association."

"President, you don't need to say anymore. We are not people who fear death."

Shi Tao's eyes also became moist as he watched.

"Alright, in that case, we will stay together and wait for them to come to us."

"Mm!"

The group nodded heavily.

Just then, Shi Tao's expression changed slightly, "You all go ahead and get busy, I'll take a call."

"Okay."

Chang Fei was the first to respond. He put the Yellow Sand Tower into his pocket and led the group out.

Shi Tao took out his phone, and he was not surprised to see the number on the screen because there was only one person who had this number, Elder Wang.

But considering the current state of affairs, even Elder Wang couldn't do anything about it.

He took a deep breath and pressed the answer button. At the same time, Elder Wang's voice sounded from the other side.

"Shi Tao, I noticed that you called me several times earlier. Did something happen over at headquarters?"

"Yes, something did happen, but it's mostly resolved now. Elder Wang, are you alright?"

Shi Tao asked with concern.

After all, finding it difficult to contact Elder Wang was almost unprecedented.

"Are you worried that something might have happened to me?"

Elder Wang stroked his beard and smiled appreciatively, "I did face some danger, but thankfully, I wasn't injured."

Shi Tao suddenly thought of something and blurted out, "Elder Wang, did you go on an adventure in the Secret Realm?"

Given Elder Wang's strength, the only place that he might consider dangerous had to be the Secret Realm.

If not for the sudden outbreak of the beast tide this time, Shi Tao would most likely be in the Secret Realm himself, not just for the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that you couldn't find in the outside world, but because the cultivation speed was significantly faster inside.

"Yes."

Elder Wang smiled, "I was idling in Anshan City, so I thought, seeing that Chen Fan was under a lot of pressure, I would go into the Secret Realm and pick up one or two treasure medicines to help him increase his cultivation speed. With his potential, if he can break through to the Celestial Realm, he might be able to withstand even a Beast Emperor level Fierce Beast."

"Yes."

Shi Tao nodded upon hearing that.

Then he quickly asked, "What was the result?"

"Not bad."

Elder Wang said, "I managed to pick one treasure medicine. Unfortunately, the Demon Beasts in the Secret Realm sensed my presence, so I didn't have time to pick a second one and had to rush to the exit. If I had been a step slower, I would have lost a leg."

"That dangerous?"

Shi Tao was secretly shocked.

After all, Elder Wang was a mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist.

If he almost lost his life, what would happen if it was Shi Tao?

"Danger is natural."

Elder Wang laughed, "If it weren't dangerous, those Noble Families would have occupied it long ago, turning it into their own territory, wouldn't they?"

"That's true."

Shi Tao nodded.

"Alright, now tell me what happened at headquarters?" Elder Wang asked.

"Well..."

Shi Tao forced a smile, "Elder Wang, before I tell you, I hope you can prepare yourself mentally."

"Oh?"

Upon hearing this, the smile on Elder Wang's face froze.

"Go ahead."

"It's like this..."

Shi Tao recounted the events, not hiding Ling Yu's role in it.

"You mean that Chen Fan killed two Celestial Realm Martial Artists by himself?"

Elder Wang couldn't believe what he was hearing.

He had heard of that Seventh Brother from the Song Family. Despite being only at the early stage of the Celestial Realm, his strength was not to be underestimated. Even Elder Wang wouldn't be able to quickly decide a fight with him.

As for Carl from the Revival Association, Elder Wang didn't know him well, but according to Shi Tao, Carl transformed into a Werewolf and withstood two hits from Chen Fan's Giant Spirit Hand directly.

Someone who could achieve that just with their physical body was terrifying!

But even more terrifying was Chen Fan.

A True Essence Realm Martial Artist was able to kill two Celestial Realm Martial Artists?

Did that mean he hadn't used his full strength during the last battle to defend the city?

"Yes, Elder Wang, I saw Chen Fan personally kill Carl. As for the Song Family's Celestial Realm Martial Artist, Chen Fan lured him away and killed him. No one from our side or the Song Family witnessed it," Shi Tao continued, "But since then, the Song Family Ancestor hasn't reappeared. If he were still alive, he wouldn't have stayed hidden for so long."

"That's true."

Elder Wang nodded, still filled with shock.

According to Shi Tao, Chen Fan killed Carl rapidly and had the advantage from the very beginning.

The way he killed the Song Family's Seventh Brother might have been similar.

Thinking of this, Elder Wang's forehead broke out in a cold sweat.

He himself hadn't fought for many years, and while he might be able to win against the Song Family's Seventh Brother, killing him outright would be another matter.

For Chen Fan to kill an opponent and then immediately return to kill another Celestial Realm Martial Artist, such performance was beyond what he could do.

Did that mean Chen Fan's current strength was already above his own?

"No, it can't be..."

He opened his mouth wide.

He was a mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist!

Was his combat power actually inferior to that of a True Essence Realm Martial Artist?

"Is Chen Fan with you now?" he asked, recovering quickly.

"Chen Fan left shortly after the battle ended. I believe he is preparing for the fight that will happen in a day or two."

Shi Tao forced a smile, "Elder Wang, you know how formidable the Song Family is. They have three Celestial Realm Martial Artists. The first one that came was the weakest among them. The other two Song Family Ancestors will definitely rush here once they find out, wanting to slice us into pieces. Moreover, the Revival Association's strength surpasses even the Song Family."

"I know that,"

Elder Wang inhaled sharply.

The Revival Association's overall power was above most of Yan Country's Noble Families.

However, because they were on Yan Country's land, they didn't dare to reveal their ambitions. After all, if all the Noble Families of Yan Country united, it wouldn't be difficult to destroy the Revival Association.

The problem was that these Feng Country People were smart. They had relationships of mutual benefit with many Noble Families. If the Revival Association targeted them, some of Yan Country's Noble Families might even send people to help.

It seemed the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association was headed for disaster.

"Shi Tao, what are you planning to do next?" Elder Wang asked.

"Elder Wang, what can I do?"

Shi Tao smiled bitterly, "To me, the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association is more important than my own life. I can't just stand by and watch the association be destroyed."

"Oh, you foolish child."

Elder Wang sighed deeply, "Where there's life, there's hope. Even if it's the Song Family, this world is big enough for us to find a place to stay."

"No, Elder Wang," Shi Tao immediately refused, "I have already made up my mind, so there's no need to persuade me. I just hope that Chen Fan doesn't follow us to the end. It wouldn't be worth it for him. I hope you can find a way to ensure his safety."

I believe that once he breaks through to the Celestial Realm, neither the Song Family nor the Revival Association will be able to threaten him."

"Rest assured, I will do my best to keep him safe."

Elder Wang said firmly.

"With Elder Wang's words, I can die with a smile on my face."

Shi Tao laughed, his tone free of burden.

"..."

Elder Wang opened his mouth but swallowed the words he was about to say.

Chapter 672: A Great Harvest of Treasure Medicine

After more than an hour of traveling, Chen Fan began to realize that things were not as simple as he initially thought.

Indeed, with his Emperor's Qi Observation Skill cultivated to the highest realm, he could easily discover the hidden heavenly materials and treasures.

Even if there were fierce beasts around the treasures, it was not much of a problem for him.

Those heavenly materials and treasures were valuable, but the problem was, only a few of them could enhance True Qi.

The rest either enhanced physique or strength.

He could accept that since improving basic attributes was also a form of enhancement.

However, many of them were aimed at enhancing elemental perception abilities, such as mastery of the fire element. These treasures were invaluable to Awakeners with fire attribute superpowers, but for other kinds of Awakeners or Martial Artists, they weren't directly useful and could only be sold.

So, after nearly two hours, his physique, strength, and agility had increased by 10,000 to 30,000 points each, his Spirit Attribute by more than 200,000, but his Primordial True Qi had only improved by about 500-600 points.

It's not that this method was bad, but it wasn't what he needed most right now.

"Only less than two days left..."

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

He glanced at the remaining dozens of Treasure Medicines in his Spatial Ring and muttered to himself:

"It looks like I'll have to make a trip to the Awakened Association."

These Treasure Medicines in his ring were quite precious; the cheapest one was worth over 100,000 points.

Some of them were valued close to 300,000 points each, totaling over 1 million points altogether.

Of course, they couldn't compare to the Cyan Dragon Fruit, which was worth a million points each and even attracted the Liang Family Ancestor's attention.

But then again, most of these Treasure Medicines were obtained by lucky finds, with no competition and sometimes not even noticed by fierce beasts.

So, there was no reason for dissatisfaction.

He then turned and headed towards Juque City.

For one thing, he was not far from Juque City, and since he was going to sell anyway, finding a familiar face would make things easier.

On the other hand, he was worried that he had brought too many Treasure Medicines, and the Association's market might not have enough heavenly materials and treasures to enhance Primordial True Qi. In that case, the extra points would have to be exchanged for cultivation techniques.

About ten minutes later, Juque City's outline came into view.

Chen Fan changed his appearance and slowed his pace.

Compared to a few days ago, the queue waiting to get into the city was longer, and everyone's faces were full of urgency.

"How much longer do we have to wait? It's almost dark," someone complained.

"Yeah, I've been waiting here almost all day, and the line hasn't moved since morning."

"What are the guards at the city gates doing? Are they just slacking off? They live inside the city and don't worry at all, but it's different for us."

"Exactly."

The complaints grew louder.

"Alright, stop complaining," someone said helplessly. "If complaining worked, we wouldn't be stuck here for so long. Plus, if the guards overhear us, we might even lose our chance to get into the city."

With that, the crowd fell silent.

They all understood this logic.

But the fierce beasts outside were getting closer.

Many medium-sized cities had already fallen.

The city they were in hadn't fallen yet, but it was only a matter of time. If they didn't move to a large city quickly, they'd face certain death.

Seeing this, Chen Fan felt a bit of sympathy.

But he could hardly take care of himself now, let alone others.

With a sigh, he walked straight ahead.

The entry procedures had also become stricter. Even after presenting his property certificate, he still had to wait a minute or two before being allowed through.

Inside the city, the atmosphere was much tenser.

Pedestrians hurried along with no smiles on their faces.

Armed guards patrolled the streets.

Chen Fan wasted no time and headed straight for the Awakened Association.

Soon, he was in a private room, meeting Han Xu, who had received the message and rushed over.

Compared to a few days ago, Han Xu also looked more fatigued.

"I'm really sorry," Han Xu apologized as he walked quickly over. "I was a bit busy just now and couldn't come immediately when I heard you arrived, Brother Li. How's Anshan City?"

"Still okay for now, but who knows about the future," Chen Fan replied.

Tonight, an even larger beast tide would attack. Many earth-burrowing fierce beasts would emerge inside the city, and he had to kill them as soon as they surfaced, or else the city would become a living hell in just minutes.

"Yes," Han Xu agreed.

"The situation has worsened over the past few days. Even in Juque City, there's been some chaos. Many cultists have been spreading rumors and causing trouble. If the beast tide reaches Juque City, things won't look good either. But never mind, let's not talk about these unpleasant things."

He smiled and said, "Brother Li, did you bring several thousand fierce beast materials this time, too?"

Chapter 673: Great Harvest of Treasure Medicine_2

"This, on the contrary, I don't have."

"You don't have it?"

Han Xu was taken aback.

"They are some Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures."

Chen Fan finished speaking, his mind moved, and he directly placed more than thirty Treasure Medicines from his ring onto the table in front of him.

Immediately, the room was filled with a fragrant aroma.

"!!!!"

Han Xu was shocked by this scene.

His eyes scanned the items, and as if reciting from memory, he mentioned the names of each Treasure Medicine.

The rare thing was that these Treasure Medicines all enhanced the Awakener's Perception Ability, even he couldn't help but be tempted.

"Brother Li, where did you find these Treasure Medicines?" he couldn't help but ask.

Usually, people would come to sell Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

But those Treasure Medicines generally cost less than 100,000 points, occasionally there might be a few that cost over 100,000 points.

And now?

The person in front of him directly brought thirty-six pieces! Each piece costing over 100,000 points!

The base value was 3.6 million points.

Moreover, many of them were priced above 100,000, some even at 200,000 or 300,000.

"Just luck, that's all."

Chen Fan smiled slightly without saying much.

"Sorry, sorry."

Han Xu immediately realized his rudeness and quickly apologized: "Brother Li, don't misunderstand, I didn't mean anything by it, seeing you suddenly take out so many, it's natural to feel curious..."

"Chairman Han no need to be polite, we've cooperated several times already, I know your character."

Chen Fan waved his hand; time was precious, he didn't want to waste it on unnecessary talk.

"Chairman Han, please calculate the value of these points."

"Alright, alright."

Chairman Han nodded, a tablet appeared in his hand.

While inputting the names of Treasure Medicines, he also entered their prices.

Two or three minutes later, he finished the calculations and handed the tablet to Chen Fan,

"Brother Li, the total is 8.5 million points, the purchase price is 20% higher than usual, since we've cooperated many times already, this is just something I should do."

He smiled.

Right now, the city was becoming more crowded, and order was getting chaotic.

But the advantage was, there were more wealthy people.

These Treasure Medicines were never difficult to sell before, and now it was needless to say.

"8.5 million points."

Chen Fan glanced at the tablet and nodded.

The purchase price was only 5 points lower than the market price, meaning Han Xu was purchasing his items at 95% of the market price, which was reasonable, after all, one couldn't expect not to let others earn a bit, right?

If he wanted to keep all the profit, he would have to spend more time selling them one by one.

But right now, what he needed the most was time.

"Thank you, Chairman Han."

Chen Fan returned the tablet.

"No trouble, no trouble, of course it's no trouble."

Han Xu waved his hand repeatedly, "Brother Li, with this kind of Heavenly Material and Earthly Treasure, however much you have, I'll take it all."

As he spoke, he put the Treasure Medicines on the table into his Spatial Ring and then stood up, "Brother Li, please wait here for a moment, I'll arrange for the points to be transferred to your account, it might take a while since the amount is quite large."

He smiled, his heart filled with envy.

One could say people envy others.

As vice-chairman, his annual salary was just over 300,000 points, which already exceeded 90% of Awakeners.

But Brother Li, with one visit, it's several million points, one visit, several million points.

Of course, the risks involved were beyond ordinary imagination, which further solidified his desire to maintain a good relationship with him.

"Chairman Han, no need to hurry."

Chen Fan motioned for him to sit down, "I also plan to use these points to purchase some items from the association."

Purchasing from the mall also required some time from shipment to receipt.

Directly buying from Han Xu allowed him to take the items directly from him later.

If he couldn't spend all the points, he could still shop online, it would be in time.

"Oh?"

Han Xu was a little surprised, "May I know what Brother Li intends to buy?"

"I want to buy some Treasure Medicines that can enhance Primordial True Qi, however much there are, I'll take them all." Chen Fan replied without hesitation.

He didn't bother with phrases like 'I have a friend.' The more you say, the more it leads people to speculate, it's better to let them guess whatever they want.

"Treasure Medicines that enhance Primordial True Qi?"

Han Xu's pupils enlarged.

He secretly thought, could Brother Li be a Martial Artist?

Next moment, he laughed heartily, "Brother Li indeed has deep pockets, our association has quite a few Treasure Medicines that enhance Primordial True Qi, but Brother Li, are you sure you want them all?"

Chen Fan understood his meaning and couldn't help but feel glad, but outwardly he remained composed, "Could it be, my points are not enough?"

"Yes, it's somewhat insufficient."

Han Xu smiled awkwardly, "Our association alone has inventory of Treasure Medicines that enhance Primordial True Qi worth over 20 million points, if we include the other associations in Juque City, the total value exceeds 100 million."

"Such an amount..."

Chen Fan thought about it and understood.

After all, he was just one person and had limited time to collect.

But the other party was an association, having gathered so much over the years, it was quite normal.

He pondered for a while and said, "Then I'll take the best ones first."

"Alright."

Han Xu nodded, "Brother Li, then please wait a bit longer, I'll return promptly."

"Alright."

Chen Fan smiled.

Watching the other leave, he couldn't help but feel a sense of anticipation.

Treasure Medicines worth over 8 million points, all enhancing Primordial True Qi.

If he consumed them all, how much True Qi would he gain?

Additionally, according to Chairman Han, the association had inventory of more than 20 million worth of Treasure Medicines that enhance Primordial True Qi, excluding other associations.

"Maybe, I really have a chance to fill the Sea of Qi up to 50% within two days, as long as I have enough Treasure Medicines to exchange."

Thinking about this, Chen Fan felt somewhat uncertain.

After all, it wasn't up to him, it depended on availability.

About ten minutes later, Han Xu returned.

After closing the door, he carefully took out more than a dozen boxes from his Spatial Ring and introduced each one.

A total of twelve Treasure Medicines, all for enhancing the Martial Artist's Primordial True Qi, as Chen Fan had requested the best ones, the quantity was halved.

One could imagine the high prices of these Treasure Medicines.

The largest box contained a Treasure Medicine with a market price of 1.2 million points, twenty percent more expensive than the 1 million points Cyan Dragon Fruit.

The second piece had a market price of 900,000 points.

The third piece had a market price of 800,000 points.

The other nine items were not as expensive, but still priced over 300,000 each.

"Brother Li, to thank you for supporting our association, with the chairman's approval, we additionally give you a Treasure Medicine worth 300,000 points, which also enhances Primordial True Qi."

Han Xu smiled and took out another box from his Spatial Ring, and proactively opened it.

Sure enough, it was the same as those in the previous boxes.

"Since that's the case, I won't refuse." Chen Fan smiled slightly.

If he bought from the mall, he would spend the same amount to get twelve pieces.

By purchasing directly from Han Xu, he got thirteen pieces, not bad.

"Hahaha."

Han Xu laughed heartily, he had gotten used to it.

"Knowing your time is precious, Brother Li, I won't disturb you any longer, but I want to tell you this, if one day Anshan City cannot be defended, and if you have nowhere else to go, our association always welcomes you."

"Alright, if that day comes, I will consider it."

Chen Fan nodded, packed the Treasure Medicines, and walked out.

Chapter 674: Are You in the Fourth Realm of True Essence?

Chen Fan left the Awakened Association and walked towards the villa.

Compared to the last time he came, the security personnel at the entrances and exits of the community had increased several times, and some of them were Martial Artists at the Meridian Cultivation Realm.

He took out his access card and walked in nonchalantly.

There were visibly more people inside the community as well.

Perhaps because he looked unfamiliar, many people stopped to scrutinize him.

Chen Fan didn't mind and walked to the villa he had purchased. Just as he was about to open the door and go inside, a middle-aged man's voice sounded from behind.

"Excuse me, my friend, may I take a moment of your time?"

The speaker was a middle-aged man in his forties, his tone very gentle.

A few people stood behind him as well.

"What's up?"

Chen Fan turned around and looked at them expressionlessly.

"My friend, we mean no harm," the middle-aged man quickly explained. "We all live nearby. We thought this house hadn't been sold yet, but after asking around, we found out it had been sold a while ago. The owner just hadn't been around. You're the owner of this house, right?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded. "Is there anything else?"

The few people behind him exchanged glances, thinking to themselves that this guy sure was acting high and mighty. Who was he?

"It's nothing major. Mainly, we finally met you, so we wanted to introduce ourselves," the middle-aged man said cheerfully, showing no offense. "With the Beast Tide breaking out, more and more people are coming into the city. Many places are becoming chaotic. Living in the same community, we might as well look out for each other in the future if anything happens."

"Got it."

Chen Fan said and then opened the door, walked in, and closed it behind him.

"Brother Zhao Da, that guy has quite the temper." Someone complained. "You are a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, yet he dares to talk to you like that."

"Exactly, his eyes are practically on his forehead."

"Alright."

The middle-aged man signaled them to stop, saying, "Maybe he has important things to do and we bothered him by coming here. Alright, let's go back."

He mainly came this time to see who exactly lived here.

Now that the situation in the city was growing more chaotic, he had heard that many vacant houses had been taken over by some ill-intentioned people.

Of course, the defense forces of those communities couldn't compare to Zijin Garden; the housing prices differed by almost ten times.

Before leaving, he turned to look one more time, then turned and left.

Even though the people outside tried to control their voices, Chen Fan still heard every word they said.

He shrugged his shoulders and opened his Spatial Ring, taking out thirteen boxes he had bought from the association.

Even the cheapest of these boxes required 300,000 points to purchase, while the most expensive cost 1.2 million points.

"It's a pity that these points, if used to buy cultivation techniques, could improve my completion time by several days."

He sighed inwardly.

However, time was of the essence. Even if he bought cultivation techniques, it would be impossible to complete them in just two days.

Next, he picked up the box on the left and opened it. A strong aroma immediately filled the air.

Inside the box lay a palm-sized, oval fruit with a golden exterior, resembling a pear.

But it wasn't a pear.

It was called the Golden Flower Fruit.

Chen Fan took a bite, and a burst of sweetness filled his mouth.

In a few bites, he finished the whole fruit and then looked at his interface.

His Primordial True Essence increased by nearly 200 points.

Indeed, the Golden Flower Fruit, worth 300,000 points, only increased it by this much. Similar treasure medicines he had found before also had about the same effect.

When considering it carefully, it made sense.

A long time ago, he spent 20,000 points in the Awakened Association's store to buy a Cloud Jade Fruit.

This fruit could slightly increase the Martial Artist's Source True Qi. After eating one, it increased his Source True Qi by 1,000 points, which, by the ratio of True Essence to True Qi, translated to 10 points of Primordial True Essence.

The Golden Flower Fruit he just ate, costing 300,000 points, was 15 times the price of the Cloud Jade Fruit. In theory, it should increase his Primordial True Essence by around 150 points. In practice, it increased it by 200 points, an extra 50 points, which was a pleasant surprise.

"Unfortunately, the next few Golden Flower Fruits won't have as much of an effect."

Chen Fan smiled wryly and opened the second box, quickly finishing the second Golden Flower Fruit.

As expected, the second Golden Flower Fruit only increased his Primordial True Essence by 180 points, 90% of the first's effect.

He was already prepared and took out the third, then the fourth.

From the fifth box, this time, there was a long fruit, about the length of a hand, as thick as two fingers, with a light green skin.

Chen Fan couldn't help but think of cucumbers... Could it be a mutated cucumber?

He took a bite. It was crispy and slightly sweet, making it addictive to eat.

"Not bad."

Chen Fan murmured to himself after finishing it.

This one wasn't cheap either, costing 400,000 points.

He looked at his interface,

this time, his Primordial True Qi increased by nearly 300 points.

The cost-effectiveness was higher than the previous Golden Flower Fruits.

Chapter 675: Are You in the Fourth Realm of True Essence?_2

Chen Fan was eating unhurriedly. After all, these treasure medicines were quite expensive; he couldn't just gulp them down like Pigsy eating ginseng fruit and not even know what it tasted like.

Of course, each of these treasure medicines tasted pretty good.

Finally, only the last one of the thirteen treasure medicines remained, the one worth 1.2 million points.

Chen Fan opened the box, and saw a purple fruit, about the size of a bottle cap. It resembled a large grape.

He took out the fruit, thinking, "Is this really a heavenly material and earthly treasure worth 1.2 million points?"

But he knew that Chairman Han would never cheat in such matters.

"Let's test the effects of this Purple Bodhi."

He opened his mouth and placed the treasure medicine inside, biting down and letting the rich juice burst out, filling his mouth with fragrance.

It tasted so good that he forgot how he swallowed it.

"Oh right, True Qi!"

Chen Fan jolted and quickly looked at the panel.

Only to find his Primordial True Essence had increased by 800 points!

"Indeed."

Chen Fan smiled slightly, knowing that Chairman Han wouldn't cheat in such matters.

Eight hundred points of Primordial True Essence, what did that mean?

He absorbed the essence of the Song Family Ancestor, which grew his Primordial True Essence by over 3,000 points. Song Tian, the patriarch of the Song Family, contributed only six to seven hundred points.

One Purple Bodhi equaled a quarter of the Song Family Ancestor or more than one Song Tian.

Of course, he could instantly absorb the medicinal power of the Purple Bodhi; not everyone could do this. On the contrary, if others mimic his actions, opened their mouths, and swallowed the Purple Bodhi whole, they would be courting death.

For instance, take Song Tian, the Patriarch of the Song Family. His body contained slightly more Primordial True Essence than what Chen Fan absorbed. But if he dared consume the whole Purple Bodhi, he would instantly explode and die.

Because the human body has its limits.

It's like weightlifting; someone can lift a 200-kilogram barbell. Add five or ten kilograms, and they might grit their teeth and manage it.

Add twenty or thirty, and they probably wouldn't last half a second.

Add fifty, a hundred, or two hundred kilograms, and it would be life-threatening.

Consuming heavenly materials and earthly treasures follows the same principle.

If your body's Primordial True Essence is seven to eight hundred points, eating one Golden Flower Fruit is manageable. Given enough time, the medicinal power can be mostly converted.

But consuming a whole Cyan Gold Melon would be taxing, and if you lose control, you'd waste the fruit and weaken your own power.

Eating a Purple Bodhi would be suicidal.

Thus, even those big families with abundant resources must proceed gradually, consumed treasure medicines thoroughly before daring to take the next one.

Chen Fan looked at the panel:

Realm: True Essence Realm·Second Realm (7.83%) (+)

True Essence: 940052/13804.75 (+6710%)

Level: 29 (0/1 billion)

Constitution: 351900

Power: 272000

Agility: 91600

Spirit: 3268600

Potential Points: 5 million

Experience Points: 130 million

When he left Jiangnan Martial Arts Association, his Primordial True Essence had just broken through 10,000 points.

And now, the total Primordial True Essence had risen to nearly 14,000 points.

In other words, those treasure medicines previously increased his Primordial True Essence by nearly 4,000 points!

This surpassed using the Star Absorption Technique to absorb a Celestial Realm Martial Artist.

But the bad news was, despite such an increase in Primordial True Essence, the total True Qi Value also approached a billion.

It still wasn't even ten percent of the Elixir Field and Sea of Qi, not to mention the fifty percent target he set.

"Just one billion True Qi, only enough to use the Giant Spirit Hand nine times consecutively, killing three or four enemies at most."

Chen Fan frowned deeply.

He didn't believe that those monsters living for hundreds of years wouldn't have a few tricks up their sleeves.

Like the Song Family Seventh Ancestor, it took him four consecutive uses of the Giant Spirit Hand to seriously injure him, mind you, seriously injure, not kill.

Two other Song Family Ancestors were mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artists, their strength even greater. A billion True Qi might be enough to kill them both — if he was lucky.

Not enough, far from enough.

Chen Fan sighed.

Looking down at the panel, he saw his Constitution, Power, Agility Attribute slightly benefiting from the treasure medicines, showing slight improvement.

Experience Points were the most prominent though.

Unfortunately, many cultivation techniques were still being supplemented, and by tomorrow, they could be unlocked.

He withdrew his gaze, glancing at the sky.

It was still one or two hours until dark, he had some time left.

If needed, he could continue searching for heavenly materials and earthly treasures at night.

The night wilderness was dangerous, but relatively speaking, unless encountering Beast Emperor level fierce beasts, he deemed escaping wouldn't be too difficult.

"Let's continue then."

With a thought, he stored the opened boxes on the table inside his spatial ring and walked outside.

Just as he was about to reach the door, his phone suddenly rang.

Chen Fan took out his phone.

These were exceptional times; anyone calling him could be important.

"Hope it's not bad news."

He thought, glancing at the screen. Seeing Elder Wang on it, a trace of joy flashed in his eyes.

He had been a bit worried earlier when he couldn't find Elder Wang.

Though theoretically nothing should happen to someone as powerful as Elder Wang, still, there's always a 'what if'.

Thankfully, Elder Wang called at this moment.

He quickly picked up the call.

"Hello, Elder Wang, are you alright?"

"Hahaha," Elder Wang laughed warmly, "what could possibly happen to me? I'm back in Anshan City, where are you now?"

"Juque City."

Chen Fan replied, "I came here to exchange some heavenly materials and earthly treasures to enhance my True Essence."

"Ah, that makes sense."

Elder Wang nodded, then curiously asked, "How effective were they?"

"Decent, but still far from filling my Sea of Qi." Chen Fan said helplessly.

"Still far?"

Elder Wang was stunned.

He thought Chen Fan's Sea of Qi would be nearly filled by now.

After all, Chen Fan had achieved feats even Elder Wang couldn't, crossing realms to kill two Celestial Realm Martial Artists.

Yet, he casually mentioned that his Sea of Qi was still very empty?

"How much True Essence does your Sea of Qi currently hold?"

He couldn't help asking.

"Well..."

Chen Fan hesitated, but confessed, "Only about ten percent filled, ninety percent lacking."

"What!"

Elder Wang exclaimed, "Just ten percent? Are you sure it's not ten percent away from perfection?"

"No, Elder Wang, it's lacking ninety percent."

Chen Fan said softly.

He said this hoping Elder Wang might have a solution.

Time was pressing, having additional options meant higher hopes.

"You, you..."

After stammering for a while, Elder Wang finally asked, "Are you really in the Fourth Realm of True Essence?"

Back in his time, True Essence Realm Fourth Realm martial artists weren't rare. Those able to condense Heaven-grade Martial Arts True Pills would never settle for less.

Some Fourth Realm martial artists indeed could fight Celestial Realm Martial Artists on equal terms, some even surpassing them.

He considered Chen Fan to be the latter.

If placed a thousand years ago, Chen Fan would certainly be a peerless talent of his era.

But he hadn't anticipated Chen Fan's Sea of Qi held merely ten percent True Essence.

Could he truly be in the Fourth Realm of True Essence?

Perhaps he was neither precedented nor forthcoming, perhaps he was in the Fifth Realm of True Essence?

If he could completely fill the remaining ninety percent of his Sea of Qi with True Essence, he might turn the world upside down.

Chapter 676: Martial God

"Should be, right?"

Chen Fan asked tentatively after hearing this.

Actually, his real realm was only the Second Realm of True Essence, but this Second Realm was different from that Second Realm.

"Is it?"

Upon hearing his reply, Elder Wang's mouth couldn't help but twitch twice.

"Chen Fan, with my extensive experience, I dare say you are definitely not in the Fourth Realm of True Essence, but the Fifth Realm of True Essence."

"Fifth Realm of True Essence?"

Chen Fan exclaimed in surprise.

This was not him pretending, but his genuine reaction.

"That's correct."

Elder Wang took a deep breath and said, "The Fourth Realm of True Essence can indeed fight against Early Stage Celestial Realm Martial Artists and even kill them, but this can only be achieved when the Sea of Qi is nearly full. Yet you just said that your Sea of Qi within your body is only filled to one-tenth. If this isn't the Fifth Realm of True Essence, then what is?"

He too could not remain calm internally.

Even in his era, no one had reached the Fifth Realm of True Essence.

Even reaching the Fourth Realm required sufficient confidence in oneself and abundant resources as a guarantee.

Otherwise, among Martial Artists of the Third Realm of True Essence, you continue to accumulate True Essence while others directly break through. Once successful, the strength between the two would immediately differ dramatically.

As you keep filling your Sea of Qi, others are absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to grow their Elixir Power.

"Is it really like that?"

Chen Fan suddenly realized and then bitterly smiled, "If that's the case, then I fear it will become even harder for me to break through to the Celestial Human Realm."

"Indeed."

Elder Wang nodded.

He originally thought that after painstakingly bringing back a Celestial Net Root from the secret realm, it would assist Chen Fan greatly.

He never expected Chen Fan was actually in the Fifth Realm of True Essence.

That Celestial Net Root could only help a little now.

Unless he makes another trip to the secret realm to dig out the other Celestial Net Roots, but doing so he would be risking his own life.

"By the way, Elder Wang, where did you go earlier?"

"I was just about to tell you about it."

Elder Wang revealed a bitter smile.

"Seeing you guarding the city alone, under such great pressure, I thought of going to the secret realm to find some heavenly materials and earthly treasures for you. If quick enough, I could return the next day, so I didn't tell you."

"What!"

Chen Fan was taken aback, "Elder Wang, you left to find heavenly materials and earthly treasures for me?"

"Yes, unfortunately, I only brought back one, which might not help you much," Elder Wang sighed.

"Elder Wang, please do not say so, one is already enough," Chen Fan said emotionally.

Since Elder Wang arrived in Anshan City, he had helped Chen a lot, while Chen Fan on his part, hardly helped Elder Wang in anything.

"It's nothing," Elder Wang smiled, "You should be back tonight, right? When you return, I'll give you that treasure medicine."

"Yes, I'll be back later." Chen Fan suddenly thought of something and curiously asked, "Elder Wang, I just seemed to hear you say you went to the secret realm to get that treasure medicine?"

"Yes."

Elder Wang explained, "I originally planned to tell you about the secret realm after you reach the Celestial Human Realm, but given your current strength reaching that realm, it is time to talk about it."

"Please tell me, Elder Wang."

Chen Fan quickly perked up his ears.

"I believe you know that a thousand years ago, there were many ancient sects on this land. Some established themselves in famous mountains and rivers, while others hid in small worlds; the so-called secret realms refer to the latter."

Elder Wang's eyes showed a hint of nostalgia, "In that era, Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi was abundant, and many geniuses emerged. It was a glorious era, yet also chaotic. Sect versus sect, sect versus the court, the court versus foreign tribes, they fought all the time, ultimately leading to a world-shaking battle. In that battle, countless strong individuals perished, even Celestial Realm Martial Artists were at the bottom tier."

"Celestial Realm Martial Artists were at the bottom tier?"

Chen Fan's pupils widened upon hearing this.

"Yes, above the Celestial Realm Martial Artists is the Divine Cultivation Realm, and above that are the Martial Gods. They mastered laws and could summon the wind and rain, many secret realms were created by them using the Space Law."

"Martial Gods..." Chen Fan took a deep breath, "Elder Wang, so the great battle a thousand years ago also involved Martial Gods?"

"To be precise, it was triggered by Martial Gods, whether Divine Cultivation Realm Martial Artists or Celestial Realm Martial Artists, they all took orders from Martial Gods," Elder Wang sighed, "I didn't participate in that battle, so I survived, while those who did, mostly died."

"Even Martial Gods?"

"Should be?"

Elder Wang was unsure, "But after that day, no Martial Gods were ever seen on this land, and the forces under them were gradually devoured. I think if those Martial Gods were still alive, they wouldn't let their descendants be bullied."

"That's true."

Chen Fan nodded.

"That battle also seemed to attract heavenly retribution, the originally rich Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi gradually disappeared, many people consequently reached their lifespan's end and died of old age. Some hid in secret realms practicing techniques to extend lifespan, surviving till today. The noble families left today are in this situation."

"Then the secret realm Elder Wang went to earlier?" Chen Fan realized something.

"That is another situation," Elder Wang said, "In those secret realms, Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi is abundant, even the outskirts have twice the density here, and the closer to the center, the richer it becomes. Unfortunately, there are many powerful demon beasts or guardians among them,

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They were originally domesticated within the secret realm, but after the war, the sect was destroyed, and many demon beasts survived, becoming highly aggressive. Once they detect an intruder, they attack immediately. This time, I encountered two or three Three-headed Flying Centipedes. If I weren't fast enough, I would have been in big trouble."

"Are they that formidable?"

Chen Fan clicked his tongue in amazement.

To know that Elder Wang is a Mid Stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist, in Yan Country, he can walk sideways unchallenged.

"Chen Fan, you may not know, a single Three-headed Flying Centipede is equivalent to a Mid Stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist. Besides having an iron armor that is invulnerable to weapons and impervious to fire and water, it can also fly and burrow. Although its body is only about ten meters long, killing a Beast King-level Fierce Beast outside would be an easy task."

This creature, even if there's just one, is enough to give me a headache. If three appear at once and I react a bit slower or get greedy, you wouldn't see me now."

"So this is a demon beast?"

Chen Fan thought to himself.

A body over ten meters long can kill a Beast King-level Fierce Beast several times its size?

Suddenly, a bold idea formed in his mind.

If he could capture a few of these creatures, wouldn't the upcoming city defense battle be much easier?

When he went to Rat City before, he obtained a Cultivation Technique for controlling demon beasts, and the so-called Rat King also controlled several Commander-level Fierce Beasts using this technique.

Besides that, he also had an Ancient Brass Whistle in his hand, which, when blown, could drive nearby Fierce Beasts into a frenzied state.

"I think I should give it a try."

The more Chen Fan thought, the more tempted he became.

If he had a few demon beasts comparable to Beast King-level Fierce Beasts, the upcoming battle with a dozen Celestial Realm Martial Artists in two days would significantly lessen his burden.

Of course, compared to this, he was more interested in the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi within the secret realm.

According to Elder Wang's earlier statements, even the outer layers of the secret realm had Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi that was two to three times more abundant than here. What if he ventured farther in? Five times? Six times?

What does this mean?

This means that his efficiency in absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and converting it into True Essence could be increased by three to four times, five to six times.

"Elder Wang."

He immediately spoke, "Can you take me to that secret realm?"

Elder Wang had expected Chen Fan to say this. After all, when Shi Tao first heard his introduction to the secret realm, he was eager to explore it.

However, at that time, Shi Tao had not yet reached the Celestial Realm, and entering with insufficient strength was just suicide.

Even if Shi Tao had reached the Celestial Realm, entering it was still a life-and-death situation, so he repeatedly warned that one must reach the Mid Stage of the Celestial Realm to have the qualification to enter.

But Chen Fan was different. Even in the True Essence Realm, he accomplished things that even Elder Wang couldn't be sure to succeed in.

The secret realm could be entered.

"Chen Fan, I heard about what happened in the Martial Arts Association from Shi Tao, so I know you are very anxious to improve your strength in a short time. Going to the secret realm can indeed boost your strength quickly, even making it possible to reach the Celestial Realm. However,"

Elder Wang's face turned grave, "the dangers inside are immense. Even the noble families of Yan Country today dare not stay long inside. Your strength is good, but if you let your guard down, death is a matter of moments."

"Elder Wang, I understand your concerns."

Chen Fan said solemnly, "Rest assured, I will proceed cautiously in the secret realm and not act recklessly."

"Mm, as long as you understand."

Elder Wang nodded, "Then come back now, and I will take you to the secret realm."

"Alright, I am heading back now. Thank you, Elder Wang," Chen Fan said joyfully.

After hanging up, he immediately headed out, walking towards the city gate.

"Is he leaving?"

Seeing Chen Fan leave the villa and lock the door, the people outside were surprised.

"Just came back and leaving again?"

"Maybe he is going out for some task and will be back soon. It's quite chaotic outside now, no place to go."

"Who cares? We should mind our own business. I've heard the beast tide will soon be upon us."

"Yes, sigh, who knows when such anxious days will end."

Chen Fan did not pay any attention to these people. He had decided to check out the secret realm first and see the situation.

If it was too dangerous and he couldn't tame the demon beasts inside, he would continue looking for Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures instead.

About half an hour later, the outline of Anshan City appeared in his view.

At this moment, a figure from within the city quickly approached.

Seeing this, Chen Fan hurriedly went to meet the person, as he recognized it was Elder Wang.

It was clear that when he sensed the other's presence, the other also sensed his.

"Elder Wang."

Chen Fan stopped and bowed.

"Haha, no need for formalities, stand up quickly," Elder Wang reached out and helped Chen Fan up. He used True Essence to secretly perceive Chen Fan's condition, and after noticing nothing unusual, he breathed a sigh of relief.

"Here, eat this and see."

Elder Wang revealed an item in his hand.

"What is this?"

Chen Fan curiously examined the herb-like root in front of him.

"This is Celestial Net Root, a Low Grade Treasure Medicine," Elder Wang explained. "For Celestial Realm Martial Artists, it's also a great supplement."

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded.

In that case, there must be Middle Grade Treasure Medicine and Top-grade Treasure Medicine as well.

He wondered how much Primordial True Essence this Celestial Net Root, deemed a Low Grade Treasure Medicine by Elder Wang, could add compared to the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures he consumed before.

Thinking of this, he reached out and took it. He took a bite and immediately felt a faint sweetness spread through his mouth.

The taste was neither particularly good nor bad.

He finished the whole Celestial Net Root in a few bites and looked at his stats, his eyes lighting up.

His Primordial True Essence had increased by a thousand points!

Its effect was about a quarter stronger than the Purple Bodhi he had previously consumed, which cost 1.2 million.

"How do you feel?"

Elder Wang asked, with a look of expectation in his eyes.

"Very good. If I had more, it would be even better," Chen Fan replied honestly.

The 1,000 points of Primordial True Essence increased his True Qi by about 0.5 percent.

If he had around two hundred more Celestial Net Roots, his Sea of Qi would be full.

"You sure think big," Elder Wang chuckled helplessly.

Did he not wish for the same?

Like he said earlier, this item was a major supplement for Early Stage Celestial Realm Martial Artists. Even for a Mid Stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist like himself, it still had some effect.

If he had enough of them, he could also break through to the Late Stage of the Celestial Human Realm. By then, the Martial Arts Association's crisis would be naturally resolved.

But is that possible?

"Chen Fan, I don't want to nag, but before we set off, I need to remind you: this secret realm we are heading to is extremely dangerous. With one misstep, we could both die inside. Are you really sure about this?"

"Elder Wang, I'm mentally prepared," Chen Fan replied without hesitation. "I know it's perilous inside, but as they say, 'nothing ventured, nothing gained.'"

"Indeed," Elder Wang sighed.

He knew this was their last chance to save the Martial Arts Association.

"Since you are ready, let's set off. Remember, once inside the secret realm, we must be extremely careful. If we encounter demon beasts, do not act rashly."

"Understood, Elder Wang, I will remember," Chen Fan quickly responded.

"Follow me."

With those words, the two set off together, one following the other, heading into the distance.

Chapter 678: They Can't Come Back Anymore

Unrivaled City, Song Family.

In the vast backyard, a mysterious compass-shaped object floated quietly.

There was not a soul around, giving an inexplicable eerie feeling.

Until a hurried footsteps broke the silence.

A middle-aged man in his thirties or forties appeared at the entrance of the yard. He glanced at the floating compass before him with a flash of fear in his eyes, then seemed to think of something, gritted his teeth, and walked forward.

"Song Yuan has a super urgent matter and requests to see the two ancestors."

After he spoke, nothing happened.

It was as if he was talking to thin air.

"Song Yuan has a super urgent matter and requests to see the two ancestors."

He repeated.

After about two seconds,

"What matter disturbs the two ancestors?"

A voice sounded, as if coming from within the compass, yet also as if it was from the courtyard itself, omnipresent.

"Uncle!"

Song Yuan, like a drowning man grasping a life-saving straw, hurriedly said, "Something major has happened! A super urgent matter!"

As he spoke, tears fell from his eyes.

"A super urgent matter? Come inside and explain."

"Understood."

Song Yuan reached out his hand and cautiously extended it forward.

As soon as his fingers touched the compass, a force pulled him entirely into the compass.

To an outsider, it seemed as if Song Yuan had vanished into thin air, incredibly magical.

Song Yuan felt a rush of darkness before his eyes, and when he opened them again, he found himself in a garden.

A variety of flowers were competing with each other, their fragrance permeating the air. Streams flowed, and fish swam joyfully within.

Not far away, ornately carved beams and painted buildings blended with pavilions and terraces, exuding ancient charm.

It was as if he was walking within a painting.

He had been to this place more than once. It was said that not only was the scenery beautiful, like a paradise on earth, but the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi within was several times that of the outside world. If one reached the Celestial Realm, cultivating here would be immeasurably better than outside.

However, such thoughts could only remain in his mind because unless one reached the Celestial Realm or was highly valued by the ancestors, there was no qualification to cultivate here. Just being able to stay here for a while was a significant fortune.

"You just mentioned a super urgent matter, what exactly is it?"

A voice sounded in front of him.

Speaking was a man who bore some resemblance to Song Tian, but was much older, with wrinkles on his face; however, his entire presence was formidable, radiating an aura of authority without anger.

"Greetings, Uncle!"

Song Yuan hurriedly saluted.

This man before him was the former Patriarch of the Song Family and the most valued by the ancestors within the entire family.

After passing the position of Patriarch to Song Tian, he moved here, striving to break through to the Celestial Human Realm as soon as possible.

But what he was about to say next...

Cold sweat broke out on Song Yuan's back. He dared not imagine the reaction this man would have upon hearing it.

"Did you not claim an urgent matter? Why are you hesitating? Do you want me to throw you out?" Song Lianfeng said impatiently.

"Uncle, before I speak, I hope you are mentally prepared." Song Yuan swallowed his saliva.

"Enough nonsense, speak!" Song Lianfeng frowned, growing more impatient.

Although he was not in the middle of critical cultivation, no one enjoys being disturbed during their training.

"Yes, yes."

Song Yuan licked his lips and asked, "Uncle, do you remember that Brother came by yesterday?"

"Tian'Er?"

Song Lianfeng was taken aback, then his eyes turned cold, "Of course, I remember. The one who killed Xiaogang was a member of the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association, and Tian'Er came to see the elders because there was a mid-stage Celestial Realm martial artist in Jiangnan holding position. He hoped the elders would help. By now, they should have long reached Jiangnan City and should have returned."

"Uncle," Song Yuan suddenly choked, his voice filled with pain, "They can't come back."

"What!"

As expected, Song Lianfeng was shocked when he heard Song Yuan's words. He then loudly said:

"What did you just say? Say it again!"

"Uncle, I just received news that Brother and the others were all taken hostage by the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association. Seventh Ancestor is missing, and Carl, who went with them, was slain on the spot." Song Yuan said, tears flooding out like a bursting dam.

Despite his resentment towards Song Tian and the others,

They were still family, and meeting such a fate made his heart sorrowful.

But what frightened him more were the two subsequent matters.

Carl of the Revival Association being killed, and Seventh Ancestor gone missing.

Either of these would be severely serious, and both happening simultaneously was catastrophic.

"Impossible!"

Song Lianfeng stood abruptly, staring intensely at him, "Do you realize what you're saying?"

The Seventh Ancestor was a genuine Celestial Realm martial artist, though only at the early stage. Still, dealing with a mid-stage Celestial Realm martial artist was not a problem.

Much like Elder Wang from the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association, despite being a mid-stage Celestial Realm martial artist, his combat prowess was average. Otherwise, he wouldn't be without a secret realm.

Seventh Ancestor should have had no issues dealing with him.

And according to Tian'Er's intelligence, Shi Tao had gone out and would not return anytime soon. Even if he did, there was still Carl from the Revival Association with them.

Chapter 679: They Can't Come Back Anymore_2

The two of them joined forces; they definitely could handle it. But then, Song Yuan came running and told him that Carl was dead, Seventh Ancestor was missing, and the others were held hostage by the Martial Arts Association?

Only because these words came from Song Yuan; if it were anyone else, he would have slapped them already.

"Thump!"

Song Yuan directly knelt on the ground, crying bitterly: "Uncle, your nephew would never dare to deceive you with such a story even if he had the courage of a bear and the heart of a leopard! The entire matter has already spread, and most of the noble families in Yan Country probably already know about it. It won't be long before the Revival Association finds out too."

"What!"

Song Lianfeng's eyes widened.

This, is this real?

But how could this be?

He took a deep breath, forcing himself to calm down, and shouted angrily: "Tell me, what exactly happened?"

"Yes, Uncle."

Song Yuan sighed in relief and then recounted what he knew.

"What did you say?"

Song Lianfeng's eyes almost popped out, "The one who killed Carl was Chen Fan? Not the guy named Wang?"

"Yes, yes."

Song Yuan nodded repeatedly: "According to the news from Jiangnan City, Carl from the Revival Association was killed by Chen Fan from the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association. From beginning to end, the one named Wang never appeared."

"Impossible!"

Song Lianfeng stared at him intensely, "Isn't it said that Chen Fan is just a True Essence Realm Martial Artist? Not even twenty years old. How could he possibly kill Carl from the Revival Association?"

To put it bluntly, even their Seventh Ancestor wouldn't be able to kill Carl one-on-one.

"Uncle, I don't know the specifics, but the rumors are like that." Song Yuan quickly said, "Moreover, moreover..."

"Moreover what!" Song Lianfeng was furious, "Just spit it out!"

"Moreover, that Chen Fan said he killed Seventh Ancestor as well." Song Yuan finished the sentence, trembling.

That was also why he was scared outside earlier.

Whether it was Seventh Ancestor, Second Ancestor, or Sixth Ancestor, each one was the soul of the Song Family. Not a single one could die!

With even one dead, the Song Family's deterrence over other families would significantly drop, and they would even lose their chance in the upcoming Elder Council election.

After all, other families have three Celestial Realm Martial Artists, while the Song Family only has two. Why would they qualify?

For Second Ancestor and Sixth Ancestor, the news was even more unacceptable. The three of them were brothers, having lived together for hundreds of years. If one was killed, one can imagine the rage they would feel.

A single slap to kill the messenger was very possible!

"Impossible! Absolutely impossible!"

Song Lianfeng roared.

Seventh Ancestor had lived for hundreds of years, having faced countless storms. How could he die at the hands of a young brat?

What a joke?

Utterly ridiculous!

"Lian Feng," at this moment, an elderly voice came from a distant palace, "What has happened that made you lose your composure like this?"

"As the former Patriarch of the Song Family, the future bearer of our lineage, how can you lose your temper like this? How can we trust you with the Song Family in the future?" Another voice came from another palace. Compared to the first voice, this one was clearly displeased.

Song Yuan, kneeling, shivered upon hearing the two voices.

Because the voices were from two other ancestors of the family.

Song Lianfeng quickly bowed in the direction of the palaces and said, "Lian Feng unintentionally disturbed the two ancestors. Please forgive me."

"Enough."

As soon as the word was spoken, the two of them saw a flash, and a tall thin elder appeared before them.

Meanwhile, the surrounding air fluctuated.

A short, fat elder with graying hair also appeared in front of them.

"Greetings, Second Ancestor, Sixth Ancestor." Song Lianfeng quickly saluted.

Song Yuan, still kneeling, kowtowed incessantly.

"Enough."

The tall thin elder waved his hand, his gaze falling on Song Yuan, "You're the junior guarding the entrance, right? I remember you came here just yesterday. Why are you back today? Speak. What's the matter?"

The short fat elder also looked at him. Compared to the former's gaze, his presence was much more oppressive.

"The two ancestors, something terrible has happened."

Tears streamed down Song Yuan's face as he repeated what he had told Song Lianfeng.

"What did you say!"

The short fat elder extended a hand, and Song Yuan's body flew up, his throat gripped by the elder.

"You said Seventh Ancestor is missing? Say it again?"

"Cough, cough..."

Song Yuan's face turned red, desperate for breath, unable to speak.

"Old Six."

The tall thin elder spoke, "We don't know the truth yet. Why are you so agitated? Let him go."

"Humph!"

The short fat elder released his grip, and Song Yuan fell to the ground with a thud.

"Tell me the full story in detail. If there's any exaggeration, you know the consequences."

"This younger one wouldn't dare, wouldn't dare."

Song Yuan was scared out of his wits.

He knew coming over to inform the two ancestors wouldn't end well.

But he had no choice; he was guarding the entrance of two places. If he didn't inform them immediately upon hearing the news, the consequences would be even graver.

Having learned his lesson, he was more cautious with his words this time.

The faces of the Song Family's two ancestors darkened upon hearing his recount.

"Utter nonsense!"

The short fat elder roared, "A mere True Essence Realm Martial Artist could face off against Seventh Ancestor? Even a Celestial Realm Martial Artist couldn't do it!"

"Sixth Ancestor is right."

Song Lianfeng agreed, "This must be a ploy by other families to spread false rumors and sow discord within our Song Family. Their intentions are despicable!"

"Have you contacted Tian'Er and the others?"

He looked at Song Yuan.

"I have, but there's been no response." Song Yuan replied obediently, "Upon getting the news, I've already sent someone to the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association to gather information. I believe we'll have news soon."

"Useless!"

The short fat elder glared at him, and a jade talisman appeared in his hand.

This is a Communication Jade Talisman, functioning like a mobile phone, capable of transmitting information, even video calls, and unaffected by spatial barriers.

He activated it with his mind.

The originally smooth surface of the talisman immediately showed ripple-like undulations.

He was contacting the other side.

Whether the junior's words were true or not, as long as he could reach Seventh Ancestor, everything would be clear.

Not contacting them wasn't an option he believed.

Even with the Beast Tide erupting outside?

No danger could surpass their era where Divine Cultivation Realms were common, and Celestial Realm Martial Artists were numerous.

However, as time passed, the talisman's ripples showed no change, and the short fat elder started to panic.

This had never happened before; usually, their contacts responded within a second or two unless it was a very special situation.

Ten seconds passed. The short fat elder couldn't hold back. He called out, "Old Seven, what happened? Why no response, Old Seven?"

The faces of the tall thin elder and Song Lianfeng changed.

Could it be that the outside rumors were true, that Old Seven was really missing?

Chapter 680: The Invisible Hand

Upon thinking of this, a communication jade talisman appeared in the hands of the tall, thin elder.

With a thought, waterwave-like ripples appeared on the communication jade talisman.

Ten seconds passed and there was no response from the other side.

Thirty seconds, a minute...

The tall, thin elder's face turned completely dark.

When something unusual happens, there's always a cause. Seventh Brother must be in trouble!

The short, stout elder suddenly looked at Song Yuan, who was kneeling on the ground, his eyes filled with palpable killing intent.

He clearly remembered that it was this guy who brought Song Tian and his group in yesterday and his Seventh Brother went out with them.

As a result, they went out and are now missing!

If Seventh Brother was still alive and only temporarily out of contact, that would be fine.

If Seventh Brother is dead, not even this guy in front of me, let alone Song Tian and the others, I would kill them all with a slap if I could!

"Spare my life, Ancestor, spare my life!"

Song Yuan was so frightened that his soul almost left his body, kowtowing as if pounding garlic, "This junior really doesn't know what happened or what's going on. I only heard rumors outside, so I came in to report. Ancestor, spare my life, please!"

He knew this would happen.

If this Ancestor really killed him here, no one in the Song Family would dare to have the slightest objection.

But his duty was to liaise between the inside and outside of the Secret Realm; if he hid information, the consequences would only be more severe.

"Sixth Brother, what does this matter have to do with him?"

The voice of the tall, thin elder sounded, "Even if you dissect him into eight parts, it won't help anything."

"Thank you, Ancestor, thank you, Ancestor." Song Yuan quickly expressed his gratitude. In just a few seconds, he felt as if he had walked through the gates of hell and almost lost his life.

"Second Brother, I understand your point, but this matter has to be related to him and that kid Song Tian."

The short, stout elder glanced at Song Lianfeng, "Regardless of whether the outside rumors are true or not, Seventh Brother is definitely in trouble. Otherwise, he would never ignore our communication. If Seventh Brother is unharmed, that would be good. But if something has happened, I won't let anyone involved off easily!"

"Sixth Ancestor, please calm down."

With a thud, Song Lianfeng knelt on the ground.

"It's all because of Song Tian and the others being careless, not investigating the strength of the other side clearly before rashly proceeding, falling into the trap of treacherous villains. Lianfeng believes that Seventh Ancestor, blessed by the heavens, won't be harmed. His lack of response might be due to losing his jade talisman. I believe it won't take long for him to return."

"You mean we should just wait here?" The short, stout elder snorted coldly.

"I..."

Song Lianfeng found himself momentarily speechless.

"Useless."

The short, stout elder stamped his foot in anger, pointing at Song Yuan, "Haven't you heard what he said earlier? That Jiangnan Martial Arts Association has all your sons and the others under house arrest, and your Seventh Ancestor is missing. You want us to just wait here?"

Do you have any of the Song Family's blood in you? Huh? We are being humiliated like this, and how many families outside must be laughing at us! I really don't know how long our Song Family can survive under your leadership!"

"Sixth Ancestor, your criticism is justified."

Song Lianfeng quickly kowtowed and admitted his mistake, "However, Lianfeng feels that if we rush over now, it might be exactly what the other side wants."

Upon hearing this, the two elders paused for a moment.

"What do you mean?" The short, stout elder squinted his eyes and asked.

"Lianfeng feels that there is something suspicious about this matter,"

Song Lianfeng hurriedly said, "The two Ancestors are aware of the strength of the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association. Before their President Shi Tao broke through to the Celestial Human Realm, the only Celestial Realm Martial Artist in the entire association was Elder Wang. Their power couldn't compare to our Song Family."

Even now, with Shi Tao breaking through to the Celestial Human Realm, he is merely a Martial Artist who has just entered the Celestial Realm. Where do they get the confidence to go against our Song Family? First, killing our family's descendants, then capturing and imprisoning Song Tian and the others, causing Seventh Ancestor to disappear as well.

According to Song Yuan, Shi Tao and his people even disbanded the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association and stayed in Jiangnan City, waiting for us. Now, think about it, is this the behavior of normal people?"

Song Lianfeng swallowed a mouthful of saliva and continued, "If I were them, knowing my lack of strength, I would have fled long ago."

The two Song Family Ancestors felt a chill run down their spines.

"So you mean, there's someone backing them, and they're deliberately trying to deal with us?"

The tall, thin elder asked.

"Exactly."

Song Lianfeng hurriedly nodded, "There's only one explanation. Someone wants to deal with our Song Family, but it's difficult to make a move openly, so they're using the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association as a front to lure us over. It's precisely because of this that Seventh Ancestor fell into their trap and is temporarily missing. If you two rush over now, you'll likely fall into their scheme as well. Of course, these are all just Lianfeng's speculations, perhaps I am overthinking."

"No."

The tall, thin elder waved his hand and a look of solemnity appeared in his eyes, "What you said makes a lot of sense."

Don't be deceived by the apparent politeness among the noble families in Yan Country.

In reality, each harbors sinister intentions and would love nothing more than to destroy the other.

Just like our Song Family, over the past few centuries, we have collaborated with many other families to jointly carve up some weakened noble families.