

Medical 1251

Chapter 1251 Unbelievable Power (Part 3)

The banesouls with beastly forms were especially strange, as if they were pieced together from parts of different creatures!

The banesouls began to float in the air, accelerating until they moved with unbelievable speed. As they charged straight at Yan Xiaobao, nothing could block their path!

A massive number of them converged on him from all directions!

As they passed, some disciples of the Four Great Sects realized something odd was happening. They saw the air ripple as countless faint-hearted spirits appeared. At first, many ecstatic disciples rushed forward to try to kill them. But soon, their scalps began to tingle as they realized there were too many, swarming like a frenzied tide!

"What's going on?!"

"Heavens! It's usually hard to find banebeasts. Why are there so many all of a sudden??"

"Something must be happening. Damn! That's not a banebeast, that's a banesoul!" The cries echoed in the Fallen Sword World. Once the disciples realized there were banesouls flying among the banebeasts, they began to flee.

Banesouls are terrifying, and the elders of the Four Great Sects had repeatedly warned all the disciples about their presence in the Fallen Sword Abyss. Under no circumstances should the banesouls be provoked! Avoid them at all costs!

"Even the banesouls are drawn to this direction. What on earth is happening!?"

"Let's follow from afar and check it out!" The disciples began to follow the torrent of revelry and banesouls, whether alone or in groups of three to five.

So far, half of the entire Fallen Sword World had been thoroughly shaken by the nine thunders created by Yan Xiaobao's spiritual medicine.

Inside the cave, Yan Xiaobao sat there looking somewhat weary, his hair disheveled as he stared at the pill furnace. With each booming rise, more cracks spread across the surface of the furnace.

After the ninth boom, the pill furnace trembled violently before exploding, sending fragments shooting in all directions. At the same time, four rays of mysterious black light appeared.

Yan Xiaobao was prepared for such an event. He immediately unleashed the Violet Qi Cauldron Control Art, creating an invisible field of control in the area, allowing him to swiftly capture the four Spiritual Medicines attempting to escape.

"Do you think you can escape?" he said with proud provocation. He looked down at the four pills, his eyes shining as he quickly walked towards the entrance of the cave to see if they would work against these troublesome creatures.

However, the moment he stepped out, he paused, then stepped back just in time to avoid a black scorpion tail slashing through the air where he had just stood.

A moment later, a three-meter-long black scorpion appeared out of nowhere, its eyes burning hot and staring greedily at the four pills in Yan Xiaobao's hand. Then, it charged forward.

Judging by the ferocity of its movements, it was not a low-level banebeast. It was a mid-level beast, much like an early bear.

Eyes sparkling, Yan Xiaobao extended his left hand and moved like lightning to grab the scorpion's tail. Then he smashed it against the cave's stone wall. At the same time, he sent a burst of spiritual power into the scorpion's body, targeting its most vulnerable spot, crushing it. The scorpion twitched, then limped and started to gradually disappear, transforming into Earth Energy that Yan Xiaobao quickly collected.

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Chapter 1252 Accelerating Forward

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An ordinary cultivator could never so easily handle a middle-level banebeast, which is why the senior members of the sect had warned the disciples. However, Yan Xiaobao was different. After studying nearly a hundred bats, he became very familiar with their weaknesses and could kill them easily.

"These medicine pills just came out of the furnace and they've already drawn people's attention. Hahaha! Yan Xiaobao's pills are a success!" Yan Xiaobao was excitedly contemplating enhancing the pills with spirit enhancement when suddenly, as one after another measles appeared, many ripples began to spread in the area.

"So many! Well, this is enough. Hahaha! At this rate, Yan Xiaobao will definitely be the first to reach the Foundation!"

Yan Xiaobao was so excited he almost started dancing. Just when he was about to reap his harvest, his expression flickered, and his eyes widened as he noticed a figure decapitated in the distance. The figure was dressed in a long gray robe, and the remaining eye on his face was blank. He floated in the air, his head twitching slightly. Finally, he looked at Yan Xiaobao, and suddenly, his expression changed.

He suddenly seemed filled with desire. His eyes locked onto Yan Xiaobao, or more specifically, the pills in his hand, and he began to accelerate forward.

Upon seeing him, the fanatics in the area trembled, not even daring to move. As this figure accelerated, he struck seven or eight banebeasts in the process, causing them to scream and then explode.

"A banesoul?! The pills even attracted them? Well, at least it's just one of them—hmm?" Before he finished speaking, another banesoul appeared further away. This one had lost both arms and had disheveled hair. It wore a set of tattered armor, staring at Yan Xiaobao as it approached him.

The situation wasn't over. An old man appeared in the distance, with a massive, ragged wound on his belly. He, too, began walking directly toward Bai Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao's scalp began to tingle with fear. Taking a deep breath, he took a step as if to escape, only to be shocked to find not just three or four but a whole tribe of banesouls in the area!

Ripples filled the area as many banesouls continuously appeared, their eyes flickering with desire. Blood dripped down Yan Xiaobao's face as he thought of the sensation of being torn to pieces.

"How could this happen?!" he thought, wanting to cry yet unable to shed tears at the moment. His first thought was to escape. He didn't want to face so many minstrels. Even members of the senior generation from the four sects might perish at the hands of these singers, let alone a Qi Condensing Disciple.

However, the moment Yan Xiaobao began to escape, all the banesouls looked at him and screamed. The power in their voices made the fanatic tremble even more. A tremor ran through Yan Xiaobao, leaving him hovering on the brink of unconsciousness as he staggered backward. It felt as if he'd just been hammered; blood spurted from his mouth, and he began to tremble in fear. Screaming, he bit his tongue, using the pain to stay conscious as he took flight.

As wings sprouted from the black iron pot on his back, cold sweat covered his body. With this, he unleashed all the speed he could muster, transforming into a series of afterimages shooting into the distance. However, the flying banesouls also increased their speed.

In the blink of an eye, dozens of nearby banesouls were chasing Yan Xiaobao.

One of the fastest banesouls was the partially decapitated one that appeared first. However, besides that one, there was also a girl in a white dress. Although she did not scream like the others, her face was especially cold and sinister, her blank eyes flickering with intense desire.

As the disciples from the four sects who had been following along witnessed the events unfolding, their scalps tingled with shock. This was especially true for the disciples of the Spiritual Flow Sect. Some of them anxiously tried to get the banesouls to stop chasing Yan Xiaobao, but the banesouls were entirely focused on him, ignoring everything else.

"Help! They're trying to kill me!" Yan Xiaobao fled for his life, screaming at the top of his lungs. Tears leaked from the corners of his eyes; he never thought that the pill he created to attract banebeasts would somehow drag banesouls into the picture for some unknown reason. "Damn it! I must have made a mistake in the production, creating another mysterious pill!"

The banesouls drew closer, seeming to become more frenzied as they chased him. Yan Xiaobao finally gritted his teeth, and with a heart full of pain, threw one of the four pills he had to the distance.

At that moment, the banesouls trembled, their heads turning. Then, most of them shot off after the pill he had just thrown. Yan Xiaobao was finally able to truly escape. From a distance, he looked over his shoulder, trembling.

Behind him, the banesouls were fighting over the pill. Shockingly, the one who finally obtained the pill was the girl in the white dress, who immediately tossed the pill into her mouth once she had control of it.

In that instant, the blankness in the girl's eyes faded slightly. A strange light appeared, and her expression became even colder. For some reason, she suddenly seemed to have intelligence!

Slowly, the girl turned to look at Yan Xiaobao.

As their gazes met, Yan Xiaobao's scalp began to tingle with a sensation as if it would explode. Simultaneously, a faint, peculiar voice reached his ears.

Chapter 1253 Accelerating Forward (2)

"Play with me, dear." Every hair on Yan Xiaobao's body stood on end. Turning around, he fled as fast as he could. "That's not a banesoul, that's an evil ghost!" Filled with fear, Yan Xiaobao ran at his fastest pace. Moments earlier, as he stared at the young girl, he was suddenly overwhelmed by a deadly crisis. This feeling was so intense that every inch of his flesh and every drop of his blood screamed in terror.

He had a strong premonition that if he ran slower, he would die!

The deadly sensation made him visibly tremble, panting heavily as he pushed forward faster and faster, his eyes bloodshot as he delved deeper into the Fallen Sword World.

The next day, he checked his shoulder to confirm that he wasn't being chased by any banesouls, especially not the little girl. Seeing he was alone, he breathed a sigh of relief. However, fear from the previous day's event still lingered in his heart.

"That girl in the white dress is really suspicious!" he thought, frowning miserably. "At first she looked like all the other banesouls, but after she took that mysterious pill, her aura completely changed! What went wrong with that batch of medicine pills?"

He wanted to dismiss the thought, but the fact was his pills attracted these cowardly banesouls. Ultimately, he couldn't easily give up. Clenching his teeth, he went out to find more bile for research. Meanwhile, he researched the medicine formulas he had used. Three days later, after making some adjustments, he moved on his own and pulled out a pill furnace to begin concocting again.

This time, there was no thunder, nor any other strange signs. Four Violet Pills appeared, and he carefully conducted tests outside, making preparations in case banesouls appeared.

Soon, ripples filled the entire area like one banebeast after another appearing. However, Yan Xiaobao dared not take action against them. He flew away as fast as possible, then cautiously studied the area.

Soon after, the pills attracted more than twenty types of bile, and not a single banesoul appeared. Finally, Yan Xiaobao sighed in relief and even started getting excited.

"It worked!" he shouted with laughter. As he removed the paper amulet, he was already all set, the shield's glow gradually faded, and he hurried towards the frenzied creatures. Quickly, as the battle commenced, his wooden sword turned into flashing beams.

One roast after another fell in death, Yan Xiaobao's eyes gleaming with wild joy as the energy streams from the ground flew into his Dao bottle.

After slaughtering the entire group, he looked with satisfaction at the gray liquid in the bottle. In a short time, he had added more liquid to the bottle than over the past few days.

Taking a deep breath, he headed to another area. There, he threw down another pill, and sure enough, banebeasts began to swarm the area. Laughing heartily, Yan Xiaobao immediately started cutting them down.

Time flew by. Due to the pills, the gray liquid in Yan Xiaobao's Dao bottle continued to grow at an incredible speed. Now he harvested Earth Energy far faster than anyone else. A few days later, Yan

Xiaobao had been in the Fallen Sword World for a full month. As for his Dao bottle, it was now eighty percent full of Earth Energy.

"Only twenty percent more!" he thought, more excited than ever. He wasn't sure how others were struggling in their collection efforts, but he doubted many had surpassed him.

However, as a perfectionist, he thought the best approach would be to complete a full ten percent at once!

"I need more frenzy!" He licked his lips, further heading into the Fallen Sword World until he found a broad plain. There, he took a deep breath and pulled out two pills. To attract more bile than before, he crushed the pills and scattered them.

Soon after, the air was turbulent with countless banebeasts appearing. Yan Xiaobao immediately began attacking them, causing a rumbling sound to fill the area. Each banebeast he killed brought a massive energy influx into his Dao bottle.

Due to how he crushed the pills and the advantageous location he chose, the area was close to the deepest part of the Fallen Sword World, so there were many dormant beasts there.

It wasn't long before nearly a hundred gathered in the area, with almost all being mid-level, and some high-level types that usually required an entire group of cultivators to take down.

Yan Xiaobao's speed in killing frenzied beasts couldn't compare to the speed of those appearing on-site. Before long, the area gathered two hundred, and their numbers kept growing. Any cultivator capable of seeing such a vast number of frenzied creatures would be delighted.

Indeed, several disciples from the four sects noticed what was happening and gathered at the periphery to slay whatever beasts they could. One of them was a young man who mercilessly attacked, causing quite a stir among the Pill Stream Sect disciples nearby. Eventually, Yan Xiaobao noticed him and recognized him as the top figure from the Fanglin Sect!

Yan Xiaobao wasn't pleased he attracted all these frenzies here, only for others to slaughter and take them away. However, considering he couldn't even keep up with the ever-growing numbers, he merely gave a cold harrumph and then ignored them.

Soon, a group of over forty cultivators gathered in the area and only then managed to stand on par with the banebeasts. Cheerfully, they began to work together to make things faster.

Some Spiritual Flow Sect disciples were particularly so. As they approached Yan Xiaobao, he ensured they were cared for, ensuring their harvest was greater than before.

Yan Xiaobao excitedly watched the accumulation of Earth Energy in his Dao bottle. Quickly, it was ninety percent full. However, just at that precise moment, more than ten beams of light suddenly appeared in the sky.

They wore matching robes, deep sect-style robes, with a burly man surrounded by whirling electricity leading them.

Except for Fang Lin, the faces of surrounding disciples flashed. He just continued slaughtering banebeasts, not bothering to look.

"Lei Shan!"

"The second choice of the Deep Flow Sect! Damn it! If he came alone, it might not be too much trouble, but look at how many people he has!"

Even as everyone watched with mixed expressions, Lei Shan glanced at all the frenzy with eyes full of joy. He heard from some Profound Stream Sect disciples that there was a strange frenzy surge happening, which is why he rushed in this direction.

"Only forty percent of my bottle is empty. When it's full, I can form a zone to capture crystals. I can achieve this by killing all these frenzied ones here!" Lei Shan raised his head, laughing loudly. As the Profound Stream Sect disciples nearby realized his intentions, one of them, a long-faced young man, laughed darkly and stepped forward.

"Listen!" he shouted at the disciples in the area. "If you're not from the Profound Stream Sect, then beat it now! This place is now our territory!" Disciples from the other three sects furiously glared, while the Deep Flow Sect disciples began laughing as they joined Lei Shan's group. By then, they numbered about thirty.

Under Lei Shan's command, the group of thirty prepared to expel everyone and engage in deadly force battles against any resistance. What followed was chaos.

"You have ten breaths to get the hell out of here, leaving your Dao bottles behind!"

"If you don't want to leave, then be prepared to lose your life!" As the Profound Stream Sect disciples glared at them, the Blood Stream Sect disciples exchanged glances and began retreating.

Most Blood Stream disciples, being lone wolves, did not want to provoke Lei Shan.

Pill Stream Sect disciples were a bit bewildered and had no choice but to retreat. When Lei Shan noticed Fang Lin among the crowd, he hesitated for a moment. He still suspected the terrifying magic massacre that occurred a month ago was orchestrated by Fang Lin, thus, he did not want to provoke him.

Due to the frightening nature of the battlefield he encountered, he decided to simply let the Pill Stream Sect disciples leave. As for Fang Lin, he decided not to do anything to personally offend him.

As both Blood Stream Sect and Pill Stream Sect disciples fled, Spiritual Flow Sect disciples turned to see what Yan Xiaobao would do.

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Chapter 1254 Unscathed

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Yan Xiaobao was very angry, but the group led by Lei Shan was really too large. He only had ten people by his side, and if they got into a fight, he knew that although he might complete the task unscathed, they would have a harder time. There could be many serious injuries, or even deaths.

"Alright, let's go," he said. "After all, it's just a bunch of beasts. Your Uncle will start another for you!" Gritting his teeth, when Lei Shan looked at him and suddenly laughed, he was preparing to leave.

The disciples of the Blood Flow Sect were fierce, and he had no desire to entangle with them. As for Fang Lin from the Pill Stream Sect, he also tended to avoid him. But when it came to the Spirit Sect, once he realized he was dealing with Yan Xiaobao and some ordinary disciples, he recalled his information about Bai Xiaobao's sect, and his expression turned into a sneer. The disciples of the Blood Flow Sect were fierce, and he had no desire to entangle with them. As for Fang Lin from the Pill Stream Sect, he also tended to avoid him. But when it came to the Spirit Sect, once he realized he was dealing with Yan Xiaobao and some ordinary disciples, he recalled his information about Bai Xiaobao's sect, and his expression turned into a sneer.

"You people from the Soul Sect can all leave," he said, his eyes flashing with deadly intent, "but your Dao bottle stays behind! Comply, or don't even think about leaving!" The faces of the Spirit Sect disciples fell, and Yan Xiaobao's anger grew.

"You want to steal my animals and then rob my Dao bottle? You people are nothing but bullies!"

With a cold snort, Lei Shan began to fly towards the Spirit Flow Sect disciples, along with other profound stream sect riffraff, laughing viciously. "If you're getting bullied, you should blame it on not having any strong experts!"

"Uncle Bai!"

"Uncle Bai, what do we do now?!" The Spirit Sect disciples were anxious, Yan Xiaobao's eyes filled with blood. Suddenly, he raised his right hand, revealing a black pill, a pill that could attract banesouls.

With a gloomy expression, his eyes bloodshot, he turned to the Spirit Creek Sect disciples and said: "Wait until I throw this pill, then you-"

However, before he could finish his speech, the Spirit Flow Sect followers around gasped, the terror on their faces far exceeded what they felt seeing the Deep Water Sect closing in. They immediately began to flee at the fastest speed.

"Is that the legendary secret pill!?"

"Heavens! No wonder he controls these crazy people!"

"Uncle Bai is a god! The only factor deciding whether this pill will work is if the Bai Sect is willing to let it! Let's get out of here! If we're too slow, we'll die!" The Spirit Sect fled in extreme terror. Profound Stream Sect wanted to block their path, but no threat could cause them to tremble like Yan Xiaobao's pill.

Seeing his disciples fleeing like this, Yan Xiaobao's jaw dropped. Fearing he had taken out the wrong pill, he looked down to confirm which pill he was holding. When he tossed the pill into the air, he cleared his throat and then let out a strong shout. It shot up and exploded, turning into swirling black mist, spreading in all directions.

Lei Shan frowned as the disciples of the Profound Stream Sect scattered, worried the mist might be poisonous. As for the banebeasts in the area, once they smelled the scent of the destroyed pill, their eyes lit up wildly, and they began howling.

Meanwhile, as he watched Yan Xiaobao trying to escape at high speed, Lei Shan's eyes flickered like lightning.

He coldly said, "You think you can leave just like that? Leave your Dao bottle behind!"

Then, he lightly flicked his sleeve, causing thunder to roar, pushing the black mist away.

He then shot out like Bai Chichun, moving at an astonishing speed. Lightning danced around him, and flames burned at his feet. As he closed in, he swung with his right hand. As a mass of fire appeared, a rumbling sound could be heard, and then a huge wall of fire rose, blocking Yan Xiaobao's path. Within the wall of flames, lightning flickered, then shot towards Yan Xiaobao.

When the disciples of the Profound Stream Sect saw this, their eyes flashed with mockery. To them, Yan Xiaobao was thinking he could escape from Lei Shan.

"A rogue Foundation cultivator once chased Brother Lei Shan for seven days but never caught him. Even Brother Nine-Isles praised his speed."

"Then there's his flame lightning magic. Brother Lei Shan has reached the peak. No one in this generation can compare to him. Yan Xiaobao is courting death!"

Even as the profound stream sect mocked him, Yan Xiaobao's anxiety increased. He knew the banesouls could appear at any time, and the best course was to leave the place as soon as possible. Seeing his path blocked, his eyes flickered, and he crashed into the lightning bolts.

BOOOOOOOOMMM!

Once the lightning made contact with him, it shattered into countless electric sparks scattering in all directions. On the other hand, Yan Xiaobao seemed untouched. He continued to the wall of flames, and when he hit it, it also exploded, and he went right through.

"Impossible!" Lei Shan said, his eyes wide with disbelief and shock. He was very familiar with his magical techniques and was confident that aside from Nine-Isles, ghosts, Song Que, and Fang Lin, no Qi Condensation disciple could pass through his flames unscathed.

Chapter 1255 Unscathed (Part 2)

Unexpectedly, this was exactly what Yan Xiaobao did.

"This person is—" Before he could finish speaking, an indescribable deadly crisis engulfed him. Looking over his shoulder, he saw the air ripple in the distance, as countless banesouls appeared, rushing toward him with eager expressions.

"Banesouls!!" he gasped. Just as he was about to flee, fear filled his heart.

"So many!! My god!" It wasn't just three or four banesouls approaching. As dozens closed in, the air continuously wavered unsteadily, with even more behind them. From the looks of it, there could possibly be a hundred in total.

Among the bane souls, there was a sinister young girl dressed in a white dress holding a bear. Her eyes spun with dark light, and though she was expressionless, Lei Shan and dozens of the Profound Stream Sect disciples could hear her light laughter in their ears.

It was a strange, sinister laughter that immediately set their hearts racing. Among the numerous banebeasts, Fang Lin's eyes widened, and he began gasping for breath, panting.

Yan Xiaobao further distanced himself, running for his life. He too could hear the light laughter, which made his scalp tingle with fear. Wings appeared behind him behind the black cauldron, and he burst forward at maximum speed.

"Hmph! You think you can steal my banebeasts? Those are the Bai Clan Lord's entertainment! No one can take them away!" he snorted coldly, pushing forward even faster.

Lei Shan swallowed hard, his face pale. He had no time to pay attention to his disciples among the beast horde, and he fled.

Around this time, the girl in the white dress shot forward before the large group of bane souls, becoming the first to reach the pill's explosion area. There, she took a deep breath, inhaling the surrounding black mist through her eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.

Meanwhile, the surrounding banebeasts began to tremble, then explode, turning to ash. As for the dozens of Profound Stream Sect disciples, their bodies went completely out of their own control. White mist began to seep from their own eyes, ears, noses, and mouths, sucked in by the girl's black mist.

"Come back and play with me, darling..." she said. Her face no longer expressionless. Her lips twisted into a smile, a terrifying smile that would make any cultivator who saw it shiver.

Her voice echoed in the air, infinitely sinister, reverberating from all directions. The disciples of the Profound Stream Sect felt as if their souls were being ripped from their bodies. Their flesh and blood withered, and they became as stiff as corpses, leaping to the girl's side, where they began to lurch and dance, as if playing with her.

Their withered bodies and stiff limbs presented a bizarre scene, viewed from afar, with Lei Shan and Fang Lin observing with ashen faces. Trembling in their hearts, they began fleeing in horror.

"What kind of banesoul is that?!"

"The sect's information lists no such banesouls capable of speaking! It can't be!"

Lei Shan and Fang Lin both faltered in different directions, fleeing as fast as they could with life-saving magic.

The other minstrels around the girl couldn't absorb any black mist, quickly calming down and starting to drift idly with blank expressions on their faces.

The girl stood among them, looking completely out of place. By now, her eyes were entirely black. Ignoring the fleeing Lei Shan and Fang Lin for the moment, she slowly turned in the direction Yan Xiaobao had fled. Then her lips twisted into something almost resembling a smile, and she flew past Lei Shan.

Deep within the Fallen Sword World, Yan Xiaobao flew with all his might for two days, finally slowing down. The girl in the white dress made him shiver in fear. However, once he thought about how he had filled his Dao bottle more than ninety percent, he realized he only needed more earth energy to form the Earth Capture Crystal. Therefore, he cautiously began using his pills to draw out more banebeasts to gather the last bit of earth energy he needed.

Two days later, he had gathered dozens of banebeasts in a remote area. After slaughtering the entire group, his Dao bottle was filled with earth energy. The gray liquid began to bubble and boil, then solidified. Soon, cracking sounds could be heard, and the bottle shattered.

Yan Xiaobao grasped a piece of gray crystal. Almost instantly, he felt a connection between himself and the surrounding world, a resonance he had never felt before. This crystal was like the key to unlocking the barrier between himself and the world.

"It worked!" he exclaimed. Now more confident than ever, he understood that if he absorbed enough energy, he could establish a foundation. But he knew he shouldn't do so recklessly; he needed to find a

safe place to complete the process. After all, if anyone interrupted, causing failure, he would regret it for the rest of his life.

"Foundation establishment. Foundation establishment! Hahaha!" Holding back his excitement, he suddenly felt a chill creeping up his back to his neck. Almost without thinking, he looked over his shoulder and saw a face behind him!

It was the face of a little girl, her lips twisted into a strange smile!

Everything around him was deathly silent. Yan Xiaobao's eyes widened, and the hair on his head began to stand on end. The flame of his life force flickered for a moment, as his intuition told him this girl was extremely dangerous!

"Play with me, darling," she said in a sinister voice. At the same moment, a gust of cold wind blew past, and Yan Xiaobao suddenly realized the girl was no longer holding a skinned bloody bear.

She was holding something else, and when Yan Xiaobao realized what it was, his heart thudded. It was a tiny cultivator, skinned just like the bear. Although it wasn't easy to tell at first, it was indeed Lei Shan!

The magnificent number two of the Profound Stream Sect was cradled in the arms of this little girl. Evidently, he wasn't dead either! He quivered in pain, his tongue removed, rendering him unable to speak.

Yan Xiaobao's mouth and throat turned dry, and he began to back away, trembling. Suddenly, he realized he didn't know how long the girl had been following him.

"Uh, your dear has other things to do," he said, feeling as if he might cry. "Why don't you go find someone else to play with? There's a Song Que, another called Nine-Isles. Ah yes. And Fang Lin. Right—you can play with them, okay?" However, the girl continued advancing toward him, laughing lightly. As she approached, she suddenly began to take deep breaths.

Yan Xiaobao's thoughts spun rapidly, feeling as if his life force was agitated, about to be torn apart. At that moment, anyone else would truly have lost their life.

But Yan Xiaobao's body was strong. The silver light of his Immortal Eternal Life Skill flickered in resistance. Yan Xiaobao let out a piercing scream as impending death engulfed him. Without hesitation, he took out his third mysterious pill and tossed it far away.

In that instant, the girl's eyes flickered with a mysterious light. Luckily, ignoring Bai Xiaobao, she consumed the pill and departed.

Pale-faced, Yan Xiaobao took advantage of the moment to flee as fast as possible.

The girl did not pursue him. After retrieving the pill, she placed it in her mouth, and her eyes grew even darker. As she turned her head toward the direction Yan Xiaobao had fled, her face bore a strange smile. Two hours later, Yan Xiaobao was still fleeing, wallowing in self-pity. He had his Earth Capture Crystal now, and all he needed was a chance to dig into the earth somewhere and use it, but the little girl wouldn't stop chasing him.

Recalling the recent terror and danger he had just encountered, his heart trembled. As night fell, he looked around, seeing no one in the area. Gasping for breath, he finally found a cave on a mountain where he sat cross-legged. Vigilantly scanning his surroundings, he debated whether this was indeed the best spot for his foundation establishment when the air in front of him began to ripple.

It only lasted for a moment, and the surrounding world became nearly imperceptible, other than his own eyes. When things returned to normal, someone stood in front of him.

The girl in the white dress, staring at him with black eyes.

"Don't go, dear. Come play with me...."

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Chapter 1256 Nowhere to Be Seen

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Yan Xiaobao was on the verge of collapse. His eyes were bloodshot, and he performed a spell gesture, releasing spiritual power to form a rumbling violet cauldron.

Even as the ground shook, he shot into the air. When he looked down, he realized the girl was nowhere to be seen. Clearly, everything had been an illusion from the beginning.

"Damn it!" he roared, his expression grim. Something about the entire situation seemed peculiar, and Yan Xiaobao began to speculate that perhaps that mysterious little girl had used some sort of magical trick on him.

No longer in the mood to stay put, he gritted his teeth and continued forward. After about two hours, he saw three cultivators ahead engaged in fierce battle. Suddenly, he stopped in his tracks.

A moment ago, when he first saw them, they were there alone. But now, he saw the girl in the white dress. She stared at him with a slight smile, a grin growing wider and wider until, when she opened her mouth, it seemed to become a huge maw.

Scalp tingling, he unleashed the power of his cultivation base. Fist clenched, his Immortal Eternal Life Skill burst forth. His punch caused everything to tremble. However, the girl vanished suddenly, and the three cultivators in the distance looked on in shock as Yan Xiaobao furiously attacked a nearby giant boulder.

When they saw the boulder collapse into rubble, they gasped and began to flee.

Yan Xiaobao stood there silently for a moment, then gritted his teeth and pressed onward.

Over the next two days, he saw the girl in the white dress again and again. Even when he closed his eyes for meditation, she would appear. He was reaching the point of complete exhaustion.

The situation only continued to worsen. Initially, he would see her about once every two hours. But now, it was happening every three hundred breaths. At this rate, he would never be able to enter the Foundation.

In the past two days, he encountered other disciples, even those from the Spiritual Flow Sect. However, the girl in the white dress would always appear, though no one else saw her.

By the next evening, Yan Xiaobao's eyes were bloodshot, and he could feel he had reached his limit. He even felt his life force slipping beyond his control, as if ready to drift away at any moment. He was dizzy, his head spun, and he felt he might collapse.

"It's going to happen again at any moment..." he murmured. Forgetting to flee, he sat on a boulder, clenching his fists. He still had a mysterious pill left, but he dared not use it on the girl. For some reason, he felt the reason he hadn't died was because of that very pill.

If he threw it away and the girl got it, he might meet the same fate as Lei Shan. Just thinking about it served as a powerful warning not to carelessly use the pill.

"It's like I'm drifting between reality and illusion," he thought. "I think I can see it as if I've been poisoned. In that case, maybe I should make an antidote to cure myself!"

As he sat there pondering this, a light appeared in the distance. When it approached Yan Xiaobao, it stopped, and a young man appeared.

"Eee?" He was from the Blood Stream Sect, looking very much like a piece of silk. He eagerly watched Yan Xiaobao's expression, looked down at the Fengshui Compass in his hand, and the pointer aimed at Yan Xiaobao, emitting a bright glow.

"I can't believe you've gathered enough Earth Energy to form an Earth Crystal!"

"Hahaha! I think it's my destiny, I, Xu Xiaoshan, will be the first to reach the Foundation!" This young man was Xu Xiaoshan from the Blood Flow Sect, excitedly eyeing Yan Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao was already very angry, knowing according to his calculations that only about ten breaths remained before the girl reappeared. "Mind your own business, bastard!"

"I know you! You're Yan Xiaobao, ace of the Spirit Sect. Hmm, you're clearly very weak now. The flame of life looks like it's about to flicker out. That means Xu Xiaoshan has a great opportunity with him!"

"Yan Xiaobao, I know you have an Earth Capture Crystal. How about we make a deal? Let me use that crystal, alright? What do you say?" Eyes flashing with greed, Xu Xiaoshan raised his head, chuckling happily. He walked toward Yan Xiaobao and performed a spell, creating eight magical devices around him. As Xu Xiaoshan waved, shimmering lights shot toward them, aiming at Yan Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao coldly looked up at Xu Xiaoshan, when suddenly his eyes widened as the girl in the white dress stood next to Xu Xiaoshan, just as he was about to take action. She was there, her smile expanding into an enormous maw.

It was at that moment that Xu Xiaoshan suddenly screamed and backed up as quickly as possible. Terror filled his eyes, and he began trembling violently.

"A sentient bane soul! Heavens! How can there be sentient bane souls here? Weren't they all wiped out? Damn it! That bane soul is staring at you. No wonder you look so weak. You've been cursed! You're doomed!" Taking a deep breath, he backed up even more, raising his right hand to produce an ancient jade pendant, spotted with orange, almost resembling bloodstains. Once Xu Xiaoshan pulled it out, he sighed in relief and retreated again.

Chapter 1257 Nowhere to Be Seen (Part 2)

Below, Yan Xiaobao's eyes were wide open, and he shouted, "You can see her too?! Hey, what are you holding in your hand!?"

Yan Xiaobao had just witnessed the white-clothed woman turning to look at Xu Xiaoshan. However, once Xu Xiaoshan took out the jade piece, the girl's expression flickered, and she fled in the opposite direction.

Xu Xiaoshan didn't bother to respond to Yan Xiaobao but focused on escaping as quickly as possible. However, before he could go far, Yan Xiaobao suddenly moved. His wings appeared behind him, and he shot forward directly in front of Xu Xiaoshan, where he clenched his fist as if to throw a punch.

"Xu Xiaoshan! How can we reach an agreement? Why won't you let me use that jade? What do you say?"

The spell flashed in Xu Xiaoshan's hand, summoning eight magic items, sending them to defend himself. "You're lucky I didn't bring your things. How dare you try to rob me! You're cursed, hanging at death's door! What gives you the courage to act?!"

When his fist contacted Xu Xiaoshan's magic items, silver lights flashed around Yan Xiaobao.

A massive surge of heat roared out, shattering the magic items into pieces. Yan Xiaobao, like a whirlwind, flew directly towards the shocked Xu Xiaoshan. Xu Xiaoshan viciously waved his hand, removing his beaded bracelet from his wrist. It instantly transformed into 18 corpses, each emitting power equivalent to a full-circle Level 10 Qi Condensation. They attacked simultaneously.

It was Yan Xiaobao's first time seeing such Corpse Manipulation Magic. Shockingly, all these corpses had long white hair, black at the roots, as if the hair was slowly turning black. [1. In Chinese stories featuring zombies or animated corpses, identifying their power level by hair color is relatively common.

Each one seemed particularly special.

As the large cauldron on Yan Xiaobao's back shattered, a massive surge of heat echoed. However, he wasn't harmed. Instead, his hands waved in the air, demonstrating astonishing control power that filled the entire area, immobilizing the corpses. They even began to tremble and crackle.

As his hands waved in the air, Xu Xiaoshan hissed.

His left hand summoned nine bronze coffins. As they flew out, they grew larger and larger, exerting immense pressure on Yan Xiaobao.

His right hand produced a gourd, spewing out massive rock fragments at Yan Xiaobao.

Next, he turned his head, flipping his hair. Several small bells flew into the air, transforming into shadow figures affecting Yan Xiaobao.

Most shockingly, he then opened his mouth and spat a blood-colored fan. The fan waved in the air, causing a 300-meter-wide blood mist to gush forth. It instantly formed into a spell, with countless sharp claws appearing and roaring fiercely towards Yan Xiaobao.

"I have magic items and exquisite corpses! You want to fight me, Yan Xiaobao?!" Xu Xiaoshan laughed heartily, slapping his pouch and producing over twenty bottles of high-quality pills, which he rapidly swallowed in succession, instantly replenishing all the spiritual energy he had just spent. If a third person were present to witness what had happened, they would be very surprised.

However, it was at this point that a divine crane appeared around Yan Xiaobao, transforming into an escapement mechanism rotating around him. Then, black flashes were seen as black light spread throughout his body.

He slammed his pouch, causing hundreds of paper talismans to appear, slapping himself. In the blink of an eye, more than a hundred shield layers emerged like bamboo shoots after spring rain, forming a 150-meter-thick defense.

"I have enough defense talismans," he said proudly. "Do you dare hit me with those shoddy magic items?!" The corpses were knocked away. The exploding rocks couldn't even penetrate the shields, most of them rebounded. The nine bronze coffins also crashed to the ground, completely unable to cause any damage.

He was completely amazed, watching Xu Xiaoshan's eyes wide open. When fighting people, he always relied on numerous magic items and exquisite corpses. It was his first time encountering someone like Yan Xiaobao, who was actually at the same level as him.

Even though he didn't use magic items, when Xu Xiaoshan thought of the value of those hundreds of paper talismans, his heart trembled.

"Information says Yan Xiaobao is mysterious and powerful, but it never mentioned he was wealthy!" Xu Xiaoshan said bitterly. He knew exactly how terrifying his own stature was, so he naturally realized how terrifying Yan Xiaobao was. In fact, seeing so many paper talismans filled his eyes with jealousy. After all, magic items require spiritual power to operate, whereas paper talismans require almost no items. The power they need is stored within the talisman.

They are expensive and can only be used for a limited time; even Xu Xiaoshan thinks they are a bit extravagant.

In a blink, he suddenly realized that Yan Xiaobao was truly formidable. In fact, he was even considerably admirable. After a period of thought, he threw a jade pendant at Yan Xiaobao. "Damn, Xu Xiaoshan has never yielded to anyone. You're the first, Yan Xiaobao. I know you need this thing, so go ahead. But it's not a gift! You have to return it after you're done!" After throwing the jade artifact, Xu Xiaoshan turned to leave. He had already made up his mind that when he returned to the sect, he would ask his father and mother for more funds to acquire paper talismans. In the future, that's how he'd make a name for himself, instead of magic items. Using paper talismans would be awe-inspiring.

Xu Xiaoshan was a born silk-pants. He didn't really care what the sect thought of what he did; if he liked someone, he'd befriend them. If he didn't like them, he'd beat them down. As for Yan Xiaobao, although he was unwilling to admit it, he really liked him.

Of course, if he had overcome Yan Xiaobao in the fight, he wouldn't hesitate for a moment to rob his Earth Capture Crystal. However, since he couldn't defeat him in combat, he thought the next best thing was to try to connect with him.

Yan Xiaobao felt a wonderful sensation sweep over him as soon as he grasped the jade artifact. His exhaustion vanished, and he could see everything clearly. It was as if he had been trapped underwater, unable to breathe, and had just rushed into the open air.

But, it seemed strange that Xu Xiaoshan casually handed him a jade artifact. After a moment of contemplation, he realized he might have been somewhat duped. Before Xu Xiaoshan went far, Yan Xiaobao shouted, "Hold on. I don't like taking advantage of people. Let me trade you these two small treasures."

Patting his pouch, he produced two Flying Swords, both with dual spirit enhancement. Secretly spreading some aura of the last mysterious pills to them, he tossed them over.

"They're not worth much, but hey, have fun with them."

The double spiritual enhancement swords flew to Xu Xiaoshan, who caught them with eyes wide open.

"Dual spirit enhancement?" he thought, swallowing heavily. "Did he hand them over just like that? Have fun with them?!" Although he didn't regard those magically enhanced items as absolutely priceless, they

were still relatively rare among Level 10 Qi Condensation cultivators. What was most convincing was how casually Yan Xiaobao threw them over, showing how deep his pockets were.

Suddenly, Xu Xiaoshan realized he had learned much more from Yan Xiaobao than he first realized. Casually distributing spiritually enhanced magic items was truly an impressive way to make a name for oneself. As this realization hit his thoughts, he looked more closely at Yan Xiaobao and realized he liked him more. He sighed.

"Well, look, Yan Xiaobao. Considering how well you've performed, I found it hard to meet you. If you use that jade pendant by yourself, it's nearly useless. After a stick of incense burns, it will stop working and even produce a rebound effect." Once again, he sighed and threw a second jade pendant to Yan Xiaobao. "Use them together, and you'll be able to resolve the banesoul curse long-term."

Grabbing the second jade pendant, Yan Xiaobao squinted at Xu Xiaoshan's slyness and cunning. As he watched him turn to leave, Yan Xiaobao suddenly thought, despite all that just happened, Xu Xiaoshan didn't seem like a bad person. Clenching his teeth, he shouted, "Hey, hold on. Alright, listen, Xu Xiaoshan. Since you've been nice, I found you're hard to dislike. Return those two Flying Swords to me."

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Chapter 1258 Getting Along

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Xu Xiaoshan stopped in his tracks, eyes wide open. Pulling out two Flying Swords, he examined them carefully but couldn't find anything unusual. However, not daring to persist any longer, he tossed them back to Yan Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao cleared his throat, conjured up two more swords, and threw them back to Xu Xiaoshan.

As he watched Yan Xiaobao, Xu Xiaoshan showed a strange expression on his face. He wasn't sure what was wrong with the first set of swords, but he could imagine that if Yan Xiaobao hadn't said anything, he might have walked right into a disaster.

As he and Xu Xiaoshan stared at each other, Yan Xiaobao blinked several times.

After a moment, Xu Xiaoshan sighed, his eyes twinkling. Earlier, he was just pretending to like Yan Xiaobao, but at this point, he genuinely liked him.

"I rarely get along with others well. Alright, listen, Bai Xiaobao. Actually, there's a mnemonic that goes with these two jade pendants, the only correct way to use them. Without the mnemonic, they will create a light that protects you from that banesoul, but after a while, the light will disappear and leave a seal mark on your cultivation base that will prevent you from using it for a whole month," Xu Xiaoshan said with a bitter smile, tossing a piece of jade to Yan Xiaobao.

"You rascal!" Yan Xiaobao gasped. If he used the jade pendant while trying to reach the Foundation, only to have his cultivation base sealed, he would lose a whole month. He might even lose the chance to establish the Foundation.

"You're just as bad!" Xu Xiaoshan responded. Then he coughed dryly. "Well, I'm from the Blood Flow Sect, and you're from the Spiritual Flow Sect. We should be opposing each other." Up to this point, he was being completely honest, which was rare for him. The fact was, he had never met anyone like Yan Xiaobao before.

"Alright," Yan Xiaobao said. "Since you're being so honest, I'll stop admiring you. Do you know those magic items you used against me during the fight? I dyed them with medicinal fragrance to attract banesouls." Feeling a bit embarrassed, he lowered his voice and concluded, "You should also change your clothes."

Xu Xiaoshan's eyes widened; after quickly checking his bag and clothes, he looked at Yan Xiaobao through gritted teeth. "Y-You! You're completely shameless!"

"You're just as bad!" Yan Xiaobao said, glaring at him.

The two of them stared at each other for a while, then burst into laughter.

"I hope we meet again soon," Xu Xiaoshan said sincerely. Then he turned and dashed off into the distance.

Once he was out of sight, he changed his clothes, his heart pounding with lingering fear. As far as he was concerned, Yan Xiaobao was as much of a threat as he was, meaning he would have to be extremely careful in dealing with him in the future.

Yan Xiaobao also sighed. Although Xu Xiaoshan was from the Blood Flow Sect, he still seemed to be a good friend.

"Aside from that, he's very cunning, definitely not as honest as I am. I must be careful handling him in the future. Ai. I suppose I'm too honest." Shaking his head, he flicked his sleeve and accelerated.

After thoroughly inspecting the jade pendant, he used the mnemonic of the jade to unleash their power. Moments later, shimmering light emerged around him.

The field of light quickly became invisible, detectable only through divine senses. However, as far as the banesouls were concerned, this made approaching Bai Xiaobao completely impossible.

In the following six hours, a girl wearing a white dress appeared several times. However, each time she approached, she was repelled. Her face twisted with anger, she screamed and shrieked but still couldn't get close to Yan Xiaobao.

After so many failures, she reluctantly vanished and did not return. At that point, Yan Xiaobao breathed a sigh of relief. He was deeply convinced that the jade pendants were indeed effective. He dove to the bottom of a secluded lake and dug out a temporary Immortal Cave. There, he sat cross-legged and meditated.

After conducting a final test to ensure the jade pendants would ward off banesouls, his eyes flickered with anticipation as he took out the gray Earth Line capture crystal.

"Even though I started later than I planned by a few days, I can still be the first to establish the Earth Foundation!" Subsequently, he released the spiritual power of the Level 10 Qi Condensation Great Circle, allowing it to flow once and then hurled it furiously into the gray crystal.

The crystal was like a bottomless pit, absorbing all of his spiritual power. Then, it started emitting a gray light, becoming stronger and soon emitting a mighty rumble.

The crystal began to slowly burn, transforming into white mist spring absorbed through his eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. After more than thirty breaths, the crystal trembled slightly and then disappeared, causing a torrent of gray mist to rush into Yan Xiaobao's body.

As the gray mist surged into him, his eyes began to develop bloodshot streaks, permeating his veins, with his whole body spinning. Meanwhile, pain swept over him; the gray mist seemed almost to be forming, like iron chains scraping against his flesh.

This pain sent a chill through him, but compared to the pain he had experienced cultivating the Immortal Eternal Life Skill, it was insignificant. Yan Xiaobao didn't hum so calmly. He gritted his teeth, waiting until the last bit of mist drilled into his head. When the tail end of the mist connected with the initially entered mist, it created something similar to a circle.

Chapter 1259 Getting Along (Part 2)

The moment the circle formed, rumbling sounds filled Yan Xiaobao's mind, shaking his soul.

The spirit river of his cultivation base started to flow, exploding in various parts of his body, seemingly chaotic and without shape. However, upon closer inspection, his spiritual power was actually transforming into a vortex.

This vortex was the beginning of Tideflow!

This is the most crucial aspect of Earthstring Foundation Establishment!

The flow of spiritual power transforms into a tide. Fog turns to liquid, the Earthstring Dao Foundation forms, and death is cut off!

Yan Xiaobao suddenly lifted his head, blue veins protruding from his neck and face. He hoarsely shouted, "Tideflow!"

RUUUUUUUUUUMBLE!

In an instant, the vortex started rotating with greater force, transforming into something akin to a black hole, sucking away all the Earth Energy within him. Of course, this wasn't even a thousandth of what was needed.

However, once the vortex formed, it would automatically absorb the Earth Energy accumulated over the last sixty years of the Fallen Sword World's cycle!

In an instant, streams of Earth Energy began to surge from the walls of the Immortal Cave towards Yan Xiaobao.

Soon, the water of the lake around him began to bubble and boil, with enormous amounts of Earth Energy surging into it. The sky of the Fallen Sword World trembled as Earth Energy flowed from all directions towards Yan Xiaobao.

Disciples from the four sects across different locations in the Fallen Sword World all lifted their heads. Some felt confused, others shocked, and still others astonished. A variety of emotions could be seen, even disbelief.

"Tideflow! Heavens! That's Earthstring Foundation Establishment Tideflow!!"

"Who is it? It's only been a month, and someone has already formed an Earth Capture Crystal and started establishing the foundation?!"

"Is it Song Que? Ghostfang? Nine-Isles? Or Fang Lin?!?!" The lake above Yan Xiaobao started churning fiercely as it turned into a massive vortex, relentlessly pulling in energy from the sky and land of the surrounding world. An endless amount of Earth Energy poured into it, causing the vortex to swell larger and larger until it rose like a massive tornado up to the heavens!

From a distance, the tornado looked so awe-inspiring that anyone who saw it gasped in astonishment.

The moment the tornado connected with the sky above, a spinning vortex formed, the hallmark of Tideflow!

"Yan Xiaobao!" Not far from where Yan Xiaobao reached the center of the foundation, Xu Xiaoshan paused mid-air, gazing at the surging Earth Energy. Only Tideflow could provoke such a heavenly response. Taking a deep breath, his eyes began to glow brightly. "So, he's the first to truly complete his Earth Capture Crystal."

In the depths of the Fallen Sword World, Shangguan Tianyou stood there, with nine Flying Swords rotating in a sword shape. His right hand flashed in a spell gesture, and the nine sword stabs pierced the air, unleashing a powerful killing force that instantly destroyed a high-level banebeast. Ignoring the thick stream of Earth Energy flowing into his Dao Bottle, he stared at the Earth Energy stream flowing in the distance.

"Who is it?!" he wondered. "Damn it! If Fang Lin and I hadn't been fighting each other and both got injured, I definitely would have been faster!" With bloodshot eyes, he looked down at his now eighty percent full Dao Bottle. Gritting his teeth, he abandoned hunting banebeasts and started hunting disciples from the other three sects instead.

The provocation from someone reaching the foundation before him left Shangguan Tianyou's mood unsettled!

Meanwhile, in another area, Fang Lin from the Pill Stream Sect silently appeared in front of a Deep Flow Sect disciple. The disciple's eyes widened for a moment before his head exploded. Fang Lin took his Dao Bottle and then looked at the gathering Earth Energy. His eyes gleamed with bright light.

"After being taken by banesouls, I obtained Lei Shan's Dao Bottle, along with the bottles of everyone who ambushed me. However, this guy defeated me..." He looked down at the nearly full Dao Bottle, his eyes sparkling. He then slowly walked off to select a place for his own foundation.

In another area was the top figure selected from the Deep Flow Sect of Jiuli Island. His hands were dripping with blood, surrounded by seven or eight corpses, all disciples he had personally killed. "These should be enough!"

Aside from the few electors everyone was desperate to surpass, there were other disciples in the Fallen Sword World driven enough to increase their speed.

And the only way to do that was to kill other disciples!

Yan Xiaobao's Tideflow took just a short time to turn the entire Fallen Sword World into a battleground. Almost instantly, fierce battles erupted everywhere.

The death counts increased, and eerie screams filled the air.

Initially, around four hundred people were present, but by now that number was reduced to about half.

Hou Yunfei was bloodied, his hair in disarray. In the Fallen Sword World, he wasn't considered one of the spectacular electors, just an ordinary disciple. However, that didn't mean he was any less vicious than anyone else. Over the past month, he had reduced more than a dozen enemy disciples.

Working with other Spirit Stream Sect disciples, he also killed many banebeasts. As a result, his Dao Bottle was seventy percent full. As he saw the Earth Energy surging in the distance, he took a deep breath.

"Is it you, Xiao Bao? You're bound to succeed in your foundation. I must work harder!" With that, he turned and sped off into the distance.

Beihan Lie was in the central region of the Fallen Sword World, fighting like a demon. His battle with Lei Shan made his name rise in shocking ways until almost everyone knew who he was.

Although he failed to achieve a decisive victory, this battle ensured his name soared to new heights. He was the new dark horse among the four sects, much like the other newcomers from the three other sects. They quickly became the type ordinary disciples couldn't catch up to.

Of course, no one knew the painful path Beihan Lie took to gain such glory. The truth was, without Yan Xiaobao, he wouldn't be who he was now.

"I will definitely reach the Earthstring Foundation and erase all humiliation!" he howled internally, choosing another target and engaging in fierce battle.

At this point in the trial by fire, there were no weaklings among the surviving disciples. All of them had various powerful techniques and tactics at their disposal, and soon the battles became even more intense.

In the depths of the Fallen Sword World, in an area filled with swirling mists and numerous gorges, and among countless cultivators, two figures could be seen locked in combat.

Upon closer inspection, both were young women. One was Gongsun Wan'er, and the other was Zhao Rou from the Pill Stream Sect. Both were exquisite beauties, but now, they were both in dire straits. Sinister auras surrounded them as they engaged in their seventh battle.

Over the past month, they fought each time they met, almost as if they had a personal vendetta. Although neither gained the upper hand, they were unwilling to see the other capture more Earth Energy, leading to the current stalemate.

Zhao Rou said, "Gongsun Wan'er, we both have half-full bottles. This time, only one of us will come out alive, with a full bottle!" With that, she launched another attack.

Gongsun Wan'er, pale-faced, with Phoenix severely injured, gritted her teeth and counterattacked. Though their battle seemed mundane, both engaged in releasing powerful illusion magic on each other.

The slightest misstep from either would result in death.

The sky trembled, the ground quaked. Even though everyone was fixated on Yan Xiaobao's Earth Foundation Establishment, he was at a fever pitch, trembling in fear beneath the lake. Though unable to see what was happening on the lake's surface above, he was certain the rumbling Earth Energy formed a massive, funnel-shaped vortex.

"What if people try to interfere... what will I do?" Sweat immediately appeared on his forehead. In preparation for the foundation, he arranged some defensive measures, but now he was uncertain if they were sufficient.

Gritting his teeth, he inhaled vast amounts of Earth Energy, managing to extend his right hand to pat his satchel, producing a pile of over a thousand paper amulets, then scattered them around him.

He didn't activate them, but all it took was a single thought from him.

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Chapter 1260 Mortal Flesh

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The holy crane shield flew out, ready to be used at any moment. At the same time, he activated the defensive treasure given to him by Li Qinghou, which unfolded, covering his immortal silver skin.

Beyond that, he was almost powerless. Clenching his teeth, he called inward, making the whirlpool within him spin faster. Earth energy was relentlessly drawn inwards, not fusing with his spiritual power but instead entangling with it. As it flowed through him, the whirlpool grew stronger and stronger, causing him to violently tremble.

The so-called Tideflow involves capturing earth energy and then combining it with spiritual power to achieve an explosive effect. It will temper the flesh, the Qi pathways, and the soul. It will refine everything!

For every part of spiritual power, one hundred earth energy is required!

This explosive combination creates a liquid, transforming the mist of earth energy into a spiritual ocean!

The spiritual sea has another name: Dao Foundation!

Each complete Tideflow will create one spiritual ocean and one Dao foundation! Nine Tideflows mean nine spiritual oceans and nine Dao foundations! Each additional level will be many times larger than the previous one, like an inverted pagoda!

Time flew by. Two hours later, the whirlpool above Yan Xiaobao's lake was bigger than before. When the earth shook, Yan Xiaobao emitted a powerful roar, causing the whirlpool to enlarge again. When the whirlpool within him reached its capacity, a rumbling sound like thunder arose. Everything he accumulated in the past two hours was for shaping his first Tideflow.

Once the first Tideflow was ready to complete, the whirlpool inside him began to shrink.

As earth energy and spiritual power forming the whirlpool flowed through his Qi paths, the whirlpool shrank, and cracking sounds echoed from within him. The whirlpool soon condensed into a black dot, causing his Qi paths, his flesh, even his soul to tremble violently.

"Tideflow!"

RUUUUUUUUUJUMBLE!

As the combination of earth energy and spiritual power spread, his thoughts were filled with rumbling sounds. As he roared, his Qi paths enlarged, his flesh strengthened. His bones, his soul, everything about him grew stronger.

At that same moment, with the help of the Tideflow, earth energy and spiritual power finally merged to form a spiritual liquid, which passed through him into the sea of mist in his Dantian region. Like a drop of water, it explodes with heavenly shattering force upon landing!

When his Dantian region exploded into countless fragments, Yan Xiaobao violently trembled and then reformed into an ocean!

His Dao foundation was established, his spiritual ocean formed!

Meanwhile, his Qi paths, especially his soul, were violently shaken and pulled away from mortal constraints!

However, the ocean was very small, seeming to be only about 300 meters wide. Within it, one could see a violet cauldron covered with countless magic symbols. It rose from the sea, releasing shocking energy that caused Yan Xiaobao's cultivation base to rise rapidly. Yet, the enhancement of the foundation was not yet complete; all the preparation and hard work he put in had yet to be utilized.

Two main factors determine how much Tideflow one can achieve: first, latent talent, and second, techniques cultivated during the Qi Condensation stage!

Techniques stir the tide, while latent talent provides the strength to actually withstand it. With strong latent talent, one can endure multiple Tideflows. Due to weak latent talent, even cultivating many techniques makes it difficult to achieve this. In fact, trying to force too many Tideflows may damage the Dao foundation and lead to death.

Meanwhile, those with common techniques and high potential will also feel equally perplexed.

Therefore, only the combination of techniques and latent talent can lead to success. Both are essential.

In Yan Xiaobao's first spiritual ocean was a cauldron, representing the first technique he cultivated - Violet Qi Cauldron Control Technique! Concerning techniques useful for creating Tideflow, there are almost no limits. Over the years since ancient times, three rules have been established in this regard. The first rule is the technique used for Tideflow must be fully mastered down to the smallest detail. Without such achievement, the Tideflow will fail.

Mastering the technique to that level is not easy; it requires a substantial amount of material resources and spiritual energy.

The second rule is that for each Tideflow, only one technique of any given power level may be used. Adding additional techniques does not aid the successful realization of Tideflow.

The third rule is each successive Tideflow is relatively more difficult, hence requiring more stringent conditions for success.

In most sects, few techniques can push disciples past the fifth Tideflow and into the sixth. These techniques are essentially secret magic and are the true foundation of the sect's power.

Thus, the real test is how the sect distributes its techniques, and how deep their resources are. For instance, in the Spirit Sect, the South Shore's Violet Qi Cauldron Control Technique and the North Shore's Heavenspan Elephant Control Technique must be cultivated to master Violet Qi Cauldron Summoning or Heavenspan Elephant Body, or only the first Tideflow will succeed.

Only Violet Qi Cauldron Summoning and Heavenspan Elephant Body can fulfill the second Tideflow requirements. Meanwhile, since the South Shore's Violet Peak and the North Shore's Sunset Peak are the origin points of these techniques, as long as the disciples there have other powerful technique requirements, they can achieve the third to fifth Tideflow. However, beyond that, finding a Phoenix feather or Qilin Horn is easier than finding potentially useful ordinary techniques. Then, only secret magic can be summoned.