

Medical 1401

Chapter 1401 - Fire Punishment Trial

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However, this choice also has inherent dangers, so dangerous that it is hard to determine whether it is better than going through the Fire Punishment Trial.

Just as he was sitting there contemplating, the door to his Immortal Cave silently opened, and Song Junwan walked in.

"You!" Yan Xiaobao was startled, jumped up, and stepped back a few paces. His Immortal Cave was protected by defensive spell formations, yet somehow, Song Junwan had entered.

As she looked up and down at Yan Xiaobao, she smiled mysteriously, seeming to gaze deep into his heart. "I am the Great Elder of Middle Peak, currently serving as the Bloodline Master here. I control every blade of grass and every rock. If I want to enter an Immortal Cave, nobody can stop me.

"Furthermore, why did Brother Ye Xiao refuse to let me enter his Immortal Cave? I didn't require you to say these words, but instead, I chose to take initiative." With that, she sat on the stone chair, resting her chin on her palm.

Despite her gaze not being seductive, there was something alluring about it, capturing Yan Xiaobao's heart in a shocking manner. His expression turned gloomy, and then he roared: "Is becoming a Blood Master really that important to you?"

Song Junwan quietly met his gaze, nodding.

"For years, the Song Family has managed the Middle Peak, and our clan has chosen Bloodline Masters for several generations. But this time, things have changed.

"Our Clan Leader made an agreement with the Infinite Clan Leader, one of the terms being that slut Xuemei would have the opportunity to compete for the position of Bloodline Master. In exchange, we gained information about the establishment of the Heavenly Dao Foundation.

"Unfortunately, Song Qu didn't meet expectations and didn't reach the Heavenly Dao Foundation. Worse, slut Xuemei unexpectedly achieved the ninth tide. Thus, Quill is most suitable for her. Therefore, I'm the only one with the opportunity to become Bloodline Master!

"That's why I need your help. As one of your Dharma Protectors, I think I really have hope to succeed!" Song Junwan waited for Yan Xiaobao's response.

Yan Xiaobao said nothing at first. After learning the details of Xuemei's involvement, everything became more meaningful. However, he still considered competing for the position to be very dangerous. After a while, Song Junwan continued: "If it doesn't benefit you too, I wouldn't ask for your help. Considering you are already a bleeding Elder, if I succeed, I highly recommend you become the next Great Elder!"

For some reason, she blushed slightly, and the charming allure in her eyes seemed to intensify. Almost as if she would throw claws like a shrew into Yan Xiaobao, attempting to drag him in.

Yan Xiaobao coughed lightly, avoided her gaze. Internally, he was still trying to decide the best method. If he didn't participate in the Fire Punishment Trial, he always had the opportunity to secretly obtain the Eternal Indestructible Relic. Although attempting this would be very risky, participating in the Fire Trial was equally risky.

In one situation, he could hardly control developments. On the other hand, he would have some control. In one case, despite the danger, the chance for success is great. On the other hand, the chance for success is not high, yet still possible.

It took some time, but he made a choice. He clenched his teeth inwardly, looked at Song Junwan, and said: "If you want to become Bloodline Master, then of course I will help you. However, I want to know a bit about this trial. How exactly does the process work? How do you become a Bloodline Master?"

He had already decided that even if he would attempt to help Song Junwan, his own safety was paramount. Perhaps through caution, he could reduce the risk factors.

Song Junwan was quite excited. Her eyes brightened as she looked at Yan Xiaobao, her hand covering her face in a smile. She spoke, her expression softening: "For many people, the details of this Fire Trial are a great secret. But I won't hide anything from you. First, I must be clear: in every Fire Trial, death is

commonplace." Despite Yan Xiaobao already preparing himself for similar news, it didn't prevent his heart from suddenly starting to pound. Each time he heard the word "death," he felt anxious.

"One reason for this is that the trial is not conducted in the outside world, but in the world beneath our feet...." Though she spoke quietly, her words struck Yan Xiaobao like lightning.

"Beneath our feet?" Yan Xiaobao was astonished, looking down at the ground. Just for a moment, he understood her meaning, his eyes widened, and he gasped.

Song Junwan smiled at his reaction. "When you first arrived at the Blood Flow Sect, you noticed how the sect itself resembled a giant hand, didn't you?"

"The Blood Flow Sect is actually built on top of a giant hand. That hand belongs to a giant submerged below the surface of the Heavenly Bay River. Over the years, after studying the hand, various 'Flow Sect' techniques were created.

"We also call the giant our Blood Ancestor!" An enthusiastic, worshipful gleam appeared in Song Junwan's eyes, as if the topic she was discussing was the most important thing in the world. She was not the only one to view the subject in this manner. In fact, everyone in the Blood Flow Sect did.

Chapter 1402 - Fire Punishment Trial (2)

Yan Xiaobao blinked, but did not respond.

"The Blood Ancestor is a giant, but like us, he possesses flesh, bones, five Yin organs and six Yang organs...."

"Anyone who wants to become a Blood Master must obtain approval from the Blood Ancestor. This recognition comes in the form of crystals that grow within the organs of the Blood Ancestor. At the Bloodline Master Temple on Middle Peak, there's an entrance leading into the peak itself. By tracing the veins within the fingers, we can enter the body of the Blood Ancestor.

"Each peak corresponds to one of the five Yin organs, and the Middle Peak is connected to the heart. The crystal there is the goal. The first to obtain the crystal receives the recognition of the Middle Peak and can harness the Qi and blood power of the entire peak. They will have the ability to suppress the

cultivation bases of all cultivators there and, even more impressively, enhance the fighting capabilities of all cultivators! That is a Bloodline Master!"

Yan Xiaobao took a deep breath. What he learned was more shocking than ever before. Although he had some understanding of the Bloodline Master, he realized how truly exalted their position was.

The difference between peaks with bloodline and peaks without is so immense it defies description!

"I've heard a story...." Yan Xiaobao said.

"Are you talking about the legend of the Blood Demon?" Song Junwan asked with a smile. Yan Xiaobao nodded.

"This legend originated from conclusions drawn by generations of Clan Leaders. They all believe that somewhere within the body of the Blood Ancestor lies a legacy crystal!

"The person who obtains this legacy will not become a bloodline holder but a Bloody Devil, a position far above that of a bloodline holder. In fact, that status is even above that of the Clan Leader. Because the Blood Flow Sect practices the cultivation of spirits through blood, if a Blood Demon were to appear, it's speculated that their mere thought could diminish the cultivation bases of the entire sect by fifty percent, from outer sect disciples to the Clan Leader!

"Simultaneously, their single thought could increase the combat abilities of the entire sect by 30%! Simply calling such a person 'Blood Demon' is insufficient, hence there exists another term, known only to a few in this domain. In fact, only the Clan Leader of the highest family of the sect is aware of this.

"The Lord of Blood!" she whispered the words, yet they seemed to carry immense power.

"But it's just a legend. A legend. Over the years, generations of Clan Leaders have searched the remains of the Blood Ancestor. Despite searching most places, they haven't found any inheritance.

"I hope that one day, in my lifetime, I can witness the resurrection of the Blood Demon Lord. Even the Clan Leader knows that once the Blood Demon Lord comes, it will either elevate the Blood Flow Sect to

unforeseen glory or drag it into ruin.... Therefore, some Clan Leaders hope the Blood Demon Lord never comes, as for my Song Clan Patriarch, he is not among that group."

Song Junwan chuckled. "But enough about the legend. Let's talk about the fire punishment itself.

"Your main purpose is to help me obtain the crystal. The most crucial factors leading to this are combat capabilities and speed. You must protect me along with other Dharma Protectors and help me defeat Xue Mei within the heart!

"As long as I can enter the heart chamber first, the crystal is mine!" Song Junwan's eyes were filled with confidence.

"How many Dharma Protectors will be there?" Yan Xiaobao asked.

"Xue Mei and I can each bring twenty Dharma Protectors." Song Junwan calmly replied.

"That many!?" Yan Xiaobao said, a bit shocked. "What if one of those Dharma Protectors enters the heart chamber before you?"

In theory, any Dharma Protector could become a Bloodline Master. All they need to do is enter the heart chamber first, extract the crystal, and then absorb it."

Yan Xiaobao blinked. If what Song Junwan said was true, how could she prevent this from happening? It was presumed that aside from being meticulous in choosing which Dharma Protectors to bring, she had some method of maintaining control.

Song Junwan chuckled softly but didn't provide further details. As Yan Xiaobao suspected, both she and Xue Mei had methods of maintaining control, given special command badges by their respective Clan Leaders.

In fact, only those with command badges could enter the heart chamber.

After pondering for a moment, Yan Xiaobao gritted his teeth and looked down at the ground. He was not interested in striving for the title of Bloodline Master. After all, he wasn't even a true disciple of the Blood Flow Sect.

He merely wanted to enter the Great Elder's Immortal Cave. Thus, he needed to help Song Junwan become a Bloodline Master to be accepted as an elder, which would perfectly resolve all issues.

Yan Xiaobao had been in the Bloodline Sect for many years now, and finally, his goal was within reach!

He raised his head and said, "Tomorrow morning, I will be at the Bloodline Master Hall!"

Song Junwan took a deep breath and looked at Yan Xiaobao, her eyes shining brightly. She covered a smile, stepped forward, then leaned in, speaking into his ear, with her lips nearly touching him, warm breath brushing his face.

"If you grow up, many things might happen between us...."

Suddenly, her face flushed, as if she didn't know why she had said that. With a final look at Yan Xiaobao, she slipped away. "The temptress moves again!" The fragrant, silky aroma entered Yan Xiaobao's nose, creating a mysterious feeling. He watched Song Junwan leave, his heart anxious and deeply guarded.

Chapter 1403 - Fire Punishment Trial (Part 3)

"This won't work," he sighed. "One of them, this shrew will be killed. I may have incredible perseverance, I may be an outstanding warrior, I may possess countless remarkable qualities, but this shrew is too dangerous." After spending some time calming himself down, he sighed again.

"Ah, whatever. Once I obtain the eternal, unbreakable relic, I'll return to the Spirit Creek Sect, and then everything will be fine. Besides, I've been missing Xiao Mei lately." He sat cross-legged, contemplating until the next morning. Then, his eyes suddenly opened. His cultivation base was at its peak, and as he emerged from the Immortal's cave, he was filled with vigor.

"Everything comes down to this!" Chin persevered, proudly moving forward. Like him, many cultivators saw him and respectfully lowered their heads. This was his first time publicly appearing with his blood battle robe, which was sent from Little Swamp Peak a few days ago.

Only Bloody Elders can wear blood battle robes, which have built-in Magic Devices to resist attacks from Rock Core Formation Experts. These robes can only be produced at great cost.

Nightcrypt's handsome face matched perfectly with the blood battle robe, creating an impressive sight. Many people looked on with faces of awe and reverence.

Yan Xiaobao enjoyed being treated this way, even slowing down as he flew through the air and pointed upwards. Eventually, he landed in front of the Bloodline Master Temple, where a large crowd had already gathered.

Song Junwan and Xue Mei's gangs were clearly separated, and the two women glared coldly at each other. Xue Mei had 20 cultivators supporting her, all of whom were distinguished late-stage Foundation Establishment Experts. Their expressions were calm but exuded a strong murderous aura.

Not everyone was considered chosen, but they were all practiced killers, even renowned outside the sect. The reason such people became protectors of the Dharma to Xue Mei was actually related to the fact that her father was the Infinite Sect Leader.

Behind Song Junwan was a powerful team, including Song. Most were direct bloodline members of the Song Family.

Like many other ordinary cultivators, all the Bloody Elders of Middle Peak were gathered. Once the trial begins, they will all wait for the new Bloodline Master to emerge.

Several indistinct figures could be seen floating above, and from their pressure, it was obvious they were the clan leaders of the Sect.

Among them were four, and during the grand Witch Demon summoning ceremony, Yan Xiaobao had only seen two before. The other two were more familiar: the Song Family Patriarch and the Infinite Clan Leader.

When Yan Xiaobao arrived, the Song Family Patriarch saw him and gave him a glare. Yan Xiaobao trembled, lowered his head, and walked towards Song Junwan.

As he did so, Song Qu looked at him and sneered coldly. "You're not doing it right, are you? You even managed to be late for the trial opening. If you're afraid of dying, why not just stay home!"

Yan Xiaobao yawned, looking up and making sure to slowly drag his eyes over Song Qu's recently regrown hair and eyebrows. "Naughty as always, aren't we, Quill?"

"You!" Song Qu gritted his teeth. Song Junwan glared at Yan Xiaobao, about to say more, but Song Junwan sneezed coldly.

"Enough!" she said. "Both of you, shut your mouths. If you want to argue, I will personally arrange for it after the Fire Punishment Trial!"

Yan Xiaobao blinked. Considering the current mood was somewhat oppressive, he decided not to say anything else.

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Chapter 1404 - Infinite Sect Master

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In mid-air, the Song Clan Patriarch exchanged a bewildered glance with the Infinite Sect Master. Then, the Infinite Sect Master looked at the crowd and said, "Let us commence the trial for the position of Middle Peak Bloodline Master... begin!"

The Ancestor Wu Jixian then made a spell gesture with his right hand, and waved his fingers towards the Bloodline Temple.

The Bloodline Master Temple began to rumble continuously, and then a massive fissure opened on the plaza outside the temple. Intense qi and blood surged forth, accompanied by a pulsating cold and dazzling blood-colored light. It almost seemed like a gaping mouth ready to consume anything nearby.

However, upon closer inspection, one could see that the blood-colored light was no ordinary light. It was possible to see alternate worlds within this light. Clearly, if you stepped into it, you would be drawn into one of those bloody worlds.

As soon as the fissure opened, one of Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors walked forward, his cold eyes radiating killer intent. After sneering at the people gathered behind Song Junwan, he stepped into the fissure and disappeared.

All of Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors stepped forward one by one into the fissure. Xue Mei was the last to enter, casting a cold glance at Song Junwan and her team before disappearing.

As the others stepped into the fissure, Song Junwan lowered her voice and gave her Guardians more information about the "Endless Blood World."

"The first stage of the Bloodline Master's trial by fire is called the 'Endless Blood World'!

"Xue Mei and I will not be able to pass the first stage. It's only suitable for you Dharma Protectors.

"The body of the Blood Ancestor is not a place just anyone can enter. The first stage tests the qualifications of the Dharma Protectors chosen by us two. It will also determine exactly how many Dharma Protectors can enter the second stage!

"To enter the Blood Ancestor's body, you must become one with him. Although he is dead, certain aspects of him still possess life force. You must convince the life force within the Blood Ancestor that you are one of them. Only then can you avoid being expelled."

"Within this fissure are countless worlds, each of which can only be entered by two people at a time. Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors have already proactively chosen the worlds they wish to enter. For everyone else, when you enter the fissure, you will automatically be dragged into one of those worlds alongside them!

"Once inside, you and another Dharma Protector will compete for the world's recognition. Those who succeed will be able to enter the second stage. Those who fail will be expelled. You must not only be wary of Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors, but also be cautious of the blood beasts within the worlds. They are not intelligent, but they are entirely bloodthirsty!

"I will be waiting for you at the entrance to the second stage!" She clasped her hands tightly and bowed to the gathered crowd. Song Qu nodded to her, his expression melancholic. Then he looked at Nightcrypt, snorted coldly, and strode towards the fissure. Moments later, he disappeared, and others began to enter. "I will be waiting for you at the entrance to the second stage!" She clasped her hands tightly and bowed to the gathered crowd. Song Qu nodded to her, his expression melancholic. Then he looked at Nightcrypt, snorted coldly, and strode towards the fissure. Moments later, he disappeared, and others began to enter.

After a brief hesitation, Yan Xiaobao gritted his teeth and leapt into the fissure.

Almost instantly, a beam of blood-red light swept over him, and he felt an immense power tugging at him. As he was drawn by the light, he completely lost control of his own body.

Although the light might not seem impressive externally, once it wrapped around him, it felt as if he were floating in the sea. As he was drawn in, he moved towards the end of the sea, where he saw a giant Blood Ball.

There were other realms, all with people floating towards them. As people approached the spheres, they were consumed.

Yan Xiaobao was very afraid, averting his gaze from all the realms. But right at that moment, something strange happened. All the Blood Balls suddenly trembled, emitting more blood-colored light, all of which focused on Yan Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao couldn't be certain, but it seemed the bloodlines all desired to select him in particular.

There were even some Blood Balls that were empty, not chosen by any of Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors, yet they were trembling as if in anticipation.

Yan Xiaobao felt increasingly nervous, but before he could react, the first Blood Ball that reached out to him seemed to go mad. Before he approached it, it actually flew towards him, then slammed into him, seemingly delighted.

Yan Xiaobao's vision darkened, and he was sucked into the sphere. As things started to clear up, he found himself in a strange world.

The sky was the color of blood, the ground was the color of blood, everything was the color of blood, even the mountains and plants.

"This is too strange." He looked around warily. The more he thought about what had happened, the stranger it seemed. After some thought, he believed it must have something to do with his "eternal life."

"Could it be that I am like God in this place, which is why all the Blood Balls seemed to go mad?" His eyes shifted, and he cleared his throat. Then he abandoned his feelings and confirmed that he could sense the presence of a powerful will, a will seemingly filled with desire, calling out to him.

"One of Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors is also here. I need to be careful. They are all in the latter stages established by the Foundation." He looked around again, staying vigilant as he flew into the sky.

Chapter 1405 - Infinite Sect Master (Part 2)

As he flew further, everything seemed increasingly unfamiliar. It almost felt like he didn't need to use any cultivation base power to fly. The wind carried him away.

He hadn't seen any blood beasts, to the point where he started to wonder if they even existed here. The entire world, including the sky and land, was the color of blood. Plants, trees, mountains; everything seen by the naked eye was deep red.

In the distance was a blood-colored desert, at the end of which lay an oasis, also the color of blood, leading to the ocean.

In the middle of that ocean stood a mountain, its peak piercing through the clouds.

That mountain was the origin of the World Will; whichever cultivator climbed it first would earn the world's recognition and blessing. After gaining the approval of the Blood Ancestor, that person could leave and qualify for the second stage.

Inside the Blood Ancestor, there were countless worlds, but Xue Mei and Song Junwan each brought twenty Dharma Protectors. In the end, out of the forty Dharma Protectors, only twenty qualified to proceed.

Clearly, the number of Dharma Protectors ultimately attained by Xue Mei and Song Junwan would decide who would have the advantage in the second stage.

Xue Mei's Dharma Protector first entered the gap, and the person who chose this particular world was a cold-faced middle-aged man, eyes icy. His cultivation base fluctuations were those from the early days of Foundation Establishment; overall, he resembled a serpent, poised to strike at any moment. Clearly, anyone who appeared within his line of sight might face death.

This person was Jia Lie, who, concerning combat prowess, ranked among the top three in Xue Mei's Dharma Protector group. He could completely outmatch Song Junwan's Dharma Protector, except for one or two.

Though he appeared middle-aged, he was actually over a hundred years old. However, due to a unique technique he employed, his physique reached its peak. Additionally, during his Foundation Establishment interrogation, he managed to extend his lifespan by 60 years. He had reached five tides, possessed an incredibly formidable cultivation base, and was an adept assassin.

"To me, this world is like a paradise!" he thought, gazing into the distance. He was currently clutching a blood-colored sea serpent with his head. No matter how it struggled, it couldn't free itself, and if Jia Lie wished, he could crush it instantly.

Jia Lie looked at the towering mountain not far away, completely ignoring the snake. He was already somewhat pleased with the first trial of the Blood Master's test. Although he had just arrived in this vast world, he was relatively close to the World Will's location.

In his eyes were reflections of a vast ocean and towering mountains, and pulse waves emanated from the mountains.

"Even if Song Junwan's Dharma Protector is lucky, he can't get as close as I can. I should seize the World Will now. I wouldn't even need to kill other Dharma Protectors. Who knows, it might be Nightcrypt...?"

he chuckled coldly. Originally, he had planned to kill Song Junwan's Dharma Protector and then gain recognition from the World Will. But now it seemed unnecessary.

He moved in a trance, advancing rapidly into the mist-covered mountains over the bloodstained ocean. He acted cautiously, hence wasn't surprised when a strong rumbling sound shook the area. Moments later, a gigantic blood-colored Giant Dragon flew out from the other side of the mountain, focused its gaze on Jia Lie, and quickly swooped toward him.

It was over 30 meters long and radiated an aura of murder.

Jia Lie felt an intense sense of crisis, beads of sweat forming on his forehead. He opened his eyes wide, "Impossible! How could such a blood beast exist in this place? Foundation Establishment cultivators can't contend with such a creature!!!"

Even though he was astonished, more roars rang out as more blood beast auras exploded near the mountain. Like a strong gust, they churned the blood ocean, revealing its sight. Moments later, innumerable murderous eyes appeared beneath the water's surface. There were too many; anyone witnessing them would be shocked.

Before Jia Lie could progress further, the blood beasts beneath the water, along with those on the mountain, attacked him.

The sheer number of beasts Jia Lie witnessed made his scalp tingle in shock and fear. He dared not proceed, actually stepping back. After retreating about 3,000 meters, the giant dragon slowly turned around, the other blood beast auras gradually fading, and even the creatures beneath the surface disappeared.

Jia Lie's face was drenched in sweat, his breath tore through his pants. Although he was incredibly confident in his cultivation base, facing so many blood beasts intimidated him. After a while, he anxiously furrowed his brow.

"There's so many blood beasts here, advancing won't be easy. I suppose I just need to wait for the right opportunity to present itself before proceeding...." Gritting his teeth, he braced himself and found a hiding place to let time pass.

Over the next seven days, he witnessed several blood beasts come and go. Finally, killing intent erupted in his eyes.

"Enough. Things won't change quickly. Rather than waiting, I'll find Song Junwan's Dharma Protector and kill him. Then, I'll have plenty of time to wait. Perhaps, if lucky, my opponent will be Nightcrypt, and I can rid of him now to conserve some energy!" He chuckled coldly, staring at the blood behind him.

As a skilled assassin, he was naturally also a proficient hunter. He possessed keen insight; although the world he was in was vast, he believed that given his cultivation base, finding other Dharma Protectors wouldn't be difficult.

He rose in a trance and began his search.

However, before he had gone far, the sea below boiled, and enormous blood beasts erupted from the depths. It had the torso of a human and the tail of a fish; once it appeared, it launched a bloodthirsty attack on Jia Lie.

After a brief battle, Jia Lie killed the beast and continued onward. Yet, he hadn't gone far before two more beasts emerged from the water to attack him.

Meanwhile, Yan Xiaobao flew through the air, marveling at how strange and tranquil the world was. Despite having flown for days, he hadn't encountered a single beast. Everything around him seemed empty.

He didn't even need to use his cultivation base. The wind pushed him along. Certainly, the bizarre situation made him more vigilant than ever.

He thought: "This place is really peculiar. Where are Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors? I wonder if he has laid an ambush for me since first arriving here." Remaining alert, he continued forward. Eventually, he reached the desert.

By then, Jia Lie was being chased by thousands of frenzied blood beasts, racing across the terrifying blood ocean to escape. His face was pale, his expression frightened.

"Damn it! Why are there so many blood beasts? I haven't provoked them, yet they appear one after another! They are like a flood!!"

Soon, the tenth day passed. With the time lengthening, Yan Xiaobao increasingly felt as if something strange was occurring. He hadn't even seen a trace of bloodshed, yet clearly remembered Song Junwan saying there were bloodthirsty creatures here. At this point, he began to doubt what was truly happening.

Eventually, he saw the desert's end, where the blood-colored oasis and blood-colored ocean lay. His surprise and caution heightened.

Now, Jia Lie's hair was disheveled, his skin waxy yellow, his eyes bloodshot. Ultimately, he dashed out of the ocean into the oasis. After numerous dangerous encounters, he had survived.

Reflecting on what had happened in the ocean filled him with awe and fear for the surrounding world.

"Having all these life-saving magics and items is fortunate, otherwise I might have perished. However, if things are so challenging for me, then Song Junwan's Dharma Protector might face similar difficulties. In fact, he might have been swallowed by blood beasts already." He glanced back at the ocean, still overwhelmed with fear. Just as he was about to sit down to rest, his heart trembled, and he looked up to see a beam of light lazily flying past.

"Hmm?" Cold light flickered across Jia Lie's eyes, and he swiftly controlled his cultivation base. Simultaneously, he produced a pearl, emanating soft, warm light, completely concealing his aura.

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Chapter 1406 - Pleasing the Ancestors

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Unless he suddenly unleashed the power of his cultivation base, that pearl would almost make him unnoticeable. It was one of the life-saving items that allowed him to survive the sea of blood. After activating it, he stood there motionless, gazing up at the sky.

"Nightcrypt? Hahaha! It's really him!" His eyes filled with murderous intent as he began to chuckle. Though Nightcrypt was very famous, Jia Lie had nothing but contempt for him. "So what if you can concoct some pills to please the Ancestor? Do you really think you're the chosen one? Even if your Reverse Blood Ancestor awakens, you can only be in the mid-stage of the Mortal-Dao Foundation. I could kill you as easily as flipping my hand. By taking you down, I can complete the task assigned to me by the Bloodline Master of Little Swamp Peak!"

He was completely calm and confident, unleashing his fierce aura, deciding to wait for the right moment to strike.

Yan Xiaobao cautiously moved forward. His steps weren't too fast, and his divine sense spread out in all directions. As he approached the blood-colored oasis, he was about to fly across it when he looked down. Although he didn't open his third eye, his intuition told him there was danger here. Without hesitation, he backed off.

"Huh?" Jia Li was surprised that Nightcrypt had such sharp senses. He sneered. Considering how powerful his cultivation base was, he decided there was no longer any need to hide. He leaped into the air and shot directly at Nightcrypt, his fierce aura exploding around him.

"Nightcrypt, my name is Jia Lie, and you're dead!" he shouted with a loud laugh, accompanied by the rumbling of thunder. His right hand flashed with a spell's incantation, and as he waved his fingers, a giant scarlet hand appeared, flying directly toward Yan Xiaobao. Yan Xiaobao's eyes widened. Jia Lie had previously stood out among the Dharma Protectors of Xue Mei, so he recognized him. His attack was explosive, and it took Yan Xiaobao a moment to realize he was a formidable opponent.

"Your cultivation base is higher than mine, yet you lie here in ambush for me!?" he shouted. "How shameless! Despicable! I hate your type!" Yan Xiaobao was very angry, prepared to launch an attack, when suddenly his eyes widened in disbelief. Jia Lie was equally shocked by what happened next.

Just as the words left Yan Xiaobao's mouth, Jia Lie burst out laughing and shot his blood-red hand forward.

But then, without any warning, a deafening boom echoed, and a lightning bolt as thick as a barrel struck down. Before Jia Lie could even react, it crashed into him fiercely.

With a resounding boom, Bai Xiaochun's jaw dropped. Jia Lie screamed, and the scarlet hand was destroyed. Before Yan Xiaobao could do anything, a second lightning bolt appeared, followed by a third and fourth, all shooting directly at Jia Lie.

The lightning bolts struck Jia Lie, causing him to scream at the top of his lungs, blood spraying from his mouth. At the same time, his face showed utter disbelief.

"What happened!?!?" he roared, backing up as quickly as he could. "What is this divine ability, Nightcrypt!?!?" Then he looked up at the sky, and when he realized a whole stream of lightning bolts was appearing, numbering over a hundred, his scalp almost exploded from shock. They all began to descend on him.

"No!!" Jia Lie screamed in pain, abandoning the idea of entangling with Yan Xiaobao. He patted the top of his head, causing an ancient, shabby coat hook to pop out of his mouth, providing some protection as he fled.

However, the hundred-plus lightning bolts continued to strike, and although the hook managed to block them, Jia Lie was still left coughing blood. The last dozen or so bolts were too much for the shield to handle, and the shield was shattered. Coughing blood, Jia Lie visibly withered. At that point, he pulled out a paper Amulet and ignited it, greatly increasing his speed. Just like that, he sped off into the distance.

Yan Xiaobao hovered in place, jaw hanging. He didn't even have the chance to launch an attack. He just wanted to say something.

It was an utterly shocking and unfathomable scene. The moment Jia Lie closed in on him, he was struck by over a hundred lightning bolts and then fled with his tail between his legs. Despite this, Yan Xiaobao chose to act cautiously, simply letting him escape.

Taking a deep breath, he looked up at the sky, then watched Jia Lie flee into the distance. In the blink of an eye, he suddenly started to feel excited.

"Could it be... could my cultivation base have already reached the level where I can kill someone with just a word?!?" As he realized this was unlikely. After some thought, he suspected this was either a

coincidence or related to the Eternal Immortal Everlasting Technique. In fact, he actually hoped Jia Lie would appear again so he could analyze the matter further.

Filled with curiosity and anticipation, he slowly flew across the sea of blood.

Meanwhile, some distance away from Yan Xiaobao, Jia Lie finally stopped in a place near the sea. Blood trickled from his chin, his eyes wild. Yet amidst that madness was fear, even terror. From this moment on, he was entirely convinced the lightning that struck him was not one of Nightcrypt's divine abilities.

"How did he do it? Damn it! How did he do it? How did he get so much lightning to strike me?!"

"Wait, I know. Nightcrypt is also known as Plaguedevil. He is a cruel and ruthless schemer. He must have realized I was planning to ambush him and then figured out a way for anyone nearby to be struck by lightning!" Even after more thinking, he still considered this the only meaningful theory. Although he wasn't absolutely certain, he struggled to come up with other ideas.

Chapter 1407 - Pleasing the Ancestor_2

"Perhaps it's related to the oasis. There are some unstable fluctuations in the regions bordering the desert. Maybe my sudden appearance and the release of my cultivation base disturbed certain natural laws. As a pharmacist, Nightcrypt knows more about these things than I do. Jia Lie clenched his teeth, his intent to kill growing stronger than ever before.

"I refuse to believe that if I prepare well enough, you will escape the next attack. I will cut you down! Jia Lie had never suffered such unfortunate misery, and it took him a long time to calm down.

"I will sacrifice a bit of my cultivation base to completely conceal my life force and aura. With this stealth, no one in the Foundation Establishment phase can detect me within a range of less than 300 meters!" He gritted his teeth, his face suddenly flushed, and his body withered. Then he began stealthily moving forward.

It took him about three days to find Yan Xiaobao sailing on the sea. As he flew, his path stirred gentle waves, yet not a Blood Beast was in sight. Yan Xiaobao was actually very interested in the appearance of the Blood Beasts, but still hadn't had the chance to see them.

As he flew back and forth, his mind numbed, he suddenly noticed the ripples in the air twisting 300 meters to the left. Even as he turned, he saw Jia Lie suddenly materialize.

Jia Lie lowered his head and laughed maniacally. His eyes were bloodshot as he summoned a blood mist that completely covered him, then transformed into a massive ferocious head, lunging toward Yan Xiaobao as if to devour him.

"Now die, Nightcrypt!!" Considering how close he was, it took only a moment for the blood mist head to reach Yan Xiaobao.

Before Yan Xiaobao could react, before the blood mist head could truly reach him, a vibrant light flashed between heaven and earth, the wind howled, and torrents of rain began pouring down. Then, a storm of indescribable magnitude appeared suddenly before Yan Xiaobao!

The winds even caused the sea to rise in a startling manner. It crashed into the blood mist head, which quivered before exploding, revealing the screaming Jia Lie.

"Impossible! Nightcrypt, how are you doing this?"

As the tempest blew him away, shredding his clothing, tearing his skin until the blood flowed, he was utterly helpless. At that critical moment, Jia Lie pulled out a life-saving magic item, teleporting away before he could be torn to pieces.

Yan Xiaobao took a deep breath. Moments ago, he was only 60 meters away from Jia Lie, but the storm and the surging sea hadn't even ruffled his hair.

The 60-meter distance felt like a chasm between heaven and earth.

Yan Xiaobao watched silently as Jia Lie was driven away in such a dreadful manner. If he didn't understand the situation at this point, he wouldn't be Yan Xiaobao.

"Is this world protecting me? Have we formed a bond through the eternal techniques of immortality, so it helps me?" Touched, he looked around, more convinced than ever of this. Excited, he raised his chin, then flicked his sleeve.

"With just a flick of my finger, I, Yan Xiaobao, can turn a mere Foundation Establishment cultivator to ashes!"

His pride shielded him from tension. Just like that, he flew swiftly into the sky, emotionally exhaling. Meanwhile, in the distance, Jia Lie was coughing. By this point, he was nearly insane.

"Damn it, damn it, damn it!!" He trembled to the point of shivering, unable to accept this situation at all.

"First the lightning, then the wind. What exactly has Nightcrypt done? Don't tell me this world is actually taking care of him? I refuse to believe! I refuse to accept!" Then he coughed up another mouthful of blood. His eyes were completely bloodshot as he looked down at his injured and battered body, relieved to see his bag still tightly clutched in his right hand.

He donned a new set of clothes, his intent to kill surging. His hatred for Yan Xiaobao had reached a point where he couldn't bear to share the same sky with him. He gritted his teeth and pulled a small statue from the bag.

The statue depicted a wicked ghost, its appearance utterly malevolent. After a moment of hesitation, Jia Lie bit the tip of his tongue and spat some blood onto the statue. The statue immediately melted, turning into a black liquid before transforming into a magical symbol that flew up and adhered to Jia Lie's forehead.

Jia Lie trembled, then the magical symbol spread out from his forehead, emitting an ear-piercing scream and turning into black armor. In the blink of an eye, the armor covered his entire body, healing his wounds, causing his form to suddenly ripple with muscle. On closer inspection, this transformation was partially tangible and partially illusory.

The Bloodline Master at Little Swamp Peak gave me this Ghost Corpse. It will temporarily restore my cultivation base and even enhance it a bit! Nightcrypt's strange abilities are of no use against the ghost body. I've understood his lightning, and while I haven't truly heard that wind, I can now attack him from underwater! Besides, the ghost body can ride the wind!

"Nightcrypt, I refuse to believe this world is taking care of you. Even if it is, I can defy the heavens and kill you!" He gritted his teeth, reigning over his cultivation base, then plunged into the water, heading towards the sea with utmost speed. Three days later, Yan Xiaobao was still flying over the bloody sea. He could sense that, in the distance, there were strange fluctuations, clearly emanating from the World Will's positioning.

"I wonder why Jia Lie hasn't shown up in the past few days?" Yan Xiaobao actually missed him. Every time he appeared, there was an opportunity to see how the world would protect him.

Due to his anticipation, he made sure to fly much slower than usual. On the third night, as the blood-red sky began to darken, the sea below Yan Xiaobao suddenly erupted with a startling aura. Massive amounts of water surged into the sky, accompanied by overwhelming killing intent and intense howling.

"Prepare to die, Nightcrypt!!" The voice was filled with indescribable hatred, followed by a figure in black armor. It was Jia Lie, seeming to flicker between being tangible and illusory. As he shot up from the water, he swiftly increased his speed, heading straight for Yan Xiaobao.

All the power of Jia Lie's later stage Foundation Establishment cultivation base exploded. Combined with the boost provided by the Ghost armor, it brought him incomparably close to the grand circle of Foundation Establishment, exerting enormous pressure that radiated in all directions.

Yan Xiaobao was overjoyed, and as Jia Lie closed his mouth, he raised his chin and waved his sleeve. He pointed at Jia Lie and said, "Retreat!"

Seeing Yan Xiaobao pose in such a manner only infuriated Jia Lie further, causing him to charge even faster. By this point, he was about 9 meters away from Yan Xiaobao, too close for even lightning to stop quickly. In his mind, Nightcrypt was as good as dead, without a doubt.

His mouth twisted into a vicious smile, and he cried out, "I will die-"

However, before he could finish the sentence, a blood-red hand suddenly shot up from the sea below. It moved with incredible agility, forming a palm that slapped at Jia Lie like a mosquito.

A hoarse crackling sound could be heard. Jia Lie's black armor shattered, and blood spurted from his mouth. His screams of agony would shake anyone who heard them.

"No!!" The desperate Jia Lie coughed up a mouthful of blood as he fell. His body was already close to exploding, and the cultivation base power he'd recently regained was immediately shattered. He was now weaker than ever before...

As the giant blood hand sank back into the water, Yan Xiaobao breathed heavily, blinking. With Jia Lie flown away, Yan Xiaobao's expression turned to one of admiration.

"You are really persistent, aren't you?" he sighed, continuing to move forward, looking forward to Jia Lie's next appearance.

In the distance, Jia Lie hovered above the ocean waves, a dazed expression on his face, helpless tears welling up in his eyes. Throughout all his cultivation journey, he had always been blooded, never tearful. However, here he was, shedding tears.

In his view, this world was utterly evil. He only wanted to kill Nightcrypt! As a result, he had been struck by lightning, battered by wind, and then slapped by some terrifying Blood Beast.

By now, he began to think that leaving this place alive would be a miracle.

"My cultivation base is higher than his! I've been in the Blood Flow Sect longer! Why is this world treating me like this!?" Tears continued to stream down his cheeks. From the moment he entered this world, he felt as if he was trapped in a nightmare.

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Chapter 1408 - This Isn't Fair

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At this point, he felt a complete and utter fear of Nightcrypt, and nobody could persuade him to try to provoke him. Besides, he completely despised the Bloodline Master of Little Swamp Peak and Xue Mei. The only reason he was here was because of Xue Mei. Otherwise, he would never have tangled with

Nightcrypt, nor would he have accepted the mission from the Bloodline Master of Little Swamp Peak. He wouldn't have attempted to kill Nightcrypt so many times, nor aimed at the world around him and fallen into this state.

"This isn't fair!" Jia Lie was actually quite close to the peak and the will of the world. However, there were too many beasts on the mountain, and he clearly had no hope of getting near it.

When Jia Lie felt despair, Yan Xiaobao casually flew around at some distance. Looking at the peak in front of him, he felt a strong sensation that all he had to do was rush to the summit, and he would be able to pass through the trial by fire of the first stage.

However, even if he shut the door, the same enormous dragon stretched its head from the summit, staring at Yan Xiaobao. At the same time, countless terrifying auras surged from the mountain, locking onto Yan Xiaobao. Clearly, if he got closer, all these Blood Beasts would take action.

Yan Xiaobao stopped in his tracks. Earlier, he had only glimpsed that giant hand, but now, seeing these beasts face to face, he realized they looked very much like the beasts you would see in the outside world. The only difference was that they were entirely the color of blood. In fact, they seemed to share some resemblance with infants in some aspects.

Unexpectedly, these beasts looked at Yan Xiaobao with hostility, which made the desperate Jia Lie suddenly ecstatic. Panting, his eyes widened, shining with hope.

"He can't go up the mountain either!!" Jia Lie exclaimed excitedly. Finally, his chance had come. He quickly concealed his aura, focused on Yan Xiaobao, and began searching for another opportunity to seize victory.

Looking at the mountain full of Blood Beasts, Yan Xiaobao felt a headache. After hesitating for a moment, he decided the best course of action was to test how much protection the world would offer him. Having made his choice, he cautiously moved forward. If the Blood Beasts reacted too aggressively, then he could always retreat.

He slowly got closer until he actually set foot on the peak. That was when he really started to get nervous. But as he realized the Blood Beasts were merely watching him, his nervousness quickly began to subside, as none of them moved to stop his progress.

A feeling of joy rose, and he began to proceed forward, completely unobstructed. Meanwhile, Jia Lie hovered over the sea, wide-eyed in shock.

After a moment, a contemplative expression appeared in his eyes, followed by hesitation, and finally a strong glow.

"I understand! Even though there are many beasts here, as long as you don't emit any murderous intent, these beasts won't interfere. That's definitely how it's done!

"For example, here I am floating on the surface of the ocean, right beside the mountain, but no Blood Beasts from underwater are attacking me. It's obviously because I have no murderous intent!" Jia Lie was still somewhat hesitant and unconvinced. However, if he gave up at this point, his newfound hope would be shattered. Therefore, he clenched his chin and resolutely flew into the air. To ensure no murderous intent, he acted cautiously.

Not long after, he was approaching the mountain, and countless Blood Beasts focused their gaze on him. Jia Lie stopped in his tracks, feeling a tingling scalp and trembling limbs. Yet, he forced a smile onto his face.

"No sickness here!" he said. "I'm just passing by...."

However, just as he opened his mouth, the enormous blood-colored Giant Dragon suddenly roared, flew into the sky, and then charged at Jia Lie. Simultaneously, countless other beasts burst out with vicious auras, flying toward Jia Lie.

Eyes opened in the seawater, and countless blood-colored giants rose from the depths, howling around the surrounded Jia Lie.

Jia Lie let out a blood-curdling scream, tears streaming down his face.

"This isn't fair! You're cheating!!!!" Jia Lie cried, watching as the world around him toyed with him. As the blood surged forward, his screams echoed endlessly.

Yan Xiaobao's heart trembled. The sudden outbreak among the Blood Beasts shocked him so much he almost fled. But then he realized the Blood Beasts were only attacking Jia Lie.

From the start, he was worried about Jia Lie, but after realizing his own importance to the world around him, he stopped focusing on him. However, from this moment on, he began to feel a bit sad.

When he heard Jia Lie accuse him of cheating, he coughed softly but didn't offer any explanation. After all, Jia Lie was actually right.....

Even on the mountain, the Blood Beasts made way for him.

Yan Xiaobao really felt the world treated him well. Glancing back at the bloodthirsty beasts surrounding Jia Lie, he considered throwing down an aphrodisiac.

"Ah, I shouldn't. After all, I'm a good person." With a sigh, he moved toward the summit, where he found a stele emitting a pulsing light, seemingly calling to him.

Chapter 1409 - This Isn't Fair (Part 2)

After some contemplation, he approached the Stele and placed his hand on its surface. In an instant, a sacred feeling seemed to spread from him, filling the entire world.

It was as though the world had somehow become a part of him...

At that moment, the ocean of blood began to see, desert sands floated into the air, the sky trembled, and the land shook. Plants, mountains, everything in the world began to fill with joy, praise, and worship!

As they acknowledged allegiance to Yan Xiaobao standing on the mountain, the Blood Beasts roared.

Jia Lie had survived throughout his life, trembling as he looked up at Yan Xiaobao, knowing he would never forget this experience or the image of Nightcrypt standing there like the Emperor of the world! It was Jia Lie's first time serving as a Dharma Protector during the Fire Punishment Trial for the Bloodline

Master. Therefore, he was completely unaware of what others involved in the trial might have encountered when entering the world.

However, he firmly believed his experience was entirely different from anyone else's. In fact, he had a feeling that from ancient times to the present, in all the Fire Punishment Trials of the Bloody Sect, no one had done what Nightcrypt had done.

He had no way to confirm whether his theory was correct, but as he looked around at the world trembling and pouring all life into the worship of Yan Xiaobao, he impulsively followed.

Yan Xiaobao stood atop the mountain, suddenly overwhelmed by a strange feeling, the thought that he could destroy the entire world.

At this moment, his "immortality technique" was fully engaged, and moments later, he realized there were whispers in his ears.

"Come... come... come..."

Snapped out of his reverie, his eyes were sparkling, and he took a deep breath. Then he pulled his hand away from the Stele. All things in the world began to shine with a bright, bloody aura, which shot toward Yan Xiaobao surrounding him.

The deep red light transformed into a door, opening slowly right in front of him.

He hesitated, glancing at the door, realizing that if he stepped through it, he would be able to enter the second stage. He looked around again, stepped forward, and vanished into the bloody glow.

In some unknown location within the Blood Ancestor, there was an open space seemingly without beginning or end, as quiet as death. Visible were countless cone-shaped pillars rising from the darkness below.

Atop each pillar was a platform.

Two of these platforms stood much higher than the others, yet not far apart. One belonged to Xue Mei, the other to Song Junwan. Both sat cross-legged, gazing at each other.

They had been sitting there for under two hours. Since each of them possessed a Command Medal, they did not need the Blood Ancestor's recognition like the Dharma Protectors. They had directly arrived in this place to wait.

In the Endless Blood World, the way time passed varied. In the two hours that passed for Xue Mei and Song Junwan, an entire month went by.

According to their analysis of these two women, they would need to wait a few more hours before any Dharma Protector might appear. Regardless, until both women used their Command Badges to open the trial, the second stage of the Fire Punishment Trial would not begin. They were unwilling to do so without considering all their Dharma Protectors.

They had been exchanging barbed remarks, and after a short pause, Xue Mei resumed the conversation. She coldly smiled and said, "Song Junwan, considering your age, why compete with me for the Bloodline Master position? Couldn't the Song Family find someone better, forced to let an old woman defend their cause, is that really the case?"

Song Junwan frowned, about to respond suddenly, her expression fluctuated as she looked up at the sky. Xue Mei also lifted her head, her pupils contracting.

As the shape of a massive door slowly formed, rumbling sounds echoed.

"Someone is about to receive the world's acknowledgment!?" Xue Mei thought. "Only two hours! About a month in the Endless Blood World!" Xue Mei's eyes widened, filled with shock. She was very familiar with how the Blood Master Trials conducted through fire worked. Allegedly, the fastest time a Dharma Protector had obtained approval in the past was three hours, inside was one and a half months.

"Who could it be?" Song Junwan pondered, equally shaken. "Who overcame another Dharma Protector in the Endless Blood World, dealt with countless Blood Beasts, and still managed to receive World Will's acknowledgment? For someone to complete the battle this quickly must have been intense!"

Whoever it was, if they ultimately became one of her Dharma Protectors, she would clearly be thrilled. However, if it were one of Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors, it would be a significant obstacle in her attempt to win the Bloodline Master position.

After mentally reviewing all her Dharma Protectors, she couldn't think of anyone capable of achieving such a feat. Hence, her expression began to darken.

However, Xue Mei had the same reaction. When she reviewed her list of Dharma Protectors, she wasn't sure any of them could accomplish that either. Together with Song Junwan, she gazed at the phantasmal door.

A moment later, a blurry figure appeared within the door. It only took the two women a few breaths to realize who it was, and they were both astonished.

"Nightcrypt!!"

"Nightcrypt!!"

Xue Mei's eyes gleamed with killing intent, her heart trembling with shock. She couldn't imagine how Nightcrypt had managed to gain the world's recognition so swiftly.

After the initial shock, Song Junwan's heart swelled with joy, and her beautiful eyes stuck to Yan Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao emerged through the door for the first time, his vision swimming, unable to see clearly. However, this only lasted for a moment, and then he saw the numerous platforms surrounding him, along with Xue Mei and Song Junwan.

"Young brother Nightcrypt, come over," Song Junwan said with a smile. Her voice was filled with gentleness and delight.

Xue Mei coldly snorted, clenched her fists tightly.

Yan Xiaobao blinked and then walked over to Song Junwan. As he landed on the platform, he moved to her side.

"Hmm... am I the first?" he curiously asked.

"You certainly are," Song Junwan laughed. "How did you do it? Who was your opponent?"

To Yan Xiaobao, her smile seemed to merely expose her inner worries. Yet, he did not allow himself to show his true feelings. He raised his chin, clasped his hands behind his back, and tried to look as proud and murderous as possible.

"Oh, it was simple," he said calmly and deeply. "I just walked across the world. As for my opponent, I never asked his name." From his wording and posture, he appeared entirely proud and aloof. Regarding how he referred to the "Endless Blood World" as "simple," both Xue Mei and Song Junwan could envision him summoning his blood sword and striding across the world.

He might have ignored countless aggressive Blood Beasts, perhaps not even bothering to glance at the world around him, as he slaughtered recklessly to gain World Will's acknowledgment.

Before, Song Junwan's eyes shone even brighter when she looked at Yan Xiaobao, and as for Xue Mei, she couldn't help but stare at him. Moments later, both women realized he wasn't injured at all, and their expressions fluctuated.

Just as Song Junwan was about to ask, Yan Xiaobao lightly brushed his sleeve and calmly said, "I'm tired. Let me know when the second stage begins." He stepped aside, sat cross-legged, looking proud like a solitary pine on a mountain top. When he closed his eyes, his cold, cruel face and fierce aura stopped Song Junwan's words in her throat.

Yan Xiaobao laughed inside, feeling extremely proud of himself. To him, he was utterly outstanding, clearly superior to everyone else.

He thought, "Wait, I need to do something to make it look more real." With that, he slowly lifted his head, gazing into the distance, eyes filled with melancholy and introspection.

Though they weren't sure what it precisely meant, Song Junwan and Xue Mei were even more shaken.

Time flew by. Two hours later, the air above began to ripple and twist again, and the door appeared once more. A person who looked burly, dangerous in appearance, seemed to hold their breath as they entered the open space. As soon as Xue Mei saw him, she laughed. The burly man clenched his fists, greeted her with a bow, then stepped onto her platform and sat down beside her. When he saw Yan Xiaobao on another platform, his heart was filled with shock.

He had thought he would be the first to appear and had never imagined Nightcrypt would be quicker.

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Chapter 1410 - Dharma Protectors

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As time passed, more and more Dharma Protectors appeared. Although Song Qu was exhausted, his body was covered in wounds, making him one of the many. Clearly, gaining the World Will's recognition was a challenging task for him.

Ten hours later, the final Dharma Protector emerged, marking the official end of the first stage.

Song Junwan and Xue Mei both carefully selected their Dharma Protectors, and to some extent, they were both quite outstanding. Surprisingly, the match between the two groups was relatively even, as each side now had ten Dharma Protectors.

The two women exchanged a cold glance and then both snorted coldly. As they discussed their Dharma Protectors, they began explaining the second stage.

"In the first stage," Song Junwan began, "you Dharma Protectors fought for the world's recognition, while I did not participate. In the second stage, the battle will be even more brutal, and I will participate!"

"The second stage is called the Blood Desolate Land. It is an endless road where every fourteen hours a deadly wind blows. Once the wind blows, all living creatures in the Bloody Wilderness will be killed, leaving only bones behind.

This is the path to the heart chamber. In short, we have exactly 14 hours to find the keys that lead to the heart chamber in the blood desert!" In the distance, Xue Mei was giving a similar explanation to her Dharma Protectors.

"Every two hours, a key will appear at a random location within the wasteland. Anyone who grabs one of the keys and holds onto it for the full fourteen hours will be transported to the Ancient Blood Path leading to the heart chamber. Of course, Xue Mei and I can enter the Ancient Blood without needing keys.

"There are a total of seven keys, which means only seven Dharma Protectors can enter the Ancient Blood Road with Xue Mei and me!"

Yan Xiaobao's expression flickered, and everyone else's expressions were shifting, except for Song Qu. Among them was a middle-aged cultivator who lowered his voice and asked, "What about those without keys?"

Song Junwan looked at the man for a moment, then replied, "We fight as a team, and whatever party gains the most keys is the winner. Disciples without keys in the winning team will not be transported to the Ancient Blood Path, but they will not be killed either. They will simply be expelled.

"For the losing team, anyone without a key will be killed after fourteen hours! Those are the rules, and not even the Clan Leader can intervene to save the losing ones!

"So, this is not the time for infighting! If a key lands in the hands of one of Xue Mei's Dharma Protectors, feel free to attack them. However, if your own teammate gets one, you are forbidden from competing for it yourself!

"Infighting not only increases our chances of failure but could also lead to your death..."

"Many of you are members of the Song Family, or you've come here because of certain promises I've made. If I become the Bloodline Master, your future prospects will be limitless. Everything I've promised, I will ensure happens. If I lose and Xue Mei succeeds, then we will each meet with a tragic fate!" Song Junwan clenched her fists and bowed deeply to Yan Xiaobao and the other Dharma Protectors. The ten Dharma Protectors, including Yan Xiaobao, reacted differently to Song Junwan's

words. As for Song Qu, his expression darkened slightly, but otherwise, there was no significant change. Given his position in the Song Family, he actually understood the Blood Master trial through fire better than most.

In the end, had he not reached the Heaven Foundation, he would have been the one to lead this trial. However, since he couldn't rival Xue Mei, the Song Family chose Song Junwan to contend for the position of Bloodline Master for generations. Given the situation's development, Song Qu was at a disadvantage among the Song Family's older generation, and the rise of Nightcrypt only added more pressure. Considering that Song Junwan began to favor Nightcrypt, this was especially true. Song Qu had little choice.

The Song Family had deep roots in the Blood Flow Sect and many direct bloodline clan members. Song Qu was the face of this generation's direct bloodline descendants, but that only meant many people hoped to see him fail miserably so they could replace him.

He needed to carve out a path for himself, to go all out to ensure his aunt's success. Only then could he prove his worth. This was also his only hope in the future to eventually become the Bloodline Master his aunt was destined to be.

Suppressing his aversion to Nightcrypt, he was the first to speak after Song Junwan concluded her speech.

"I will do my utmost to achieve victory in the Bloody Wilderness. Absolutely no infighting will occur under my watch, Master Elder rest assured. If anyone dares to create issues, and if they live, and if I live, then I will teach them a life worse than death!" Song Qu's eyes glowed intensely, filled with killing intent.

As for the other Dharma Protectors, they had no choice. In the Blood Flow Sect, cultivators liked to fight amongst themselves. But in this situation, losing meant death for all. Therefore, they must unite as one to defeat their opponents.