

# **I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense**

## **Chapter 36: Chapter 36: Pull Off Another Job**

Splitting the profits, seventy-thirty.

Li Xiaobai instantly turned into a little tycoon.

Spiritual Medicines, Spiritual Artifacts, Elixirs piled up like a mountain inside the Space Ring—these things could easily break ten thousand once exchanged for Spirit Stones after getting out.

By then, he could even enjoy the luxury items in his own mall.

Feeling utterly content as he gathered all the resources, Li Xiaobai patted his bottom ready to depart.

"Junior brother, do you want to make a fortune?"

"Senior brother, please enlighten me!"

Li Xiaobai's eyes gleamed; following his senior brother meant meat on the table.

"There are still quite a few Sect Disciples in the inner area. We can pull one more job—this time, let's cooperate and aim to take them all in one swoop!"

"No problem!"

After preparing himself, Li Xiaobai quickly followed Liu Jinshui's steps upstream along the river.

"Junior brother, how do you usually cultivate? Why is your speed so slow?"

Liu Jinshui looked at Li Xiaobai, who was sweating profusely behind him, and felt puzzled.

"Senior brother, my physical body is quite strong, but in other respects, I'm no different from an ordinary person."

Li Xiaobai felt helpless; the problem with the System was that it added all attributes to defense, without much improvement in speed.

"I see, no worries, senior brother will take you flying!"

Liu Jinshui patted Li Xiaobai's shoulder, and the two of them vanished on the spot.

At the top of a mountain, this used to be the dwelling of a Golden-Winged Roc, but for some unknown reason, the roc was not in its territory.

This location was very conspicuous, perfect for setting up a trap for cultivators.

"Junior brother, we must manifest a miracle here, to fulfill the treasure-seeking dreams of many cultivators," Liu Jinshui sighed.

"Senior brother is wholeheartedly helping cultivators fulfill their dreams. I believe they will one day appreciate your profound intentions," Li Xiaobai replied.

"If everyone had the same comprehension as junior brother, the world could see much less strife."

"Senior brother concerns himself with the lives of all, truly a role model for our fellow cultivators."

Liu Jinshui took out a small Array Plate and placed it on the mountain top. His hands were continuously forming seals and chanting spells. The Array Plate lit up, and luminescent patterns grew intensely bright, forming a huge purple totem that resembled a tree.

As Liu Jinshui kept infusing Spiritual Power into the Array Plate, purple light shot into the heavens, and a towering purple Dried Tree Totem materialized, making quite an impact.

The totem's light was so intense that anyone seeing it would know there had to be treasures here.

"Done, our great work is complete!"

Placing a Treasure Box at the center of the formation, Liu Jinshui let out a long sigh of relief.

"Junior brother, senior brother has offended quite a few people. This time, more than half of the cultivators in the inner area will be attracted here. If senior brother shows up, I might be recognized, so you'll have to act this out," Liu Jinshui said.

"Sixty-forty?"

"Fifty-fifty?"

"Deal!"

Li Xiaobai felt thrilled inside, splitting resources half and half—definitely on his way to becoming a major financier!

Liu Jinshui's face was bitter; his junior brother was too good at exploiting opportunities.

After passing a Rescue Token to Li Xiaobai, Liu Jinshui disappeared into the jungle.

Observing his surroundings, Li Xiaobai felt that the act his senior brother had previously performed by the river wouldn't be suitable anymore.

The treasure box was right at the mountain peak, and you could see it as soon as you climbed up, which diminished its air of mystery quite a bit. The same old trick might not fool the many cultivators.

After some thought, from his Space Ring, he took out about a dozen Demonic Beast inner cores and tossed them into the Formation.

He used a Rescue Token to send a distress signal.

Then, Li Xiaobai found a flat piece of land on the edge of the Formation and lay down, slowly closing his eyes.

In the shadows, hidden among the bushes, Liu Jinshui saw this set of maneuvers and couldn't help but give a thumbs-up in his heart. Damn, the little junior brother surpassed his teacher; this move was more clever than his!

The mountain breeze blew softly, and the peak was serene, with only the giant purple shadow proclaiming the extraordinariness of this place.

About half an hour later,

several figures cautiously appeared at the summit, clearly being very careful.

Unwilling to rush rashly to the peak, they scouted around for a while, and after confirming that there were no dangers on the mountain top, they slowly made their way up.

If Li Xiaobai were to open his eyes at this moment, he would realize that all the faces in front of him were familiar.

The two leading figures were none other than Zhang Rui, the True Disciple of Tianwu Sect whose arm had been cut off, and the black-robed youth from the Holy Demon Sect he had met before.

Following them were quite a few cultivators, Sect Disciples in tow.

Zhang Rui had originally planned to leave the mountains and not get involved in this messy affair.

But he hadn't taken two steps before a nearby mountain peak suddenly exhibited a mystical phenomenon; the huge Purple Dried Tree Totem was clearly the manifestation of a great treasure being born.

This reignited his ambitions, feeling the heavens still favored him.

The black-robed youth had noticed the anomaly here after receiving a distress signal.

"A great treasure has emerged, and the worthy may claim it. I am a True Disciple of Tianwu Sect, and I ask everyone to show some courtesy. My Tianwu Sect will generously repay this favor in the future," Zhang Rui said blandly.

"Tianwu Sect and my Holy Demon Sect have been on good terms for generations. I, your sworn enemy, am willing to grant you this courtesy. Nobody else move!"

The black-robed man said cheerfully, gesturing for Zhang Rui to go ahead with a hand wave.

Zhang Rui looked puzzled. Since when was his sworn enemy so easy to talk to?

But when he saw the dozen or so Demonic Beast inner cores inside the Formation, and Li Xiaobai lying in front of the Formation, his pupils suddenly constricted.

There was something fishy about this Formation!

In his haste, he had not thoroughly observed the surroundings, not expecting to find Li Xiaobai at this place, and even less expecting that even a cultivator as powerful as Li Xiaobai had fallen victim to it.

Shit, he was almost tricked!

Those sneaky bastards from the Holy Demon Sect had put him in an awkward position.

"Hehe, actually, I came to rescue. Getting the treasure is secondary; what's important is saving a life," Zhang Rui said with a chuckle as he approached Li Xiaobai's "corpse."

He crouched slightly and began inspecting Li Xiaobai's injuries.

"It's a pity that even a senior with such mighty cultivation has succumbed to this Formation."

"Hehe, don't worry, senior. Your legacy will be well continued by me. You severed one of my arms, and I'll just take your Space Ring. That's fair, right?"

"Senior's belongings will be put to great use in my hands!"

Zhang Rui muttered to himself, discreetly removing the Space Ring from Li Xiaobai's hand.

The moment he saw Li Xiaobai's "corpse", he abandoned the idea of going for the treasures within the Formation. Li Xiaobai's formidable power was deeply etched in his memory.

Confronted with a Formation that even such cultivation couldn't withstand, he obviously stood no chance.

What he didn't notice, though, was that the finger from which Li Xiaobai's ring was taken twitched imperceptibly...

**Chapter 37: Chapter 37 Xiao Cheng Sect, Yun Mengqing**

Li Xiaobai felt very annoyed at heart, having not expected to run into an old acquaintance in such a place.

What's more, he had not anticipated that Zhang Rui would remain as shameless as ever, actually sneaking away with his own Space Ring.

He definitely had to give the other party a good thrashing later on.

To give him a taste of society's sinister nature!

After taking away Li Xiaobai's Space Ring, Zhang Rui retreated back into the crowd, no longer intending to search for treasures.

The man in the black robe looked at him with contempt.

"Heh, to think that a True Disciple of the Tianwu Sect would do something so disgraceful. I wonder how your elders teach you at home."

Zhang Rui's face alternated between pale and flushed, but he said nothing more. He wanted to see what was so mysterious about this formation.

"Why do I not detect even a hint of danger from this formation?"

"I have the same feeling, this formation seems to be all bark and no bite."

"But if you look closely, among the formation there are more than a dozen inner cores of Demonic Beasts, and that cultivator who sent a distress signal before dying; this is clearly a perilous spot!"

"You've got a point, this formation probably killed many Golden Core Stage Demonic Beasts, it's beyond our capability to decipher."

"Fortune favours the bold. Maybe we'll be lucky too!"

The numerous disciples began to chat and discuss spiritedly.

With the emergence of a magical treasure, it was impossible to assume there'd be no danger; years of cultivating experience told them that no treasure could be easily obtained.

Forget treasures, even picking a Spirit Grass by the mountainside could lead to unimaginable dangers.

Thus, the more peaceful the mountaintop appeared, the more unsettled everyone felt.

There was definitely something wrong with the formation, but the entire group was unable to perceive exactly what the problem was, leaving them somewhat at a loss for a while.

"Is there any fellow Daoist proficient in formations? Let's study this formation together. If we can decipher it successfully, whatever treasure is found, we'll give them thirty percent!" Xiang Tiandi said.

"I'll do it!"

From the crowd, a female cultivator in white emerged.

"It's Yun Mengqing of the Xiao Cheng Sect!"

"I heard that she was brought back from the Western Desert as a child, inherently inheriting Buddhist teachings!"

"Indeed, it is said that this woman is devoted to cultivation, having already severed all mundane thoughts. Seeing her today, it truly seems the case!"

"With her taking action, it should be possible to succeed!"

Astonishment flashed in Xiang Tiandi's eyes. He had not expected an Immortal from the Xiao Cheng Sect to join this mission.

Having the heritage of Xiao Cheng Buddhism and having studied a myriad of texts from a young age, Yun Mengqing was well-versed in various types of knowledge. Maybe she could uncover the key to this formation.

"We are at your service, Yun Immortal."

"It's nothing," Yun Mengqing replied indifferently, stepping towards the formation.

She first examined Li Xiaobai's injury and couldn't help but frown. She observed not the slightest sign of injury on Li Xiaobai; he appeared as if merely asleep.

Could it be a spiritual injury?

Yun Mengqing knew that the most malevolent attacks in the world were not aimed at the body, but struck directly at the Primordial Spirit.

With the sea of consciousness obliterated, all profound Mana was rendered vain.

It seemed she needed to be cautious.

Sitting in meditation, her hands continuously evolved formation patterns in the void, seeking to deduce the essence of the formation before her.

Trails of faint Daoist marks manifested in the void, intertwining incessantly, and under the flow of their Daoist rhyme, everyone present was deeply astounded.

Yun Mengqing, merely at the pinnacle of the Golden Core Stage, had reached such an extent in her comprehension of the natural order of the universe. It was indeed extraordinary, showing early signs of invincibility.

The formation pattern in the void resonated with Yun Mengqing's Dantian, and the grand chanting of the Dao rolled forth, like the whispering of gods and Buddhas.

"This formation does have some tricks," she murmured with a light chuckle.

In her Dantian, a halo of light emerged, and in the void, a golden Buddha Dharma Form materialized, holding scriptures, with profound eyes that seemed to be whispering.

Being in this world, many cultivators felt their Spiritual Platforms clear up, their understanding of their own cultivation techniques increased, and the hurdles in their realms that had bound them for a long time showed signs of loosening.

They were even more astonished in their hearts. It was only an unusual phenomenon evolving from a Dantian, yet it was able to induce those nearby to break through together.

Was a cultivator with a lineage truly that terrifying?

Li Xiaobai was also somewhat nervous, as the Attribute Points in front of him jumped continuously.

[Attribute Point +10...]

[Attribute Point +10...]

This woman called Yun Mengqing sure made a grand scene; her operation of the cultivation technique was also highly effective. She wouldn't really be able to discern the essence of this formation, would she?

If that were the case, he would become the public enemy of everyone here.

However, at this point, he could only brace himself and continue the act, hoping the formation set up by his senior wasn't just pedestrian work.

The situation was much better than expected.

Even after evolving in the void for a long time, Yun Mengqing still furrowed her brows, appearing rather troubled.

She had run through the calculations dozens of times, but the result was different each time, as if the formation in front of her was a living thing, changing every moment.

No wonder so many cultivators believed the formation to be powerless, no wonder it had killed so many Golden Core Stage Demonic Beasts, no wonder this nameless cultivator died in such a bizarre manner.

Such a formation, she had never seen in her life, it was too astonishing.

She stood up, casually picked up a stone, and threw it into the formation, but nothing happened.

Then she took out a Spirit Stone and threw it in, still, nothing happened.

"How is it?" she asked Tian Di.

"This formation has something to it, but I have seen through it. The formation changes every moment. It is random whether it becomes a Slaughter Formation or an utterly harmless one. As of now, this formation has no offensive power, and one can enter and exit at will," said Yun Mengqing.

Li Xiaobai's face twitched slightly. What this woman said sounded pretty convincing. He really didn't know whether to call her an ignorant teammate or a divine assist.

"Since that is the case, then what are we waiting for? Hurry and take out the Treasure Box. We can discuss the distribution later!" said Tian Di, eager to dash out.

Just then, a white figure flashed by, rushing directly towards the Treasure Box within the formation—it was Zhang Rui, who had been waiting for a long time.

A touch of mockery flashed in Tian Di's eyes. He had just made a pretense of wanting to draw others to test the formation; he had not expected Zhang Rui to actually take the bait.

So what if you get the Treasure Box?

This place was atop a mountain, with a cliff behind, and there was only one way down. In the end, wouldn't he still have to hand over the Treasure Box?

However, not many cultivators could see the situation clearly. Seeing Zhang Rui take the lead in getting his hands on the Treasure Box without being attacked by the formation, their eyes immediately turned red with envy.

Many cultivators activated their techniques, rushing towards his location, wanting to snatch the Treasure Box.

More and more cultivators surged forward, and in the chaos, Tian Di and a few other elites had no choice but to join the fray.

There was only one path down the mountain, and unless someone was there to block it, whoever could seize the Treasure Box could own it.

The air on the mountain top churned, rocks shattered.

Cultivation techniques of various colors collided.

Yet no one noticed that the corpse lying at the edge of the formation had, at some point, disappeared without a trace...

### **Chapter 38: Chapter 38: Laughing Like Crazy**

In the woods, Liu Jinshui was already laughing so hard he was in convulsions.

He truly hadn't expected these people's imaginative capabilities to be so formidable.

Especially Yun Mengqing of the Xiao Cheng Sect, who sat cross-legged on the ground, extrapolating formation in the void with special effects that completely bamboozled everyone, leading to such an unfortunate conclusion.

It was simply an ordinary special-effect formation, with a Soul-Bewitching Array hidden within, attached to the mountains and vegetation. As mountain winds blew, the rocks and plants were constantly shifting, and naturally, the formation would change with them.

Yun Mengqing, faced with such a straightforward problem, stubbornly used advanced methods to deduce it from every angle, and Liu Jinshui was on the verge of going insane from laughter.

Disciples with a legacy are truly terrifying!

Li Xiaobai took advantage of everyone's lack of attention to stealthily hide in the jungle, his expression just as bizarre.

"Senior brother, I almost thought we were going to give ourselves away!"

"Junior brother, it was Yun Mengze of the Xiao Cheng Sect who gave us a hand. We must remember her kindness!"

"Hehe, Miss Yun is really a good Samaritan!"

Li Xiaobai couldn't help but chuckle, still vividly recalling Yun Mengqing's incantations.

In the arena, the cultivators once again erupted into fierce battle, with familiar scenes playing out.

Almost all those gathered were elites from various major sects. After a brief clash, many were injured, but no one was eliminated.

They were much stronger than the previous group of sect disciples.

"Xiang Tian Di, are you sure you want to fight with me over this?"

Zhang Rui's expression was dark. With only one hand, his strength had been somewhat diminished, and he was somewhat outmatched.

"Hehe, treasures, after all, belong to those who are capable. Didn't you say that yourself?" Xiang Tian Di sneered.

Yun Mengqing of the Xiao Cheng Sect seemed inclined to join forces with him. Everyone's intention was clear: to eliminate Zhang Rui of the Tianwu Sect first and then continue to fight over the treasure box.

"Fine, fine, fine, my Tianwu Sect will remember this grudge. And Miss Yun, I didn't expect the Xiao Cheng Sect to be so close with the Holy Demon Sect. It seems we'll have to reconsider our partnership."

Zhang Rui was furiously throbbing at the temples with rage.

"My Xiao Cheng Sect doesn't rely on anyone and acts entirely according to its own conscience," Yun Mengqing said calmly.

"Fine, the treasure box is yours. Fight over it yourselves, I, Zhang, will no longer entertain this!"

With a flick of his hand, Zhang Rui threw the treasure box back into the center of the formation, and the cultivators once again went on a rampage, throwing themselves at the treasure box.

But Xiang Tian Di and Yun Mengqing still showed no intention of letting him go, their figures flickered as they forcefully halted Zhang Rui's advance, and unleashed a fierce attack with a wave of their hands.

Waves of spiritual energy pulsed with each move they made, sending Zhang Rui's blood surging and forcing him to retreat repeatedly.

"What do you mean by this? I've given you the treasure box, why are you relentlessly pursuing me?" Zhang Rui exclaimed in shock and anger.

"Hehe, what's a treasure box compared to your worth? Killing you to weaken the power of Tianwu Sect, that's far more satisfying than fighting for a treasure box," Xiang Tian Di laughed heartily.

"Indeed, to maintain the friendship between the Xiao Cheng Sect and the Tianwu Sect, please die here, senior brother," Yun Mengqing said.

Golden light surged from Yun Mengqing's dantian, and a Buddha's phantom appeared behind her. Her hands transformed into numerous scriptures, striking Zhang Rui and sending him flying backward.

A throat clear, Zhang Rui crawled on the ground, coughing up blood in mouthfuls.

"Tianwu Sect will not let you off!"

Zhang Rui's eyes were filled with venomous resentment. He had a life-saving magic treasure, but using it might cost him his life as well.

It was at this moment that everyone inexplicably felt dizzy, and the spiritual power that ran wildly inside them began to calm down.

The physical strength continued to wane, and their minds became groggy.

Sometime unknowingly, rings of pale yellow light spread out from the formation where the treasure box was, enveloping everyone.

"No good, it's the Soul-Bewitching Array!"

Yun Mengqing's face changed, and she flew to escape, while the other cultivators did the same, forcing their internal cultivation techniques to turn around in an attempt to break free from the range of the formation.

"Get back here!"

A thunderous roar echoed, and an overwhelming pressure descended from above, causing the ground to crack.

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Liu Jinshui's eyes were wide open as he raised his fist and smashed it down. The violent fluctuation of spiritual energy burst out from his body, exposing his sixth-layer Golden Core Stage cultivation level without any reservation, forcing everyone back to the center of the formation.

Although his cultivation level wasn't as high as that of a few prodigies, under the influence of the Soul-Bewitching Array, everyone was already somewhat exhausted and couldn't withstand Liu Jinshui's onslaught.

"How... how is this possible?"

"How can such an expert exist..."

"Which sect's disciple is he..."

"How can someone at the Golden Core Stage have such power..."

"..."

In the center of the formation, the desperate rivals struggled to open their eyes wide, trying to discern the newcomer's appearance, but their brains became increasingly muddled, and their vision blurred.

Only vaguely did they hear the terms 'senior brother' and 'junior brother'.

What kind of genius was this, and how could he be so powerful? This time, they had met their downfall.

Li Xiaobai looked at the many cultivators on the ground, his heart surging with emotion.

"Senior brother is mighty. I never expected you to have such a domineering side."

"Hehe, junior brother, as they say, strike while the iron is hot. Hesitation leads to defeat, decisiveness is the key," Liu Jinshui said, stroking his smooth chin with a face full of smugness.

Clearly, staving off disaster single-handedly at the last moment had given him a slight sense of floating on air.

However, it was also a wake-up call for him; there's always a risk when walking by the river, as proven by this incident. If it were just for the effect of the Soul-Bewitching Array, he might not have been able to deal with these cultivators.

It seems that he would have to be more careful and cautious in the future.

"Senior brother's mana is boundless; junior brother admires you!"

Li Xiaobai swiftly began to collect the space rings from the numerous cultivators.

His primary target was Zhang Rui, who had actually taken his space ring. Li Xiaobai swore to strip everything of value from him, not leaving him a single hair.

Having thoroughly looted Zhang Rui, he took everything that was removable, not sparing even a pair of underpants.

"Junior brother, what grievance, what grudge?"

"He just took my space ring."

"Plunder the bastard!"

Liu Jinshui also didn't stop his hands, adeptly and skillfully looting rings from everyone.

Not just rings—some disciples' shoes and clothes were magic treasures as well, all of which were packed up and taken away.

When he came across the space rings of Yun Mengze and the rival, his breathing suddenly halted.

Liu Jinshui's hands trembled with excitement, and his face flushed with exhilaration.

"Damn, I've struck it rich this time!"

He hurriedly looked back at Li Xiaobai, stealthily tucking a few treasures into his own space ring, careful not to let his junior brother notice.

At the same time,

Li Xiaobai was examining Zhang Rui's space ring. Just one glance, and his heart trembled fiercely, his eyes widened, and his breathing hastened.

Inside the ring were piles of spirit stones, elixirs, and an uncountable number of spiritual medicines.

Most importantly, it contained a few Blood Spirit Beads, each slightly larger than the one Zhang Rui had used before.

"Damn, I'm rolling in it this time. These are a whole bunch of attribute points, and once I consume them, my defensive power can advance again!"

He surreptitiously pocketed the valuable treasures from Zhang Rui's ring. He couldn't let his senior brother take these gems.

Casting a casual glance back at Liu Jinshui,  
Their eyes met, both filled with annoyance and sighs.

"Senior brother, all junk here."

"Junior brother, nothing but trash here."

...

### **Chapter 39: Chapter 39 Damn it, you and I are irreconcilable**

"Ah, disciples of a great and reputable sect, yet all they carry are Xibe goods!"

Liu Jinshui's face was full of disdain as he shook his head and sighed.

"It really is a sign of declining times!"

Li Xiaobai also put on an act of lamenting for the world.

"Junior brother, have you finished packing?"

"All packed up."

"Shall we split the loot?"

"Let's do it!"

Liu Jinshui clapped Li Xiaobai on the shoulder, and the two vanished from the spot, feeling somewhat guilty about splitting loot at the crime scene.

For such an important task, of course one had to find a secluded place to do it.

In the inner area, a certain jungle.

Li Xiaobai and Liu Jinshui laid out all their gains.

The ground glittered with a stunning array of precious medicinal herbs and dazzling treasures, with Spirit Stones piled up like a mountain.

"Senior brother, is this all of it?"

"Junior brother, they're just Xibe goods."

Li Xiaobai's face darkened, knowing he had been duped by his senior brother.

To believe that the chubby fellow would honestly hand over all the treasures was something Li Xiaobai would never believe even if he were beaten to death.

The fact that Liu Jinshui could lay out so many rare items without batting an eye meant he was hiding even more valuable treasures.

Unfortunately, while rummaging through the rings, he had blurted out his agreement with Liu Jinshui's description of the items as Xibe goods.

Now, hoping to get his hands on anything more valuable was out of the question.

"Then, let's split."

Li Xiaobai sighed, and they divided the items evenly. Although there were not many high-tier items, it was still enough to be considered a large sum of money.

Calculating his savings, Li Xiaobai was astonished to find that he had over ten thousand Lower Grade Spirit Stones on hand.

Once he sold off the Spiritual Artifacts, medicinal herbs, and all the other miscellaneous items, he would surely become a rich man!

With such wealth, wouldn't he be able to pick and choose luxury items from the mall at will?

The thought of those flashy mounts brought an uncontrollable smile to Li Xiaobai's lips.

Lamborghini, Gundam Sentinel—these were every man's dream.

"Senior brother, won't we get caught doing this?"

Li Xiaobai asked, as it was a matter grave enough to cost them their heads. Although it felt good to rake in the money now, when it came time to settle the score later, not even ten heads would be enough to appease them.

"What's there to fear? We only went in after the Soul-Bewitching Array took effect. Nobody saw our faces, relax!"

"Plus, these cultivators are all about face. If someone takes their Space Rings, it's their own fault for not being skilled enough. They can't blame others and certainly won't publicly call for our heads."

Liu Jinshui was completely unconcerned, having done this sort of thing more than a dozen times and becoming quite adept at it.

Li Xiaobai's face darkened. So, they wouldn't call for their heads publicly, but that meant they would be hunted down in private.

As expected, his senior brother was unreliable.

"Junior brother, do you specialize in cultivating your body?" Liu Jinshui suddenly asked, pinching Li Xiaobai's muscles.

"Yes, I train for defensive strength," Li Xiaobai replied, slightly puzzled and honestly answering without fully grasping his senior brother's intention.

"How strong an attack can it withstand?"

"Nascent Soul Stage is not a problem."

"Keep blowing your own trumpet!" Liu Jinshui was utterly skeptical.

Li Xiaobai immediately took out a Demonic Beast inner core from his Space Ring and swallowed it whole. Thunder rolled and smoke rose from his body.

After a moment, Li Xiaobai let out a satisfied burp and exhaled a breath of impure air.

Liu Jinshui watched, dumbfounded.

"Damn it, junior brother, how did you cultivate to become so strong? It's been less than a month since you started, and you've become this powerful!"

Liu Jinshui was shocked. Everyone knew how fragile the inside of a body could be, yet his little junior brother was able to swallow a Demonic Beast inner core whole, allowing the wild Spiritual Energy to wreak havoc in his Dantian. With such a level of physical strength, he might indeed be able to withstand an attack from someone at the Nascent Soul Stage.

"Junior brother, your physical prowess is wasted on petty thievery. Don't you want to pull off a big heist?" Liu Jinshui whispered mysteriously.

"Please teach me, Senior Brother!"

Li Xiaobai knew that an opportunity to make money had come again.

"Do you know why all the major sects are gathered here?"

"The Dragon Serpent Fruit deep within the mountain range?" Li Xiaobai thought of what Yin Susu had said before.

"Junior Brother is well-informed, indeed knowing about the Dragon Serpent Fruit. Correct, the cause of the uprising of the demonic beasts is due to a mature Dragon Snake Fruit Tree."

"All the major powers have come, ostensibly to purge the demonic beasts and suppress the unrest, but in reality, they want to share in the spoils deep within the mountain range."

Liu Jinshui said with some surprise, finding it unexpected that Li Xiaobai also knew about the Dragon Serpent Fruit.

"Could it be that Senior Brother also wants a share of the spoils?"

"Indeed, our Second Senior Sister had controlled the State Preceptor to learn about the approximate location of the Dragon Serpent Fruit before entering the mountain range. At this moment, many top practitioners from various sects are purging the demonic beasts; their speed of entering the core area of the mountain range isn't fast. We could certainly take a step ahead and snatch the Dragon Serpent Fruit before the other sects do."

"Has Senior Brother found it?"

"Indeed, currently only I know where it is."

"The area near the Dragon Serpent Fruit must be extremely dangerous, right?" Li Xiaobai said dryly.

"Isn't that why I have you, Junior Brother?" Liu Jinshui chuckled slyly.

"Seventy-thirty?"

"Sixty-four it is, to leave a share for the other Senior Brothers and Sisters."

"Deal!"

"Let's go!"

...

At the same time, deep within the Divine Beast Mountain Range by the riverside.

The many cultivators trapped within the Soul-Bewitching Array gradually came to.

After floundering in the water for a bit, they all came ashore.

"Damn it, that damn fatso tricked us; he must have taken the treasure!"

"But if he had the power to obtain the treasure, why would he need to trick us into the water?"

"Isn't it obvious? He wanted us to trigger the formation first, so he could pick up an easy bargain!"

"No, wait, have you guys noticed you're missing something?"

"My Space Ring is gone!"

"Mine too!"

"Could it have fallen into the water?"

"Impossible. The ring is very secure; unless someone took it off, it can't fall off on its own!"

"It was that damned fatso, he tricked us into the water just to steal our rings!"

"..."

Atop a certain mountain peak,  
the same scene unfolded again.

After the Soul-Bewitching Array vanished, everyone came to, and the first thing they did was check for injuries. Finding none too serious, they breathed a sigh of relief.

However, they soon realized something was amiss.

Their hands were empty; the Space Rings had vanished without a trace.

"Damn it, someone took my Space Ring!"

"Mine is gone, too!"

"My Primordial Armor has been swiped, and it's a Mid-grade Spiritual Artifact!"

"That's my life's savings!"

The cultivators howled in distress. One cultivator felt his finger, and his expression changed instantly—his ring was also missing.

Not only his, even Yun Mengqing from Xiao Cheng Sect had an astonished expression; she found not only her ring was stolen, but even the soft armor she wore close to her body had been removed, causing her face to flush with embarrassment.

But the most unfortunate had to be Zhang Rui.

He had been stripped clean from head to toe, not to mention Space Rings; even his underpants had been taken. He was quite literally embracing nature.

"Who the hell did this, I, Zhang Rui, will never be on good terms with you!"

#### **Chapter 40: Chapter 40: Someone in the Slaughter Formation**

The jeers from the outside world could no longer be heard by the one who instigated them.

At this moment, Li Xiaobai was pacing along the edge of a jungle with Liu Jinshui.

Before them lay a wasteland, or more precisely, a peculiar tree stood alone on a bare patch of land.

The tree had an odd shape, with branches forming z-shaped patterns and a fiery red hue, which made it quite bizarre.

The tree bore no leaves but had nine silver fruits hanging straight from its branches.

There was no danger from the tree itself, but a Slaughter Formation was laid out beneath it, pulsing with crimson light that carried a tinge of blood in the air, detectable even from a great distance.

Metal inside the formation clanged sharply, causing a piercing noise that made people's eardrums tremble.

It was certain that not a few had died in this formation.

Li Xiaobai's skin crawled,

"Is this the Dragon Serpent Fruit?"

"Exactly, there are a total of nine fruits on that tree. Just eating one can strengthen one's foundation, making the path of cultivation smoother, as well as rapidly enhance the physical body. It is a perfect match for your cultivation practice, Junior Brother."

Liu Jinshui said cheerfully.

"Then how do we enter the formation to get the fruits?"

"Elder Brother never said we came here to get the fruits, did he?"

"So, Elder Brother means to say..."

"Junior brother, you specialize in cultivating the body, so you should be able to move freely through the formation, right?"

"Could it be that Elder Brother intends to..."

"Heh heh, Junior Brother, you know me best. The Dragon Serpent Fruit and such are trivial – if we're going to do something, let's do something big!"

Liu Jinshui chuckled mischievously.

"Brilliant..."

...

At the same time,

in the core area of the Divine Beast Mountain Range,

several elders had used their Great Divine Powers to clear all the Demonic Beasts in the vicinity.

"Elder Feng, the experts from Tianwu Sect have already taken the lead and left for the core area of the mountain range."

An expert from the Holy Demon Sect reported to the elder in gray.

"Hmph, those guys must have colluded with the people from Zhenyuan Country long ago; they probably already know the exact location of the Dragon Serpent Fruit. Let's not search blindly; follow them straight away!"

The elder's face darkened. Everyone had agreed to clear the Demonic Beasts first, then enter the core of the mountain range together.

Now, Tianwu Sect had broken the rules, which was truly loathsome.

They flickered and quickly vanished into the depths of the dense jungle.

The same scenario was unfolding in various parts of the dense jungle.

The experts and elders from various Sects were almost simultaneously rushing to the core area of the mountain range. The Dragon Serpent Fruit was a treasure of heaven and earth, and whoever saw it had a share; they couldn't let Tianwu Sect and Zhenyuan Country hog it all.

But just then, the Tokens they held all started to flash with light.

"Is this a distress signal?"

"The location is in the core area!"

"Damn, someone's beaten us there, but it looks like they're in quite some trouble."

"Hehe, I bet the location of this distress signal is right near the Dragon Serpent Fruit Tree. Let's follow the signal directly!"

The figures of everyone burst forth, swiftly weaving through the jungle.

Half an hour later,

in the midst of a desolate land,

the elders and experts from various Sects had all gathered, looking at each other in consternation.

The experts from Tianwu Sect and Zhenyuan Country had faces filled with confusion and anger; they hadn't anticipated that despite having a head start, the main force had still caught up with them.

What was even more unexpected to them was that someone had already reached the Dragon Snake Fruit Tree and emitted a distress signal, attracting numerous cultivators to come over.

Damn it, who the hell is stirring up trouble?

"Chen Kun, while everyone was busy clearing out Demonic Beasts, you sneakily went with Zhenyuan Country's people into the core area. Don't you think you owe everyone an explanation?" Elder Feng said indifferently.

"Hehe, you've misunderstood. Our two groups just happened to come together. We've been chasing Demonic Beasts all the way here. If you don't believe it, just take a look!"

The white-robed elder from Tianwu Sect pointed to several Demonic Beast corpses on the ground and spoke indifferently.

These Demonic Beasts seemed to be a few of the nearby beast kings, one of which had a cultivation level that astonishingly reached the Nascent Soul Stage, clearly drawn here by the Dragon Snake Fruit Tree.

"Indeed. We only wanted to kill Demonic Beasts, but unexpectedly stumbled upon the Dragon Snake Fruit Tree. Life is sometimes just that magical, isn't it?"

The expert from Zhenyuan Country explained.

Regarding the two's statements, everyone naturally had a hard time believing them, but the most important thing right now was to get the Dragon Serpent Fruits as soon as possible.

This was the ultimate goal of the group's journey.

"I'll be taking the Nascent Soul Demonic Beast's inner core. No objections, right?" Elder Feng spoke lightly.

"Elder Feng is free to do as he pleases," Chen Kun said nonchalantly.

"Now, shall we discuss the distribution of the Dragon Serpent Fruits?" asked the other experts.

"That's something for later. The key right now is how to break the Formation."

"Hehe, my Xiao Cheng Sect has some insights into Formations. You see, within this Formation..."

"What the fuck, there's someone inside?"

"Could it be that my eyes are deceiving me?"

The elderly woman from Xiao Cheng Sect rubbed her eyes, her face full of shock.

"Damn, there really is a figure. We didn't even notice it earlier!"

"Grandma's, this is way too creepy..."

It wasn't until now that the others reacted. In the midst of the iron-blood Formation stood a figure, motionless, which was quite spine-chilling.

"That must be the cultivator who sent the distress signal earlier. Rushing blindly into the formation, he's probably dead as a doornail."

Chen Kun furrowed his brows tightly; he kept feeling that something was off.

"Forget about him for now, let's continue studying the Formation. This is a Metal Slaughter Formation, primarily focused on killing. The sound of metal friction is produced by the Metal Slaughter's Qi."

"On the surface, it seems just like strands of faint golden mist, but each strand holds the force of ten thousand jun, full of tremendous power. Moreover, the blood qi is turbulent within the Formation, it's clear that many living beings have died here. A living sacrifice will probably double the Formation's power..."

The Xiao Cheng Sect crone spoke authoritatively about the Formation.

What everyone did not know was that inside the Formation at this moment, a young man was watching them with a look of enjoyment on his face.

Li Xiaobai was feeling so ecstatic he wanted to sing out loud immediately.

The power of the Formation was just perfect, the fierce Metal Slaughter's Qi constantly cutting into his body while his Attribute Points were skyrocketing.

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Attribute Points +100...]

[Ding! Host continuously affected by Metal Slaughter's Qi, skill upgrade: Nine Revolutions Undying Sword Intent second revolution.]

[Ding! Detected... skill upgrade: Nine Revolutions Undying Sword Intent third revolution.]

[Ding! Detected... skill upgrade: Super Abdominal Muscles.]

Super Abdominal Muscles: When I earnestly tighten my abs, even a Daluo Golden Immortal cannot shake me.

[Attribute Points: 20000.]

All points to defense!

[Defensive Power: Indestructible Golden Body third revolution. (2000/30000)]

"Hehe, this Formation is truly a natural blessed land!"