

Origin Powers 511

Chapter 511 - Cultivators Exist

Xu Lingjun's expression remained unchanged.

Yet in his heart, waves of shock were surging.

Spirit Stone?!

Others might not know what a Spirit Stone is... but coming from another world, even though he had never seen the physical object, could he still be unfamiliar with this name?

So the Blizzard Empire came for the Spirit Stones?

Before Han Yun City could speak, Xu Lingjun immediately interjected, "Do you have such so-called Spirit Stones that you can show me?"

The Ancient Tree has survived for a thousand years, and even though Xu Lingjun tried hard to appear nonchalant, how could he hide it from her eyes?

She asked, "You know about the Spirit Stones?"

"I've heard of them, but I don't know if they're the same as what I know."

"This kind of stone is very precious, containing a high purity of Spiritual Qi, far surpassing the Spiritual Qi in the air..."

As she spoke, a crack slowly appeared in the center of the Ancient Tree.

Inside, a stone embedded in it was revealed.

It was called a stone, but in fact, it was dazzlingly colorful, and although it wasn't as crystal clear as a crystal, there seemed to be liquid flowing faintly inside. Even an outsider could tell that this thing must be extremely valuable.

Especially with its appearance.

A sudden shock appeared in Xu Lingjun's eyes...

The Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique within him suddenly started to operate frantically.

Having reached the Profound Realm, the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique could absorb Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi into the body.

This was the reason why Xu Lingjun's power could increase to such a degree in such a short time.

But the cultivation technique had been operating automatically to absorb, never as it did now...

Xu Lingjun could even feel the desire of the cultivation technique.

A dead cultivation technique now had a living desire.

Even though Xu Lingjun was far from the Spirit Stone at this time...

Just its faint scattering, under the crazy absorption of the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique...

Even from a great distance, he could feel a completely different kind of Spiritual Qi than Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi entering his body, being ground into Blood Qi, and finally becoming part of the True Qi.

Feeling refreshed and invigorated.

Although his strength had not greatly increased, just this tiny sliver of True Qi...

Made Xu Lingjun feel like Sun Wukong being freed from the Five Elements Mountain after five hundred years buried under it.

Feeling like a gentle breeze had brushed his cheek, a sensation beyond words.

Get it!

He must get it!

A sudden impulse surged in Xu Lingjun's heart, unprecedented, and not even exaggerated to say that only when he first held Wang Qingya wholly in his arms, intending to completely possess her, did he feel such intense emotions.

At this moment...

What damn Grandmaster, even if a Creation Grandmaster appeared and offered to exhaust all his power to help Xu Lingjun break through the Grandmaster Realm, Xu Lingjun wouldn't consider it.

Xu Lingjun asked, "How many of these Spirit Stones do you have?"

"Not many, but not too few either!"

The Ancient Tree said, "These stones are miraculous, embedding them into my body greatly enhances my sensing capabilities, allowing me to control all the flora within the Secret Realm."

She explained, "I cannot move, and I survived the Spiritual Qi mutation tribulation due to this reason... But because of this, I have the ability to see desired information through surrounding plants. Normally, I can only see less than one-third of the Secret Realm's range, but with the amplification of these Spirit Stones, I can see everything."

"So upon discovering these Spirit Stones, I immediately ordered my subordinate Demon Beasts to search for the whereabouts of these Spirit Stones with all their might..."

The Ancient Tree said, "I am almost sure that the existence of Blue Star and these Spirit Stones have a great connection, possibly even these Spirit Stones protect Blue Star."

"So the Blizzard Empire colluding with the Mysterious races of the heavens is actually to obtain these Spirit Stones..."

Han Yun City had just spoken halfway when Xu Lingjun straightforwardly said, "How many of these Spirit Stones do you have exactly, I want them all, I'll resolve your crisis for you, what do you say?"

Han Yun City was shocked, looking at Xu Lingjun, obviously not expecting him to take on so much.

The Ancient Tree fixed her gaze on Xu Lingjun for a while.

Said, "You know how to use these Spirit Stones, don't you?"

"I don't know yet, but I'm sure, if mankind's Martial Tao is to progress, it might need the help of these Spirit Stones."

"Giving them all is impossible, but we can share!"

The Ancient Tree said, "As I mentioned before, there's no deep hatred between humans and Demon Beasts. It can be confirmed that these Spirit Stones can only be produced within the Secret Realm, meaning they are only on our land. I can negotiate with my family to allow you to enter the Secret Realm to mine these Spirit Stones without harming the environment, but that's all."

"That's acceptable, but the Spirit Stones you currently have on hand, I want them all."

Xu Lingjun said, "As long as you hand over all these Spirit Stones to me, I can guarantee... to resolve the Secret Realm crisis within three months!"

Han Yun City was speechless, "Old Xu, don't brag so big."

Xu Lingjun glanced at Han Yun City and said, "Were it not for considering the bigger picture, I could destroy the Chi Yu mysterious clan well within a year. It's just dealing with an army, three months is already more than enough."

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"They have nuclear weapons."

"That's my concern. You only need to agree or disagree."

Xu Lingjun said bluntly, "If you don't agree, I don't mind. Nuclear weapons may destroy your environment, but they can't destroy spirit stones. Since we already know the truth... we don't mind if the crane and the clam fight and the fisherman benefits. After both sides are severely weakened or defeated, we'll come out and reap the final reward."

The Ancient Tree fell into silence for a long while.

She said, "This is no longer a decision I can make alone; I need to discuss it with the other Demon Beasts."

"That's fine. The Baoxue Empire has just been defeated, and it will probably take some time for them to recover. You have enough time to discuss it slowly. As for this spirit stone..."

"No matter what, you've helped us win this battle, so this spirit stone is yours."

As she spoke, her branches extended, plucked the spirit stone down, and handed it to Xu Lingjun.

"Thank you."

Xu Lingjun took the spirit stone, about the size of a fist, and holding it in his hand, he felt as if he had the whole world in his grasp.

"Xiaoyun, arrange a clean cave for these two."

"Yes."

The giant leopard Xiaoyun coiled in the tree responded, leaped down easily from the tree, and said, "Follow me."

With that, she led the two deeper into the woods.

She chose a fairly spacious cave.

Xiaoyun said, "This was where Bear Two lived before. It died in the recent battle, so it's empty for now. You can stay here. By the way, without my guidance, it's best not to go out easily... To those Demon Beasts that aren't too intelligent, they've just fought humans, and they will attack without hesitation if they see humans again."

"I understand."

Xu Lingjun nodded and said, "Get back to me as soon as possible. If it works, it works; if not, we'll leave."

"Just wait."

Xiaoyun looked deeply at Xu Lingjun and said, "I smell a scent of laziness on you."

"What?"

"Not you, literally. I smell the scent of my own kind on you. A lazy, silly scent. But you've definitely been in contact with my kind, and I have a good impression of you. I hope they agree."

Xiaoyun said, "Wait patiently."

With that, she turned and left.

Han Yun City marveled that as expected, as long as it was female, it wouldn't have a bad impression of this Old Xu.

He had been holding back many words, but it wasn't good to undermine his own in front of outsiders.

Seeing Xiaoyun leave, he couldn't hold back any longer and frowned, saying, "Old Xu, aren't your actions a bit hasty?"

"Hasty?!"

Xu Lingjun fixed his gaze on the spirit stone in his hand and sighed, "But I only feel grateful."

"What do you mean?"

"I'm suddenly very grateful that I didn't continue fighting that Grandmaster from the Baoxue Empire. Had I broken through to the Grandmaster Realm at that time, I might have regretted it for a lifetime."

Han Yun City asked, "Are these spirit stones very precious?!"

Xu Lingjun said, "Old City, have you read the records from my Dragon Gate Examination?"

"The written test?"

"Yes."

Han Yun City said, "In the world, there is growth and decline, life and death, humane principles, and natural order. There are also cultivators who defy the heavens, absorb the Creation of heaven and earth, capture the essence of the sun and moon, and live for a thousand years, eternal and immortal. Cultivators absorb the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi into the body, refine spiritual power, gain divine sense, and can traverse the cosmos with their physical body, extinguishing the heavens with a hand."

He shook his head and said, "I initially approached it with the thought of understanding my enemy, but even though I harbored hostility towards you back then, I couldn't help but be fascinated by your description... It's so magical."

"Cultivators really exist."

Xu Lingjun said, "I can't tell you where I got my information, but I know cultivators use spirit stones to enhance their cultivation, much like how Demon Beasts, despite not mastering technology, can rely on their own strength to traverse the cosmos. Doesn't this resemble what I said about cultivators? Especially that tree, she said she could watch over the entire Secret Realm through other trees. Don't you think that's very similar to what my records mentioned as spiritual sense?!"

"This..."

Han Yun City hadn't thought of this before, but after Xu Lingjun's hint, he realized it.

He looked at Xu Lingjun in shock and said, "Are you saying that just possessing spirit stones could..."

"At least it's a direction."

"So, these spirit stones are something we must obtain..."

Han Yun City's pupils suddenly shrank as he realized.

"If they agree, we'll ally with these Demon Beasts. You know, the Baoxue Empire colluded with the mysterious races of the heavens. Who knows if they would allow them to enter Blue Star... If the worst

happens, neither Demon Beasts nor humans will survive. Only by uniting can we have a chance at survival."

Han Yun City asked, "So this cooperation you're talking about is really more about preparing for the future crisis on Blue Star?"

"After all, I am the Commander in Chief of the Polar Star Battlefield. I have to be responsible for all of Blue Star, and Demon Beasts are also part of Blue Star. We may have our differences, but we still need to unite against external threats."

Xu Lingjun said, "So I must obtain the spirit stone, but the support of the Demon Beasts is also very important."

Han Yun City asked, "But if they don't agree..."

Chapter 513 - Cultivators Exist_3

"Then we can only let them and the Baoxue Empire fight until both sides are severely damaged. Or, rather, they are not likely to be a match for the Baoxue Empire, but the Baoxue Empire will also suffer heavy casualties. When the time comes, we will intervene to annihilate the Baoxue Empire, turning this Secret Realm into a new fortress. Now, since the Baoxue Empire is colluding with the mysterious races of the heavens, the defense of the Desperate Great Wall can't be relied upon anymore. We must consider building a new fortress!"

Xu Lingjun shook his head and said, "But it's really a pity... We are all local residents of Blue Star, and the previous battles were all misunderstandings. We should be supporting each other and looking out for one another."

"Yes, I hope they don't do anything foolish. We really don't want to hurt these innocent Demon Beasts, but I don't want to see the Baoxue Empire's conspiracy succeed either. These spirit stones are too precious, and we are willing to share them with the Demon Beasts, but the people of the Baoxue Empire may not be willing to share."

The two exchanged glances.

And continued to sigh heavily.

At this moment.

Numerous Level 8 and Level 9 Demon Beasts were gathered around the Ancient Tree...

The black giant python and the white giant leopard lay peacefully.

The mottled Sword Tiger and the pitch-black Lone Wolf had solemn expressions.

Many Demon Beasts were all gathered in this small area.

Listening to the words of their nominal leader, the Ancient Tree.

In fact, the Ancient Tree is the oldest among the beasts, having almost watched this group of Demon Beasts grow...so, although it doesn't have much combat power, to everyone, it's like a trusted elder sister.

Especially as the Demon Beasts' strength improved, their levels became higher.

Intelligence also rose... naturally, they trusted this wise elder sister even more.

Yet, she alone couldn't decide.

And it involved the survival of the entire Secret Realm.

Naturally, many Demon Beasts gathered to seriously discuss the matter.

"I disagree."

The White Tiger Snow King was the first to express an opinion, saying, "The humans want to attack us, but we want to ask humans for help... what a joke, just kill them, kill them all."

Black Python: "I heard these humans are not the same group as those who fought us. Can we use a strategy to let them fight each other?"

"What?"

Lone Wolf Hei Feng looked at the Snow King in surprise, then lowered his head a bit sheepishly, annoyed: "What nonsense are you talking about? When did I want to eat the Snow King? Although I've been eyeing his place for a long time, and I also know he recently hunted a Si Shui Ox, hid the meat in his cave, and the bull's meat texture... slurp... but I really didn't want to eat the tiger. I can't beat him anyway."

"Metaphor, that's a human metaphor."

Xiaoyun said, "But honestly, I actually... kind of agree with it, just be careful not to let wolves into the house..."

"Why did you bring me into this again?"

Hei Feng complained, "I said thinking about eating the Snow King was just an idea. I can't beat him... you always involve me, easily making me a target for him."

"You're already a target for me, don't run later, or I'll sweep your den clean!"

The Snow King said with a sinister smile.

"Alright, stop talking."

The Ancient Tree sighed long, suddenly feeling that gathering this unreliable bunch to discuss such important matters was a mistake.

She should have just made a unilateral decision; none of these guys are truly reliable.

Especially...

Accompanied by listening.

The Ancient Tree solemnly said, "Let me share my opinion; I agree with accepting their assistance."

As she spoke, looking at the instincts of several giant beasts to stand up, she said, "As for the reason, I actually have my considerations."

"If we agree, they will join with us. You must know the Baoxue Empire is colluding with the mysterious races of the heavens. Who knows if they will let those mysterious races enter Blue Star... once the worst happens, whether Demon Beast or human will find it hard to escape. Only by uniting can there be a thread of hope, so what I mean by cooperation is, more, to handle future crises on Blue Star."

The Ancient Tree said seriously, "After all, I am the Pole Star... cough cough... the elder sister of the Secret Realm, I have to be responsible for the whole Secret Realm, for Blue Star, and humans are part of Blue Star. We may have prejudices, but we must unite against external threats. Therefore, spirit stones are important to us, but human support is also important. And if we don't agree..."

She sighed, "They won't abandon the spirit stones either. Rather, they will let us and the Baoxue Empire fight until both sides are damaged. Or, we can't be a match for the Baoxue Empire, but the Baoxue Empire will also suffer heavy casualties, and then they will get a big advantage. It's really a pity... we are all local residents of Blue Star, and the previous battles were all misunderstandings. We should have been supporting each other and looking out for one another."

All beasts were stunned.

Staring at the Ancient Tree in awe.

After a while...

The Snow King exclaimed, "The elder sister is so amazing, analyzing it all so clearly!"

"Exactly, elder sister truly is elder sister, I actually wanted to say that just now."

"Elder sister is mighty..."

The beasts all exclaimed together.

"So it's settled?"

"Elder sister makes sense, so of course it's settled."

All the beasts nodded together.

The Ancient Tree sighed and said, "Bringing you here was indeed a mistake."

Chapter 514 - Grandmaster Realm

Xu Lingjun ignored the discussion on that side... although if he wished, he had countless ways to spy on their meeting.

But that Ancient Tree might possess extremely mysterious power.

It's not worth the risk at this moment...

Moreover, ever since obtaining the Spirit Stone.

The Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique in Xu Lingjun's body began to surge wildly.

This feeling of longing, truly unprecedented.

Others might not know the preciousness of the Spirit Stone, but how could Xu Lingjun not know?

He could sense...

This Spirit Stone might help him be reborn, perhaps.

At the moment, he gave instructions to Han Yun City and reminded Xiaoya to remember to protect herself.

Xu Lingjun held the Spirit Stone in such a place where friend and foe were indistinguishable, falling into a state of forgetting both self and external matters.

As the pure and ethereal Spiritual Qi from the Spirit Stone entered his body, Xu Lingjun felt his body become light, as if drifting in the clouds.

Directly absorbing Spiritual Qi into the body was not unheard of before, but never had it been comparable to this time...

Xu Lingjun felt that he was truly floating.

As if he had lost his body, swimming freely in a vast ocean of Spiritual Qi...

Previously, during the fierce battle with Leidun, when the opponent's True Essence slammed into his body, he only felt exhilarated; he even had to pretend to be injured to induce more True Essence from the opponent.

But now...

He only took a bite of this pure Spiritual Qi.

He felt his mouth was spoiled.

If Leidun came again, Xu Lingjun felt he might no longer look up to him... he could end it with a single punch.

It's not worth torturing my acting skills for that little bit of impure True Essence.

I could endure the darkness... if I had never seen the light...

But now.

Xu Lingjun suddenly opened his eyes.

A flash of spiritual essence passed through his eyes.

In a stroke of inspiration.

At the moment before the combination of True Qi and Spiritual Qi in his body...

He unhesitatingly employed the Ninefold Thunder Tribulation.

Maximizing the purity of his True Qi...

This pure True Qi, surpassing True Essence, under Xu Lingjun's deliberate control, instantly combined with the influx of Spiritual Qi.

From a previous heavy purity, it turned ethereal...

At this moment.

Inside Xu Lingjun, True Qi continuously decomposed, then recombined, decomposed, and recombined again.

He breathed incessantly.

The temperature of his body rose sharply, resulting in significant changes to the True Qi within.

Xu Lingjun let out a low roar.

In an instant, he felt a sudden clarity in his mind.

Is it due to the secrets of Spiritual Qi?

Or is it because the purity of Xu Lingjun's True Qi had reached a certain level?

Unknown...

But after employing the Ninefold Thunder Tribulation this time, it was qualitatively different from any previous time.

The purified True Qi, when combined with the Spiritual Qi, reached the level of True Essence, and surprisingly, it did not decompose again; it maintained its high purity and then elevated into True Essence...

This Spiritual Qi was like glue, thoroughly binding together the fully purified True Qi, preventing it from decomposing.

Then, once more purified.

To put it simply.

The Ninefold Thunder Tribulation turned from an active skill into a passive skill, his True Qi purity constantly maintained the state after purification by the Ninefold Thunder Tribulation, and with this state, it further purified to break through to the Guiyuan Grandmaster Realm.

Su Xun was pleasantly surprised in his heart, and externally, there was a surging airflow in an instant.

An infinite momentum swept through heaven and earth, the True Qi surged straight to the sky, instantly dispersing the dense clouds...

Even Han Yun City beside him couldn't help showing a look of shock, quickly flashing out from the cave, the airwaves sweeping... if he had been a bit slower, he probably would have been slapped against the wall.

And Xu Lingjun's eyes flashed with a glint of sharp light, then quickly subsided, obviously with the breakthrough to the Guiyuan Grandmaster Realm, he returned to simplicity, gathering everything within his body.

Finally...

Achieved.

Guiyuan... Grandmaster Realm!

Or rather, it has already surpassed merely the Grandmaster Realm.

Under the blessing of the Ninefold Thunder Tribulation, before becoming a Grandmaster, his True Qi purity already surpassed that of a Grandmaster's True Essence.

Now that his cultivation successfully broke through to the Guiyuan Realm, the True Qi within was further purified... can this still be called True Essence?

Xu Lingjun had fought with many grandmasters, he was no stranger to the state of True Essence, which was merely an enhanced variant of True Qi.

But now.

He could clearly feel that the ethereal vast power within him had undergone a completely different transformation compared to True Essence... if one had to say, it was actually closer to the Spiritual Qi he absorbed before, only more solidified.

He lowered his head, looking at his palm.

The Spirit Stone in his palm had disappeared.

It was evidently fully absorbed by him.

But although it was only a quantity of Spiritual Qi, like a spark that could start a prairie fire, it gave the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique the most primal impulse, revolutionizing the True Qi within him into another form of True Essence.

"From now on, let's call you Spiritual Power."

Xu Lingjun suddenly had a very peculiar feeling, with the help of this Spirit Stone... did he really reach the Guiyuan Realm after the breakthrough?

Clenching his fist, he could feel a qualitative difference.

He could sense the rich vitality around him.

He could perceive the extra tenderness of the flowers, the exceptional greenness of the grass, all exuding a lush vitality.

It was as if there was an extra pair of eyes, viewing the world from another perspective, yet it seemed only an illusion, like the moon reflected in the water, unclear...

Chapter 515 - Grandmaster Realm_2

Xu Lingjun had an instinctive confidence that if he were to face Leidun again, who once required hundreds of rounds to defeat, now, he might no longer need to even pay attention to him.

But more than the increase in power, it seemed like something else was changing.

Each breakthrough in the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique brings about an extremely miraculous trait.

Just like when he reached the Profound Realm, he was already able to absorb the surrounding spiritual energy into his body to transform into true qi for cultivation.

So, naturally, more wondrous changes would occur upon reaching the Guiyuan Realm...

But what exactly those changes were might require time and careful sensitivity to truly understand.

"How does it feel?!"

The voice of Han Yun City echoed, asking.

"Better than ever."

Xu Lingjun got up and said, "I have successfully broken through to the Grandmaster Realm. Now, I can say with absolute certainty that if human martial arts wish to undergo a qualitative transformation, then spiritual stones are indispensable!"

And the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique was made for spiritual stones.

Xu Lingjun exhaled long and couldn't help but secretly marvel... That old beggar back then was surely not simple.

Based on the current performance of the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique, it started as a martial arts technique, but the further he cultivates, the more miraculous it becomes. Upon reaching the Guiyuan Realm, it feels like it's already transcended the martial arts technique into the realm of a cultivation technique.

Could it be that the old guy has already broken through the martial arts limits, attempting to enter the Tao through martial arts?

Just unable to find the right path, which led to the creation of these extremely pitiful divine demon level techniques of the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique.

Ultimately, by a stroke of luck, it accomplished him.

So...

The emergence of this cultivation technique was not just a simple deception, but rather the byproduct of a martial arts ultimate realm expert attempting to enter the Tao through martial arts?

"Old Xu! Old Xu, are you listening to me?"

Xu Lingjun suddenly raised his head, astonished, looking at Han Yun City, who had evidently called out to him multiple times.

He apologized, "Sorry, I wasn't listening just now."

Han Yun City: "....."

He sighed helplessly, looking at Xu Lingjun with a complex expression in his eyes.

Before the arrival of Xu Lingjun, although he didn't dare claim to be the best among humans, he could be considered unprecedented.

But after Xu Lingjun appeared, he became ordinary.

Even the pursuit became a luxury. Before the breakthrough, there was already a tremendous gap between their strengths.

Now he has achieved the body of a Grandmaster.

He probably can't even withstand a single move from him now?

He asked, "If these spiritual stones can truly allow us to be reborn, then this should be a good thing. Just in time, that ancient tree agreed to our alliance two days ago... We'll help them against the Baoxue Empire, but the secret realm must be open to us humans, allowing us to enter and mine spiritual stones."

"That's certainly good news."

Xu Lingjun praised, "Seems like even among the demon beasts, there's no shortage of well-informed ones with broad perspectives who understand the stakes well."

"But for the specific details, I might need you to discuss them with him."

Han Yun City shrugged, "At the time, you were in seclusion, and although I hold a high position, I'm actually not very knowledgeable about these matters. So, you'll need to discuss the specifics with them in detail."

"I'll take care of it."

Xu Lingjun nodded and stood up.

He said, "I'll go find the ancient tree."

"Go ahead, I've been standing guard for you for three days without closing my eyes... Now it should be safe here, so I'll have a good rest."

Han Yun City casually lay down on the ground and closed his eyes to rest.

Xu Lingjun turned and left, taking only a few steps...

Han Yun City unwillingly opened his eyes and said, "Oh, remember to get me a spiritual stone as well. I want to try and see if I can also absorb the spiritual energy within."

"Sure."

Xu Lingjun responded.

In his heart, he was already pondering... The appearance of spiritual stones indeed suggests that the art of cultivation exists.

Or rather, the Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique he cultivated was originally a flawed and incomplete cultivation technique, but after being imbued with talent source, it transformed into a purely cultivation technique.

However, this cultivation is not the kind of foundation establishment, core formation, nascent soul divinity transformation he imagined...

But rather entering the Tao through martial arts.

One must elevate martial arts to a certain level and then supplement with spiritual stones to enhance the purity of one's true essence, elevating it to the level of spiritual power.

But the purity of spiritual power might still not be as powerful as the spiritual power I have now.

Which means, is my current spiritual power within me non-replicable?

Looks like I need to come up with a way to try and see if I can imbue a proper cultivation technique with talent source.

With that in mind, he continued walking.

Xu Lingjun could clearly feel that compared to before the breakthrough, he was indeed different now.

Clearly, he was just walking forward, not even turning back to look once.

But somehow, even the numerous scenes behind him were completely clear to him...

Xu Lingjun could see a little snow rabbit in the grass staring at him with curious eyes.

And in the tree branches.

A little squirrel was gnawing on a pine cone, staring at him without blinking. Suddenly, as if remembering something, it flung the pine cone it was holding, its shell already cracked, directly at Xu Lingjun.

Xu Lingjun raised his hand.

The pine cone hurled at him immediately halted in mid-air, then slowly floated down into his hand.

Chapter 516 - Grandmaster Realm_3

It's as if something is helping him bring the pine cone to him.

Xu Lingjun took the pine cone in his hand and thought to himself, "Every time the 'Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique' breaks through a realm, it gains a unique ability."

In the Profound Realm, one could turn passive into active, absorbing the wandering spiritual qi of the cosmos and even between heaven and earth.

And now...

Reaching the Guiyuan Realm.

Without a doubt, this cultivation technique has acquired an extraordinary and mysterious ability... but exactly what it is, I fear it needs careful verification.

He raised the pine cone and gestured slightly to the squirrel.

The squirrel immediately rolled happily on the tree.

And Xu Lingjun put the pine cone away and went directly to the place where the ancient tree was located.

The ancient tree seemed not to need rest...

When Xu Lingjun just arrived, its branches and leaves stretched slightly and said, "Two days ago, I already agreed to your conditions, but at that time you were cultivating, so I did not disturb you... Oh, you seem different somehow?"

"I borrowed the aid of that spirit stone and have broken through to a realm!"

The ancient tree said, "It seems these spirit stones are truly important to you all. I hope my decision won't be nurturing a tiger to invite calamity."

"Rest assured, we are not people of the Baoxue Empire, we dare not claim to be saints, but at the very least, colluding with mysterious races is something we would not do, and with the mysterious races of the heavens surrounding us, our enemies are not of a single race or star, no one has the energy for internal strife."

"That's true."

The ancient tree asked, "How do you plan to help us?!"

"Simple."

Xu Lingjun asked, "Do you know what Old City and I first thought when we found out our people did not die at the hands of demon beasts, but by the hands of humans?"

"What?!"

Xu Lingjun said, "We suspected that there were savages living inside the Secret Realm, that these savages killed our people."

The ancient tree said, "But in fact, it was those people from the Baoxue Empire who did it. There are no humans inside the Secret Realm."

"Well, there is now."

Xu Lingjun laughed and said, "We didn't act to help you, only that the humans living within the Secret Realm couldn't tolerate their home being destroyed... that's all. Now that the Baoxue Empire has been newly defeated, they need to recuperate, we have a lot of time to prepare. I'll go make arrangements now."

"Thank you, our demon beasts are adept at small-scale assassinations, but in this kind of military standoff, we can only stack it with our lives... in this area, you are the experts, we will fully cooperate with your actions, anything you need, just say the word."

"Thank you."

Xu Lingjun turned to leave, planning to find Xiaoya to discuss having her go out to pass some messages for him.

And the ancient tree watched Xu Lingjun's departing figure...

In the tree.

The giant leopard Xiaoyun poked its head out and asked, "Big sister, are we really going to trust him?"

"He just said he broke through to the Grandmaster Realm."

The ancient tree shook its head and said, "I don't know how powerful the Grandmaster Realm is, but I've seen many human grandmasters... none of them could make me feel fear to this extent, he has a similar aura to mine."

"What?"

"This is the first time I've felt such an aura on a human... do you know what that means?"

King Xue also leaned in curiously, "What do you mean?"

"He has the potential to evolve to level 12."

The ancient tree sighed deeply, "For this reason alone, we must never become enemies with him, unless... they first break their promise."

Chapter 517 - You Have Already Been Sidelined

Thus.

The next day, Xu Lingjun returned directly to the Great Xia Empire.

He had a leaf given by the Ancient Tree with him.

While in the Secret Realm, he was almost free from any Demon Beast attacks...

After learning about this, Xu Lingjun directly took nearly ten thousand leaves from the Ancient Tree, almost stripping one side bare of leaves.

After all, he was returning to request reinforcements...

If the people he brought were attacked by Demon Beasts halfway, that would be the real joke.

And Han Yun City remained in the Secret Realm.

He obtained a Spirit Stone from the Ancient Tree, evidently stimulated by the fact that Xu Lingjun broke through relying on a Spirit Stone, hoping to replicate his miracle.

Unfortunately, without the marvelous function of the "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique," even Xu Lingjun would find it difficult to draw Spiritual Qi from the Spirit Stone, let alone Han Yun City?

But he was stubborn and refused to give up, even lacking the leisure to return with Xu Lingjun...

He was safe in the Secret Realm, so Xu Lingjun didn't bother with him, and immediately took Xiaoya back alone.

The journey here was quite arduous, but leaving was completely unobstructed. Just as the Ancient Tree said, most Demon Beasts detect people by aura, and he carried her aura, so safety was not a concern.

After leaving the Secret Realm.

He didn't even stop to reunite with Sun Lingli, only sending her a message... then hurriedly sped towards the Imperial Capital aboard a flying device.

Returning to the Imperial Capital.

Treading the Imperial City.

Entering the Imperial Study, he talked with Han Xu Yang for a long time...

No one knew what was said.

All that was known is that when they came out, Han Xu Yang's expression was grave, with a hint of worry and determination between his brows.

And Xu Lingjun immediately issued orders to all his subordinates.

A thousand miles away from the Imperial Capital.

Within the Cuowu Sect.

The Cuowu Sect now was imposing, with the number of disciples multiplying more than twice, especially since these people inherently possessed strong combat power, even slightly surpassing the original disciples of the Cuowu Sect.

As a result, the strength of the Cuowu Sect improved significantly.

Almost leaping to the top among the Five Sects...

Even the Sun and Moon Bright Sect could not match the current momentum of the Cuowu Sect.

Especially Sun Bumie, to verify the disciples' strength, specifically invited the Five Sects for a private martial arts competition.

The Five Great Sects gathered simultaneously at one place.

With the Sect Leaders of the Five Sects seated at the top, watching the intense battles among the disciples below...

In the past, victories and defeats were mutual.

The Cuowu Sect wasn't the top among the Five Sects, but neither was it falling behind...one could only say it had moderate results.

But this time, the Cuowu Sect stood out prominently, winning nine out of ten matches.

Although the strength was slightly superior, if to say comprehensive dominance, it wasn't to that extent.

But the disciples of the Cuowu Sect had trained for years on the Polar Star Battlefield, how could that be for nothing?

Especially under Xu Lingjun's command, large scale battles were rare... but surprise attacks, encounter battles occurred almost every other day.

With considerable casualties.

Those who survived were elites.

Each had extremely rich combat experience, and their techniques were simplified... at the very least, everyone could see clearly.

Winning nine out of ten battles, the one loss wasn't due to inferior skill, but due to striking too ferociously, becoming constrained, fearing to inadvertently kill the opponent.

At the very least, people like Mingri saw with their own eyes that the defeated disciple immediately attacked the opponent's throat upon striking... moreover, the speed was such that it left no room for reaction. Had he not instinctively pulled back in a hurry, the opponent would have been a corpse by now.

Although this battle was lost, the strength on either side was clear.

This martial arts competition, without doubt, brought tremendous attention to the Cuowu Sect.

Especially the successive batches of disciples who went on stage, significantly dominated in the competitions...

"It seems during this period, Brother Sun has focused quite a lot on the Cuowu Sect, now with the Cuowu Sect's strength, it might already be the foremost of the Five Sects."

"Indeed, this batch of new disciples in the Cuowu Sect, though just beginners, can stand shoulder to shoulder with those who have practiced for years, they indeed have extraordinary potential."

The Sect Leaders all spoke in praise.

Sun Bumie appeared moderately contented but smiled and said, "It's all thanks to the Supreme Elder's kindness; since the Supreme Elder held a position on the Polar Star Battlefield, I thought of sending the disciples to trial there... life-and-death battles naturally provide great improvement for honing disciples."

"Yes, without experiencing the storm, fledglings find it hard to soar through the skies; Commander in Chief Xu becoming the commander on the Polar Star Battlefield is also a fortune for the Cuowu Sect... I heard the destruction of the Chi Yu mysterious clan was accomplished by the best warriors of the Cuowu Sect and the Baoyan Army Legion, truly admirable."

"Ashamed, ashamed, there's an impertinent request I have, I wonder if your Sect's Supreme Elder is available these days, I heard although he hasn't broken through to the Grandmaster Realm, he can rival Brother Sun, I am quite curious about someone who achieved Guiyuan Realm strength at just a little over twenty years old, what kind of demeanor he has."

"Indeed, indeed, Brother Sun, why hasn't such a prodigy appeared in today's martial arts competition?"

Sun Bumie chuckled twice.

He naturally understood what these Sect Leaders meant...

They simply saw the significant improvement in the Cuowu Sect disciples' abilities, thus feeling eager and wanting to emulate the Cuowu Sect's actions back then.

Chapter 518 - You Have Already Been Sidelined_2

But unfortunately...

The first person to eat the crab faces the greatest crisis, but also gains the most benefits.

You want to replicate it, but the benefits you will obtain are merely the leftovers of the soup I've had...

However, I can take this opportunity to extort fiercely.

Thinking this, Sun Bumie smiled and was about to engage in some formalities... expressing that while this matter is not impossible, it is difficult, and specifically how to handle it would need us to discuss exactly how when...

Liu Shuang, the top disciple of the Cuowu Sect, who had won ten consecutive victories at the start and then lost interest while sitting below watching the matches, suddenly straightened his back, as if he heard some command.

He stood up straight and shouted loudly, "Commander has an order! All disciples and soldiers, immediately rush to the West Origin Martial Mansion using the shortest time, assemble!!!"

With those words!

The Cuowu Sect disciples below who were watching the battle and discussing intensely changed their expressions immediately, fell silent, and turned to leave without hesitation.

Even those on the platform, divided into nearly a hundred arena stages.

The dozens of Cuowu Sect disciples there struck down their opponents in front of them with a punch without hesitation...

And those who couldn't win quickly feigned a move, then jumped off the arena without hesitation.

Despite the referee on the stage shouting that leaving now equals conceding...

They seemed not to hear at all, immediately forming into a square formation below, then Liu Shuang ran to Sun Bumie and said, "Master, the Commander has ordered us to rush to the West Origin Martial Mansion for extreme training."

Sun Bumie waved a hand and said, "Go."

"Yes!"

Thousands of Cuowu Sect disciples immediately rushed off with a clamor.

In an instant, a large piece of the huge Martial Arts Arena was left empty...

Only then did Sun Bumie turn back and say, "Right, what were you just about to say?"

"Um..."

Everyone looked at each other.

Each one had a slightly strange expression on their face.

The Sect Leader of Xuan Yuan laughed heartily and quickly changed the subject.

Along with the other sect leaders nodding in agreement...

Joking aside, their initial thought was merely to send disciples to the Polar Star Battlefield for some training, so that even if they perished, it was of the discarded ones.

But if they could return alive, the improvement for the disciples would be visible to the naked eye, greatly benefiting the sects as well.

But now, it seems...

These Cuowu Sect disciples, after training, apparently now only know the Commander, not the sect anymore.

Even in the midst of combat, at the Commander's order, they could decisively abandon imminent victory, just now Liu Shuang had even formed up the ranks before consulting Sun Bumie...

Evidently, if you agree, we will leave, if not, we can only collectively defect from the sect.

The few exchanged glances and saw the disbelief in each other's eyes.

Living in the sect for many years, and merely training in the Polar Star Battlefield for two years... yet this Commander's prestige has already surpassed that of the sect leader.

This is simply ridiculous.

The Alliance Leader of the Divine Wind Alliance, Yuan Xian, who was always on good terms with Sun Bumie, curiously asked, "Brother Sun, what's with these disciples?"

"Ah, they have followed the Supreme Elder for many days and have ranks in the military, probably they heard some command."

Sun Bumie remained calm, seemingly unaware of any impropriety in his disciples only knowing the Commander and not the sect leader, he laughed, "Well, we can give up on this martial performance... hmm... The Supreme Elder's matters are most important anyway, and summoning so many people at once, it must be for something big."

"Brother Sun, you..."

Everyone had a strange look, thinking haven't you noticed anything wrong?

Aren't you afraid this Supreme Elder might seize power... with a single word you might not even remain as sect leader.

You've been completely sidelined.

Only Tomorrow appeared thoughtful, then turned back to glance at Ji Roufeng standing behind.

Already making a secret decision in their heart.

It seems necessary to have a deep talk with Feng'Er after returning...

Meanwhile.

Not only the Martial Arts Arena, but also the nine major military regions of the Polar Star Battlefield, and the numerous former Qisha Military District warriors who were now scattered, upon receiving the order, immediately went to inform their current superiors that the Commander in Chief summoned, requesting arrangements for warships to send us back to Blue Star.

That attitude wasn't an application at all, it was indeed a notification.

They had not a single sentiment for their new posts...

Now everyone understood, in less than two short years, Xu Lingjun had established such high prestige among these Qisha Military District warriors.

It's just that Blue Star is currently facing severe external problems, and might be plagued by mysterious races of the heavens' disturbances for centuries to come, requiring his military talent that managed to annihilate a race in just two years.

Otherwise, it might truly appear as if his merits overshadowed the leader's authority.

Three days later.

Within the West Origin Martial Mansion, a group of the finest warriors had already gathered.

Then, under the leadership of Xu Lingjun...

They marched mightily into the Secret Realm, startling those students who were entering and exiting the Secret Realm.

And upon entering the Secret Realm...

The many warriors initially thought their Commander was finally going to take action against the Secret Realm, some had even started betting on how long the Secret Realm could last this time.

The times being one year, two years, three years.

Chapter 519 - You Have Already Been Sidelined_3

Then, hopelessly discovered they couldn't gamble anymore, because everyone bet on one year.

No one understands better than they do just how miraculous their Commander truly is...

What nonsense about the mysterious races of the heavens, what nonsense about the Secret Realm, as long as they follow their Commander.

In the words of their Commander...

Where I go forth, there is no enemy.

Dominating.

Yet even though they tried their best to think of their Commander as infinitely miraculous, they still couldn't imagine their Commander being miraculous to such an extent.

After entering the Secret Realm.

The expected war did not break out. Although there were countless Demon Beasts surrounding them...

But these Demon Beasts looked at them with eyes devoid of any hostility, instead full of curiosity.

And only then did they realize...

They were on the side of the Demon Beasts.

That's right, they weren't here to fight the Demon Beasts, they were here to help the Demon Beasts fight humans.

It's truly unexpected that the Commander could communicate deeply with this group of beasts, even reaching a consensus and developing such a good relationship to help them wage war.

But out of trust in the Commander, when the Commander says to fight with whom, they will fight with whom.

In the blink of an eye...

More than ten days have passed.

They suffered major defeats.

Especially with so many high-tech weapons mysteriously disappearing, Carlos initially thought they were stolen, but then received messages from the rear asking why the weapons equipped for them were thrown into a town, injuring many innocent civilians.

The weapons they were using to face the enemy on the front lines ended up mysteriously appearing in their own country?

And in a place thousands of miles away from the battlefield...

Carlos was completely baffled this time.

When they retrieved the weapons, they found they could only locate two or three out of dozens of weapons, with the remaining ones nowhere to be found.

Could this be the magic of the Secret Realm?

No matter how hard he scratched his head, he couldn't figure out how such a miraculous thing was accomplished.

But having come this far, having paid so much in sacrifice and cost, to give up now would mean all previous efforts were wasted.

Thus, even though they knew the Secret Realm might contain extremely miraculous things and they didn't understand the land enough, they still had no choice but to persist...

At worst, they would use nuclear bombs to plow the land and clear the entire Secret Realm.

Although such action might attract the attention of the Great Xia Empire beyond the Secret Realm.

They had to be prepared... Because of this, when Carlos reapplied for equipment, he also requested twenty extra nuclear bombs.

Though it seemed a bit much.

It's always right to keep them for insurance.

But during this period of time when high-tech weapons were yet to be delivered, they could only rest and recuperate...

Thinking of this, Carlos issued orders, signaling everyone to be on high alert. During this time, they must hold their ground and not be careless.

Then he gave an order to the guard to wake him if there was an attack.

And Carlos drifted into a deep sleep...

Leidun's disappearance, the transfer of weapons, these things were just too absurd and bizarre, coupled with the heavy losses and post-battle arrangements.

He had not rested well for several days, and although he was extremely powerful, even being one of the top experts on the Holy Hall rankings, in the end, he still had a mortal body and was finding it hard to hold on.

As for launching a counterattack... What a joke.

During this period, he was secretly happy as long as the Demon Beasts weren't attacking him.

And he slept for several hours.

Yet the overly exhausted mind could not recover in just a few hours.

In a daze...

Suddenly, the voice of a guard was heard by his ear.

"Marshal."

Suddenly, the thoughtful guard's voice sounded, saying, "A Demon Beast has come over."

"What?!"

Carlos snapped awake, opening his bloodshot eyes and asked, "What are the casualties?"

"No casualties. Only one Demon Beast came, and it appeared openly!"

Guard Losen showed a slightly odd expression on his face, vaguely saying, "They seem to be here to deliver a challenge."

"A group of beasts, delivering a challenge?"

"Within the Secret Realm, it's probably not just beasts. There might be indigenous presence in the Original Blue Star."

Losen softly said, "That Demon Beast brought a letter!"

"What?!"

Carlos was immediately stunned, exclaiming, "Our opponents are not just a group of beasts, but also the indigenous humans of Original Blue Star? No, there are actually humans on the Original Blue Star!"

Chapter 520 - Starting Today as Secret Realm People

Within the Secret Realm, there are actually humans present.

Just this fact alone was beyond everyone's expectations...

It seems that the Original Blue Star is not only home to Demon Beasts but also has the presence of humans.

The status of humans is even much higher than that of the Demon Beasts, and now, having invaded the Secret Realm and penetrated this deep, they have finally drawn the attention of these humans.

This is how there came to be a letter delivered by the Demon Beasts.

Although the other party is a Demon Beast, it can speak human language, continuously proclaiming that during the battle between two countries, no envoys shall be killed.

Though it is unclear where this rule originates.

But in a situation where their weapons have not yet arrived, Carlos dared not take any action to provoke the other side.

He simply ordered his subordinates to retrieve the letter and then let the Demon Beast go.

However, the content of the letter made him frown involuntarily, as he couldn't understand it.

And indeed...

The writing seemed to be in the Great Xia Language, but more simplified, clearly a script bestowed by an entirely different culture.

"Go call a Xia Country translator."

He ordered.

A moment later, the translator arrived.

Looking at the letter, his face showed some bitterness, exclaiming, "This is not Xia Country's script."

Carlos asked, "Can you understand it?"

"I can."

The translator said, "Although it's not Xia Country's script, it seems to be derived from a similar lineage. With some guessing, the meaning isn't hard to deduce."

As he spoke, he stammered through the translation, "You barbarians, resentful robbers, don't appreciate the grace of the Celestial Empire and now offend our Yanhuang Clan..."

"Yanhuang Clan?"

Yanhuang Clan?

Carlos frowned, wondering what kind of race this was...

The content of the letter was very simple.

In summary, they have now intruded upon their territory, and if they withdraw in time, there will be no trouble for either party.

Otherwise, they bear the consequences themselves.

"So, this is a threat to us?"

Carlos laughed and said, "These Demon Beasts are being defeated by us at every turn, yet they still have the audacity to threaten us. No need to pay them any mind, just wait calmly for our weapons to arrive; then we need not worry about the environment, and to prevent any prolonged issues, we'll simply wipe them out with long-range weapons."

"And the letter?"

"Using written communication is hardly a sign of weakness on their part, suggesting they're afraid of us."

Carlos chuckled proudly.

In the blink of an eye, another two days passed.

As more human troops arrived.

The Ancient Tree asked, "What do you mean by sending this letter? Now that our forces are assembled, striking them unexpectedly is the right move, but instead, you inform them of your presence..."

"This is also to disentangle the Great Xia Empire."

Xu Lingjun spread his hands and said, "The Great Xia Empire and Baoxue Empire are two of the Three Great Empires on Blue Star. If a battle really breaks out, in order to deal with the Great Xia Empire, they will certainly recruit reinforcements at the first opportunity. What I want is to completely annihilate this force, so from today onward, we are the Secret Realm People. The letter was merely to gain their trust."

And indeed...

To gain their trust, Xu Lingjun used Simplified Chinese, which he hadn't written in over two decades.

Following ancient war culture, he specially sent a letter before the two armies clashed.

The Great Xia Empire doesn't have this tradition.

Xu Lingjun looked at the Ancient Tree and asked, "By the way, I remember you mentioned before that you can observe the enemy's movements by converting plants into your own perspective?"

The Ancient Tree nodded and said, "Yes."

"Then you're our most natural reconnaissance soldier."

"But those areas plowed by nuclear bombs are barren, I can't extend my perspective there... and that area is exactly where they are most active."

The Ancient Tree smiled bitterly, "So the help I can provide might be very minimal."

"It's okay, I have a way, though it requires the help of Spirit Stones."

"During this time, you've come up with various reasons to take several Spirit Stones from me."

"Because I need the Spiritual Qi within the Spirit Stones to stimulate the plants."

Xu Lingjun said, "Let me teach you something not commonly known: Have you heard of the Ginkgo Tree?"

The Ancient Tree shook its head.

She had really never heard of this name.

Xu Lingjun said, "This is the only plant impervious to nuclear radiation, and if properly planted, it can sprout in three days..."

Taking out a jet-black seed from his hand, he said, "This is a Ginkgo Tree seed. This tree is incredibly resilient, resistant to radiation, and once planted, it can sprout in three days. Once the Ginkgo Tree sprouts, you can use their perspective to observe the movements of these Baoxue Empire people."

Xu Lingjun's gaze fell on the seed in his hand.

[Detected a false item: Ginkgo Tree Seed. Would you like to endow it with true origin? It will consume 5 Source Value!]

This seed did not originally exist in this world.

But now, with the arrival of his guards, plus the Ancient Tree and the surrounding Demon Beasts...

He can easily give it origin.

The Ancient Tree asked, "How do we plant these seeds on their land?"

"I will personally take action."

Xu Lingjun thought that this was probably the only limitation. After assigning talent source, only when I plant it does it count as valid...

No way around it, since only I can use it?

Fortunately, planting this isn't all that difficult, with the Invisibility Device and all those high-tech weapons available.