

Overlord 1011

Chapter 1011: Entering White Jade City

Yang Fei also wanted to get to the bottom of this matter. The two of them immediately held hands and soared through the air, flying towards that mountain range at the fastest speed.

The mountain range grew larger and taller. It was clearly right in front of them, yet the two of them flew for more than an hour before they reached the foot of the mountain.

It was only then that they felt the rich Spiritual Power emanating from within the mountain range.

"Such intense nature's spiritual energy," Yang Fei couldn't help but exclaim. "No wonder those Exotic Realm visitors wanted to carry away this mountain range with an Immortal Talisman. There might be a massive secret hidden within this colossal mountain range."

Qin Yanyang nodded and said, "Indeed, they caused such a huge commotion, to the point where Earth's landscape was flipped, and creatures were devastated, all to obtain something mysterious and valuable."

As she spoke, she earnestly felt and looked up towards the sky, saying, "The Spiritual Energy contained within this mountain range is vast. The Spiritual Energy that leaks out doesn't disperse but instead ascends into the sky."

"Let's go up and take a look," Yang Fei said.

Without hesitation, the two of them raced along the massive mountain range.

First, they crossed a relatively low gigantic peak. After passing this giant peak and looking up again, a peak that seemed to truly reach into the depths of the sky appeared in their vision.

The entire mountaintop was covered in snow, a white expanse resembling a mountaintop of white jade.

From here, the Spiritual Energy they could sense was even richer than at the base of the mountain. The Spiritual Energy they expended while flying could almost be replenished just through breathing exercises.

Concerned about encountering those Outer Domain visitors here, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang remained on high alert.

At this moment, they were at most only half an hour away from the highest peak. After a short rest, they continued to climb towards the summit.

The higher they went, the more vigorous the trees became, seemingly more vibrant than those at the mountain's base.

They also found that the trees on this gigantic mountain range were quite unusual, appearing unlike anything they'd seen before.

The ancient trees were lush, and the air they emitted was slightly different from that above other dense forests.

Yang Fei carefully sensed for a while and then, somewhat surprised, said, "The Five Elements here are becoming increasingly distinct. Each attribute of the Power Elements is more active. If one's cultivation technique is different, one can selectively absorb different attributes of Spiritual Elements."

Qin Yanyang astonishedly said, "Really?"

Yang Fei nodded and said, "That's the condition I'm perceiving."

Qin Yanyang quietly sensed it for a moment and then said, "I don't understand the Five Elements, but indeed I can perceive these Power Elements being relatively active, seemingly blended together, yet actually dispersed."

Yang Fei said, "This mountain range surely harbors a great secret."

As they spoke, they continued climbing.

All the vegetation they saw along the way was different from other Primordial Forests, and there weren't any birds or beasts appearing in this vast mountain range.

Thinking of how this gigantic mountain system was extracted from the depths of the ocean, they didn't find it strange anymore.

After all, those sea creatures that originally lived here couldn't have come to live on land as well.

Moreover, these plants, which originally lived in the deep sea, being able to survive in the frigid land air was bewildering to them.

They speculated that the reason these plants could survive in both the deep sea and frigid land air was mainly related to certain Spiritual Elements contained within the mountain range.

The primary energy source for these plants is the mysterious power within the mountain range.

After another half-hour, they finally reached the summit of the highest peak.

When the three ancient seal script characters for 'White Jade City' appeared on the stone gate in their view, both of them showed deep astonishment.

"Do you recognize these three characters?" Qin Yanyang observed carefully for a moment and asked Yang Fei.

Yang Fei stared at the characters for a long time and said, "White Jade City."

"White Jade City?"

Qin Yanyang's expression changed and said, "There is a poem by Li Bai with the lines, 'In the sky, there's White Jade City, twelve towers and five cities.' Could it be describing this place?"

Yang Fei furrowed his brows and shook his head, saying, "It shouldn't be. Li Bai lived during the Tang Dynasty, which was just over a thousand years ago. During that time, this mountain range should have been submerged in the depths of the Arctic Ocean. Li Bai, although a remarkable Ancient Martial Swordsman of that era, couldn't have found and described this colossal undersea mountain range. Besides, if it were in the deep sea back then, Li Bai couldn't have written about 'White Jade City in the sky.' He must have been describing some scene in the heavens."

Qin Yanyang nodded quietly and said, "Your analysis makes sense. Earth's landscape has drastically changed now. If it were the ancient mountains and seas, it wouldn't be something Li Bai could witness. Perhaps Li Bai wrote such verses based on seeing these characters in ancient manuscripts and imagining it as an immortal's dwelling like a Heavenly Palace."

Yang Fei closely examined the ancient seal script characters, saying, "These characters have been inscribed here for countless ages and were definitely not carved by those Exotic Realm visitors."

Qin Yanyang nodded and said, "Yes, these characters have existed here for a long time. Moreover, look at this massive Bluestone Gate that was destroyed; the fractured parts are still new. This place should have been sealed by the Bluestone Gate, and after those Exotic Realm visitors forcibly broke through, they entered the mountain range."

Yang Fei glanced at her and asked, "What should we do?"

Qin Yanyang, with a solemn expression, said, "Although I also want to go in and take a look, those eight people are not weak, and if we encounter them together inside and a conflict arises, it would be very dangerous for us."

Yang Fei nodded silently, sharing the same concern.

However, there was a strong desire to explore and profound reluctance in their eyes.

After all the trials and hardships to finally reach here, if they couldn't go in to find out, wouldn't it be a waste?

The two exchanged a glance and simultaneously began to speak, "To die with you..."

Then both fell silent.

Their eyes were full of tender feelings, understanding each other's hearts.

"Let's go. With you and me together as a couple, we are invincible. Even if those Outer Domain beings are mighty, I don't believe we can't put up a fight. At worst, we escape. If we can't escape, dying with you, as far as I'm concerned, is without regret," Yang Fei said resolutely.

Qin Yanyang, sharing a heart for adventure, nodded and said, "Yes, since we're here, we can't just leave knowing nothing. Let's go."

With that, Yang Fei took out an Energy Gathering Flashlight, switched it on to illuminate the winding and rugged cave, then, holding Qin Yanyang's hand, they wordlessly held their breath and stepped into the cave.

Chapter 1012: Top-grade Purple Spirit Crystal

Entering the cave, Yang Fei clearly felt that the spiritual energy concentration inside was even stronger, far exceeding that of the Gathering Spirit Array he had just enhanced.

Moreover, the Five Elements of these spiritual energies were distinct, seemingly allowing the cultivator to selectively absorb different attributes of spiritual energy.

It truly was an extraordinary sacred place for cultivation.

Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei held hands, their minds connected, able to sense this state of spiritual energy, silently amazed.

She couldn't help but say, "For a cultivator, this is simply a Feng Shui treasure land."

Yang Fei hummed in agreement and continued forward with Qin Yanyang.

The entire cave path led towards the depths of the mountain range, constantly sloping downward. Many places lacked a pathway, replaced by high ledges, but this did not hinder the two of them.

Soon, they arrived at a more spacious cave.

"There are signs of excavation here."

Yang Fei shone his flashlight around the cave and saw numerous excavated areas, speaking up.

Qin Yanyang wondered, "It should be those Outer Realm Cultivators who dug here, but what were they digging for?"

Yang Fei thought for a moment, then shook his head and said: "I don't know, maybe some kind of treasure. If they came from a powerful cultivation civilization, they should have tools to detect and locate cultivation resources. Unfortunately, we know nothing about it and can't detect if there's anything good in this cave."

Qin Yanyang said: "The abundance of spiritual energy here might be related to what they dug up."

Yang Fei's heart stirred and he said: "How about we try digging too?"

Qin Yanyang shook her head and said: "Forget it, they've already dug this place up. Even if there was a treasure, they must have taken it away."

Yang Fei thought the same and said, "Then let's keep moving and see what's going on in here."

The two continued to advance towards the depths of the mountains. After a while, Yang Fei suddenly stopped and frowned: "Something's wrong."

Qin Yanyang curiously asked, "What's wrong?"

Yang Fei pointed his flashlight at the road ahead: "There are no footprints of those people here, as if no one has ever been here."

Qin Yanyang observed for a while and said: "Could they have been using Sword Flight, not leaving footprints behind?"

Yang Fei said: "The space here is too narrow for Sword Flight; it would be more effort than it's worth. They would have walked like we are. Even though they're cultivators with light steps, it doesn't make sense not to leave any trace where so many have walked. Most importantly, there are no more signs of excavation along the way."

Qin Yanyang nodded silently and said: "You're saying they didn't go deeper?"

"Let's go further and see," Yang Fei thought aloud.

The two walked a long way more, observing carefully, concluding that no one had been here before.

"Strange, where did those people go then?" Qin Yanyang said curiously.

Yang Fei was also puzzled.

After thinking, he said: "Since there's the cultivation resource they wanted here, logically they should have kept digging. Even if they went elsewhere to explore, someone should have stayed behind to guard."

Qin Yanyang said helplessly: "Unfortunately, all satellite surveillance is down. We have no idea what happened afterwards."

What they didn't know was that the eight disciples of the Lingxiao Sect, after entering the White Jade City stone gate for the second time, triggered the powerful barrier left in the cave and got trapped in that array barrier.

When they arrived, the array barrier was already sealed, which is why they weren't sucked into it, but ended up inside the mountain of top-grade spiritual ore.

The place they were now in had not been visited by the eight from the Lingxiao Sect.

With questions in their minds, they wanted to explore the massive mountain's true nature and figure out where such abundant spiritual energy was coming from, therefore continued to delve inside.

"Wait a moment."

Suddenly, Qin Yanyang stopped Yang Fei.

Yang Fei asked in confusion, "What's the matter?"

Qin Yanyang said: "Turn off your flashlight first."

Though Yang Fei didn't know her intentions, he complied.

The cave instantly plunged into darkness.

After adapting their vision to the pitch-black cave, Qin Yanyang pointed to the upper left side of the cave wall and said: "Look there."

Yang Fei looked up and saw a faint crystalline glow flickering.

The light was difficult to notice if not looked at carefully, and only because they were Foundation Establishment Cultivators, with eyesight far exceeding ordinary people, could they see this faint glow.

"It seems to be purple," Qin Yanyang said.

Yang Fei hummed, his voice slightly excited: "This glowing thing is definitely related to the abundance of spiritual energy here. I can feel spiritual energy emanating from that side."

Qin Yanyang, upon his reminder, quickly sensed it too and said delightedly: "Let's go check it out."

They lifted off the ground and flew to the flickering light.

Yang Fei moved aside some dirt, instantly making a purple glow that was several times brighter than before.

"It seems to be a purple crystal stone, so rich in spiritual energy," Yang Fei said, touching the crystal and clearly sensing the rich spiritual energy it emitted, full of surprise.

Qin Yanyang took out the entrenching tool from her backpack and began digging.

Soon, a bowl-sized rhombus-shaped purple crystal stone was dug out.

With the stone fully exposed, they could feel the rich power emanating from it when touching it.

Qin Yanyang said in shock: "Such a rich energy fluctuation, could this be some kind of new energy crystal?"

Yang Fei shook his head: "The energy it emits belongs to the spiritual energy element, perfect for cultivators to carry. It's unlike petroleum or coal for developing technological civilizations."

"Yes, it indeed greatly benefits cultivators, yet I think its emitted spiritual energy benefits all living things as well," Qin Yanyang said.

Yang Fei nodded and said: "Store it away. I feel that as long as the spiritual energy within this purple crystal is absorbed into the body, it could advance an Inner Strength Martial Artist to the Innate Realm. The innate spiritual energy contained in this crystal is just too abundant."

Qin Yanyang said with some distress: "But it's continually releasing spiritual energy into the environment, which is wasteful. Why don't we absorb it directly before leaving?"

Yang Fei's heart stirred, and he said: "Okay, you give it a try first."

The two had no knowledge of this top-grade Purple Spirit Crystal and only felt it wasteful that it was constantly releasing spiritual energy.

What they didn't realize was that the spiritual energy in this Purple Spirit Crystal was immensely vast. The energy leaking out was only the tip of the iceberg. A cultivator who truly understood how to absorb the spiritual energy would find that a night's cultivation with this crystal equaled a month's worth of regular practice, or even more.

For cultivators, even an ordinary Spirit Stone was a precious cultivation resource.

This Purple Spirit Crystal variety of Spirit Stone is considered an extraordinary cultivation resource in the Cultivation Realm.

Without exaggeration, the top-grade Purple Spirit Crystal they acquired would make even a Golden Core Stage cultivator possess a greedy desire and murderous intent to claim it.

They were obliviously carrying a treasure of immense value.

However, as Qin Yanyang began cultivating and absorbing the spiritual energy from the Purple Spirit Crystal, she quickly opened her eyes in astonishment.

It's unbelievable!

Upon running her cultivation technique, she found that with just a single breath, the amount of spiritual energy she absorbed equaled the effect of practicing one circulation.

Chapter 1013: Entrapped

"What's wrong?"

As Qin Yanyang was cultivating, Yang Fei looked around, trying to find more of these Purple Crystal Stones.

Seeing Qin Yanyang open her eyes right after breathing and exhaling once, he couldn't help but feel a bit worried and asked.

Suppressing her inner excitement, Qin Yanyang said, "Yang Fei, this is a treasure. I only breathed and exhaled once and felt it's even more effective than cultivating a circulation at Yunwu Mountain's Base."

Yang Fei was startled, "Really? That's an exaggeration, isn't it?"

"If you don't believe me, try it." Qin Yanyang replied.

Yang Fei, still skeptical, tried once, and found the result to be exactly as Qin Yanyang described.

Not only that, he was shocked to discover the spiritual energy inhaled during this breathing exercise had very few impurities, was highly pure, and its strength was comparable to, or even greater than, the power elements he later absorbed during cultivation.

"This thing is indeed a treasure." Yang Fei said happily.

Qin Yanyang gave a contented nod and excitedly said, "No wonder those Outer Realm Cultivators want to take the entire mountain range away; it's actually a Treasure Mountain filled with a massive amount of minerals."

"Exactly. There must be plenty of this ore in the mountain range, with these resources, the realm advancement speed of Earth's cultivators will surely accelerate considerably." Yang Fei said joyfully.

Qin Yanyang was also extremely excited, saying, "Ever since those Outer Domain cultivators appeared, I felt overwhelmingly repressed, just feeling that we Earth cultivators are too weak compared to them. But now it seems, this gap can be narrowed."

"Yes, as long as this ore vein is extracted, not to mention cultivators worldwide getting stronger, those of Divine Continent could surely experience several heights of elevation." Yang Fei said.

Qin Yanyang's expression changed slightly and she said with some worry, "This isn't the Divine Continent."

Yang Fei knew her concerns and thought for a moment before saying boldly, "Now the sea has changed into mulberry fields, and mountains have crumbled, the entire Earth's terrestrial and marine appearance has greatly changed. I say this is our territory, and it is. Since ancient times, it's always been survival of the fittest; the capable occupies. Now is the Cultivation Era, when we, as a couple, combine forces, we are invincible. Who dares to contend with us for this place?"

Qin Yanyang too felt a surge of enthusiasm at his words.

Such rich cultivation resources, as they were discovered first by us, they are ours.

"Those Outer Realm Cultivators also know this is a Treasure Mountain, they might go back and bring reinforcements." Qin Yanyang said worriedly.

Yang Fei's heart also sank.

Compared to Earth's various forces, what he worries about most is the invasion of Outer Domain cultivation forces.

Since the last battle at Yunwu Mountain, the cultivation warriors from Heaven and Penglai Realm, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang no longer take seriously.

After all, the cultivation realm of both has elevated a notch, self-assured that those in the Divine Travel Realm pose no threat.

However, they witnessed firsthand the might of those Exotic Realm cultivators.

The key point is, what level are these Outer Domain cultivators in their world?

If these people are the strongest, then that's easy to say, both believe it's not difficult to catch up with them.

But if these people are only of mid to low-level realms in their cultivation world, it would suffocate and depress them.

Once a large number of cultivators from that powerful cultivation world come to Earth, humanity will be like ants, with no means to guard Earth's resources.

After a moment, Yang Fei dispelled the depressive feelings and said, "Don't think too much. Things will resolve themselves as we come to them, step by step. Let's keep looking, see if we can discover other treasures. Didn't you notice the ancient text 'White Jade City' at the cave entrance? Perhaps this is the cultivation cave mansion of an ancient Cultivation Expert, maybe we'll find formidable secret manuals here?"

Qin Yanyang smiled upon hearing this, also gathering her thoughts, nodding, "Yes, let's not scare ourselves. First, we need to understand why this world has become like it is now, and adapt to this Earth before anything else."

After securing the Purple Spirit Crystal, the two continued forward.

With the experience of this piece of Purple Spirit Crystal, the two became more meticulous along the way and discovered several more glowing crystals emitting faint light.

These crystals were mostly white, varied in size, and the majority were only as large as a pinky, the largest no more than an egg.

Moreover, although these crystals also contained a significant amount of spiritual elements, after cultivation perception, the two found that the spiritual energy within these crystals compared to the spiritual energy inside the initially obtained Purple Spirit Crystal was simply pale in comparison.

Continuing like this, as they pressed forward in the cavern, they unintentionally unearthed over a dozen crystal stones.

Yang Fei felt his pack getting heavier and couldn't help but say, "Stop digging, there are too many of these crystals inside the mountain, we can't carry too much now, they're too heavy."

Qin Yanyang, having only one Purple Crystal Stone in her backpack, long felt the pack was at least two or three times heavier than before, and hearing Yang Fei say this, nodded, "Right, we can't carry that much, let's stop digging and explore the entire cave mansion, who knows, there might be more valuable treasures ahead."

The two continued deeper into the cave, and soon, a fork appeared up ahead.

Yang Fei stopped, his expression became more serious, grabbing Qin Yanyang, "Don't go yet."

Qin Yanyang asked puzzled, "What's wrong?"

Yang Fei gazed at the dual cave entrances, scanning the surroundings carefully, attempting to find something, but discovered nothing.

Yet from within those two caves, there seemed to be a tremendous allure constantly assaulting their souls.

Qin Yanyang's eyes showed a trace of greed.

But quickly, she shook her head vigorously, took a deep breath, and said, "There is something strange about these caves."

Yang Fei said, "You noticed too?"

Qin Yanyang said gravely, "It feels like there's some sort of magic inside, tempting me to go it's actually making me almost lose my state of mind."

Yang Fei nodded, "Yes, there's something peculiar about the two caves. I can vaguely sense some ancient charm talisman aura, but when observing closely, nothing can be found but an illusion seems to arise."

Qin Yanyang's heart stirred, looking at the two caves again, surprised, "Hey, earlier I distinctly felt a strong allure, compelling me to move forward, why does that feeling disappear now? If it wasn't so overwhelming earlier, I would think it's just my imagination."

Yang Fei stared at the dual cave entrances, scrutinizing meticulously for a long time, eventually yielding to retreat, "Let's not advance yet, wait until my Realm is higher and Rune Tao improves, then we'll explore again."

Though Qin Yanyang felt somewhat unwilling, she chose caution, agreeing, "Alright, next time, let's leave first."

Just as the two were about to leave, the flashlight shone on the coming turn, their pupils shrank instantly.

The path from before had transformed into two cave entrances.

Chapter 1014: Injured and Trapped

"When we came, were there two passages here?" Qin Yanyang couldn't help asking.

Yang Fei shook his head: "I can't remember clearly, probably not."

Qin Yanyang nodded and said: "Yes, I seem to have looked back once, and didn't notice there were several caves here at that time."

Yang Fei's heart sank and said: "So, did a new cave suddenly appear?"

Qin Yanyang thought for a moment, nodded and said: "It should be like this."

Yang Fei took a deep breath and said: "Close your eyes."

As he spoke, he held Qin Yanyang's hand.

Their minds immediately connected, and many pieces of knowledge about the Talisman Array flashed through Qin Yanyang's mind. She realized Yang Fei was sorting through some information, trying to figure out what the situation was.

After a moment, she sensed Yang Fei's state of mind was a bit chaotic, seemingly clueless about the situation.

She hurriedly reminded: "Yang Fei, don't rush, think slowly, there are at most two paths here. At worst, we can just choose one randomly, and our chance of picking the right one is fifty percent."

With Qin Yanyang's reassurance, Yang Fei's mood gradually calmed down.

Suddenly, he felt a movement in his heart and said: "I will release my Divine Thought and investigate. There are always some impressions on the road we came from, maybe I can discern the way."

Qin Yanyang was delighted and said: "Yes, how did we forget about this ability? There are excavation marks along the way, your Divine Thought will quickly find it."

Yang Fei no longer hesitated, releasing his Divine Thought to explore the depths of the left cave first.

Buzz!

As soon as his Divine Thought touched the entrance of the left cave, a buzzing sound suddenly came from his mind.

In that moment, his Divine Soul trembled, and his Sea of Consciousness seemed to collapse.

Connected with him by hand, Qin Yanyang also suffered a spiritual backlash from the depths of the soul, spewing out a mouthful of blood with a "wah" sound.

"Ah?"

She let out a painful cry.

Yang Fei's face turned pale, his expression weary, and he anxiously looked at Qin Yanyang. Seeing her vomiting blood and her equally haggard expression, he couldn't help but worry and asked: "You... how are you?"

Fearing for his concern, Qin Yanyang shook her head and said: "I'm fine, just my Divine Soul took a hit, it's nothing."

Yang Fei said with a frightened heart: "What a terrifying mental backlash, this cave..."

He looked up at the cave, his pupils suddenly contracted, and he exclaimed in shock: "Why is there another one?"

Qin Yanyang looked up and couldn't help but cry out in surprise.

There were now three cave entrances ahead.

Both of them gasped, looking back simultaneously.

Hiss~~~

Where there had originally been only one forked road, there were now four passages, with four dark caves appearing before them.

"How... how can this be?" Qin Yanyang exclaimed in surprise.

This was far beyond her comprehension.

Living in a tech-savvy society, even martial arts had made her aware of mysterious things in the world.

But cultivation always had a theory basis, it was after the human body connected with nature's spiritual energy that it absorbed it, refining it into True Qi, turning humans into experts.

This is similar to vehicles like cars and planes being fueled by energy sources.

True Qi is equivalent to the energy source for cultivators.

So she could accept humans being able to cultivate.

But now, clearly there was one cave, but it suddenly became two, then two became four.

This was too inconceivable.

How could tangible things completely defy physical laws and undergo quantitative change?

Yang Fei also found it hard to accept.

Watching right before his eyes as two caves became one more, he was genuinely startled.

Turning to look at the two caves behind him, they became four.

What on earth is going on?

Are we in an illusion?

Hmm?

Yes, this must be an illusion.

It's impossible for tangible things to undergo such a substantial quantitative change.

Yang Fei took a deep breath, held Qin Yanyang's hand, and said: "Dear, don't panic, we must have triggered some ancient formation, entering some kind of illusion, experiencing hallucinations."

With Yang Fei saying this, Qin Yanyang also had a sudden realization.

Yes, it must be an illusion.

The Cloud Mist Mountain Array Yang Fei tinkered with had already shown her the mysterious capabilities of formations, and later Zhuge Cang and Tong Yunshu's demonstration of runic ability made her understand that aside from absorbing spiritual energy to become Physical Body Realm cultivators, there were other mystical powers in the world. Understanding those powers allowed one to master extraordinary powers and divine skills.

Therefore, falling into an ancient array and experiencing hallucinations was something she found easy to accept and trust without question.

"What should we do then, can you break this array?" Though Qin Yanyang's heart was more at ease, she still asked worriedly.

This array was too strange, and somehow they had fallen into it.

Moreover, though Yang Fei understood formations, he hadn't felt anything before. When he used his Divine Thought to probe the cave just now, in their state of combined intentions, such a powerful union of Divine Soul, they were immediately backlashed. It was clear this array's power was extraordinary.

Sure enough, Yang Fei's voice sounded with a bitter laugh: "This array is so powerful, I only realized we were trapped after being ensnared, and from the probe just now, it's clear this array is extraordinary. I... I can only say I'll try my best."

Qin Yanyang held his hand tightly and said: "I trust you can do it, don't rush, there are still a lot of compressed biscuits in our backpack, we can last a while."

Yang Fei nodded and said: "I know."

Their minds gradually calmed down, and Qin Yanyang said: "At worst, we can choose a path to try. Even if it's an illusion, there should be one correct path."

Hearing this, Yang Fei's eyes lit up, nodding: "Right, an Illusion Array of choices like this, though other paths are usually perilous, if we're strong enough, we can reach the end. The single Life Gate path is just the safest, and often where the array's creator hid treasures."

Qin Yanyang asked: "So can the other paths also reach the place where the treasure is hidden after passing through?"

Yang Fei thought for a moment, shaking his head: "Not necessarily. According to the basic setup of a mechanism array, they often follow the rule of 'different paths lead to the same destination.' No matter which road is chosen, they all lead to the same endpoint. But some people might carve out another way, not wanting those who choose wrong to get their treasure. This is the so-called search for someone with fate."

Qin Yanyang nodded silently and said: "Yang Fei, don't rush, wait until you've recuperated before trying again. Don't get hurt, and if we pick the wrong path, we need to be in the best state."

Yang Fei said: "Okay, let's first nourish the damaged Divine Souls, and I'll also think about what kind of array this might be."

Chapter 1015: Encountering Outer Realm Cultivators

The two of them were practicing dual cultivation in the cave.

The spiritual energy in the cave was already quite dense, but thinking of the high realm of the Outer Realm Cultivators, they decided it was crucial to enhance their strength, so they took out the spirit stones they had excavated along the way to aid their cultivation.

In this way, with the support of dual cultivation and the continuous supply of spiritual energy from the spirit stones, the two could clearly feel the increasingly high efficiency of True Qi transformation within their bodies.

Originally, after entering the Foundation Establishment Stage, the total amount of True Qi stored within their bodies reached a considerable level, and now, with continued cultivation, the True Qi was becoming more and more abundant.

It was clearly felt that the True Qi stored in the Dantian was increasing, and at this rate of cultivation, it might take only a year or so to fill the Dantian with True Qi.

By then, the power they could exert with a wave of the hand would likely be terrifying.

While practicing cultivation, they were also nourishing the soul.

Without the sun and moon inside the cave, they didn't know how much time had passed. In a state of abundant True Qi, they didn't feel hunger or thirst, and even their injured Divine Soul was slowly recovering.

Like this, they immersed themselves in cultivation, disregarding whether they were in danger now.

When hunger swept over them, they paused their cultivation.

Qin Yanyang took out compressed biscuits and pure water from the backpack. After eating, the satisfaction from fullness greatly gratified them.

Qin Yanyang couldn't help but say, "I feel that this round of cultivation went on for a long time. If it weren't for the hunger pangs in my stomach, I would have lost track of time."

Yang Fei nodded and said, "Yes, this state of complete immersion in cultivation is really wonderful. And have you noticed, we must have been cultivating for a long time, yet the hunger only appeared much later, which means our realm has reached a certain height, allowing us to fast for a short period."

Qin Yanyang nodded silently: "The True Qi within our bodies is transformed from the Power Elements between heaven and earth, and we have already entered the Foundation Establishment Realm, so our desire for food has greatly diminished."

Yang Fei said, "You continue to cultivate while I try to figure out what kind of formation this is."

Qin Yanyang realized that not cultivating might disturb Yang Fei in comprehending this strange Illusionary Array, and she now had an inexplicable obsession with cultivation, feeling the need to race against time, to use every second to cultivate and enhance her strength, in order to find peace of mind.

Thus, Qin Yanyang continued her cultivation, aided by the abundant spiritual energy and the effects of the spirit stones.

Yang Fei was also observing the entire cave, mentally revisiting all the famous illusion arrays known in Taoism, but he always felt that the formation inside this cave was different from those he knew.

Yin Yang Five Elements, Three Talents and Six Harmonies, Nine Palaces and Eight Trigrams, and the Mysteries of Divination, he had all dabbled in these through the remnants of Rune Tao and formations passed down by his master Huang Chengcheng. He was confident that, as long as these related

formations were concerned, he could gradually familiarize himself with them and understand them one by one through his own talents. Though he might not be able to break such formations, he could at least find the Life Gate to escape.

But the formation before him was completely different from those he understood.

This left him at a loss.

Unless he tried one by one.

But probing each with Divine Thought was not feasible.

Directly walking in to try had too low a probability.

Damn it.

Yang Fei frustratingly grabbed his head.

Slowly, he calmed down and focused on perceiving the charm talisman of each cave entrance.

Since it's a formation, it must be built on the foundation of rune poetry. Without rune poetry, it's impossible to create a formation. So he felt that as long as he could understand the rune aura contained in each entrance, he could choose the correct exit based on the aura of life and death represented by the charm talisman.

Time flew by, and Yang Fei completely quieted his mind, focusing on sensing the rune spirit hidden in each cave entrance. Although there was no initial gain, gradually, his perception of the charm talisman of these entrances became clearer and stronger.

He understood that such a situation implied either that he was getting closer to understanding the truth behind these Gates of Life and Death, or that his comprehension of Rune Tao was continuously improving.

No matter which outcome it was, it was good news for him.

Yang Fei didn't know how long they had been trapped there, but in the meantime, Qin Yanyang had awakened from her solo cultivation three times.

Each time, it was hunger that woke her up.

To know how long they had been trapped, they would have to calculate each hunger interval after escaping.

Even though they only ate a small piece of compressed biscuit each time, since their last resupply, it had taken a long time, so the food and pure water in their backpacks kept depleting.

Given the rate of consumption, at most after two more times, they would be out of supplies.

A strong sense of crisis followed.

However, Qin Yanyang did not urge Yang Fei. She continued her cultivation without disturbing him.

Yang Fei focused intently on comprehending the rune power contained within the formation.

When Qin Yanyang opened her eyes again, Yang Fei couldn't help but shake his head and said, "It's not right."

Seeing him shaking his head while murmuring that something was amiss, Qin Yanyang felt a bit distressed and couldn't help but say, "If you can't figure it out, just rest a bit, and we'll randomly choose a path to break through."

Yang Fei shook his head and said, "It shouldn't be like this. Something's wrong with this formation. Based on the charm talisman information, this formation doesn't seem complete. But an incomplete formation can't have such power; something's not right."

Qin Yanyang didn't know what he had figured out, but seeing him like this, she consoled, "Yang Fei, darling, there's no rush. You take your time. With your intelligence, I'm sure you'll understand soon."

Yang Fei looked up at her, shook his head, and said, "This can't be understood. It's missing something."

Qin Yanyang quickly said, "Okay, okay, maybe this formation has been here too long and is already incomplete."

Yang Fei's eyes lit up, "Right, could that be it?"

Qin Yanyang handed him some compressed biscuits and water, saying, "Eat something first, then think slowly."

A bit mechanically, Yang Fei took the food from her and started eating together with Qin Yanyang.

After eating, they both felt full and their spirits lifted.

But Yang Fei still frowned, pondering over the issue he couldn't understand.

Concerned about his mental state, Qin Yanyang didn't dare to enter into cultivation again and silently stayed by his side.

After a while, Qin Yanyang suddenly narrowed her pupils, noisily drawing her Soft Sword and holding it in her hand.

Yang Fei was also alert, suddenly standing up, holding the Fine Steel Treasure Saber he had specially forged before coming.

"Boom!"

A loud noise came from the cave wall opposite them.

Immediately, dust and stones flew, debris scattered everywhere.

The two were shocked, and they saw a new cave entrance appear. Subsequently, a dirt-covered face and haggard-looking man in ancient garb appeared in their sight.

Seeing the suddenly appearing man in ancient attire, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were on high alert, regarding him as a formidable enemy.

This should be one of the Outer Realm Cultivators from that Ghost Ship.

Chapter 1016: Dialogue

Li Yue stared at the two indigenous humans before him, first in a daze, then his pupils contracted, as he gazed at them in astonishment.

He could clearly sense the immense True Qi power within the two of them, even a faint sense of oppression and crisis from them.

Being one of the eight Foundation Establishment Stage disciples chosen to explore Earth indicated that Li Yue was among the best of the Foundation Establishment disciples in Lingxiao Sect.

After arriving on this planet, the members of Lingxiao Sect had gained some understanding of its indigenous inhabitants, knowing it was a world of technological civilization. Though there were some Martial Artists, their strength was too weak, even inferior to late-stage Qi Refining disciples of the Cultivation Realm.

Therefore, Lingxiao Sect disciples never took these natives seriously, viewing them as no different from ants.

After failing to extract a massive top-grade Spirit Vein using the Spirit Vein Cage Immortal Talisman last time, the eight disciples of Lingxiao Sect unanimously agreed to enter the cave to loot, but as they ventured further, they dispersed.

Li Yue was the first to get separated.

He found himself entering a colossal maze within the mountain, where the cave system was overwhelmingly vast, with one cave turning into two in the blink of an eye.

Two turned into four.

He realized he had entered a powerful Illusion Array.

Unfortunately, the team that came along this time only had Lu Chen, who was most proficient in Array Formation Talisman Tao, aside from senior brothers Ye Wuya and Du Hui, who also had some knowledge in Talismanic Array.

Li Yue himself was not interested in formations and rune Tao, so he had no idea how to break this Illusion Array.

At first, Li Yue was somewhat panicked, but gradually, he calmed down and started exploring ways to escape the Illusion Array.

However, whether it was bad luck or every path in this cave was fraught with dangers, Li Yue found every path he chose to be wrong.

He did not know how many wrong choices he made, but relying on his hardcore Foundation Establishment-stage strength, along with various life-saving means granted by his sect and a large number of recovery elixirs, he forced his way through and reached this point.

He thought that after this, he would finally make it out, but instead, he entered another cavern, which not only had six or seven branching paths but also suddenly two natives popped out.

The worst part was that he sensed an inexplicable danger from these two natives.

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were equally surprised.

The three of them exchanged glances, creating a tense and hostile atmosphere, sensing the enmity from each other.

However, both sides seemed restrained and did not immediately engage in combat.

Li Yue thought for a moment and said, "Who are you?"

His speech was articulate, sounding like an ancient dialect of the Divine Continent, which Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang could not understand. Yet, inexplicably, they seemed to grasp what he was asking.

Yang Fei thought for a moment and used a steel blade to write a few ancient pre-Qin characters on the ground.

These characters were similar to traditional Chinese characters but had some differences.

The Daoist secret manuals Yang Fei obtained were in these characters, so he recognized them.

Above the cave entrance of this mountain range, the words 'White Jade City' were of this character type.

"You ask who we are?"

This was what Yang Fei wrote.

Li Yue recognized these characters and nodded. Then he thought for a moment and similarly used his long sword to write, "You cannot understand my language?"

Yang Fei nodded.

He wrote and asked, "Are you from the Outer Realm?"

Li Yue did not hide it, writing five words.

"Central Great World."

Yang Fei wrote, "Cultivation World?"

"Both Cultivation Civilization and technological civilization exist."

"What are you here for? To destroy Earth?"

"Is this place called Earth? We are here to explore, not to destroy."

"Yet your actions have led to Earth being devastated, with billions of humans dead or injured. To Earth, you are demons."

Li Yue frowned, a trace of reluctance flashing in his eyes.

He understood the significant changes brought to the entire planet after the Spirit Vein Cage Immortal Talisman was used last time, causing a great disaster for the natives here, but he did not expect the losses to be so severe.

However, being a cultivator, his state of mind was immensely strong, and in his subconscious, Earth's humans were not beings of the same origin as him.

So he wrote, "This is the calamity Earth deserves; everything has its destiny."

Yang Fei was provoked by his indifference, with a flash of killing intent.

Li Yue sensed the killing intent from him, furrowed his brow, and fixed his gaze on Yang Fei, also releasing a sharp killing intent.

Qin Yanyang didn't know what they had written, but sensing the tension, she didn't hesitate to release a powerful aura and focused on Li Yue.

Li Yue's heart tightened.

He was horrified to discover that the individual strength of these two Earth natives had reached the Foundation Establishment Early Stage, shocking him further was the absurd illusion of invincibility they gave him when holding hands.

The two were dual cultivation partners!

Their cultivation technique seemed to be the Integration Skill, which was common in the Central Great World. While they might not be significant individually, their combined strength multiplied several times over.

Unexpectedly, such cultivators existed even on this technology-developed planet.

Li Yue took a deep breath; although not exhausted, his condition was extremely poor.

The most terrifying aspect was that his life-saving artifacts had been used multiple times, and the elixirs in his storage bag were mostly exhausted. These two exuded a sense of overwhelming crisis; if they fought, the outcome would be unpredictable.

Truly unfortunate, how did he manage to encounter Earth natives, and two powerful cultivators at that?

"Fighting with me brings you no benefits; rather, provoking our Lingxiao Sect spells doom for your Earth," Li Yue contemplated the tense atmosphere and decisively wrote these words with his sword after a moment of thought.

Qin Yanyang couldn't understand, so she asked, "What did he say?"

Yang Fei briefly recounted their previous dialogue.

Qin Yanyang said, "Ask him what Lingxiao Sect is and how powerful it is in their world."

A thought flashed through Yang Fei's mind, and he wrote this question.

Li Yue immediately saw through their intention in asking and smiled slightly, not concealing it, writing, "Lingxiao Sect in Southern Domain is but a two-star sect, and my cultivation is merely that of a Foundation Establishment Cultivator. Above us, Lingxiao Sect has Golden Core Stage, Primordial Yin Ancestor, and even Divinity Transformation experts."

Yang Fei's heart sank.

He translated for Qin Yanyang.

Qin Yanyang also gasped.

The two originally thought these Outer Realm cultivators were formidable enough, only to realize their realm and cultivation were deemed weak in Lingxiao Sect.

Above Foundation Establishment Stage, there are Golden Core, Nascent Soul, and Divinity Transformation Stages.

Yang Fei had some concept of these stages through related records in Taoist scriptures.

Although Qin Yanyang didn't have much knowledge, by comparing them with the cultivation stages of earthly Martial Artists, she understood that Golden Core, Nascent Soul, and Divinity Transformation were indeed formidable levels compared to what she and Yang Fei currently faced.

Unexpectedly, the Outer Realm cultivation civilization had reached such great heights.

Truly despairing.

Chapter 1017: Nine-Nine Returns to One

Li Yue saw that his words indeed intimidated these two Earth natives, and felt a bit relieved in his heart. He then used his long sword to write a line on the ground.

"The eight of us came to Earth this time on the orders of our sect to search for a top-grade, or even immortal-grade, spirit vein. We aim to take this vein away. To the Cultivation World, we are only interested in the cultivation resources on this planet, not in harming the life here."

Yang Fei softly read these words to Qin Yanyang as she watched.

Qin Yanyang frowned.

The situation was indeed as Li Yue said.

These Outer Realm Cultivators did not initiate any attacks on Earth's humans after arriving.

They had been exploring Earth and then used an Immortal Talisman to extract a massive mountain from the seabed.

However, this action triggered great changes on Earth, shifting the Earth's axial center, causing the Earth to tilt, reversing the magnetic field, and triggering a global disaster.

Though it seemed like they did not intend harm, this careless act indeed brought catastrophe to Earth.

Would killing these Outer Realm Cultivators avenge the Earth beings who died?

If they could be brought back to life, Qin Yanyang would do it without hesitation.

But even if they were killed, the dead would not return.

More importantly, according to Li Yue, the Lingxiao Sect is extremely powerful, and even their Foundation Establishment Stage disciples put immense pressure on her and Yang Fei, let alone those above the Foundation Establishment Stage, such as the Golden Core Stage, Nascent Soul Stage, or even the Divinity Transformation Stage.

If the two of them killed the disciples of the Lingxiao Sect, they feared that the superpower of the Lingxiao Sect would not let it go and come here for revenge, which is not as simple as just her and Yang Fei paying for it with their lives.

It might also bring an apocalyptic disaster to humanity surviving on Earth.

The two exchanged a glance, and Yang Fei communicated through their mutual understanding, saying telepathically to her: "This person is extremely powerful; not only might we not be able to defeat him, but he also has many companions. If we kill him, we will invite endless trouble unless we can wipe them all out at once."

Qin Yanyang responded: "Yes. With the strength of their Cultivation Civilization, if we kill them, they will likely use special means to know we did it, leaving endless troubles."

Yang Fei said: "Then forget it?"

Qin Yanyang felt unwilling.

She felt that this Earth's disaster was caused by these people, and these Outer Realm Cultivators were heinous sinners, and it was truly unsatisfactory to let them go like this.

Yang Fei, feeling her emotions, telepathically communicated: "Then let's kill them; this is the time when he is weak. There is a seventy-percent chance we can destroy him if we join forces and also test the methods of these Outer Realm Cultivators."

Qin Yanyang felt a chill in her heart, hesitating for the first time.

She was originally decisive in killing, but at this moment, she found it very difficult to choose.

She feared the retaliation from that powerful Cultivation Civilization of the Central Great World.

The Earth's civilization had already suffered such a devastating disaster, and if because she and Yang Fei killed the disciples of the Lingxiao Sect, leading the powerful figures of Lingxiao Sect to come and bring another disaster to Earth, she and Yang Fei would truly be the sinners of Earth.

While Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were communicating telepathically, Li Yue was looking at the line of text he wrote on the ground, with the sounds of Yang Fei reading those words to Qin Yanyang lingering in his mind, deep in thought.

A moment later, he pointed at the text on the ground and read it out word by word.

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang's expressions changed, looking at him in surprise.

They heard Li Yue reading out the text with the standard pronunciation of the Divine Continent.

What strong learning ability!

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were secretly amazed.

Li Yue wrote, "Did I read it wrong?"

Yang Fei shook his head, having an idea, wrote: "Read it once in your language for me to hear."

Li Yue smiled upon hearing this and complied.

His pronunciation was somewhat strange, but each word made the two feel inexplicably familiar, as if these words should sound like this.

Through this kind of pronunciation, the two combined the meaning of each word and gradually sensed some sort of pronunciation pattern.

They then realized that after Li Yue read these words once, they could also read these words entirely using Li Yue's pronunciation.

Yang Fei tried reading it once, without any mistake.

Qin Yanyang also read it once, with an even more precise pronunciation than Yang Fei.

Li Yue smilingly wrote while reading, "Foundation Establishment Cultivators have already opened up Wisdom Root and Spiritual Wisdom, with a photographic memory and quick understanding. Through mutual exchange, we can soon communicate verbally."

Yang Fei followed with his pronunciation, then read it again in the language of the Divine Continent.

Through this method, both sides were quickly understanding each other's pronunciation patterns.

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang suddenly discovered that it seemed like their talent skills in language had been maxed out, becoming increasingly familiar with the pronunciation patterns of the people from the Central Great World.

Qin Yanyang grew more familiar with the words akin to Ancient Seal Script that Yang Fei and Li Yue wrote on the ground, gradually recognizing some of them as well.

Thus, after a brief exchange, Li Yue wrote: "We are trapped here now, we should work together to find a way to escape, otherwise we will all be trapped here to death."

Yang Fei asked, "Do you have a way out?"

Li Yue shook his head: "I chose wrong three times, barely made it here, and if I choose wrong again, I might not make it out. But now, with you two, the three of us joining forces might get us out."

Yang Fei asked: "Is the Illusionary Array you were trapped in before the same as here?"

Li Yue surveyed the surroundings with his gaze, nodded: "Yes, nine holes."

Yang Fei's pupils narrowed, quickly surveying the surroundings.

There really were nine holes.

How could this be?

Weren't there only seven holes before?

When Li Yue appeared, he broke through one hole, making it only eight.

When did another one appear?

The number nine-nine.

Right, that makes sense.

This should be the Nine-Nine Returning to One Array.

Each passage can lead to the final destination, with one being a smooth path, without any dangers, while the other eight passages are fraught with peril.

Not only that, but if you make a wrong choice, you'll face another choice each time.

If unlucky, making wrong choices again and again would lead to being caught in this Illusionary Array's endless loop, never escaping.

Of course, for the majority who chose wrong, one mistake is enough to be fatal.

Li Yue being alive after three wrong choices is enough to prove his strength, at least having plenty of life-saving Magic Treasures and methods.

Yang Fei asked: "Look around here. Which three passages did you take before?"

Li Yue surveyed the surroundings, shook his head: "It's no use; I can't remember which passage I chose before. The third time, I chose the same spot based on memory, but the traps and Killing Arrays inside were different."

Yang Fei's heart sank.

It turned out to be true.

The difficulty of this Nine-Nine Returning to One Array is higher than I imagined.

However, according to the power of the one who set this array, Li Yue such a Cultivator shouldn't have survived choosing incorrectly, should he?

Could it be that the predecessor who set this Illusionary Array didn't intend to kill, just to screen for fated individuals through this array?

Li Yue asked: "I am Li Yue of the Lingxiao Sect, may I know the two of your names?"

Yang Fei didn't conceal it, giving both their names.

Li Yue nodded, "Both of you coming here shows you are capable, is there a way to leave here? If you can safely take me out, there will be a great reward afterward."

Yang Fei glanced at him, shook his head: "We lack nothing on Earth."

Li Yue confidently smiled: "Both of you are exceptionally talented, don't you seek the path of immortality in Cultivation? Staying on this small Earth cannot showcase your cultivation talents, if I recommend, you can join the Lingxiao Sect, heading to the Central Great World to witness broader horizons."

Chapter 1018: Fireball Technique

Li Yue's words stirred a slight ripple in the hearts of Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, but not much.

Regarding the super vast Central Great World described by Li Yue, the two indeed felt a bit of curiosity, and if there was a chance, it would naturally be good to take a look.

But this curiosity wasn't strong.

Right now, the changes on Earth are enormous, and they have many things to do.

They haven't even figured out the current situation on Earth, so naturally, they don't have a strong desire to explore worlds beyond Earth.

Moreover, after all, both of them are only in their twenties and already Foundation Establishment Cultivators, so they don't particularly pursue so-called immortality.

Of course, there's another point.

According to Li Yue, even if they went to the Central Great World with their current cultivation, their power realm in that cultivation civilization would be not enough, merely the lowest level cultivators, and the risk factor would be too high over there.

So Yang Fei shook his head and said, "We currently have little interest in going to other worlds."

Li Yue was startled and asked in confusion, "With your cultivation talent, after joining the Lingxiao Sect, you could become inner sect disciples, gaining stronger cultivation techniques and secret manuals, surely improving to a stronger and higher realm in the future, enjoying a longer lifespan, why wouldn't you want to go?"

Yang Fei smiled and said, "Immortality isn't very tempting for us as a couple. On Earth, we live carefree and freely, which is more pleasant."

A strong disappointment flashed in Li Yue's eyes, and he sighed, "Little Brother Yang's thinking like this really wastes your cultivation talent."

Yang Fei smiled slightly, indifferent.

Li Yue thought for a moment and said, "Since you don't want to go to the Lingxiao Sect in the Southern Domain to cultivate, I have nothing to thank you for."

Yang Fei shook his head and said, "It's too early to talk about thanking, I can't think of a way out for now."

Li Yue said, "No matter, even if you can't find the safest passage, as long as the three of us join forces, we can forcibly pass through any passage."

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang's eyes lit up.

Indeed.

This Li Yue could pass through three wrong passages consecutively by himself, now with the three of them working together, even if they choose the wrong one they should be able to pass through safely, making the cost of trial and error small.

Thinking of this, Yang Fei calmed his mind, contemplating the principles of the Nine-Nine Returning to One Array while attentively sensing the power of the Dao Rhyme of the Runes within these nine holes.

After a while, he pointed to an entrance and said, "Let's go out from here."

Without any hesitation, Qin Yanyang chose to trust Yang Fei unconditionally and nodded, "Let's go."

Li Yue pondered for a moment and smiled, "After you, please."

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang didn't move.

Towards this Li Yue of the Lingxiao Sect, they had no sense of trust.

Similarly, Li Yue clearly didn't trust Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang much either.

The space within the cave was narrow, whoever walked at the front was the most dangerous, especially if there was someone following behind that they weren't confident about, that made it even more dangerous.

Li Yue thought for a moment and smiled, "How about this. Little Brother Yang, you go at the front, I'll be behind you, and your partner will be behind me."

This was indeed a very good idea.

If he made a move against Yang Fei, Qin Yanyang could strike from behind him, which would allow them to attack him from front and behind, making Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang a bit more reassured.

However, unexpectedly, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang shook their heads simultaneously.

Although they were both Foundation Establishment cultivators, Li Yue's strength seemed somewhat superior, and in the cultivation world, the Foundation Establishment stage was likely to have various strong methods, going against each other head-on, there probably existed a certain power disparity.

The two together greatly enhanced their combat power, so they weren't afraid of Li Yue.

If they were separated, even if they attacked Li Yue from front and behind, they still felt it was somewhat risky.

So, for them, either the three of them go together with Li Yue leading, or they don't need Li Yue and the couple acts on their own.

Li Yue didn't expect that the two would disagree with the best method he proposed and looked puzzled.

Then, his gaze fell on their always clasped hands, a thought struck him, and he seemed to understand something.

After a brief consideration, Li Yue said, "Then let me go first."

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang nodded simultaneously.

Li Yue smiled slightly and extended his right hand.

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang's pupils contracted suddenly.

At the moment Li Yue extended his right hand, they clearly sensed a mass of spiritual elements being controlled by Li Yue in the cave.

The next instant, with a whoosh, this mass of spiritual elements turned into a flame, becoming a small fireball.

This small fireball appeared, instantly illuminating the entire cave.

Compared to the flashlight Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang had been using, it lit up a much larger area.

Watching that small fireball constantly burn in the area over a foot above Li Yue's palm, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were secretly astonished.

They could sense that this fireball wasn't just for illumination; it also had strong attack power.

At least for most Martial Artists on Earth, the fireball had considerable power.

Seeing Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang exhibit shock and vigilance just from a small Fireball Technique, Li Yue was taken aback but then smiled and said, "You don't know the Fireball Technique?"

Yang Fei said, "It's nothing more than using special means to ignite the power elements of the fire attribute."

Li Yue nodded, "That's the principle, but it seems you don't know how to do it?"

Yang Fei didn't hide it and nodded, "Earth's cultivation civilization is too backward, many things have been lost. Here, cultivators focus on refining their own power and don't research other magic enough."

Li Yue laughed and said, "The Fireball Technique is the most basic magic method in the world of cultivation civilization, Qi Refinement realm cultivators can master it, it's not a secret. Listen closely."

Saying this, he taught a mnemonic to Yang Fei.

After listening, Yang Fei pondered for a moment, used telekinesis, and spiritual energy surged. Instantly, a fireball appeared in front of him.

Li Yue's eyes twinkled, and he genuinely said, "Your talent is indeed very high. If you could join the Lingxiao Sect, your future would be boundless."

Yang Fei laughed heartily, relaxing his alertness towards Li Yue by a few degrees.

This man was straightforward, even teaching the Fireball Technique to him.

Although for their Central Great World, the Fireball Technique was just the most basic entry-level magic, for Earth's cultivators, it was a lost skill.

"Thank you, Brother Li, for your teachings." Yang Fei chuckled, used telekinesis, and the fireball disappeared.

He pointed to the previously selected entrance and said, "If Brother Li trusts me, please proceed, my wife and I will closely follow. Let's escape this Nine-Nine Reunification Illusion Array together."

Li Yue smiled and said, "Alright, I'll take the lead. Having been trapped here for several months, if we don't get out soon, I'm afraid I'll truly be stuck here. I wonder how my fellow sect members are faring."

With that, he used the Fireball Technique to illuminate and strode into the mountain cave passage designated by Yang Fei.

Yang Fei pulled Qin Yanyang, and the two followed closely, entering the cave.

Chapter 1019: Greed

Yang Fei held Qin Yanyang's hand. The two were in sync, so when Li Yue taught Yang Fei the Fireball Technique, Qin Yanyang also felt as if she were controlling the technique when Yang Fei demonstrated it after comprehending it.

After entering the cave, Qin Yanyang continued to ponder the means of controlling the Fireball Technique.

Yang Fei sensed her thoughts and explained it to her in detail.

Qin Yanyang quickly grasped the trick, feeling a sense of joy inside.

A moment later, she transmitted her voice to Yang Fei: "Since the Fire Attribute Elements can be used in this way, other elements should be viable too. Can we manipulate the Gold Attribute Element to condense lightning?"

Yang Fei was overjoyed, replying: "Yes indeed, haha, you're so clever, wife, always drawing analogies!"

Qin Yanyang transmitted: "It sounds easy, but achieving it in reality is difficult. I'll need to ponder more deeply. I believe we can find the key, and once we do, everything will fall into place."

Yang Fei responded, transmitting: "Let's not think about this now. First, let's see if we can safely leave here."

Qin Yanyang nodded, and the two ceased communication, focusing on following Li Yue as they made their way.

The road inside the cave was rugged and the air humid, but the fireball controlled by Li Yue never extinguished.

After the time it takes to drink a cup of tea, the passage remained endless.

Yet along the way, they hadn't encountered any dangers.

Li Yue exclaimed with delight, "Little Brother Yang is indeed skilled in formations. I previously chose three paths full of peril and traps, but this passage has none whatsoever."

Yang Fei modestly replied, "Brother Li is too kind, I only know a little about formations. Moreover, speaking prematurely now might be unwise."

Li Yue said, "Among our generation of brothers, Junior Brother Lu Chen has the highest attainment in Array Formation Talisman Tao. It's a pity that everyone was scattered; otherwise, with him here, I wouldn't have been trapped for so long. Brother Yang, your talent in formations is exceptional, as is your cultivation talent. If you went to the Central Great World, all sects and aristocratic families would cherish talents like you greatly. Why confine yourself to this small planetary world?"

Yang Fei laughed, "Everyone has their own aspirations, right?"

Li Yue sighed and said no more.

They traveled a long distance without encountering any danger, yet this passage seemed endless, causing the three to doubt.

Just then, a weak light appeared ahead.

The three brightened up, feeling immense joy.

Li Yue said, "We're out."

He sped up, swiftly flying towards the light.

"Li Yue, Senior Brother?"

At that moment, a voice filled with surprise and joy came from ahead.

Li Yue was delighted to hear this, "Junior Brother Sun Lei?"

"It's me, wonderful, finally seeing you. Senior Brother Li, with which other brothers are you right now?" asked the Lingxiao Sect disciple called Sun Lei joyfully.

Li Yue said, "With two local cultivators."

As he spoke, he moved quickly to join Sun Lei.

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang saw Li Yue meet his sect junior brother, immediately becoming alert.

Li Yue indeed seemed kind, yet they hadn't interacted with the other Lingxiao Sect disciples, unaware of their temperaments.

Moreover, Li Yue's kindness previously was due to his fatigued and weak state, while Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were together.

Now, having found his sect brothers, in a situation with two on each side, would the other still be so amicable? It's hard to tell.

"Local cultivators?" Sun Lei's voice bore surprise, "Isn't this planet a technological civilization? How are there cultivators? And they managed to enter here; their strength isn't weak."

Li Yue said, "Yes, these are two remarkably talented Earth cultivators, likely in Foundation Establishment Early Stage."

"Seriously? Under previous circumstances on this planet, it could foster Foundation Establishment Stage cultivators?" Sun Lei's voice was filled with disbelief, as if unable to accept Li Yue's words.

Li Yue did not further explain, instead turning back to Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, saying: "No need to worry, this is Junior Brother Sun from Lingxiao Sect."

Yang Fei passed a voice to Qin Yanyang: "Be careful."

Qin Yanyang responded with a nod.

Hand in hand, the two approached.

The light grew brighter, soon the exit was in sight, revealing a spacious cave, seeming naturally illuminated, which delighted them.

However, after scanning the cave, their hearts sank.

The brightness in this cave was not natural but emanated from a giant Luminous Pearl.

Additionally, there were many cave openings around this cave, appearing dark and deep, leading who-knows-where.

Li Yue examined this cave, and his joy at escaping was frozen on his face.

Sun Lei scrutinized Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang.

Upon sensing the strong True Qi emanating from the two, his expression subtly shifted, realizing that Li Yue spoke the truth.

These Earth natives were indeed at Foundation Establishment Early Stage, which was extremely surprising.

But soon his gaze lingered on Qin Yanyang, unable to look away.

Top-grade Earth Spirit Root cultivator!

Previously, Spiritual Energy on this planet was so scarce, utterly unsuitable for cultivators to thrive.

So when Li Yue mentioned encountering two native Foundation Establishment Stage cultivators, Sun Lei found it hard to believe.

But now he believed.

Because of this woman's Spirit Root attribute.

She was of the legendary top-grade Earth Spirit Root.

Cultivators with such Spirit Root possess unparalleled cultivation talent and are ideal for dual cultivation. Any cultivator joining her in dual cultivation will see their efforts greatly amplified.

In the cultivation civilization world, female cultivators with Earth Spirit Root are sought after by all male cultivators as desired Dao companions.

Yet in the vast Central Great World, such Earth Spirit Root female cultivators are few overall, let alone one possessing top-grade Earth Spirit Root.

Sun Lei's fervent gaze made Qin Yanyang feel extremely disgusted.

Yang Fei, being right next to Qin Yanyang, naturally sensed this person's fervent stare, his gaze abruptly cold, releasing a fierce killing intent, fixating on Sun Lei.

Li Yue also noticed his junior brother Sun Lei's peculiar behavior, brows furrowing, loudly reminding him: "Junior Brother Sun."

Simultaneously, he was internally puzzled.

To his knowledge, Sun Lei wasn't the lecherous type; the cultivation realm had many female cultivators with excellent temperament and appearance, yet he had never seen his junior brother lose composure like this before; why such a reaction now?

He was unaware that Sun Lei had obtained a Magic Artifact capable of detecting others' Spirit Roots, allowing him to easily discern the attribute and quality of a cultivator's Spirit Root through this artifact below the Foundation Establishment Stage.

Relying on this artifact, Sun Lei cultivated connections with those having high-quality Spirit Roots in Lingxiao Sect, rarely associating with cultivators with low Spirit Root grades, combined with his own not-too-weak talent, he connected with the most outstanding of his generation in the sect, maintaining excellent relations.

Most importantly, he recommended several disciples with decent Spirit Root grades to the sect using this Magic Artifact, thus granting him notable presence among many sect elders.

Presently, using the artifact he possessed, upon learning Qin Yanyang was a top-grade Earth Spirit Root cultivator, Sun Lei was genuinely astonished.

Then, he developed an uncontrollable obsession.

He wanted to claim the female cultivator with top-grade Earth Spirit Root as his own.

With this woman as his Dao companion, his cultivation speed would inevitably multiply.

Chapter 1020: Vigilance and Killing Intent

After being reminded by Li Yue, Sun Lei regained his senses and immediately felt the sharp gaze from Yang Fei, as well as the look of disgust on Qin Yanyang's face.

He wanted Qin Yanyang to become his Dao companion, and it would be best if she liked him. Otherwise, if she detested him, it would be impossible for her to cooperate with him in cultivation.

"Please don't misunderstand, Fairy. I am Sun Lei, also a disciple of the Lingxiao Sect. I was just captivated by your beauty and exceptional temperament, and was momentarily drawn to your presence. I apologize for any rudeness," Sun Lei immediately addressed Qin Yanyang.

As he spoke, he clasped his hands and bowed to Qin Yanyang, apologizing deeply. Afterward, he nodded to Yang Fei, indicating not to misunderstand.

As the saying goes, one does not hit a smiling face. Sun Lei's previous gaze did indeed annoy Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, but now he was presenting himself as very polite and explained that he was drawn to Qin Yanyang's extraordinary demeanor, an extremely high compliment.

After all, you can't blame someone for admiring such beauty.

For the moment, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang couldn't really lose their temper.

Qin Yanyang let out a light humph, choosing not to respond to Sun Lei.

Yang Fei was still very displeased with Sun Lei, but since the latter had voluntarily explained and apologized, he didn't want to hold onto it.

However, Yang Fei remained cautious of Sun Lei in his heart.

This person's gaze at Qin Yanyang earlier had been too intense, a gaze filled with strong possessiveness.

Seeing Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang let out a light humph and ignore Sun Lei, clearly still upset with Sun Lei's behavior earlier, Li Yue sighed inwardly and quickly smiled to mediate: "My junior brother has always been a somewhat simple and straightforward person, focusing solely on closed cultivation and rarely going out. Moreover, Qin Fairy is indeed graceful and extraordinary, which is why he glanced more than a few times. I hope you won't take it to heart."

As Li Yue explained, Sun Lei once again showed a bashful and apologetic expression, bowing to the two with clasped hands.

With this stance taken by the other party, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang naturally had nothing more to say. Yang Fei hummed lightly and said, "Best focus on figuring out how to escape from here."

Sun Lei hurriedly responded, "Brother Yang is right."

Despite saying so, deep down he had already made up his mind that the next time he returned to the Lingxiao Sect, he would definitely take this woman named Qin Yanyang with him.

As for her already having a Dao companion, he did not care.

He believed that the cultivators from this Earth space were short-sighted and that, if he appealed to sentiment and benefits, this Earth woman with a top-grade Earth Spirit Root aptitude would definitely follow him.

Having just chosen the right path earlier, Li Yue placed even more trust in Yang Fei's abilities in formations.

He looked at Yang Fei and said, "Brother Yang, it seems this is indeed the Nine-Nine Reunification Illusion Array you mentioned. I've chosen incorrectly each time before, but you chose correctly. Your attainments in formations make me humbled. We'll rely on you to get out of here."

Yang Fei responded with a slight smile, "Since my wife and I are also planning to leave here, taking the two of you along is just a small effort. No need to thank me."

Li Yue gratefully said, "In any case, I, Li Yue, owe you a favor."

Yang Fei said no more and began observing the surrounding cave entrances.

Sun Lei inquired of Li Yue, "Senior Brother Li, was it Brother Yang who brought you here just now?"

Li Yue briefly explained how he encountered Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, and then asked, "Junior Brother Sun, how did you get here?"

Sun Lei smiled bitterly and said, "Much like Senior Brother Li, I forced my way through as well. After arriving here, I was quite tired and cultivated for a while. As I was about to choose again, I encountered you, Senior Brother Li."

Li Yue replied, "Now with Brother Yang, who understands formations, it should be easier for us to exit. Moreover, even if one doesn't understand formations, with the four of us together, our chances of getting out are much higher as long as we don't get separated."

Sun Lei nodded and said, "Indeed. I just wonder how the other senior brothers and sisters are doing."

Li Yue reassured him, "Since neither you nor I have encountered problems, they likely won't either, especially Junior Brother Lu Chen, who is proficient in formations. I'm afraid he might have already exited by now."

Sun Lei relaxed a lot and nodded, "Yes, though this array is tricky, the mechanisms and killing arrays it is set with aren't too powerful, seemingly designed for Foundation Establishment cultivators. With our brothers and sisters carrying life-saving magic artifacts, they should remain safe."

As the two conversed, Yang Fei was diligently observing the nine dark holes around them.

Holding Qin Yanyang's hand without letting go, through sensing the power of rune Tao reverberations and his comprehension of the Nine-Nine Returning to One Array, he soon pinpointed the location of the Life Gate.

"If I'm not mistaken, this path leads to the Life Gate," Yang Fei said, pointing to one of the entrances.

Li Yue was delighted and said, "Great, Junior Brother Sun and I will lead the way. You two just follow closely behind us."

Sun Lei had no objections.

Having left a poor impression earlier with Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, he now needed to make amends, especially not wanting Qin Yanyang to underestimate him.

With that, Li Yue and Sun Lei took the lead and headed into the cave.

Yang Fei, holding Qin Yanyang's hand, followed them in.

As they proceeded, the four continued to converse.

Yang Fei communicated with Qin Yanyang through a mutual understanding, "We need to be cautious of Sun Lei."

Qin Yanyang replied, "I know. The way others admire me is different from how he looked at me earlier. His gaze made me extremely uncomfortable, like he considered me a very important tool to possess."

She was confident in both her appearance and figure, and had seen many looks from the opposite gender before, but she could remain unfazed even by some lecherous gazes.

Her state of mind was strong enough that no gaze could affect her.

However, earlier when Sun Lei stared at her, she felt an unprecedented alertness, sensing his intense desire.

"It's not just Sun Lei. I think we need to prepare in advance and plan a retreat. Now that they are together, we no longer have any advantage. If they encounter other Lingxiao Sect disciples and turn against us, we will be in great danger," Qin Yanyang advised.

Yang Fei acknowledged, "I understand. We must anticipate the worst intentions for these Alien Race individuals and be extremely cautious."

"Yes, let's act according to the situation," Qin Yanyang agreed.

While the two communicated with mutual understanding, ahead of them, Sun Lei was also devising his strategy.

He was determined to have Qin Yanyang.

But how to make her transfer her affections to him?

Looking at the two, their relationship seemed deep, and it would be difficult for her to dislike this Yang Fei boy in a short time.

What to do?

As Sun Lei thought it over, a hint of killing intent flickered deep in his eyes.

Exactly.

If this boy were dead, that would solve everything.

Afterward, he would take her to the Lingxiao Sect. When she witnessed the powerful cultivation civilization and a broader world, her mindset would change.

And over time, she would gradually forget this boy.