

Overlord 691

Chapter 691: Anger

"Buzz, buzz, buzz..."

Ten kilometers north of Yunwu Mountain, two figures speeding through the dense forest suddenly stopped.

The phone set to vibration mode in Yang Fei's pocket started vibrating furiously.

He took it out; it was a call from Umekawa Taro.

Hu Lizhong asked in surprise, "Is there a signal now?"

Yang Fei nodded and answered the call.

"Finally got through, Boss Tang, there's trouble." As soon as the call connected, Umekawa Taro's voice came through, straightforwardly saying, "Someone is trying to kidnap your sister."

"What?" Yang Fei exclaimed in alarm, "How is my sister?"

"She's fine, we found out early and rescued her," Umekawa Taro said. "We couldn't reach you at all. It seems something big has happened in Divine Continent. Where are you?"

Yang Fei's expression turned incredibly solemn.

If the enemy had targeted Yang Wen and tried to kidnap her, what about Aunt Er and Yang Hao and Huang Qiaoqiao?

These were his own family members.

"Umekawa, you guys hide well and protect my sister. I'll contact you later," Yang Fei said, then hung up the phone and immediately dialed Yang Hao's number.

Meanwhile, Hu Lizhong also took out his phone and silently moved aside, dialing his home with a heavy expression.

What worried him the most after the incident was his family.

The enemy knew every detail about him. Now that Yang Fei's relatives were involved, what about his own family? Had the enemy controlled them in advance to strike at him?

Yang Hao's phone could not be reached.

Yang Fei's heart sank, and he dialed Aunt Er's number.

He had only had his uncle's number before, but after his uncle's death, Yang Fei had kept Aunt Er's number and often called to check on her.

Still unreachable.

Neither of their numbers could be reached. It couldn't be a coincidence.

Something definitely happened.

Yang Fei's heart sank to the bottom of his chest, but his bright eyes shot out two cold glints, releasing a terrifying murderous intent.

He was truly enraged now.

In the Martial Arts World, it was customary not to trouble family members. He hadn't expected this time's enemies to be so ruthless, committing such an act.

They deserved to die!

Yang Fei's eyes faintly glowed red, a primitive rage overtaking his reason.

Because of him, his uncle had been murdered, and now, because of him again, Yang Wen had almost been captured while Yang Hao and Aunt Er had lost contact.

His family could have lived peacefully, but because of his arrival, they were dragged into this mess.

This moment, the wounds in Yang Fei's heart from his uncle's death had just begun to heal, but now they were torn open again.

Meanwhile, Hu Lizhong, also morose, put away his phone. He felt the chilling aura radiating from Yang Fei, his heart trembled, and he couldn't help but swallow hard and called out, "Yang... Brother Yang, what's wrong with you?"

Yang Fei, struggling to control his emotions, looked up at Hu Lizhong, seeing that he had also been making a call, and asked, "How is it? Did you get through to your family?"

Hu Lizhong shook his head heavily, "I couldn't get through."

Yang Fei took a deep breath, walked over, and patted his shoulder, saying, "Do you trust me?"

Hu Lizhong looked at him, unsure how to respond.

"If you trust me, as long as your family members aren't dead, I will help rescue them, and no matter who the enemy is, for committing such a ruthless act, they will definitely pay a heavy price," Yang Fei said with a firm tone.

Light sparked in Hu Lizhong's eyes as he nodded, "I trust you. Moreover, my family must still be alive. They have made a big fuss capturing our relatives for only one reason."

Yang Fei nodded.

That's the case for Hu Lizhong. What about the others in the Military Department?

Were there other reputable and influential people with good relations with the Qin Family?

Did they also face the same threats?

Facing such threats, how could the Qin Family still contend with the enemy?

The situation was more severe than imagined.

Soon, Yang Fei discarded these thoughts. His gaze was resolutely fixed in the direction of Yunwu Mountain, and he set off once more.

Fighting without declaration and without limits, huh.

Let's see who is more ruthless then.

...

Within the valley of Yunwu Mountain.

Zhuge Cang was video calling his two brothers in Imperial City.

In the video, besides his two brothers, there was another person, Zhang Wenfeng.

"Uncle Three, how are things on your side?" Zhang Wenfeng asked with a broad smile on his face.

Zhuge Cang glanced at him and said, "Yunwu Mountain has been taken over by us, and the people from the Military Department have all left."

Zhang Wenfeng's smile stiffened for a moment.

All the people from the Military Department had left?

Weren't they all suppressed?

The benevolent-looking elderly man furrowed his brows slightly and asked, "Third brother, what happened unexpectedly?"

The burly elder also showed concern.

Zhuge Cang snorted, "We underestimated that lad and the girl's strength."

"That girl? You mean Qin Yanyang? How could she be there? Wasn't the intelligence reporting she was in Binhai?" the burly elder asked in astonishment, then glared fiercely at Zhang Wenfeng.

Zhang Wenfeng gave a wry smile and said, "The team that went to assault the laboratory in Binhai returned empty-handed. They didn't find Qin Yanyang's whereabouts. Unexpectedly, that girl slipped off to Shennongjia without anyone noticing."

The burly elder snorted and looked back at Zhuge Cang in the video, saying, "No matter how powerful that girl and the boy are, they shouldn't be a match for you, right, Third Brother?"

Zhuge Cang, feeling slightly disgraced when this was brought up, responded, "We all underestimated these two youngsters' combat capabilities, especially when they teamed up, their strength was bizarrely formidable."

The kind elder's expression changed, surprised, he said, "Third Brother, didn't you say you had set up the Five Elements Thousand Mechanism Formation? In that formation, even if they have extraordinary capabilities, they shouldn't be able to defy you, right? Could they still escape?"

The burly elder nodded earnestly, clearly very confident in Zhuge Cang's methods.

"That lad is quick to react. While engaging me, he managed to sabotage the Thousand Mechanism Array, significantly weakening my combat power. In short, these young people are formidable. If this lad weren't obliterated by my Thunder Skill, and should he remain with that girl, be cautious if you encounter them, absolutely do not take them lightly," Zhuge Cang warned.

Then, without waiting for the others to ask, he recounted how Yang Fei had been seriously injured, his life hanging by a thread, and how Qin Yanyang had taken him and fled.

Finally he said, "Have the materials needed to repair the formation sent immediately. I need to fix the formation; that's crucial. Otherwise, if other forces from the Hidden Sect spot any signs and find that exit, our arrangements in the secular world will be too late."

"Yes, Uncle Three, rest assured, I'll go hurry them now," Zhang Wenfeng hastily replied on the side.

The other two members of the Zhuge family also changed their expressions, showing a bit of nervousness.

They too were worried about the other passage being discovered prematurely by other forces of the Hidden Sect.

This matter wasn't something that could be kept hidden forever.

It all depended on when the other forces would detect something amiss.

Hopefully, the delay could be long enough to give the Zhuge family ample preparation time, otherwise, if other forces stepped in it would undo all the prior work the Zhuge family had prepared.

Just as they were about to end the call, Zhuge Cang's expression suddenly changed, and he bellowed, "Damn it, who dares tamper with my formation?"

Then his figure flashed, disappearing from the screen.

Zhang Wenfeng and the other two elders changed expressions instantly, the burly elder urgently asked Zhang Wenfeng, "What happened? What's going on?"

The other person also spoke gravely, "Seems like someone is sabotaging the formation? It's already been taken over by our people, how could someone still be harming the formation, could there be an accident?"

Zhang Wenfeng immediately operated the computer and said, "I'll contact the Chu Family and find out. Please, elders, stay calm for a moment."

Chapter 692: Old Thing, Die!

As Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong approached Yunwu Mountain Valley, they discovered that the valley was heavily guarded on all sides by elite troops from several special forces teams of the Central Battle Zone, vigilantly patrolling the area.

Compared to when the Military Department was in control, the defense looked even tighter.

For ordinary people, this level of defense was indeed impressive, giving the impression that not even a mosquito could fly in, but for Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong, there were many more flaws than when the Military Department had been guarding it.

Although the members of these special forces teams were all martial artists, the majority of them were at the Inner Strength Middle Late Stage, and at most, there were a few masters at the Energy Transformation Realm Lower Three Grades overseeing the area.

Furthermore, because the outer perimeter of Yunwu Mountain Valley was too long, although there were many people from the Central Battle Zone, it was impossible for them to set up defense in a single line here. They established checkpoints at intervals and then relied on high-tech military equipment for surveillance and defense.

Before joining the Military Department, Hu Lizhong had been a senior instructor for the special forces in the battle zone, so he was very familiar with this type of defense, allowing them to easily bypass the external defenses and stealthily infiltrate the valley in military uniforms.

Upon entering the valley, Yang Fei sensed the formation and found that although it had been somewhat damaged, the power of the Five Elements Thousand Mechanism Formation still existed.

Although according to Hu Lizhong's account, Yang Fei determined that Zhuge Cang had previously used the formation to deal with them and had suffered backlash, incurring great losses and significantly reducing his combat power, there were many enemies now, and Yang Fei dared not be careless, so he decided to first tamper with the formation.

"If Zhuge Cang can utilize the formation, can I, Yang Fei, as a legitimate successor of the Taoist sect, lose to you in this regard?"

After entering the valley, Yang Fei did not launch an attack immediately; he found a relatively hidden spot and unlocked the seal of the Six Changes Wood Box.

With previous experience, this time went very smoothly, and soon he had moved four runes to the sixth rune. As the fifth rune was overlaid, a golden halo emanated from the box, and the six Innate Runes on the Six Changes Wood Box moved quickly and orderly, as if they had come to life.

"Click!"

A sound like a mechanical lock opening spread, and the wooden box's lid loosened, revealing a crack.

A grand and ancient aura rushed towards them.

At the same time, Yang Fei felt as if the wooden box in his hands weighed thousands of pounds, causing his hands to sink, and his body also slightly sank a few centimeters into the ground.

So heavy!

Yang Fei was startled.

Yang Fei did not know exactly what was inside the wooden box, but he guessed it might be Fusang Wood.

About Fusang Wood, Yang Fei only had a cursory understanding from the Taoist fragmented scrolls. He knew it was the core of the Fusang Tree, which had been nurtured by the spirit of heaven and earth in ancient times, a bridge connecting heaven and earth, and it could gather the spirit of all things from heaven and earth.

Meanwhile, Hu Lizhong, who was on watch, noticed something unusual and felt the strong ancient aura, his expression changing dramatically as he whispered anxiously, "What happened?"

Yang Fei did not respond but opened the wooden box with a grave expression.

Hu Lizhong immediately came over.

A dark piece of wood quietly lay inside the wooden box.

The piece of wood seemed square but was not particularly regular; it was a foot and a half long, one end slightly larger and the other slightly sharp, like it had been snapped off, with the break resembling how a normal stick would look when broken.

"Is this the Fusang Wood?" Hu Lizhong asked curiously.

Yang Fei shook his head, unsure himself.

He reached out and took the piece of wood; it was extremely heavy, but with his current strength, he could still pick it up.

Besides being heavy and entirely dark, this object seemed nothing out of the ordinary. Yang Fei pondered this when suddenly his pupils shrank.

Suddenly, the wind howled wildly around them, and the rich spiritual energy in the valley rushed crazily towards the piece of wood.

Yang Fei was delighted.

Gathering the spirit of heaven and earth, this indeed was Fusang Wood!

At the same time, martial artists in the valley with a cultivation above the Energy Transformation Realm Lower Three Grades acutely sensed the surge of spiritual energy.

Several patrolling nearby immediately looked towards them.

The squad leader's gaze swept over the two men's faces. Feeling that they were unfamiliar, his expression immediately became stern as he demanded, "Which unit do you two belong to?"

Yang Fei, holding the dusky wooden stick, felt the Spiritual Energy around him crazily burrowing into the stick. He was in close contact with it, seeming to have some closer connection with the entire world. It was as if not just the Yunwu Mountain Valley, but a broader and farther space, was clearly perceived in his Sea of Consciousness.

It was as if it was not the stick in his hand that was gathering this Spiritual Energy, but himself.

"Brother Yang, what should we do?" Hu Lizhong whispered from the side, his energy gathered and ready to strike at any moment.

Yang Fei decisively said, "Take them down."

As soon as the words fell, Hu Lizhong burst forth like an arrow released from a bow.

The few patrolling individuals were also military experts, but even the squad leader only possessed the strength of the Energy Transformation Realm Third Grade. Faced with the attack from Hu Lizhong, an expert of the Innate Realm, the four had no power to fight back and all fell down.

Yang Fei glanced at them, noticing that Hu Lizhong had only knocked them unconscious without actually killing them.

These soldiers were simply following commands and were ultimately innocent. Being fellow people of the Divine Continent, Hu Lizhong couldn't bring himself to deal lethal blows.

Yang Fei was not dissatisfied with this. He lifted his eyes toward the main building of the base.

Suddenly, an enraged roar followed, "Damn it, who is tampering with the Array?"

Zhuge Cang had come out.

Although he was hundreds of meters away, he was the first to sense the anomaly in the Array, which shows that he still maintained control over the Yunwu Mountain Array.

As Hu Lizhong made his move, the people from the other three patrol teams also noticed the anomaly, quickly converging and pointing their guns at Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong.

Chu Que, Chu Tianshu, and a group of elite military personnel from the Military Department, along with several Innate Realm masters from the Hidden Sect World, also appeared and sprinted towards this direction.

Hu Lizhong sensed several strong presences rapidly approaching, especially as the oppressive might from above seemed to descend, exactly like the pressure exerted by Zhuge Cang controlling the Array before. His expression shifted, and he hurriedly retreated to Yang Fei's side.

"Brother Yang, what should we do now?"

"Kill!"

Yang Fei uttered a single word, then held up the dusky wooden stick above his head and bellowed, "Except for the Hidden Sect and the Chu Family, I hold no grudge against the others here. I have no desire to slaughter the innocent, but anyone who dares attack me today will be invited by Yang Fei to hell!"

At that moment, a few former Military Department members turned up and were shocked upon spotting Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong from afar.

"Is it you?"

"Yang Fei, Hu Lizhong, you dare to return?"

"No way, wasn't this guy annihilated by the Thunder Power earlier? How is he still hopping around alive?"

Everyone who had previously seen Yang Fei being bombarded by the Thunder Power controlled by Zhuge Cang was dumbstruck, as if they had seen a ghost.

Besides being shocked by Yang Fei's current state, they were more surprised that he and Hu Lizhong would appear here.

You were supposed to have broken out and fled, weren't you?

How come you are back?

Do you still think this place is under the control of the Military Department? Now the Central Battle Zone controls here, and with Zhuge Cang, what seemed a god-like figure, standing guard, along with many experts from the Hidden Sect continuing to arrive, appearing here now, are you seeking death?

"Is it you?"

Zhuge Cang approached from afar, treading on air, appearing like a deity in the eyes of others.

Immediately upon spotting Yang Fei, he was greatly surprised, then laughed loudly, "Hahaha, good lad, you're still not dead? It's great that you've come back, as I've been quite troubled about not being able to find you."

Yang Fei's gaze locked onto Zhuge Cang. His legs bent and instantly straightened, blasting a deep pit into the ground as he shot towards Zhuge Cang like a cannonball.

"Old man, meet your end!"

Chapter 693: Defying Defense

High above, Zhuge Cang instantly sensed a terrifying killing intent.

It was followed by a figure fast as lightning.

Zhuge Cang's deep eyes suddenly shot out two beams of sharp light, his heart in shock.

"This young man's speed is just like his peak condition when we first clashed."

Could he even be faster now?

Though he appeared formidable just now, he was actually pushing himself, leveraging the pressure from the Five Elements Thousand Mechanism Formation to manifest such power.

Knowing he'd be at a disadvantage fighting Yang Fei head-on in his current state, he roared, "Ignorant lad, if I could suppress you once, I can do it a second time, countless times, thunder!"

Without any hesitation, when Yang Fei was still far away, Zhuge Cang raised his hand to the sky, his telekinesis in action, and he unleashed his powerful move once again.

The powers of the Five Elements: metal, wood, water, fire, earth; Zhuge Cang excelled in controlling the Gold Attribute's power of thunder and lightning.

Even though this move risked annihilating Yang Fei, since the youngster had survived a strike before and was still alive, enduring it once more presumably wouldn't kill him.

The key now was to quickly suppress him.

Boom!

In the high sky, thunder rolled.

A terrifying bolt of lightning suddenly appeared, and with Zhuge Cang pressing down his arm, the thunderbolt smashed toward Yang Fei with astounding speed.

"Brother Yang, be careful!"

Upon seeing this move again, Hu Lizhong felt extremely anxious, and couldn't help but shout a warning.

Although Yang Fei was confident enough to bring him along for revenge, he still felt uneasy, especially when Zhuge Cang used this tactic; even though he wasn't the target, it still left a psychological shadow.

In the high sky, seeing the lightning bolt carrying a terrifying force of Thunder Element blasting towards him, Yang Fei's heart also pounded violently.

Not out of fear, but out of excitement, anticipation.

After being struck by the Power of Thunder and Lightning previously, he discovered his body underwent a certain degree of Body Refining.

This most pure form of Gold Attribute Body Refining was just too effective.

However, he was also very aware that this resembled the legendary Tribulation Crossing.

A slight mistake could cost him his life.

But with prior experience, and sensing that the Thunder Power of this thunderbolt was much weaker than the last, and knowing his body had become much tougher after being refined by the previous Thunder Power, coupled with holding the Fusang Wood, he was filled with confidence.

Under the gaze of hundreds of eyes, Yang Fei dove headfirst into the thunderbolt.

Boom!

A loud noise erupted, and a faint golden light flashed visibly.

Yang Fei's camouflage outfit suddenly caught fire and was half-charred.

Yet, he still hovered in the high sky and wasn't knocked down like last time.

"He... he's alright after that?"

Many first-time witnesses among the Central Battle Zone's special forces couldn't hide their shock.

"Is he even human?"

"Wait, didn't you realize that old man could control thunder? What realm is he in?"

"Damn, my understanding has been overturned. After over thirty years of hard training, just when I thought I reached Energy Transformation Realm Fourth Grade and became a master, I find out there are people who cultivate. How the hell am I supposed to compete?"

The vast majority of Martial Cultivators were stunned by this scene, and also awakened by this person's helpless outburst, their spirits taking a massive hit.

Indeed, everyone was diligently practicing martial arts, and yet, why had some started cultivating?

It's like cheating!

Whether it was Yang Fei or Zhuge Cang, the strength and methods displayed by these two far exceeded the understanding of these Martial Cultivators, and the impact on them was significant.

"Hahaha, exactly, exhilarating!"

A loud laugh suddenly echoed from above.

Yang Fei, holding a dark wooden stick in one hand, spread his arms, a faint golden glow spinning around his body, and he exclaimed with joy.

"Old man, come again, such techniques, bring them more, hahaha, too thrilling!" Yang Fei stared at Zhuge Cang excitedly, the previous killing intent in his eyes replaced with much anticipation.

As he expected, the Power of Thunder and Lightning indeed could refine his body, making his body stronger.

On the other side, Zhuge Cang was too shocked to speak.

His most powerful technique, the Power of Thunder and Lightning, actually caused no harm to this young man?

And what was that faint golden glow that had just emanated from his body?

How come it somewhat resembled the Golden Body Refining described in the ancient text fragments?

Amidst his shock, Zhuge Cang felt his heart sinking even more.

This young man's combat strength seemed a bit higher than before.

The key issue was that his own condition was not sufficient to sustain many more attacks like that.

Moreover, that type of attack was useless against the lad.

"Come on, old man, give me a few more!" Yang Fei stared intensely at Zhuge Cang, seeing him both as a dead man yet also as a benefactor who could bring him great advantages.

"Boy, do you really think I cannot handle you? Here, I am a god, die!"

Though startled inside, Zhuge Cang remained composed. He waved his hand, and a fierce wind arose within the Yunwu Mountain Valley.

The Thousand Mechanism Array was still in place, providing him with power to borrow.

Even more, as he moved, the Spiritual Energy flowing toward the Fusang Wood was disrupted, no longer as wild as before.

In the terrifying pressure, as Zhuge Cang waved his hand downward, a huge palm imprint slowly appeared in the void, becoming clearer and clearer.

Seeing that the Power of Thunder and Lightning seemed unable to harm Yang Fei, but instead greatly benefitted the lad, he resolutely abandoned his most proficient power and chose the most neutral and common technique, attempting to suppress Yang Fei with his strong control over the area.

This move indeed proved effective.

Compared to facing the even more terrifying Power of Thunder and Lightning, Yang Fei feared this all-encompassing oppressive force more. Watching the huge palm imprint fall, he concentrated his True Yuan around his body, and as the Protective Gang Qi formed, he punched towards the enormous palm.

Poof!

A muffled loud sound.

The giant palm was pierced through, creating a large hole.

But Yang Fei, hanging in mid-air, plummeted to the ground at an astonishing speed, crashing into the valley with a loud thud.

Dust and debris flew up, smoke and dust rising everywhere.

Yang Fei's mouth dripped with a trace of fresh blood as he sprang out from the deep pit he had crashed into.

So powerful!

Without Qin Yanyang fighting alongside him, facing Zhuge Cang alone who utilized the power of the Thousand Mechanism Array, he indeed was no match.

Luckily, his own estimate was not wrong, this old geezer's use of this tactic was hugely draining, the power of the move he had just used was much weaker compared to when he had faced both him and Qin Yanyang.

"Kill him!"

From high above, Zhuge Cang's roar dropped down.

In an instant, the seven Innate Masters from the Hidden Sect who gathered around rushed toward Yang Fei.

Coming from the Hidden Sect, they naturally had much more understanding of high-level combat powers than the common folk, and the clash between Yang Fei and Zhuge Cang did not intimidate them.

Seven Innates acted simultaneously, and before even reaching him, Fist Power and Palm Force swept wildly through the air, along with Sword Qi and Saber Energy that tore through the air with lethal force.

These Hidden Sect Innate Realms, compared to the secular Innate Realms, were more adept at manipulating power for combining long-range and close-combat attacks.

Although Yang Fei was strong, he dared not overlook the attack of the Innate Realms. His Protective Gang Qi was fully activated, and his solid, tough body even emitted a faint golden light that seemed to form a shield.

Boom, boom, boom!

Several forces bombarded the area in front of Yang Fei, managing only to get as close as one and a half meters from his body, after which the Fist Power and Palm Force dissipated, unable to break through his Protective Gang Qi.

Even the solidified Sword Qi and Saber Energy, upon contact with Yang Fei's body, burst apart, unable to harm his body.

Seeing this, the expressions of the few Hidden Sect Innate Masters drastically changed.

How could this be?

Even a Divine Travel Realm master could not refine their body defense to this extent, could they?

To be able to withstand the attacks from Innate Realm masters with his physical body, this was downright defying the natural order!

Chapter 694: Life-saving Means

High in the sky, Zhuge Cang stared at the scene before him, momentarily stunned.

As a cultivator of the Divine Travel Realm, he had substantial research in Array Formation Talisman Tao, but his physical body realm remained in the Innate Realm.

However, with the enhancement of the Divine Travel Realm, his control over the power of Heaven and Earth far surpassed those in the Innate Realm, and thus his strength was greater.

But inside his body, the capacity of acupoints to hold True Yuan might not be much greater than those top cultivators of the Innate Realm.

Especially in terms of physical strength, it was continuously weakening as they aged.

The terrifying physical strength like Yang Fei's, it was his first encounter.

It was almost like the legendary Physical Body Vajra.

Although momentarily not comparable to the Physical Body Vajra, if this youngster continued his cultivation, it's feared that looking around the world, there would hardly be anyone capable of breaking through his physical defenses.

This was defying the heavens.

In the world of cultivation, having invincible defense meant an unbeatable position.

Moreover, this youngster's attack power was also frighteningly strong; at such a young age, the purity of True Yuan inside his body far surpassed many veteran Innate Realm masters.

Is the Taoist orthodox cultivation technique truly so powerful?

For a moment, Zhuge Cang's heart was filled with shock as he watched Yang Fei battling seven Innate Realm masters from the Hidden Sect on the ground, managing the fight effortlessly and having the upper hand, and a sense of dread emerged in him.

He had ultimately been careless.

If he had asked the boss and the sixth brother to come along, the three brothers could certainly have suppressed this youngster.

But to prevent other powers of the Hidden Sect from detecting this secret place, he had come alone and had not let other cultivators from the Divine Travel Realm accompany him.

"Die!"

A furious roar spread, only to see Yang Fei suddenly turn towards a person to his left, who then momentarily froze. The next instant, Yang Fei swung his hand, and a burst of Qi from midair directly severed that person's head.

Using the power of the Divine Soul, Yang Fei could instantly kill someone of the Innate level!

"Everyone be careful, this kid has reached the Divine Travel Realm, focus on guarding your mind, never let him infiltrate your Sea of Consciousness," one of the veteran Innate Realm loudly reminded.

Even though Yang Fei had killed one of them, they did not retreat but remained united.

Yang Fei was secretly surprised.

He had previously underestimated the cultivators of the Innate Realm from the Hidden Sect; these people had firm willpower and strong combat capabilities. Taking them on many-to-one, hoping to decisively and swiftly defeat them wasn't that easy.

Hu Lizhong also joined the battle.

He was surrounded by several experts from the Military Department.

Luckily, those experts from the Military Department, at most, had Unique Tier strength, and Hu Lizhong, now in the Innate Realm, was not at a disadvantage even though outnumbered. Considering his past camaraderie, Old Hu did not kill mercilessly.

"Bang!"

A loud sound echoed as Yang Fei, using his formidable body, barged into the embrace of a person, who immediately spat blood and flew out.

Yang Fei was also subjected to some reaction force, but it was nothing serious.

Seeing this move effective, he immediately laughed and relied on his strong physique to crazily ram into two other opponents who were barehanded.

However, towards the three wielding swords, he dared not confront them with his body. There was a previous instance when clashing with the sword wielder, even with the aid of Protective Gang Qi, his fist had been slit open.

This made him realize, while his body's defense was strong, facing Innate Realm masters armed with sharp weapons, he still could not resist head-on.

As the three using fist and palm martial arts were rammed and lost their combat abilities, the threat of the remaining three people to Yang Fei significantly reduced.

In a chance move, Yang Fei swung his dark wooden stick to block an incoming steel blade, resulting in a crisp collision sound, and the blade was deflected back. He looked down at the stick in his hand, which surprisingly didn't even bear a mark.

Shit, this hard?

After a brief stun, Yang Fei was overjoyed.

The stick wasn't very long, but it was harder than the tempered steel knives from the Hidden Sect. Not only that, but it was also quite heavy, making it a substantial weapon to wield.

Thus, in the ensuing battle, Yang Fei, now armed, was utterly devastating to the three that carried swords and quickly suppressed them completely.

In the high sky, seeing several of the Innate Realm unable to withstand, Zhuge Cang decisively manipulated the Five Elements Thousand Mechanism Array to assist, pressing down Yang Fei's rising momentum again.

The brothers, Chu Que, and Chu Tianshu, didn't join the battle.

Yang Fei was not mentioned; with his powerful strength, they didn't dare confront him. Even Hu Lizhong, who used to be at the same level as Chu Tianshu, now demonstrated overpowering fighting capabilities, causing Chu Tianshu to feel both shock and envy.

"Quickly, bring the energy cannon over, we can't let them escape at any cost," Chu Que commanded with a sharp gaze and definitive orders.

Soon, his subordinates brought the energy cannon and other special weapons, including the ultrasonic disruptor, all specifically designed to counter those in the Divine Travel Realm.

Dozens of special soldiers surrounded the battle zone, with layers of soldiers appearing on the outskirts, all weapons like Gatling guns and rocket launchers locking onto the battlefield.

Seeing this setup, Hu Lizhong grew anxious inside.

If they couldn't win the battle swiftly, the enemy would only continue to grow in numbers.

Brother Yang, with his immense defensive abilities and higher realm, might be confident about escaping from this encirclement of troops, but Hu himself was not.

After all, there were martial arts experts among the enemies, and any slight negligence could result in death.

In his anxiety, he couldn't help but caution, "Brother Yang, we shouldn't stay here for long."

"Right!"

Yang Fei responded, the ground beneath his feet cracking as he once again soared into the sky.

To capture the king, as long as they could eliminate Zhuge Cang and deal with Chu Que and Chu Tianshu, who then could keep them confined?

High above, Zhuge Cang showed signs of exhaustion, but he still maintained his superior demeanor. Seeing Yang Fei surge forward, he felt a shock in his heart but, driven by an intense reluctance, he once again resisted using the power of the Five Elements Thousand Mechanism Formation.

Bang bang bang!!!

After several collisions, Yang Fei was restrained and sent flying, yet without substantive injury, he continued his assaults.

After the seventh attempt, the force controlled by Zhuge Cang noticeably dwindled.

Already heavily depleted, he had been forcefully manipulating the formation's power to battle Yang Fei for so long and finally could no longer sustain it.

With a muffled grunt, Zhuge Cang flew backward.

A trace of fresh blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

"Cough cough cough..."

A violent cough followed.

For someone of his age, he was indeed in a good state when unharmed, but once injured, compared to a young and robust youth like Yang Fei, he appeared much weaker, and his condition plummeted instantly.

"So you're finally done for, die already, old man!" Seeing that the old fellow could no longer hold on, Yang Fei immediately rejoiced and, in his style of striking when the enemy was down, charged crazily forward.

A deep sense of reluctance flashed in Zhuge Cang's eyes.

To think he would lose to a junior from the Mortal World!

His lifetime's reputation was now half-ruined.

As Yang Fei neared, in a flash, Zhuge Cang reached into his robes and pulled out several yellow talisman papers, swiftly tossing one towards Yang Fei, his hands forming a spell and his mouth chanting, "Break!"

Yang Fei saw a yellow talisman paper flying towards him and initially did not consider it a threat; however, for some reason, an alarm went off in his heart.

"Boom!"

A loud explosion ensued and the talisman unexpectedly burst less than ten meters from Yang Fei, followed by a terrifying bolt of lightning that struck directly at him.

Yang Fei's pupils shrank, a dreadful sense of fatal danger enveloping him.

"Fuck!"

He instinctively cursed, slamming on the brakes.

However, given his previous speed and the short distance, he couldn't stop in time.

He crashed headlong into the terrifying bolt of lightning.

"Ah!"

A scream of agony followed.

Hu Lizhong was greatly shocked, looking up towards the sky.

Everyone in the valley turned their eyes there as well.

A hint of regret flashed in Zhuge Cang's eyes.

To have forced him to use this life-saving talisman, you indeed died a worthy death.

It's just a pity, he couldn't capture this young man alive.

Chapter 695: Escaping So Fast

Hu Lizhong felt as though his liver and gallbladder were shattering, his soul nearly scattering from the fear.

The power of that Thunder Talisman was just too horrendous, coupled with Yang Fei's loud screams echoing throughout the entire valley, forcing him to contemplate the worst.

And if Yang Fei were to die here, could he possibly still live?

Perhaps he could.

After all, he was an expert at the Innate Realm, surely he still had some value to offer?

At that moment, countless thoughts flashed through Old Hu's mind.

Zhuge Cang too was convinced that Yang Fei was doomed.

This Thunder Talisman was one of his ultimate life-saving measures, using it today pained his heart greatly, but to defend his dignity in front of these people, he had to use it.

Accompanied by a pitiful cry of agony, Yang Fei's body fell to the ground.

Inside the valley, except for Hu Lizhong, everyone else breathed a sigh of relief.

This terrifying fellow was finally dead.

High in the sky, Zhuge Cang, pale and weak, gazed at Yang Fei's body, intending to descend for a closer examination, but suddenly his pupils shrank as he looked around.

Within the Five Elements Thousand Mechanism Formation, the densely packed nature's spiritual energy, as if summoned, hurriedly gathered towards Yang Fei's location.

Though this spiritual power was invisible to the naked eye, Zhuge Cang, as the controller of the formation, had an extremely keen sense of it.

He had noticed this anomaly before, thinking someone had tampered with the formation, but now, realizing this scene, his pupils contracted as he locked his gaze on the piece of wood in Yang Fei's hands.

Fusang Wood!

It was definitely Fusang Wood!

A hint of excitement emerged on Zhuge Cang's wan face, and in a flash, he descended towards Yang Fei's location.

The Six Changes Wood Box had indeed been unlocked by this youngster, and inside lay the legendary Fusang Wood!

This was just perfect.

With the Fusang Wood, the Zhuge family would be the future rulers of this realm!

"Cough, cough..,"

Zhuce Cang descended from the sky, less than ten meters away from Yang Fei, when suddenly he heard intense coughing sounds, startling him into a quick halt, wary to approach any closer.

To see, after being struck down by that Thunder Talisman and falling, Yang Fei's body actually moved slightly as he coughed and stood up.

A faint golden halo whirled around Yang Fei's body.

This halo turned into a circular light shield, and on it, the spiritual energy flowing in from all directions crazily drilled in, causing the golden shield to look almost fluid to the naked eye.

"That seriously hurt, but man, it feels awesome!"

Yang Fei dusted himself off and, looking up at Zhuge Cang, said with a smile.

Chu Que, Chu Tianshu, several top experts from the Military Department, and special operations members from the Central Battle Zone were all utterly dumbfounded.

"F*ck, is this guy even human?"

"He survived that?"

"And it seems like he's not even injured."

Even these strictly trained soldiers couldn't suppress their shock at this moment and murmured among themselves, discussing fervently.

For the vast majority of soldiers, everything they had witnessed today had overturned their understanding of the world.

"Kill him!" Chu Tianshu, after a brief shock, roared loudly.

This child was a demon and keeping him would be a nightmare for the Chu family, unsettling their peace.

Perhaps one person couldn't change the general situation, but having such a powerful individual alive was like a ticking time bomb hanging over their heads.

Chu Que also came back to his senses and commanded loudly, "Open fire!"

"Bang!"

A loud noise, and Yang Fei vanished from the spot.

Ratatatat...

Bang, bang, bang!!!

Bullets swept towards where he had just been.

One after another, Energy Bombs dropped, some exploding directly in the area where Yang Fei had been, while others pursued his body, firing into the distance when they missed.

Boom, boom, boom!!!

Smoke arose everywhere, explosions continuing nonstop.

However, by the time Chu Tianshu and Chu Que gave their commands, Yang Fei had already escaped from the spot, charging towards Zhuge Cang.

Zhuge Cang was terribly alarmed.

He just wanted to take the Fusang Wood but had not expected that Yang Fei could be alive after enduring the thunderbolt and still maintain such a terrifying state of combat power.

Seeing Yang Fei charging at him, startled, he decisively crushed another talisman that he had drawn when he took out the Thunder Talisman.

Buzz!

The void trembled, emitting a piercing buzzing sound.

The next moment, Zhuge Cang's figure vanished from the spot.

Yang Fei threw a punch into the air, his body breaking through two voids, and immediately lost his target.

His pupils contracted as his Divine Sense quickly released, trying to locate Zhuge Cang, but he scanned in vain.

In the valley, many who witnessed this scene were once again dumbfounded and speechless.

Many people immediately rubbed their eyes, then opened them again to search.

Gone!

A living person had vanished into thin air before everyone's eyes?

In the void, countless bullets swept toward Yang Fei's direction.

Yang Fei, relying on the dense nature's spiritual energy within the valley, swiftly maneuvered his body, dodging bullets while quickly searching for a glimpse of Zhuge Cang.

A living person couldn't just disappear into thin air.

At most, it was just moving fast enough to create the visual illusion of disappearing for a short time.

Hiss!

About three seconds later, a sharp piercing sound traveled from afar.

Yang Fei's pupils contracted as he quickly turned his head in that direction and indeed spotted a figure flashing by.

It was already outside the valley, at least three hundred meters away in a straight line from where he stood. Even though his eyesight was remarkable, he could only see a tiny figure. Judging by that silhouette, it was indeed Zhuge Cang.

In an instant, several hundred meters—such speed was indeed astounding.

While Yang Fei was in shock, his eyelids twitched.

Gone again!

The sharp piercing sound came again, but in less than three seconds, another figure appeared even farther away.

The distance grew larger, and that figure in everyone's view became smaller and smaller.

Yang Fei took a deep breath, thinking of the talisman Zhuge Cang had crushed.

Thousand-mile Divine Travel Talisman?

Well, saying a thousand miles was indeed an exaggeration, Zhuge Cang's talisman was indeed formidable, but it could only instantly transport someone a few hundred meters. However, it seemed to have a certain duration, within a few breaths, Zhuge Cang had already disappeared into a dot in the distance.

Even though Yang Fei could now walk on air, compared to Zhuge Cang's speed, there was no way he could catch up.

You sure run fast!

Yang Fei let out an unwilling cold snort, and amidst the dense barrage of bullets, many hit him, but were unable to penetrate his Protective Gang Qi.

With a flash, Yang Fei descended like a deity returning to earth, landing back in the valley.

The moment he touched ground, he catapulted up, striking like a hawk grasping a rabbit, heading straight for the area where brothers Chu Que and Chu Tianshu were.

"Stop him!"

Chu Que shouted, his voice breaking.

At the same time, he himself fired his gun repeatedly, seemingly forgetting that he was also a martial artist at the Energy Transformation Realm Ninth Grade, instead placing his hopes on firearms.

The handgun posed nearly negligible lethality to Yang Fei.

Weapons that could threaten him, like the Gatling, Barrett Heavy Sniper, and Energy Bombs, were not precisely targeted due to his high speed. Even if some bombs exploded near him, his robust physical defense combined with his Protective Gang Qi minimized the damage.

Especially when he approached Chu Que and Chu Tianshu, others hesitated to fire, daring not to shoot recklessly.

"Bang Bang Bang!!!"

Sixteen shots from the handgun emptied half its bullets in just two seconds. However, facing such attacks, Yang Fei didn't even dodge. He just charged directly at him.

Chu Que was terrified and decisively turned to flee, but it was too late.

"Boom!"

A wooden slat smashed down on his head.

Splat!

Like a burst watermelon, his hard head was smashed open.

Chu Tianshu was more decisive than Chu Que. While Chu Que was firing back, he madly dashed towards the distance.

But by the time Yang Fei had dealt with Chu Que, he had only managed to run a little over ten meters.

Yang Fei waved his hand, throwing the Fusang Wood, hitting Chu Tianshu in the back of the head precisely.

Splat!

Another explosion.

Chu Tianshu, despite being at the Unique Tier, would not have been overwhelmed by Yang Fei if he had resisted fiercely, but unfortunately, his courage had already been broken, and he had no will to resist Yang Fei.

Chapter 696: Wrong Direction in Cultivation

After killing Chu Que and Chu Tianshu, the murderous intent in Yang Fei had dissipated quite a bit.

He wasn't one to take pleasure in slaughtering the innocent; his main purpose in making a retaliatory strike was to eliminate Zhuge Cang. He hadn't expected that old fox to have so many life-preserving tricks up his sleeve, managing to escape.

Picking up the Fusang Wood, Yang Fei looked toward Hu Lizhong.

The Military Department personnel who had been surrounding Hu Lizhong all ceased their attacks.

Old Hu quickly joined Yang Fei's side.

Around them, those who had previously been firing like madmen also stopped their assault.

Firstly, the deaths of Chu Que and Chu Tianshu and the escape of Zhuge Cang had a tremendous deterrent effect on their psyche; secondly, considering the terrifying firepower they had unleashed, Yang Fei remained unscathed, deeply shaking their confidence. They concluded that such attacks were futile against him and that continuing to shoot would only be wasting ammunition.

Seeing that the other side was no longer firing, Yang Fei's gaze swept around. Even when facing those dozen or so members of the Military Department who had betrayed Qin Yanyang, he didn't say much and didn't carry out a ruthless massacre.

Everyone has their own ambitions, and many things cannot be forced.

If even Qin Yanyang, a charismatic and heroic figure, couldn't make them yield, then even if he could force them to bow down with martial power, he wouldn't win their loyalty—it would only bring trouble.

"Tell those above you, in this age of great strife, it's not wrong for everyone to fight for their own masters. But if you disregard justice and bring calamity upon family members, then I, Yang Fei, will do nothing else but target them for assassination. Tell them, if a single one of our family members suffers misfortune, then I, Yang Fei, will kill two of you, or even ten. Don't forget, they're not alone either; they too have families."

After speaking, Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong strode away.

Within the base, hundreds of elite soldiers armed with weapons stood by, yet not one of them fired a shot.

Because they were acutely aware of the gap between the two sides.

Even if they fired, they couldn't keep Yang Fei there.

It would only bring horrific casualties upon themselves.

Moreover, with the two highest commanders, Chu Que and Chu Tianshu, dead, and the super-strong practitioner from the Hidden Sect, Zhuge Cang, having fled in defeat, these soldiers, earning a fixed salary and facing their compatriots—even seeing in them the powerful figures they admired in their hearts—what lives were they to gamble with?

Leaving Yunwu Mountain's base, they continued on their way, passing many soldiers stationed along the road, all who seemed to have already received orders from above and did not take any offensive action.

Hu Lizhong even managed to secure a vehicle, and the two of them left the Central Battle Zone's controlled area in an ostentatious manner.

"That was damn exhilarating," Hu Lizhong couldn't contain his excitement as he drove, "This is what they call penetrating an enemy's camp with no one to stop you. The feeling of seizing the head of a general amidst an army of thousands, it's just too thrilling."

Even though it was all Yang Fei's doing, being involved mattered. Hu Lizhong was the sole companion, so Yang Fei's achievements today also brought him glory by association.

Yang Fei was continuously checking his physical condition.

After the Thunder Talisman from Zhuge Cang struck him, he had obviously sustained some injuries and even briefly lost consciousness. The nearly explosive pain was unbearable, and he had screamed out in agony.

However, upon hitting the ground, he had recovered. Not only that, but he could also feel that his body was significantly stronger than before.

The effects of Thunder and Lightning Tempering were just too good.

What's more, the Fusang wood had played its part as well.

It seemed to gather a large amount of Spiritual Energy within his body, protecting his heart meridians and healing his injuries.

Seeing Yang Fei sitting there calmly, occasionally touching certain parts of his body, Hu Lizhong curiously asked, "Brother Yang, what's with your body? It seems as if swords and spears can't penetrate you."

Upon hearing this, Yang Fei smiled and shook his head, "I haven't reached the true point of being impervious to swords and spears, but compared to before, my body's defense has indeed become much stronger. It's a pity that Zhuge Cang ran out of power later on and couldn't give me a few more sessions of Thunder and Lightning Tempering."

Hu Lizhong couldn't help but be amazed. If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, he would have suspected that Yang Fei had a penchant for self-abuse. Who else would actually ask to be struck by lightning?

"I've found that perhaps people nowadays are going in the wrong direction with their cultivation," Yang Fei suddenly said.

Hu Lizhong was stunned, "The direction of cultivation is wrong?"

Yang Fei nodded, "I originally thought that after I had opened all the acupoints throughout my body and crafted an extremely powerful Body, I was in the Foundation Establishment State and could pursue

higher realms. However, this round of Thunder and Lightning Tempering has revealed new issues to me."

"What issues?" Hu Lizhong immediately pressed.

Yang Fei replied, "After the Thunder and Lightning Tempering, I felt that the meridians within my body have widened and become much more resilient and powerful. The flow of True Qi inside me has become smoother, and even the strength of each output is stronger than before."

"Is this expanding the meridians?" Hu Lizhong asked, puzzled.

Upon hearing this, Yang Fei nodded, "Yes, it's the feeling of the meridians being expanded. And it's not just the meridians; I feel that every organ in my body, even my skin and bones, has been further strengthened."

Hu Lizhong, filled with envy, suddenly thought of something and couldn't help but say, "Is it possible that although Thunder and Lightning Tempering is powerful, you also drank a lot of Genetic Liquid Medicine? With the dual effects, your body has attained a certain degree of overall enhancement? After all, the Genetic Liquid Medicine produced during this period has been consumed by many people, some of whom have experienced genetic evolution."

Yang Fei pondered for a moment and nodded, "That is indeed possible. But regardless, I consider this an instance of a blessing in disguise. Apart from not having enhanced Divine Soul Power, I feel that my Physical Body Realm has been promoted to an unprecedented level."

As he spoke, he glanced at Hu Lizhong and said, "To say something you might not like to hear, in the past, to contend with someone of the Innate Realm without the support of Divine Soul Power, I could indeed win, but I had to exert myself and even use the Sky Splitting Divine Fist. But now, I feel that against someone like you, I can directly kill with just my basic strength."

Hu Lizhong, recalling the scene of Yang Fei slaying Chu Que and Chu Tianshu, had no doubt about his words.

Although he was now much more formidable than Chu Que and Chu Tianshu, the combat power Yang Fei had shown today was so extraordinary that it gave him the feeling of invincibility.

"Moreover, I used to feel that my True Yuan storage was full, but now, I feel it's far from enough. That's why I say the previous direction of cultivation was wrong. It seems that our Bodies need to be continuously strengthened and tempered, the meridians constantly expanded. Only in this way can we truly solidify a realm, reach the Perfect State of that realm, and then move on to higher realms of cultivation," Yang Fei said seriously.

Listening, Hu Lizhong nodded in agreement, "Brother Yang, your speculation might be correct. Following your approach, it's clear you can reach greater heights, and each realm will be much stronger than the current ones. Perhaps the reason why there are gaps in the realms of cultivation on Earth today is because the foundation is not solid enough."

After discussing the matters of cultivation for a while, the car had already driven out of the mountainous area.

Hu Lizhong asked, "Where are we heading?"

"First, let's find a way to switch cars, then we'll go check on your home," Yang Fei said.

Upon hearing this, Hu Lizhong's eyes reddened, and he looked at Yang Fei with emotion, "Brother Yang, I..."

Yang Fei interrupted, "There's no need for formalities between you and me. I've heard you mention before that your home is in Jiangbei. Since the incident happened today, your family may not have been relocated in time. Let's go take a look, and if there's a chance, we'll take them with us."

Hu Lizhong, with his chest slightly heaving, said, "Brother Yang, whether you believe it or not, from now on, my life is yours."

Yang Fei laughed, "What use would I have for your life? To me, once someone is a friend, it's for a lifetime."

Hu Lizhong's eyes grew even redder and his breathing quickened.

Friend!

So Brother Yang truly considered me, Hu Lizhong, as a real friend.

Chapter 697: The Master of Shadow Slaughter Venerable

Jiangbei County, the provincial capital of Wu'an City.

After leaving the Shennongjia area, Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong hurried to the upscale residential community where Hu Lizhong's family lived in Wu'an City at the highest speed.

There was nothing unusual inside the community; residents were going about their lives as usual. After entering the community, Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong quietly observed for a while but didn't spot anyone keeping watch near Old Hu's home.

After unlocking the keypad lock, the two men flashed into the room.

The spacious apartment was empty.

However, by the arrangement of the room and the state of food storage in the kitchen freezer, it could be deduced that someone had been living in the home recently.

"The people must have been transported away," Hu Lizhong said in a depressed tone.

Yang Fei was also angry but felt even more helpless.

In such a sudden emergency, with calamity arising from within, if the enemy targeted family members and relatives, there was no way for one's own side to prepare against it.

Upon entering the urban area, both of them had borrowed others' phones to call the outside world. Hu Lizhong tried contacting his wife and children, but their phones were unreachable.

Yang Fei called Qin Yanyang and, finding her phone turned off, understood that she had already fled Jiangbei. Like him and Old Hu, she had destroyed her original phone and SIM card to prevent being tracked.

To avoid phone tracing, Yang Fei held back from calling anyone else.

Everything would wait until they had left Jiangbei.

"Don't worry, if the enemy was well-prepared, then your family isn't the only one controlled. They are temporarily safe. What we need to do is ensure our own safety and then figure out a way to rescue them," Yang Fei consoled.

Hu Lizhong nodded silently, quickly adjusting his emotions.

Although he was worried about his family, he understood that being anxious at this time was of no use.

Several of Yang Fei's family members had also lost contact. In such an extreme situation, the more anxious one became, the more likely they were to make mistakes. As Yang Fei said, as long as they were alive, their controlled family members could be kept safe; otherwise, even if the enemy was merciful and didn't harm those relatives, they might still be charged with various nonsense crimes and have their freedoms restricted.

"Where do we go next?" Hu Lizhong asked.

Yang Fei pondered for a moment and said, "To the Zhu family."

Hu Lizhong felt a surge of emotion and looked at Yang Fei, "Are you sure the Zhu family is safe?"

Yang Fei replied, "It's precisely because we don't know that we need to go take a look."

Hu Lizhong silently nodded.

Everyone knew of the relationship between Zhu Tianshou and Yang Fei. It could be said that the Zhu family's ability to stand back up had a great deal to do with Yang Fei.

Now with the drastic change in the situation, the Zhu family might also have been implicated. It remained to be seen what choice Zhu Tianshou would make.

It was appropriate for Yang Fei to check on the Zhu family at this time.

If the Zhu family had been implicated, he might be able to help them if there was an opportunity. If they made another choice, then Yang Fei would be prepared, to prevent being backstabbed in the future.

...

Within the Hidden Sect Small World, Northern Continent Wulong County.

Occupying nearly one-sixth of the fertile lands of the Hidden Sect World, Northern Continent Wulong County had almost become the private domain of the Zhuge family for the past two hundred years.

Before the Taoist sect was divided, the Zhuge family was one of the foremost aristocratic families among the Eight Great Forces.

It was recorded that when the Hidden Sect Plane World was established, an ancestor of the Zhuge family played a crucial role, and their family's research on Array Formation Talisman Tao far exceeded that of other forces.

In the world where Cultivation was increasingly declining, the Zhuge family, by virtue of their unique methods in Formations and Rune Tao, both their overall combat strength and the combat strength of individuals within the same Realm, subtly surpassed others. Hence, the Zhuge family held a high status within the Hidden Sect.

The Zhuge family was located in the Wolong Ridge Mountain Range, where, according to legend, the entire mountain range was covered by a great Array. Here lay a formation which, apart from the original Taoist Heavenly Mechanism Array, was the foremost in defense—the Mountain Protection Array.

A hundred years ago, when the Taoist collapsed, the Heavenly Mechanism Array ceased to exist. Since then, the strongest Array in the Hidden Sect World was this great formation of the Zhuge family.

Outside Wolong Ridge, two men appeared at the entrance of the mountain gate.

One of them was Helian Zhan.

Next to Helian Zhan, an old man trailing a step behind showed a touch of respect in his expression and carefully asked, "Master, have you discerned anything unusual?"

While described as an old man, he appeared to be only in his fifties or sixties, which for the cultivators of the Hidden Sect World, could only be considered middle-aged.

If Yang Fei had been here, he would have been greatly surprised, for this man was the Shadow Slaughter Venerable he had once met and clashed with.

This significant figure, who had created the Shadow Organization in the secular world, now stood trembling by Helian Zhan's side, looking cautious and apprehensive.

They had been here for several hours, with their master circling around Wolong Ridge, observing continuously. Now at the main gate, he revealed that familiar smile. The elder understood that the master had discovered something, which prompted his question.

"Well done, the problem indeed lies here," Helian Zhan said with a smile.

The elder immediately responded with humble agreement, "This subordinate is only carrying out orders; it is entirely due to the master's divine foresight, having already determined that another passageway is inside Wolong Ridge."

Helian Zhan glanced at him and said with a smile, "Had your people not sent a message saying that several of the old fellows from the Zhuge family had disappeared, and many experts within their family have vanished, coupled with the celestial anomalies a few days ago, I wouldn't have dared to be sure it was here. For this, you'll be credited with a merit."

"Thank you, master," the elder exclaimed joyfully before asking, "What's next? Should we publicize this matter and join forces with other powers to attack the Zhuge family and control this passageway?"

Upon hearing this, a gleam flashed in Helian Zhan's eyes as he looked up at the majestic gate of the manor and chuckled, "Since the three brothers of Zhuge Cang aren't here, the Nine Dragon Formation poses no threat to me. I presume they have gone to the secular world. Let us go have a look."

The elder's expression changed, and he said nervously, "Master, the Nine Dragon Formation is said to be tremendously powerful; with just the two of us..."

"I alone am enough," Helian Zhan interrupted him and said with a smile, "The spatial tremors here a few days ago must have been detected by others. I believe they are on their way as well. We need to take the initiative to see what exactly has happened outside."

Having said that, he no longer concealed his movements and strode towards the grand and imposing gate of the Zhuge family estate.

No sooner had he appeared than several figures flashed out from both sides of the forest, guards tasked with protecting the gate of the Zhuge family.

"Who goes there? State your name," one of them shouted loudly.

The Shadow Slaughter Venerable, known as Dan Wuji, stepped forward first, snorting coldly, "Blind fools, not even recognizing my master. What use do you have for those eyes?"

As he spoke, he waved his hand, and a cold light flashed. The guard screamed miserably on the spot, covering his eyes with his hands.

Blood oozed from those eyes, which were clearly blinded.

Helian Zhan frowned slightly, glancing at Dan Wuji and said tersely, "There was no need to inflict such cruel harm on these innocent men."

Dan Wuji, accustomed to cruelty, had acted instinctively, but upon hearing Helian Zhan's words, he immediately stiffened, anxiously standing to the side and saying with fear, "Master, I beg your forgiveness; I realize my mistake."

Helian Zhan's gaze slowly moved away from his face as he said, "Rein in your killing intent and lessen your malice."

"Yes."

While the two conversed, the other guards witnessed the sudden change and sprang into action.

Some drew their swords to intercept, while others emitted piercing whistles, sounding the alarm.

After scolding Dan Wuji, Helian Zhan raised his head to look forward and said calmly, "Stand aside. With the Zhuge Cang brothers absent, I, Helian Zhan, wish to enter the mountain, and no one can stop me."

His calm voice was not loud, but the words were imbued with formidable power and instantly spread throughout Zhuge Manor in Wolong Ridge.

Chapter 698: Not Worthy to Draw the Sword

"Helian... Helian Zhan?"

"The Uncle Master from Qingtian Sect?"

"Why would he come to the Zhuge family to pick a fight?"

As Helian Zhan's voice drifted into Wolong Ridge, the Zhuge family was instantly filled with numerous shocked exclams.

At this moment, the Zhuge family was internally vulnerable. Three cultivators of the Divine Travel Realm, accompanied by a dozen elite family members in the Innate Realm, had quietly ventured into the secular world, leaving only a few cultivators in the Innate Realm incapable of stopping a top-notch fighter in the Divine Travel Realm like Helian Zhan.

"Activate the Nine Dragon Formation!" shouted Zhuge Chong loudly.

He used the rich True Yuan in his Dantian to amplify his voice, instantly relaying the message to the eight clan elders in the Innate Realm who were operating the Mountain Protection Array.

Zhuge Chong was the spokesperson for the Zhuge family's external affairs. He managed all worldly matters, and after Zhuge Cang and the others left, the family was entrusted to him.

Now that Helian Zhan had arrived with ill intent, he didn't dare to take any chances and directly ordered the activation of the Nine Dragon Formation.

At the mountain gate, Helian Zhan heard Zhuge Chong's voice, a smile lifting the corners of his mouth as he laughed out loud, "Without the Fusang Wood, the Nine Dragon Formation is virtually nonexistent to me."

As he spoke, he casually waved his hand.

The air surged wildly. A terrifying Sword Qi burst forth angrily, rapidly spreading from the Zhuge family's mountain gate toward the mansion.

Whoosh!

A sharp sound of tearing through the air resounded as the invisible Sword Qi instantly pierced through Wolong Ridge, arriving directly at Zhuge Chong's location.

"Pfft!"

Zhuge Chong was a cultivator in the late-stage Innate Realm, and his fighting strength was substantial. However, faced with this sudden and fierce Sword Qi, he couldn't even react to dodge; his chest caved in instantly, and a sharp Sword Qi pierced through from his back, flying into the distance.

The next instant, a stream of blood sprayed out from the hole in his back, shooting out far like a blood sword, piercing through the wooden wall behind him.

A veteran expert who had stepped into the Innate Realm for fifty-six years couldn't withstand a sword strike from Helian Zhan from afar.

Zhuge Chong looked down at the hole that had appeared in his chest, feeling his life draining away at a terrifying speed, muttering, "Sword... Sword Cultivator... he, he can't be Second Place..."

With that one sword strike, could the genius girl from the Duanmu Family back then even compare?

Regrettably, he no longer had the chance to relay this information to the three clan elders. He hoped that upon encountering this man, the elders wouldn't underestimate him.

With deep worries about the future prospects of his family, Zhuge Chong, who had managed the worldly affairs of the Zhuge family for twenty-seven years, closed his eyes in discontent, his body collapsing with a thud, never to rise again.

Roar!!!

Roar roar!!!

Meanwhile, up in the sky above the Wolong Ridge Mountain Range, a dragon's roar soared into the heavens.

Soon, several more roars followed, and the sky above Wolong Ridge seemed to be encircled by a number of massive dragons, their terrifyingly fierce and brutal power descending with them.

The Nine Dragon Formation was activated.

The entire mansion was enveloped in an invisible Array's power for protection.

After Helian Zhan had carelessly wiped out Zhuge Chong with a wave of his hand, he moved towards the stone steps. Just as he reached the mountain gate, he was met with dragon roars and a whirlwind. An invisible barrier descended outside the mountain gate, blocking his path.

"Heh, today I shall witness how much power this millennium-old Array still possesses," he chuckled.

Helian Zhan carried one hand behind his back, while he stretched out the other, turning his finger into a sword, and stabbed towards the mountain gate.

Hum!

A humming sound spread.

A fierce gale rose, and a Sword Qi, unparalleled in sharpness, shot out from Helian Zhan's fingertip, striking the invisible barrier enveloping the mountain gate.

Whoosh!

A sharp tearing sound echoed.

In the nothingness where there seemed to be empty space, a crack suddenly appeared, forming a diamond-shaped gap. In front of it was an invisible, colorless barrier, which was shattered and pierced by the sharp Sword Qi.

Roar!!!

As the Array in front of the mountain gate suffered damage, a dragon's roar descended from the sky the very next moment.

The hurricane abruptly rose, and a dragon-shaped figure, faint but discernible, burst from the space fissure, lunging straight for Helian Zhan.

Two or three steps behind him, Dan Wuji's face turned deathly pale in an instant, and his body trembled violently, almost kneeling down and begging for mercy.

What a terrifying pressure.

It felt as if a nine-heaven divine dragon had descended, ready to open its gigantic maw and swallow him whole.

Too scary!

"Hmph, this Nine Dragon Formation really isn't what it used to be; it can't even condense its true form."

Helian Zhan's cold voice rang out.

As the faint dragon figure approached him, he neither dodged nor evaded but simply raised his hand and pointed.

Another fierce Sword Qi burst through the air.

This sword condensed all the spatial power within a thousand-meter radius, the transparent sword body becoming visible to the naked eye and clearer by the moment until it solidified into a real longsword, which then crashed onto the massive dragon.

Though it took some explaining, the process of the power elements instantly coming together to form the sword body happened in the blink of an eye.

Pfft!

The dragon figure, unable to solidify from illusion into reality, was pierced through by the sword body, exploding in an instant and turning into particles of power elements scattered in the void.

The entire Nine Dragon Formation shook violently.

Inside the villa, an Innate Realm elder of the Zhuge family spat out blood, fell to the ground, and began panting heavily as he hastily started practicing to heal his injuries.

The Nine Dragon Formation was originally controlled by nine individuals working together to maintain its strongest power. But just as the formation activated, Zhuge Chong was killed by a sword strike from Helian Zhan. The Great Elder made a decisive attack but was still overpowered and killed by Helian Zhan.

The renowned Nine Dragon Mountain Protection Array that had stood for a thousand years seemed like nothing more than paper mache in front of Uncle Master Helian, claimed to be the most talented in a millennium, unable to withstand a single hit!

As the faint dragon figure exploded, Dan Wuji finally began to catch his breath.

That was close!

If his master hadn't made a move just now, even if the dragon hadn't targeted him, it would still have seriously injured him.

His gaze filled with intense adoration as he watched the figure step boldly into the Mountain Protection Array.

His master had said ten years ago that given another decade, he would be unbeatable by anyone in the world.

Dan Wuji was not sure how strong other cultivators in the Divine Travel Realm were, but he was now certain of one thing: swordsmen like himself and Zhang Wenfeng could not withstand a true strike from his master.

His eyes fell on the sword tied around his master's waist, igniting with fervor.

Was the Nine Dragon Formation, known as the strongest defense of the Hidden Sect, not even able to compel his master to draw his actual sword?

"Helian Zhan, what are you trying to do? Do you realize what this means? Will Qingtian Sect go to war with our Zhuge aristocratic family for your sake?"

"That's right, by doing this, you'll destroy the foundation your Helian Family has worked so hard to build."

"Do you really think you can challenge the authority of the Eight Great Forces all by yourself?"

Roars of anger continuously came from the Zhuge family estate.

However, Helian Zhan did not answer anyone.

Dan Wuji only saw mighty winds howling within Wolong Ridge, with terrifying impacts sounding continuously; the mountain range and the array seemed as one. With every strike from Helian Zhan, the entire Wolong Mountain Range appeared to tremble violently.

A quarter of an hour passed.

Accompanied by a fierce surge of Sword Qi that shot up into the sky, the Zhuge family's Mountain Protection Array collapsed.

Dan Wuji was overjoyed and was about to step forward when suddenly a terrible premonition struck him as a horrifying aura emanated from the ridge.

"Vermin, dare you damage our thousand-year-old Zhuge family Array; do you know your crime?"

An ancient voice came from within the belly of the mountain range, as if the entire Wolong Mountain Range itself were speaking.

Following it was a pressure even more terrifying than when the Nine Dragon Formation was activated.

The only difference was that the pressure of the Nine Dragon Formation was more widespread, whereas after this voice appeared, the dreadful pressure seemed specifically targeted at Helian Zhan and Dan Wuji alone.

Dan Wuji's heart stirred, and his expression changed drastically. Could it be that the Zhuge aristocratic family really had ancient clan elders who had not perished but were avoiding their destined end in a state of slumber, now awakened by his master?

Chapter 699: Dead End

Helian Zhan stood in the center of the wide square within the Zhuge family grounds when the sudden voice caused his pupils to shrink slightly, his right hand instinctively grasping the sword at his waist.

Without the three Zhuge brothers to preside over and manipulate the Nine Dragon Formation, even the qualification to draw his sword was not granted to him, yet he had broken it in the time it takes to finish a cup of tea.

However, facing this abruptly emerging voice, Helian Zhan felt pressure he hadn't experienced in ten years.

He released his Divine Sense, attempting to lock onto the specific location of the other, only to find that they were exceedingly well-hidden, completely eluding his detection.

"I had not expected the Zhuge family to have such an ancient ancestor presiding over it; my approach was presumptuous," Helian Zhan slowly said.

"Who are you, and why have you broken my Zhuge family's Mountain Protection Array?" the person asked, then appeared to sense something and exclaimed in shock, "How long have I been asleep for the Mountain Protection Array of the Zhuge family to have become so weak? And why has the Spiritual Power in this world become so thin?"

"Reporting to the old ancestor, you... you have been asleep for seventy-three years and six months. Over the past several decades, the Spiritual Energy in the Hidden Sect Plane World has been continuously weakening, and the forces of the Hidden Sect are facing the difficulty of dealing with the worldly mundane world," a Zhuge family elder said.

This person was over one hundred and twenty years old and was considered an ancestor-level figure within the Zhuge family, yet even facing the owner of the voice, he still respectfully addressed them as old ancestor.

"Seventy-three years, has it been so long?" the imposing voice slowly said.

"Yes, you have indeed been asleep for more than seventy-three years."

Helian Zhan narrowed his eyes slightly and spoke, "If this junior has not guessed incorrectly, you should be Elder Zhuge Hong, a peer of my master Wu Zheng."

"Wu Zheng? You belong to the Qingtian Sect?"

The voice, resounding with overwhelming authority, came through again, tinged with a hint of surprise, "The Qingtian Sect has raised a genius like you after Wu Zheng? No, Wu Zheng was of my generation, although younger than I by over thirty years. He did not wish to slumber, so after seventy-three years, he should have long passed away. You... with such full vitality and robust Life Qi Mechanism, you could not possibly be more than merely decades old, how could you be a disciple of Wu Zheng?"

"At the brink of his death, my master brought me back to Qingtian Sect, and my martial skills were indeed taught by my senior brothers," Helian Zhan explained.

"My Zhuge family has always had an amicable relationship with Qingtian Sect, so why have you come here to provoke us?" Zhuge Hong's tone suddenly became stern as he sharply questioned.

Helian Zhan responded with a smile, "There is no provocation to speak of. The Zhuge family has concealed acts that endanger the Hidden Sect from other forces in the Hidden Sect, and for my own survival, I had no choice but to come here to seek the truth."

"Nonsense, by breaking my Zhuge family's Mountain Protection Array and awakening me, you are provoking the Zhuge family. Even if you are a disciple of an old friend, you must leave your head behind," Zhuge Hong's voice came with anger.

The smile on Helian Zhan's face grew thicker as he responded lightly, "Since the elder wishes to kill me, why not come out and meet me?"

"To kill you, why does this old man's true form need to descend?"

The angry voice drifted through the void, and with it rose a terrible oppressive force.

Everyone looked up, only to see a giant face forming in the sky, shining brilliantly, as if a divine being had descended.

Countless disciples of the Zhuge family prostrated themselves on the ground.

"The ancient ancestor has manifested!"

"This... this is the Primordial Spirit Dharma Form, congratulating the old ancestor on the breakthrough, entering a higher realm."

"Long live the old ancestor, heaven bless our Zhuge family!"

Dan Wuji's face was filled with terror as he exclaimed, "Master, this... this is a manifestation of the Primordial Spirit, is this person's Primordial Spirit so powerful that it can separate and manifest itself?"

Helian Zhan's expression turned extremely solemn, while everyone else couldn't raise their eyes to face the giant face emitting a soft golden light, he stood proudly, his gaze sharp as a knife, fixedly staring at the face.

"A manifestation of the Primordial Spirit, eh?" Helian Zhan's eyes gleamed with scorn as he suddenly drew his sword towards the sky.

"The Realm of Divine Void, which my teacher disdained, now appears so insignificant in the eyes of Helian Zhan as well."

Shh!

Sword Qi soared through the air.

As Helian Zhan swung his sword furiously towards the sky, a huge rift suddenly appeared in the void above Wolong Ridge.

It was as if the entire void had been split in two.

A crack appeared on the giant golden face, starting from the center of the forehead.

The crack quickly spread, cleaving the entire face in two.

Boom!

The giant face exploded, vanishing without a trace.

The reverent disciples of the Zhuge family, who had been worshipping, turned pale with shock, trembling fiercely.

How could this happen?

The Primordial Spirit Manifestation of the old ancestor was such a powerful Divine Skill, yet it was destroyed by a single sword strike?

Could this... could this have been an illusion, and not the true manifestation of the Primordial Spirit?

While the Zhuge family members were in a state of fearful confusion, another giant face appeared, still with the aged features, indeed Zhuge Hong.

This time, the golden light was even more intense.

This giant face emerged, showing an extremely furious expression, and let out a deep roar towards the direction of Helian Zhan.

Roar!

The exploding sound waves swept in, like a terrifying sonic wave crashing down violently.

Helian Zhan's clothes instantly tore open in several places.

On his resolute face, a few fine, silvery bloodstains emerged.

The area he was in, dozens of square meters of ground, sunk in an instant.

"Die!"

As if cursed by the grim reaper, Zhuge Hong's voice then clearly descended.

Helian Zhan raised his hand and struck out with a palm, a halo flashed, and a golden shield blocked an invisible current of air.

The next moment, he slashed out with his sword again.

The enormous face was split into two for the second time, exploding in midair and dispersing into nothingness.

Hum!

The void violently trembled.

On Zhuge Hong's aged face, which materialized in the sky for the third time, was not just an immense face but also the upper half of a body.

A gigantic palm shining with a faint golden luster, like a huge mountain descending from the heavens, slammed down ferociously onto Helian Zhan's head.

Bang!

The ground burst open, amidst rising dust and smoke, Helian Zhan's body soared upwards, furiously slashing his sword at the sky.

Boom!

A loud noise erupted.

Terrible Qi fragments fell all around the void.

Many descendants of the Zhuge family were cut in half at the waist or sliced into multiple pieces, screams filled the air.

The huge palm was sliced off.

Sword Qi crisscrossed through the sky as Helian Zhan instantly unleashed over a dozen sword strikes.

The giant half-human Primordial Spirit Dharma Form collapsed once again, dissipating into the void.

"You... you have actually touched upon the Supreme Sword Dao, becoming a true Sword Cultivator?"

A voice full of terror floated in the void.

In the sky above, Helian Zhan's eyes shot out two sharp lights as he laughed and said, "I've found you, senior!"

As his words fell, he directed a sword strike toward a patch of forest to the east of Wolong Ridge.

"You dare!"

A terrified voice followed.

When this voice first emerged, it sounded the same as Zhuge Hong's every time he spoke, the method coming from all directions.

But upon careful identification from the crowd, it was indeed coming from the location Helian Zhan had targeted with his sword.

At the same time, a gigantic fist surged out from that direction.

The Sword Qi was unstoppable, piercing through the massive fist and whistling into the forest.

"Ah!"

A fearful scream rang out.

With a flash, Helian Zhan soared into the air, racing towards that direction.

Deep within the dense forest, an elderly man wearing a faded robe with disheveled hair and beard rushed out from a stone house.

There was a conspicuous wound on his chest, from which blood was profusely flowing.

This person was none other than Zhuge Hong.

After dashing out of the stone house, he did not escape swiftly but instead clutched his chest wound and looked down to inspect the injury.

The sound of breaking through the air came, and Helian Zhan appeared in front.

Zhuce Hong slowly raised his head, his eyes filled with deep unwillingness.

Even after sleeping for seventy-three years and advancing into the Realm of Divine Void, it turned out to be an illusion. It was nothing but the Primordial Spirit that had consolidated together after decades of slumber, bursting forth momentarily to an unprecedented height. But once the Body was discovered, the end was already determined.

Chapter 700: Arriving One After Another

Zhuce Hong's Life Qi Mechanism was disappearing at an astonishing rate.

He looked down at the sword wound in his chest, and deep fear arose in his heart.

It was a fear of death, and also a fear of that sword stroke.

He knew that even if his body had still been in its prime, it would have been very difficult to avoid that stroke of the sword, it was too fast, too powerful!

When he slowly lifted his head, a figure flashed by; an elegant and handsome middle-aged man with a sword wrapped around his waist appeared in front of the cliff cave.

"You are indeed a successor of the Qingtian Sect. That stroke just now, must be the Qingtian Sword that no one in the Qingtian Sect has mastered for a thousand years, right?" Zhuge Hong asked looking at Helian Zhan.

Helian Zhan did not hide it and slowly nodded, "Junior has only caught a glimpse of the path of the Sword Dao, and caused Senior to laugh."

Zhuge Hong let out a bitter smile, "It is said that the true Qingtian Sword could decapitate a person from a thousand miles away. No matter the enemy, it would only take one stroke of the sword, haha, such swordsmanship could never be mastered by us mortals. The swordsmanship you have displayed today is the true limit of the Sword Dao that mortals can control. Wu Zheng indeed had unique insight to have chosen you, a disciple born for the sword."

Helian Zhan glanced at him and turned to leave.

A moment later, Zhuge Hong closed his eyes.

His life should have ended several decades ago, but he chose to sleep using his deep Turtle Breath Skill to sustain himself until now.

He seemed to have lived several decades longer, but in reality, it was meaningless.

What difference was there between decades of sleep and death?

However, his Primordial Spirit was indeed the strongest that Helian Zhan had ever seen.

Perhaps this method of stealing life through sleep wasn't entirely without meaning. If the Primordial Spirit Consciousness became even stronger, possessing the domineering ability to Body Seize as told in Taoist legends, then one could be reborn through another method.

Helian Zhan did not dwell on such matters. To him, at over fifty years old, he still had plenty of time ahead, just like his master Wu Zheng had chosen in his time, to live a splendid life within a limited lifespan, to do some earth-shattering deeds – that was the meaning of life.

Those who attained immortality, once they reached a certain age, the time that followed was just a tasteless repetition of life, like walking corpses, meaningless.

The Nine Dragon Formation was broken, Zhuge Hong was dead, and the Zhuge Family had no one left who could obstruct Helian Zhan's path.

Soon, he arrived at a spot halfway up Wolong Ridge.

There was a huge natural abyss here.

Around the abyss, a massive circular wooden tower was constructed. Had this tower appeared in the outside world, it would definitely be considered one of the wonders of ancient mortise-and-tenon architecture.

The entire wooden tower was a great mechanical Array. Even with Helian Zhan's formidable martial prowess, he encountered layers of resistance.

In the end, an old man from the Zhuge Family, who really couldn't bear to see the Mechanical Tower destroyed by Helian Zhan's brute force, intervened to guide him, saving the tower from calamity.

Nonetheless, Helian Zhan and Zhao Wuji developed a sliver of awe in their hearts for the Zhuge Family.

In aspects such as talismans, Formation, and Mechanical Techniques, the Zhuge Family indeed had a very good heritage, and if it hadn't been for the absence of the Zhuge Cang brothers from home this time, with the three of them defending the Nine Dragon Formation, Helian Zhan would not have been able to withstand it alone.

Moreover, even if Helian Zhan could eventually break through the Mechanical Tower, it would have taken a considerable amount of time and energy.

If super-powerful figures like Zhuge Cang from the Zhuge Family were defending this place, with all sorts of Magic Array Mechanism Techniques, Helian Zhan would stand no chance of overcoming the Zhuge Family on his own.

After entering the Mechanical Tower, the huge abyss appeared before him.

Zhao Wuji immediately exclaimed, "What... what is this place? It's bottomless, like the abyss of Hell?"

The old man of the Zhuge Family said with a complex expression, "This is the great secret that our Zhuge Family has guarded for generations. The core of the Hidden Sect Plane World Array, and also the birthplace of the Spiritual Energy of the entire Hidden Sect World."

Helian Zhan seemed to have already known about this, as he stared into the abyss below and said in a deep voice, "Since this is the birthplace of Spiritual Power, why does it seem like a pool of stagnant water here, devoid of any ripples of Spiritual Energy, and even the surrounding Heaven and Earth Power seems to be converging towards this abyss? To me, it looks like an insatiable beast of gold, constantly devouring the Heaven and Earth Power of the Hidden Sect World."

The elder from the Zhuge aristocratic family gave a wry smile and said, "Young Master Helian's reputation is well-deserved. Indeed, the Spiritual Energy of the Hidden Sect Plane World has been disappearing from here. Originally, this place was the birthplace of Spiritual Power, but an anomaly began three hundred years ago. Not only did it stop producing Spiritual Power, but it also slowly started to devour the Spiritual Power of the Hidden Sect Plane. After more than three hundred years of long

years, the other forces of the Hidden Sect World gradually discovered that the Spiritual Energy of the entire world was depleting, leading to the collapse of the Plane World."

"How did the Zhuge aristocratic family come to know that this place leads to the outside world?" Zhao Wuji couldn't help but ask.

"The Zhuge family has been guarding this place since ancient times, protecting the entire Hidden Sect World. This is another transmission portal that has been recorded since ancient times," said the elder.

Helian Zhan pondered slightly with a smile and said, "No wonder after the transmission portal was sealed by the outside world, the Zhuge family showed anger, but it was not as intense."

The elder snorted and said nothing.

Helian Zhan continued, "So, through this transmission portal, has the Zhuge family been continuously sending out disciples over the years, trying to seize the initiative to enter the world?"

The elder snorted again, giving no answer.

Helian Zhan chuckled but did not trouble him further and said, "I want to see what sort of chaos the Zhuge family has caused in the outside Divine Continent."

After speaking, he leaped into the terrifyingly bottomless abyss below.

Zhao Wuji's expression changed dramatically, "Master..."

But it was too late to stop him.

As he watched Helian Zhan disappear into the abyss, he gritted his teeth and, with his eyes closed, jumped down.

If his master was convinced this was the transmission portal, how could he harbor any doubt?

Outside the gate of Zhuge Manor.

With a flash, Wang Chunyang appeared.

He glanced at the manor gate and was about to stride forward when he heard a voice from behind, "Brother Wang, wait a moment."

Upon hearing this voice, Wang Chunyang's eyes slightly narrowed, and he said slowly, "Brother Ouyang didn't come with Helian? What, has he decided not to join forces with Brother Ouyang anymore?"

"Hahaha, my Poison Sect is a bit farther from this place, naturally, I can't match Helian Zhan's speed," Two figures emerged from the woods, an old man and a young woman—the old man was indeed Ouyang He, and the young woman beside him was Helian Rong, also known as the Little Demon Girl, Immortal Yan, from the younger generation of the Poison Sect.

"Hahaha, you must have been attracted here by the celestial phenomenon a few days ago, right? I thought I was the fastest."

Just then, a hearty laugh sounded, and a burly man with a giant sword on his back approached with large strides.

It was Wang Changchun from Giant Sword Manor.

The Hidden Sect Eight Great Forces, three had arrived in an instant.

Aside from Helian Zhan, who had come earlier, and the Duanmu Family, which had already secretly allied with the Zhuge family, only the people from the Ji Family and the Zhang Family had not yet arrived.

However, the Ji Family and the Zhang Family had always been relatively low-key, showing far less desire for dominance compared to the other six forces. It was not surprising that they had not yet arrived.

"Has Helian Zhan already gone in?" Wang Changchun asked.

Wang Chunyang nodded, "He seems to have gone ahead of us."

"What are we waiting for then, let's go together and see. I can't wait to uncover what kind of secrets are hidden inside the Zhuge family," Wang Changchun said as he walked towards the manor.

Ouyang He and Wang Chunyang nodded and followed closely behind.

Helian Rong, on the other hand, kept close to her master.