

## Overlord 881

### Chapter 881: Exception

Zhuge Cang saw the two of them exclaim in surprise simultaneously, their expressions genuine, which made him pause for a moment. Then, recalling something, he chuckled and said to Yang Fei, "I almost forgot, all these skills of yours were taught by Huang Chengcheng, weren't they? Although Huang Chengcheng could be considered a prodigious talent, his performance in the field of the Talismanic Array is merely average. Moreover, his knowledge of Talisman Tao and Formation is quite limited."

Yang Fei also recalled the time when the Taoist sect was wiped out by the Eight Great Forces joining hands.

At that time, the Eight Great Forces did not want to be constrained by the Taoist sect and also desired to claim the Martial Arts, Rune Tao, Formation, and various other books and resources for themselves, which led to that disastrous annihilation of the Taoist sect.

Later, most of the Taoist sect's books were looted by these Eight Great Forces, and the sections on Rune Tao, Formation, and Alchemy were mainly seized by the Zhuge family.

In addition, the Zhuge family was originally entrusted with the mission of guarding the transmission passage of the Extreme Abyss, inheriting many secret manuals on Rune Tao, Formation, and Alchemy, so in these areas, the Zhuge family's foundation was not necessarily lower than that of the Taoist sect.

As a rare genius in the field of the Talismanic Array in the thousand-year history of the Zhuge family, Zhuge Cang remembered all the inherited runes.

Thinking of this, Yang Fei couldn't help but ask curiously, "Elder Zhuge, are there really one hundred and fifty-seven runes?"

Zhuge Cang showed a hint of regret on his face and said, "In fact, there are more than one hundred fifty-seven runes, but after years of transmission, as Spiritual Energy continues to weaken, Martial Arts decline, which directly led to fewer and fewer people able to comprehend Rune Tao and over time, some of the classic books on Rune Tao were not valued, got damaged, and lost more and more, thus the preserved heritage naturally became less and less."

At this point, he suddenly looked at Yang Fei and asked, "Which hundred and eight runes do you know? Let's see which ones overlap with mine, maybe if we combine what we know, it could exceed the number one hundred fifty-seven."

Yang Fei's eyes lit up upon hearing this.

Even if all the one hundred and eight runes he knows were duplicated with Zhuge Cang's, there would still be fifty-seven runes he did not know.

If the runes known to the two had no overlaps, that would mean they could know even more runes together.

After a moment of contemplation, he said to Tong Yunshu, "Yun Shu, write those runes one by one for Elder Zhuge to see."

Currently, Zhuge Cang was at Yunwu Mountain's Base, and Yang Fei was absolutely confident that he wouldn't escape, so he wasn't afraid of revealing the runes he knew.

Secondly, he aimed to win over Zhuge Cang, so he must show sincerity.

He believed that sincerity is the most persuasive thing, and when combined with benefit, it is invincible.

Tong Yunshu nodded at Yang Fei's instruction and said, "Alright, I'll go get paper and pen."

Zhuge Cang was greatly astonished and asked, "You can write one hundred and eight runes?"

Tong Yunshu nodded, "Yes, Yang Fei taught me, I have already memorized them."

Zhuge Cang took a deep breath and said, "You previously said, how long have you been in contact with Rune Tao?"

Tong Yunshu seriously thought for a while and replied, "To be precise, it's been more than half a year, seven months and eight days."

After inheriting the Great Yellow Court, her memory had greatly improved, plus the bits and pieces with Yang Fei left a deep impression on her. During the time Yang Fei taught her Rune Tao, they spent day and night together, which she cherished and thus remembered clearly.

Zhuge Cang was thoroughly stunned and asked in astonishment, "Are you saying that you not only remembered one hundred and eight runes, but you can also write them out, right?"

Tong Yunshu nodded and said, "Yes, what's wrong?"

What's wrong?

She actually straightforwardly asked what was wrong?

In just over seven months, this girl could actually write out one hundred and eight runes; such talent is outrageously shocking, yet she innocently asked what's wrong?

That's too terrifying.

Zhuge Cang barely suppressed the shock in his heart, somewhat disbelieving.

It took him more than a hundred years of study to achieve his current accomplishment, though the hundred and fifty-seven runes were not what he encountered at the very beginning, he still remembered that when he first entered Rune Tao, it took him over five whole years to fully write out the one hundred thirty-nine inherited runes of his family.

Even so, he was regarded as a rare genius in Rune Tao in the millennia of the Zhuge family.

But this girl remembered one hundred and eight runes in just half a year's time and could even write them out?

Zhuge Cang found it hard to believe.

He hurriedly urged, "Quickly write them out for me to see."

Tong Yunshu replied with an "Oh" and turned to leave.

Zhuge Cang urgently called out, "Where are you going?"

"To get paper and pen," Tong Yunshu said.

Zhuge Cang shook his head, "No need, you can just trace them with your finger in the void, I can recognize them."

Tong Yunshu frowned, "The brushstrokes of the runes are too many and obscure to distinguish by tracing in the void, right?"

"No problem, I can recognize them, just go ahead and write," Zhuge Cang couldn't wait and urged impatiently.

Yang Fei also said, "Yun Shu, listen to Elder, write them, it's fine."

Seeing both of them saying so, Tong Yunshu stopped hesitating, extended her right hand, and started drawing and writing in the void.

Afraid the other might not distinguish clearly, she moved very slowly, taking nearly half a minute to finish the first rune.

After pausing, she asked Zhuge Cang, "Elder, can you recognize what it is?"

Zhuge Cang took a deep breath, nodded, and said, "Yes, I can recognize it."

While Tong Yunshu was tracing the rune in the void, he could feel it, as each stroke was delineated, vibrant talismanic waves resonated in the void, indicating a true depth in the Rune Tao and understanding of the rune.

Genius!

An absolutely assured genius in Rune Tao.

No!

To simply describe this girl as a genius is too shallow.

Zhuge Cang strongly suppressed the excitement in his heart, urged, "Continue writing, you can go faster, I can recognize them."

Hearing his words, Tong Yunshu nodded and continued to draw the second rune.

Seeing Zhuge Cang nod to indicate he recognized it, her pace involuntarily quickened.

Soon, she managed to draw fifteen runes in one go. As she wrote more and more runes, both Zhuge Cang and Yang Fei were astonished to find that the talismanic aura in the small room was becoming increasingly dense, as if the special energy between heaven and earth was completely drawn in.

Tong Yunshu continued to write, her speed gradually increasing, writing out the thirty-eighth rune in less than three minutes.

By this time, Zhuge Cang was utterly paralyzed. He suddenly exclaimed, "Wait, slow down, I haven't seen this rune before."

Hearing Zhuge Cang say this, Yang Fei was inwardly delighted.

Tong Yunshu also realized this was a good thing and slowed her writing pace.

After Zhuge Cang took a look, he swallowed and could tell that this was undeniably a genuine and effective rune, moreover, one he didn't recognize.

Indeed, although the runes known to both himself and Yang Fei largely overlapped, there were ones that didn't.

As Tong Yunshu finished this rune, Zhuge Cang was already fully convinced that Tong Yunshu could indeed write one hundred and eight runes.

Seeing a slight sweat on her forehead, although it wasn't engraving a talisman, writing runes at such a fast pace did consume some mental energy, he felt a bit of heartache and said, "Alright, I believe you. Rest for a while, don't overexert yourself mentally."

Tong Yunshu felt she could write all the runes in one go, and said, "It's alright, I can finish it."

Zhuce Cang hurriedly said, "No rush at the moment."

He looked at Yang Fei and said, "Our Zhuge family's heritage is not passed to outsiders, but today I'll make an exception and take him as my first and only disciple of Zhuge Cang."

#### Chapter 882: Silent as Rain

Hearing Zhuge Cang say this, Yang Fei burst into laughter, proudly said: "What do you think? The person I recommended to you is not bad, right?"

Zhuce Cang's old face turned red.

Earlier, he had refused, especially when he saw it was a girl and was even more reluctant to accept her as a disciple. But now, after witnessing Tong Yunshu's talent in the Rune Tao, he no longer cared about

any of that. He could even change the ancestral teachings of the Zhuge family, so why worry about anything else?

Yang Fei continued, "Yun Shu, tell the elder how long it took you to memorize these 108 runes initially?"

Hearing Yang Fei's words, Zhuge Cang's heart suddenly fluttered with shock and anticipation as he looked at Tong Yunshu and asked, "His meaning is that the time you took to memorize these 108 runes wasn't more than seven months?"

Tong Yunshu had heard Yang Fei praise her talent in the Rune Tao many times before. Now, seeing Yang Fei deliberately say this and Zhuge Cang's shocked expression, she understood Yang Fei's intention.

Feeling a bit embarrassed by Yang Fei's action, she honestly replied: "It took seven days and seven nights."

"What?"

Even though he was already somewhat prepared mentally, hearing the number Tong Yunshu mentioned, Zhuge Cang still exclaimed in astonishment and was utterly stupefied.

Immediately after, his body began to tremble constantly, and his voice quivered as he continued to ask: "You... you're sure it was seven days?"

Tong Yunshu nodded with a blushing face.

At that time, she had said in front of Yang Fei that it was just 108 characters, and she needed seven days and seven nights to memorize them, questioning if she was too slow. But Yang Fei told her he took three years and seven months for the same task.

Even though Yang Fei was young then, with low cultivation and undeveloped Divine Thought, his speed was already impressive. But compared to Tong Yunshu, he was utterly outclassed.

Now, Zhuge Cang was similarly deeply impacted.

Even if Tong Yunshu had taken more than seven months to master the 108 runes, he felt his title as a Rune Tao genius had been challenged.

But now, she only took seven days.

Where could he argue with anyone?

Could it be that his talent was actually quite mediocre?

Just that he never encountered a true Rune Tao genius before?

After a long time, Zhuge Cang managed to calm himself down.

He had to admit that some people are truly gifted by heaven in certain aspects. Meeting such a talent monster, ordinary people should not even think of competing, and they should keep a steady mindset to avoid self-humiliation.

After calming down, Zhuge Cang was only left with overwhelming joy in his heart.

Having such a genius as a disciple would certainly rejuvenate the Rune Tao and Formations. When she becomes a world-renowned master in the Talismanic Array, he, as the master, would also take pride.

Wonderful.

For such a talent, not to mention accepting her as a disciple, he even wished he could kneel down and acknowledge her as the master.

Especially since she has a special status and is also the woman of this brat, Yang Fei.



In the future, when she becomes an unparalleled expert in the Rune Tao, she could definitely aid the Zhuge family.

At this moment, Zhuge Cang seemed to see hope for the Zhuge family's resurgence.

He stared at Tong Yunshu and immediately said: "Hurry... hurry and take me as your master."

Yang Fei saw his impatient look and couldn't help but smile proudly again.

Tong Yunshu hesitated, looking towards Yang Fei with an inquisitive gaze.

Yang Fei coughed, pretending to ponder.

Zhuce Cang saw him hesitating at such a moment and wished he could beat him up, but considering he was no match, he could only wait patiently.

Yang Fei stopped teasing Zhuge Cang and said to Tong Yunshu, "Yun Shu, Elder Zhuge's research in the fields of the Rune Tao and Formations is definitely more thorough than mine. It's your fortune to enter his school."

Zhuce Cang secretly snorted, recognizing Yang Fei's somewhat humble acknowledgment.

However, Tong Yunshu entering his school was not her fortune; it was his fortune indeed.

Such a great talent, if not surpassing all future generations, based on his understanding of the history of the Rune Tao and Formations, she truly was unparalleled in history.

After receiving Yang Fei's permission, Tong Yunshu looked at Zhuge Cang and said: "Then... are there any formalities needed to take you as my master? Do I need to find incense papers and those things for a ritual?"

Zhuge Cang was delighted to hear her say this.

This girl understands the etiquette.

He was already eager to accept this disciple and said directly: "Let's skip those tedious rituals, just bow to me nine times, and you'll officially be my disciple and join the Zhuge Sect."

With that, he sat down on a chair.

Tong Yunshu walked over to kneel, but suddenly noticed the chilling shackles on Zhuge Cang's hands and feet. She furrowed her brows and looked at Yang Fei, saying: "Yang Fei, I'm about to take Elder Zhuge as my master. How can you have him bound like this? Quickly, release my master."

Zhuge Cang was deeply moved, his eyes instantly reddening.

In truth, he had grown somewhat indifferent to relations such as kinship, but after his failure this time and falling into the status of a captive, his mindset had subtly changed. Now, seeing Tong Yunshu genuinely concerned about him and demanding Yang Fei to release him, his emotions were deeply touched.

"It's okay, and this isn't Yang Fei's doing. Don't wrongly blame him." Zhuge Cang suppressed his internal emotions and said to Tong Yunshu.

In truth, deep inside, he hated Yang Fei, but strangely enough, he now found himself speaking on his behalf, seemingly not holding as much resentment against him as before.

Tong Yunshu slowly shook her head and said, "Bowling to you like this would be disrespectful to you and uncomfortable for me as well."

She looked at Yang Fei and asked: "Can you unlock these shackles?"

Yang Fei smiled wryly, "It's really not my doing. Let me inquire and see if I can find the key."

Tong Yunshu replied: "Go quickly."

Yang Fei felt that indeed taking a master in such a way wasn't proper. Besides, he had decided to move Zhuge Cang with sincerity, so he nodded and said, "Wait a moment. I'll go find the key."

After speaking, he ran out, surveying the valley but not seeing any sign of Wang Chunyang.

He then came to the room where Helian Rong was being treated and asked Helian Zhan: "Elder, do you have the key to the shackles on Zhuge Cang?"

Helian Zhan was taken aback and curiously looked at Yang Fei, asking: "What, do you want to free him?"

Yang Fei laughed, "In here, it makes no difference whether he's shackled or not. Since I want him to do something for me, I have to show him some respect and offer some benefits, right?"

Upon hearing this, Helian Zhan took out a key from his pocket and handed it to Yang Fei, saying: "Do what you think is best."

"Thank you."

Yang Fei expressed his gratitude, took the key back to Zhuge Cang's room, unlocked Zhuge Cang's shackles, and handed three sticks of lit cigarettes to Tong Yunshu, saying, "Use these cigarettes as incense, and take him as your master."

Zhuge Cang glanced gratefully at Yang Fei.

Although they didn't use proper incense, substituting with cigarettes gave a sense of solemnity to the ceremony.

Tong Yunshu kneeled before Zhuge Cang, respectfully kowtowing nine times, and Zhuge Cang immediately lifted her up.

Tong Yunshu then took the three lit cigarettes from Yang Fei, held them level above her forehead, turned, and performed three bows towards the sky outside, offering the cigarettes.

The apprenticeship ceremony was considered complete.

Zhuce Cang looked at Tong Yunshu with satisfaction and said, "For our first meeting, since you have taken me as your master and I have nothing valuable to give you, I will share the 157 runes I know with you."

Tong Yunshu, besides cultivating, also took time to study those runes recently.

She discovered that when these runes were connected and combined in different ways, they could have unexpected power, making her quite interested in the Rune Tao.

Upon hearing that Zhuge Cang was going to share more runes with her, she was delighted. The more runes she learned, the more combinations she could form, thereby enhancing her power.

She rejoiced, saying: "Thank you, Master."

Listening to her call him 'Master,' Zhuge Cang laughed heartily with satisfaction.

Yang Fei coughed lightly, asking Zhuge Cang, "Elder, should I step out?"

Chapter 883: Propagating the Teachings and Accepting Disciples

Zhuge Cang's mouth twitched as he glanced at Tong Yunshu.

This girl would inquire about this boy's opinion before paying her respects to me as a master just now, clearly prioritizing this boy above all else.

Once I pass on the skills I know to Tong Yunshu, this boy will certainly know them as well.

He looked at Tong Yunshu, opened his mouth, but ultimately did not ask her to swear not to reveal what I taught her to anyone else.

What if this girl refuses and regrets not acknowledging me as her master?

Forget it.

This boy can be considered a talent in the field of rune Taoism arrays. Even if he learns from the Zhuge family's things, it would still mean the continuation of my Zhuge family's legacy.

With this in mind, he snorted coldly and said, "No need to avoid it pretentiously. Whatever you want to know about me, you will eventually find out sooner or later."

Yang Fei chuckled, shamelessly saying, "Then many thanks to the senior. I would be honored to accept."

Zhuge Cang snorted and no longer paid attention to Yang Fei, turning instead to Tong Yunshu, "I will perform a void talisman. See if you can recognize it."

Tong Yunshu nodded and said, "Alright."

Zhuge Cang immediately began gesturing.

He didn't gesture the runes earlier recognized by Tong Yunshu but rather something she hadn't seen before.

Tong Yunshu observed carefully and nodded, "I recognize this one."

Zhuge Cang nodded and asked, "Can you read it?"

Tong Yunshu was taken aback and looked at Yang Fei, "Do these characters have pronunciations?"

Yang Fei was also stunned, looking at Zhuge Cang in surprise, "Senior, is it true that these things have pronunciations?"

Zhuge Cang wore a proud look and boasted, "Nonsense, runes are still text, so naturally they have their own pronunciations. This rune is read as 'bing', with the fourth tone accentuated."

As he spoke, Zhuge Cang intended to awe Yang Fei, "If you guide it with state of mind and pronounce the rune's sound with divine thought, you can invoke the power of rune Taoism. Watch closely."

Zhuge Cang focused his mind, earnestly uttering four or five bizarre and difficult pronunciations.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

As those strange pronunciations were uttered, several explosions suddenly resounded in the room's void, with the turbulent airflow faintly spreading fierce shockwaves around.

Tong Yunshu was unaffected, but Yang Fei, having not fully restored his physical body realm, was pushed back a step by the shockwave.

Of course, he realized that this shockwave wasn't significantly powerful, so he didn't utilize the heaven and earth power to counter it.

Yang Fei took a deep breath, astonished, "Runes can be used like this?"

Tong Yunshu, seeing Yang Fei unharmed, relaxed, and showed an amazed expression, "Combining the runes and using divine thought to pronounce them seems to communicate with the power of rune Taoism."

Zhuge Cang nodded, "Exactly, this is the true essence of rune Taoism."

After Yang Fei's initial shock, he calmed down, shook his head and said, "Although it's impressive, the power isn't much. It's enough to scare some ordinary people but poses no threat to martial artists."

Zhuge Cang snorted, "That's because I didn't release the power of this rune just now, otherwise... something like this could still threaten martial artists below the Energy Transformation Seventh Rank."

Yang Fei and Tong Yunshu were shocked again, and the latter asked, "Is it really that powerful?"

Zhuge Cang nodded, "Yes. And this is just the power I can wield. Your talent in rune Taoism exceeds mine greatly, and once you have mastered it, the power might be even greater. Especially if you can craft better talismans, the power will be unimaginably large."

Yang Fei's eyes lit up, immediately recalling the Thunder Talismans Zhuge Cang cast back then and the talismans used during his escape, eagerly asking, "Senior, can you teach me how to make talismans too?"

Seeing the admiration in Yang Fei's eyes, Zhuge Cang felt secretly pleased, but said, "I've already been kind not to avoid teaching my disciple in front of you, as for personally teaching you rune Taoism, keep dreaming."

Tong Yunshu immediately said to Yang Fei, "Don't worry, once I learn it, I'll teach you."

Zhuge Cang's mouth twitched, nearly angered to death.

Although I tacitly allow you to do so, isn't this favoritism a bit too much?

Can't you say these things behind my back?

Zhuge Cang felt silently distressed, but having already accepted this disciple, he could only endure it even if he was angry.

Yang Fei chuckled and seeing Zhuge Cang struggling to keep his composure, he refrained from pushing further, fearing to provoke him.

Currently, his physical body realm has no hope of recovery temporarily, and although his divine thought has been enhanced several times, in the secure environment of Yunwu Mountain's Base, he felt invincible yet still dissatisfied with being trapped here.

Furthermore, the marvelousness of rune Taoism piqued his curiosity, so he decided to stay for now.

Though Tong Yunshu could teach him later, it would be too time-consuming that way.

Zhuce Cang ignored Yang Fei and continued to teach Tong Yunshu the runes.

Whenever she didn't recognize a rune, Tong Yunshu would speak up, prompting Zhuge Cang to demonstrate more times.

He would then ask Tong Yunshu if she remembered.

Once she nodded, saying she mostly remembered, he would proceed to the next one.

Yang Fei observed silently beside them, unable to remember those obscure runes even after Zhuge Cang repeated them several times.

But he could still retain some impressions in his mind.

Each time Zhuge Cang asked if Tong Yunshu remembered, he would quietly observe Yang Fei, and seeing his confused expression, he felt secretly satisfied, while also amazed at Tong Yunshu's talent for memorizing runes.

In the following three days, Yang Fei and Tong Yunshu spent most of their time with Zhuge Cang.



Zhuge Cang, having just accepted a disciple, was utterly amazed and gratified by Tong Yunshu's talent, so he aimed to impart all of his knowledge to her, hoping she would quickly grow and assist the Zhuge family, hence teaching without reserve.

Tong Yunshu's talent in rune Taoism was exceptional, and her learning ability was astonishingly strong, often able to understand by analogy.

After three days, she had memorized all the runes known by Zhuge Cang.

In the end, it turned out there were a total of seventeen unique runes between what Zhuge Cang and Yang Fei knew.

Combined with the forty-nine runes Zhuge Cang originally knew more than Yang Fei, the three now recognized a total of one hundred seventy-four runes.

When Tong Yunshu painstakingly wrote the sixty-six new runes she learned on a piece of paper for Yang Fei to review, and after Zhuge Cang confirmed there weren't any mistakes, he was utterly stupefied.

It was indeed true.

In three days, he couldn't even memorize those extra seventeen runes, yet this girl memorized sixty-six new runes and could even write them.

What's more, she was a beginner, and I have been studying rune Taoism for over a hundred years; by some measure, I should be learning faster.

Where can I find reason for this?

Yet seeing Yang Fei earnestly memorizing the runes Tong Yunshu had written, he felt much better.

However, he still resisted asking Yang Fei how many runes he had memorized these past few days.

This boy's talent in rune Taoism isn't weak either; if he remembered more than I did in these past three days, wouldn't I just be hit with another blow?

Better not to make things difficult for myself.

Chapter 884: Expulsion

"Yun Shu, how many of the phonetics of these runes have you memorized?" Zhuge Cang asked Tong Yunshu, having calmed down.

Tong Yunshu blushed and said, "The phonetics are too odd and obscure. Over the past few days, I've only focused on memorizing the runes, not their phonetics."

Zhuge Cang nodded and comforted, "That's already very impressive. The phonetics of the runes are indeed the most obscure and difficult part. There's no need to rush; just take your time to remember them."

At this moment, Yang Fei couldn't help but ask, "Senior, you can only read out eighty-seven runes. How should the others be pronounced? Is there any method to piece them together?"

Zhuge Cang's old face turned red as he said, "Runes aren't like Chinese characters that have regular phonetics. Each rune pronunciation is very obscure, difficult to understand, and can only be passed down through generations. Moreover, the Rune Tao has declined over the years, with too few researchers involved, leading to its long discontinuation. It's already impressive that I can read out the phonetics of eighty-seven runes."

Yang Fei and Tong Yunshu both sincerely admired this and nodded, saying, "That's very impressive."

Tong Yunshu regrettably said, "What a pity that so many runes can't be pronounced, losing a lot of fun, and missing out on many Rune Tao mysteries."

Zhuge Cang sighed, "Indeed, the inheritance of Rune Tao that's been passed down is really too little."

Saying this, he looked at Tong Yunshu with hope, saying, "Yun Shu, your talent in Rune Tao is so extraordinary. As your teacher, I believe you can complete the Rune Tao inheritance. Those runes without phonetics can only rely on you to try them out slowly."

"Try?"

Yang Fei and Tong Yunshu were immediately taken aback.

Zhuge Cang nodded and said, "That's right, try. Although the phonetics of the runes are obscure, they seem to follow certain patterns. Once you truly understand the charm of each rune, it seems you can form some connection, allowing you to attempt to pronounce it. Over the years, I've managed to figure out the phonetics of three runes by trying."

Hearing this from Zhuge Cang, Yang Fei was secretly amazed, while Tong Yunshu was pondering the appearance of those runes and the pronunciation of the few she already knew.

She murmured silently, with a sudden insight.

It seemed that although the phonetics of these runes were obscure, once pronounced, they felt so naturally created.

Unlike the phonetics created by humans, the pronunciation of these runes seemed inherently predetermined, making it impossible to pronounce them incorrectly. Once the rune's phonetics were pronounced, it could communicate the powers of Rune Tao.

Her meditative expression was noticed by Yang Fei and Zhuge Cang, startling them. Could it be that she had some sort of comprehension?

After a long time, Tong Yunshu came back to her senses and said, "I think I understand."

Zhuge Cang and Yang Fei took a deep breath and asked simultaneously, "What do you understand?"

Tong Yunshu said, "Master is right. The phonetics of these runes can indeed be discovered through trying. Once you truly understand the rune and grasp its rules of charm, its phonetics naturally emerge."

Zhuge Cang felt his throat go dry and hurriedly asked, "Did you try and figure out the phonetics of some rune?"

Tong Yunshu blushed and shook her head, saying, "No, I... I just had an insight just now."

Yang Fei also sighed in relief, smiling wryly, "I was startled too. Even though I've long known your talent in Rune Tao is incredible, it's not to such an extent, right?"

Although Zhuge Cang felt a bit disappointed, he was immediately filled with hopeful anticipation.

He knew that his disciple's talent in Rune Tao might be even more terrifying than he had imagined.

In the future, this disciple might uncover the phonetics for all the runes.

By then, not only would Tong Yunshu's power significantly increase through Rune Tao, but he himself could also greatly enhance his combat strength.

Uh, and that kid!

Humph, it benefits him.

Just then, a loud laugh suddenly echoed.

Zhuge Cang frowned and said, "What's Helian Zhan so pleased about?"

Yang Fei felt a spark of curiosity and said, "I'll go have a look."

Zhuge Cang and Tong Yunshu followed.

The trio had just stepped out of the room when they saw Helian Zhan emerging from the room where Helian Rong was healing, laughing loudly.

Seeing them, Helian Zhan shouted, "Yang Fei, you good lad, you're truly something. Not only has my Miss Rong's life-threatening ailment been healed, but her cultivation realm has also improved. Consider me indebted to you."

Upon hearing this, Zhuge Cang was startled, "Helian Rong's life-threatening ailment can actually be healed?"

Helian Zhan's face darkened, and he snorted, "What do you mean by that, Brother Zhuge?"

Zhuge Cang quickly replied, "Brother Helian, you misunderstood. I... I was just happy for your daughter and surprised that such a life-threatening ailment could actually be cured."

Saying this, he looked toward Yang Fei beside him, his mind both shocked and thoughtful.

This kid truly is a natural genius.

Thankfully, his talent in Rune Tao isn't great. Soon, my disciple will become the number one in both Rune Tao and formations.

Wang Chunyang was also drawn over by Helian Zhan's laughter. Upon hearing that Helian Rong's life-threatening ailment had been cured and her cultivation realm had improved, he congratulated Helian Zhan.

Qin Sizhong and Ouyang He soon came out as well.

Although both appeared weary, their faces clearly bore a proud smile.

Especially Ouyang He.

Helian Rong was his direct disciple. Now that this young disciple not only had her life-threatening ailment cured but also, at such a young age, reached the peak of the Innate Realm, with just a step from entering Divine Travel, how could he not be happy?

The future of the Poison Sect is secure.

Yang Fei entered the room to observe Helian Rong. Seeing her sitting cross-legged and still practicing, he refrained from disturbing her.

Recalling what Qin Yanyang had discussed with him a few days ago, Yang Fei glanced at the group and spoke, "Dear seniors, there's something I need to explain to you."

Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, and Qin Sizhong were in high spirits today, and Wang Chunyang was in a good mood too. They asked Yang Fei, "What is it?"

Yang Fei said, "Seniors, you may have noticed that the Yunwu Mountain's Base is already one of the most important places on the Divine Continent, and it has long been under military control by the Divine Continent Military Department. According to regulations, seniors aren't qualified to enter the base, but due to special circumstances previously, we didn't enforce it strictly. Yesterday, my wife told me to inform you that you can't stay here long-term in the future. If you need to come, you'll need to request permission first."

Upon hearing this, the expressions of Wang Chunyang and the others turned unhappy.

Although they had previously informed symbolically when coming and going, they were never stopped, and they felt that if many ordinary soldiers could be stationed nearby, renowned figures like them should be allowed to reside there too.

Now, with Yang Fei saying this, they naturally felt displeased and greatly offended.

"Kid, are you telling us to leave?" Wang Chunyang snorted coldly.

Chapter 885: It's time to reveal

Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, Qin Sizhong, and the others did not look very pleased, coldly staring at Yang Fei.

Yang Fei remained alert inside, but outwardly he smiled and said, "Saying 'expel' sounds too harsh. Actually, you all could look at this matter from a different perspective.

Consider the Divine Continent Country as a faction of the Hidden Sect of old. Senior Pure Yang, for example, were there not places in your Langya Wang Family's ancestral home that weren't open to outsiders? What would you do if an outsider entered the forbidden grounds of your Langya Wang Family?"

At this, Wang Chunyang was at a loss for words.

Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, and Qin Sizhong also silently nodded.

However, they still felt dissatisfied.

To think they were driven out by this youngster.

Seeing no refutation from them, Yang Fei continued, "Moreover, I've already said that if you have something important that requires being here, you can apply. Given our relationship, we'd definitely allow you in. But after all, this is a national secret base, and none of you are top-level officials from important departments of the country, so staying here long-term wouldn't create a good impression. I hope you can understand."

Wang Chunyang's eyes narrowed, staring at Yang Fei and said, "And if we refuse?"

Yang Fei still had a smile on his face, but his gaze was locked onto Wang Chunyang, calmly saying, "Then it turns into a real expulsion. It could even be seen as trespassing a military secret base, and you could be killed on the spot!"

As his last four words fell, within the Yunwu Mountain's Base, a fierce storm arose, and a terrifying pressure emerged abruptly, instilling fear.

Even though Wang Chunyang, Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, Qin Sizhong, and Zhuge Cang were all extraordinarily strong, they felt a deep sense of fear, thinking that if that pressure continued to rise, they might all be crushed into dust.

They were struck with fear, looking at Yang Fei in horror.

They had known earlier that Yang Fei's telekinesis had increased several times, and although his Physical Body Realm had collapsed, his combat strength remained formidable, earning their secret awe and wariness.

Yet, in their hearts, they still believed that even if Yang Fei wanted to deal with them, he might not be able to completely suppress them in a one-on-one fight. Even if defeated, they thought they could escape.

But now, with the Formation in the Yunwu Mountain's Base activated, bolstered by a powerful Formation, they felt that even teaming up against the youngster might lead to a significant loss.

Yang Fei kept his smile, but a sliver of coldness appeared in his eyes.

He considered himself respectful and decent to these Hidden Sect powerhouses, but these people always seemed condescending, good to him when pleased, yet seemed ready to manipulate him when not, which he'd long been unhappy about.

A bunch of ambitious turncoats.

If his wife hadn't disagreed, he would have tricked them all here to wipe them out together.

But his wife said, as long as the powerhouses from Heaven and the Penglai Realm remained, these people still had a significant purpose.



Yang Fei had retorted back then, claiming he could wipe out everyone from Heaven and the Penglai Realm single-handedly.

Qin Yanyang had sneered, saying the people from Heaven and the Penglai Realm wouldn't be foolish enough to come here to be taken out in one go, would they?

As long as they caused havoc outside, how would you respond?

Qin Yanyang said that a country, especially a superpower, could never be guarded by just one person, nor could one person pose a threat to all other countries.

Yang Fei thought for a moment and ended up agreeing with Qin Yanyang's point of view.

Within the central hub range of the Cloud Mist Mountain Array in the Yunwu Mountain's Base, he indeed felt invincible under the support of the Formation.

But what about outside the Formation?

Especially since his Physical Body Realm hadn't recovered yet, if he went outside relying solely on Divine Thought, once he encountered a special powerhouse that could suppress Divine Thought, he would be no different from an ordinary person.

So Yang Fei had to follow Qin Yanyang's advice.

Of course, when facing Wang Chunyang at this moment, he wouldn't mind exterminating him.

He considered him a fellow Taoist Disciple brother, yet this person displayed an attitude that didn't belong to the Taoist, overly aloof; Yang Fei had been displeased for a long time.

And then there's Helian Zhan.

Forget about Wang Chunyang, being merely enlightened by the master, but you, Helian Zhan, were almost trained by the master, yet you only acknowledge Qingtian Sect and refuse to admit your identity as a Taoist Disciple.

Humph, they're all ambitious guys.

Since you have personal interests and do not want to align with the Divine Continent Country, then let's draw a clear line of division, don't linger on my territory.

If not for the acknowledgment of my master's guidance to you at Qingtian Sect, I would've turned against you long ago.

Wang Chunyang felt the icy killing intent, especially the terrifying pressure like it came from the sky, inducing a sense of despair.

Too terrifying!

This youngster has become so powerful?

Yet, being treated like this by this youngster face to face, where would my Wang Chunyang's dignity be?

A cold light flashed in his eyes, his hand pressed onto the sword's hilt.

Yang Fei's gaze sharpened, about to strike him down, giving no chance to let the opponent act first.

"Hahaha, youngster, even if you didn't say, we were about to say farewell to you. Why must you disrupt our harmony and expel us here?" Helian Zhan suddenly laughed, stepping in front of Wang Chunyang.

Ouyang He and Qin Sizhong also had solemn expressions, with mixed feelings, following Helian Zhan.

Obviously, they knew the four of them needed to be united.

Yang Fei was secretly shocked.

When Helian Zhan stood out, and the momentum when he and Wang Chunyang stood side by side was too fierce.

Even though his Divine Soul has strengthened thousands of times, and with the support of the Cloud Mist Mountain Array, he still felt an inexplicable danger.

If it came to a fight, they absolutely couldn't be given a chance to draw their swords.

Such a thought flashed in Yang Fei's mind, and he focused entirely on the two, asking Helian Zhan, "Oh? Are you really intending to leave?"

Helian Zhan nodded and said, "Hmm, despite the abundant spiritual energy here, it ultimately isn't our territory. After the Hidden Sect entered the world, our people have been confined to the experimental zone by you. Now that the restrictions on us have been lifted, all major aristocratic families and sects need to find their own territories and rebuild our mountain gates."

Upon hearing this, Ouyang He nodded and said, "That's right, our Poison Sect's people have already started searching for a place suitable for our cultivation; I believe there will be news soon."

Qin Sizhong also said, "And it's the same with Qingtian Sect. Now that we've entered the world, the sect has so many people who need to survive, naturally we must establish ourselves, spreading the sect and accepting many disciples."

Hearing them say this, Yang Fei nodded and smiled, "That's the way it should be. We should live in harmony and peace, make money together, live stably, and when external enemies come, we should fight them off together. That's what the descendants of Yanhuang should do."

Helian Zhan felt the killing intent from Yang Fei dissipate, secretly heaved a sigh of relief, and said, "If that's the case, we will take our leave, see you again!"

Yang Fei nodded and said, "See you again."

#### Chapter 886: Expanding Territory

Until they left the Yunwu Mountain Valley and exited the area patrolled by the base's sentinels, Helian Zhan and the others finally relaxed.

In the valley, although Yang Fei had restrained his killing intent, during their departure, they could still sense Yang Fei's Divine Thought watching them.

Now, being more than fifteen hundred meters away from the Yunwu Mountain Valley, that feeling of being watched vanished completely, and they couldn't help but stop and look back at Yunwu Mountain's Base.

"We won't find peace until this boy is eliminated," Wang Chunyang said coldly, his gaze sharp.

Ouyang He nodded silently.

Helian Zhan's expression was complex, while Qin Sizhong stood beside him in silent contemplation.

Seeing them silent, Wang Chunyang looked at the three and said, "So, you believe that because he didn't show any hostility towards you just now, this boy poses no threat?"

Ouyang He shook his head and said, "Brother Wang, there's no need for such anger; indeed, this boy was quite arrogant just now, daring to act so rudely and expel us, heh. Since I became famous, this is the first time I've suffered such humiliation."

Qin Sizhong gave a wry smile and said, "It is rather embarrassing. I didn't expect that this boy, who usually calls us 'seniors' politely, is actually quite aware that we are adversaries to the Divine Continents. However, there's no need for such anger from us, as we've never relaxed our vigilance towards the Divine Continent official."

Helian Zhan nodded and said, "Third Brother is correct. Ever since the last negotiations, we've reached a consensus for peaceful coexistence with the Divine Continent, but both sides are aware this peace is only temporary, and conflicts between us will erupt sooner or later."

Ouyang He scoffed and said, "Even so, this boy, who is usually polite, suddenly turned on us today, which is really excessive. By the way, is Miss Rong alright staying there?"

Helian Zhan's eyes flashed with insight and said, "Don't worry; this boy does have a good heart and won't recklessly kill the innocent. Besides, he isn't really trying to burn bridges with us; his actions today are merely done as instructed by Qin Yanyang, showing his stance and drawing clear boundaries."

If he truly wanted to attack, he wouldn't bother with words but strike us directly while we're unprepared. Also, why didn't we act just now? Firstly, we're wary of this boy's power boosted by the Cloud Mist Mountain Array. Secondly, honestly speaking, everyone is interested in the array itself and doesn't want such a feng shui treasured land to turn to ruins, right?"

Wang Chunyang snorted, "Indeed, while the Divine Continent official guards against us, it dares not fully confront us, fearing we'll threaten the Cloud Mist Mountain's Base or disregard the Divine Continent's fate. To them, we still have our uses."

"Right, though this boy and Qin Yanyang are unbeatable together when at Yunwu Mountain's Base, they remain wary of threats from Heaven and the Penglai Realm and require our Hidden Sect's assistance," Qin Sizhong agreed.

Helian Zhan said with a smile, "It's merely losing some face, Brother Wang needn't dwell on it. The pressing issue for us is to decide our next steps. Whether to unite as one and live together or continue to isolate and govern separate territories as we did on the Hidden Sect Plane."

Wang Chunyang nodded and asked Helian Zhan, "Do you think our Hidden Sect's Five Great Forces will remain united for the long term if they merge?"

Helian Zhan furrowed his brow, slowly shaking his head as he said, "Although relations are currently harmonious among the five families, that's due to the collapse of the Hidden Sect Plane and our shared survival crisis. Once we've settled in the Divine Continents, various conflicts will inevitably arise."

Ouyang He nodded, "Indeed, since ancient times, forces within the Hidden Sect have governed separate territories and seldom interfered with each other. Living together, I'm telling you, if something happens, whose orders are we supposed to follow?"

Qin Sizhong nodded silently.

Ouyang He said, "Moreover, hear me out: it's best to lead the disciples of your sect or family out of the Divine Continents and seek out another path. Otherwise, staying there means being bound by the Divine Continent official, and it'll be far less free."

Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang frowned simultaneously, and Qin Sizhong wasn't happy either, asking Ouyang He, "By doing so, aren't you violating the Hidden Sect's principles and shirking the responsibility of guarding the Divine Continents by leaving?"

Seeing their displeased expressions, Ouyang He quickly explained, "I seek only to escape the constraints of the Divine Continent's officials. I'm not abandoning the Yanhuang Nation. As for the mission to protect the Yanhuang Nation, the Poison Sect will never forget. If the time of national crisis arrives and Heaven and Penglai Realm invade the Divine Continents, my Poison Sect will definitely not stand idly by."

Helian Zhan shook his head, saying, "Brother Ouyang, have you considered that leaving the Divine Continents for other places will subject you to laws and constraints of different countries and regions as well?"

Ouyang He's eyes flashed coldly, "I've come to understand the world during my time here. The countries south of the Divine Continents aren't as strong, and the Poison Sect, once there, could gradually gain control over these countries."

At that, two beams of brilliance shot from his eyes, as he added confidently, "Eventually, the Poison Sect might count as expanding new territories for the Divine Continents."

Hearing this, Helian Zhan, Wang Chunyang, and Qin Sizhong were startled but then their eyes brightened.

As descendants of Yanhuang, they never forgot the mission to protect the Divine Continents, but they wouldn't abandon their ambitions either.

Thus, they'd always been considering how to protect the Divine Continents while evading its official constraints, even contemplating establishing their own regime to replace it.

However, the Divine Continent official's power is indeed formidable.

They faced challenges with stealthily manipulating from behind the scenes like Zhuge Cang had done, especially confronting strong opponents like Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang.

But after hearing Ouyang He's suggestion, their horizons expanded.

Yes, if conquest here is unrealistic, and unwilling to face its constraints, they could expand elsewhere.

Once their power develops outside, they could eventually confront the Divine Continents to determine who will unify the realms.

Anyway, as long as those in control are of Yanhuang descent, whoever becomes the 'Emperor' should be determined by ability.

The Yanhuang bloodline ingrained in them demands dominance, whether locally or abroad.

Currently, the Hidden Sect forces hesitate to contend with the Divine Continents, so their focus shifts beyond its borders.

Helian Zhan asked Ouyang He, "Brother Ouyang, where does the Poison Sect plan to go?"

Both Wang Chunyang and Qin Sizhong looked to Ouyang He.

Lest they choose the same place, avoiding infighting.

Ouyang He gazed southward, saying slowly, "An Nam."

Helian Zhan nodded silently; he was aware of the geographical environment and knew An Nam was suitable for the Poison Sect's presence.

He looked at Qin Sizhong and asked, "Third Brother, how about Qingtian Sect becoming neighbors with Poison Sect?"

Qin Sizhong asked curiously, "Are we going to An Nam too?"

Helian Zhan shook his head, his eyes flashing coldly, "Since Brother Ouyang is headed to An Nam, that region is for Poison Sect. Qingtian Sect will temporarily use Luzon as the base, where we can assist each other."

Ouyang He laughed, "That sounds excellent."

After thinking for a moment, Qin Sizhong suggested, "Let's first establish good relations with Yang Fei. If we discover places akin to Yunwu Mountain in the future, we might need his help."

Feeling his words, they nodded silently in agreement.

Chapter 887:

Yunwu Mountain's Base.

Yang Fei waited until Helian Zhan and his companions completely left the patrolling boundary of the base's perimeter before he retracted his Divine Thought entirely and relaxed his vigilance.

If these four joined forces, in his current state, even the slightest mistake could lead to his demise at their hands.



Without him, Qin Yanyang would likely struggle to hold this place, and Divine Continent would face another internal war.

Fortunately, both sides had motives and exercised restraint.

"Hmph, you brat, you sure took a big risk just now. From what I know of Wang Chunyang and Helian Zhan, they are not ones to fear death. If truly angered, even here, they'd dare to cut you down with one sword," Zhuge Cang's voice came from behind.

Yang Fei smiled at his words, turned to Zhuge Cang, and said, "Seems like Senior still doesn't fully understand them. They appear willing to risk it all, but in reality, they are meticulous and know what they want, so I bet they wouldn't really turn against me at this time."

Zhuce Cang, recalling how they indeed held back and left sheepishly, couldn't help but snort.

He then laughed, feeling very pleased, and said, "But you brat also made my day. Seeing those guys leave with their tails between their legs was a first for me, hahaha..."

He had fallen to this point, though he hated Yang Fei the most, he also harbored deep resentment towards Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, and Wang Chunyang.

Even after re-engaging with Yang Fei these past few days, because of Tong Yunshu, his hatred for Yang Fei seemed to have softened quite a bit.

At this moment, Hu Lizhong rushed over.

He glanced at Zhuge Cang, then gave Yang Fei a knowing look.

Zhuce Cang snorted coldly and turned to leave.

Yang Fei said helplessly, "Old Hu, Elder Zhuge is one of us now. Just say whatever you need to say."

Hu Lizhong's expression changed; he looked at Zhuge Cang in shock, eyes filled with disbelief.

This old guy almost killed us back then and even caused Divine Continent to fall into chaos during that time. He's practically a war criminal of the worst kind, so how has he now become one of us?

Hu Lizhong knew about Zhuge Cang being brought over a few days earlier, thinking Yang Fei just wanted to leverage Zhuge Cang's knowledge on formations and talismans. He didn't expect Yang Fei to pardon Zhuge Cang's crimes and even consider him one of their own.

"Brother Yang, this..."

"No rubbish. Just state your business." Yang Fei understood Hu Lizhong's thoughts and interrupted.

Choked up, Hu Lizhong could only get to the point: "Senior Zhu sent over some people."

Yang Fei's eyes lit up: "How many?"

"Thirty-three," said Hu Lizhong.

"Let's go, quickly!" Yang Fei said eagerly.

He had many things to do next, but talent development was the most crucial.

No strong empire is built by one person alone. He needed to cultivate enough talents for future plans, to ease the burden for Qin Yanyang in the future.

As long as he could cultivate a group of super experts and win their loyalty, even if the existing powerhouses of the Hidden Sect were dissatisfied, Divine Continent would not fear.

With alchemy skills and the Gathering Spirit effect of the Yunwu Mountain Array, Yang Fei believed he could cultivate a large number of Martial Arts experts with ease.

The only thing needed now was time.

He hoped that Heaven and the Penglai Realm would delay waging their war a bit longer.

But recalling that night's Blood Clan invasion, Yang Fei knew that Heaven and the Penglai Realm wouldn't give him the time needed to fully develop.

Outside the valley, inside a simple steel-structured building, thirty-three Hidden Sect experts, who had been imprisoned as criminals after the battle at Qingtian Sect, were waiting anxiously.

They originally belonged to some second and third-tier aristocratic families and sects under the Zhuge family, Duanmu family, and Giant Sword Manor, but within their respective sects and families, they were top-level strong experts.

However, after their defeat at Qingtian Sect, they not only became prisoners but also caused their kin and sects to suffer attacks and plunders from the other five families.

Originally, they thought they would be executed to silence them, but with the collapse of the Hidden Sect Plane looming, Divine Continent wanted to unite the Hidden Sect influence to fend off Heaven and the Penglai Realm, so Qin Yanyang proposed giving them a chance to atone, thus they were only temporarily imprisoned.

Though their lives were spared, even imprisonment was an immense humiliation and torment for them.

Just when they thought their lives would end this way and believed there would be no chance to save their sects and families, Yang Fei sent people to persuade them.

Thirty-three of them, without hesitation, chose to defect to Yang Fei, hoping for a chance and hope for rebirth.

As for the other four who didn't agree, it was because they felt too intertwined with the forces they previously served, believing even surrendering to Yang Fei would not gain forgiveness and reuse.

Besides, having been born in Hidden Sect, they still harbored pride towards mundane folks, unwilling to serve under Yang Fei, a mundane person.

As for those present, upon arriving in Jiangbei County, they sensed the spiritual energy here rivaled that of the Hidden Sect Plane, causing secret astonishment.

Later, after explanations from accompanying Military Department members, they learned of the amazing effects of the Yunwu Mountain Array, and as they approached the Yunwu Mountain Base, the spiritual energy grew denser, deeply shocking all thirty-three. It also added a bit more anticipation to Zhu Tianshou's promise made to them on behalf of Yang Fei.

"Do you think Yang Fei will really trust us?"

"Hmph, he just wants to use us first, really."

"Better not dwell on that. Since we've chosen to come, we should choose to trust him."

"That's right, we're here now; we can only follow this path to the end."

"Yes, there's no turning back; this is our only hope."

Thirty-three Late-stage Innate Realm Peak experts spoke one after another, quickly unifying their thoughts.

After the battle at Qingtian Sect, Yang Fei was the only one who gave them a lifeline and hope.

The fact they could leave their guarded place and come here proved Yang Fei's ability to protect them.

Suddenly, one of them had a look of alertness, "He's here."

Soon, Yang Fei appeared at the entrance.

Everyone looked over in unison.

Faced with thirty-three Late-stage Innate Realm Peak experts all staring at him, Yang Fei's heart tightened.

He realized this feeling was no less than when Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang were watching him.

Indeed, quantitative changes can lead to qualitative change.

If the number is large enough, even if they haven't achieved the Divine Travel Realm, their Physical Body Realm combat power is not much worse than Divine Travel Realm. If in adequate numbers, they could potentially besiege Divine Travel Realm.

He was secretly delighted, scanning the crowd with sincere smiles, clasping his hands, saying, "Greetings, seniors. I am Yang Fei, I believe you're not unfamiliar with me?"

Someone with a straightforward personality spoke up immediately, "Yang Fei, don't bother with polite talk. Let me ask you, is the promise you had someone make to us true?"

Chapter 888: Yang Fei Draws a Big Pie

Yang Fei looked at the questioner and smiled, "May I ask how to address you, senior?"

The person was not afraid and said loudly, "Qinghe Cui Family, Cui Wanchi."

During the time Yang Fei was detained by Helian Rong in the Hidden Sect, he chatted with Helian Rong about some things related to the Hidden Sect. He really heard Helian Rong mention this Qinghe Cui Family, so he said, "The Qinghe Cui Family affiliated with the Duanmu Family?"

Cui Wanchi said, "That's right. My family and the Duanmu Family are considered long-term acquaintances."

Yang Fei saw there were three others with him, seemingly together, and asked, "Are these people beside Senior all from the Qinghe Cui Family?"

Cui Wanchi nodded and said, "That's right, all four of us brothers are from the Qinghe Cui Family."

Yang Fei couldn't help but praise, "Four outstanding brothers, truly remarkable."

However, the four of them showed no sign of pride; on the contrary, their expressions were gloomy.

One of the people beside him said, "We brothers are incompetent, so in our generation, no one from the Cui Family has reached the Divine Travel Realm, and the Qinghe Cui Family has declined with us."

Yang Fei chuckled, saying, "Senior, don't underestimate yourselves. You four have reached the Late-stage Innate Realm Peak, only a step away from the Divine Travel Realm, which is already quite impressive."

Yet, Cui Wanchi and the others maintained a gloomy expression.

Clearly, in the Hidden Sect World, although the Divine Travel Realm is hard to reach, the Eight Great Forces always have several sitting in the Divine Travel Realm. Even some second and third-tier aristocratic families and sects occasionally produce exceptional talents who step into the Divine Travel Realm. For the once-prosperous Qinghe Cui Family, the fact that none in their generation stepped into the Divine Travel Realm signaled their decline, causing them to feel shame, thinking they wouldn't face their ancestors in the afterlife.

"Kid, you haven't answered Cui Wanchi's question yet."

"That's right, stop rambling on things that don't matter. Tell us, does the promise you made count; can you truly fulfill it?"

More outspoken individuals urged him.

Yang Fei swept his gaze across the crowd, seeing everyone looking at him expectantly, clearly taking his promise seriously. He nodded immediately, saying, "I, Yang Fei, mean what I say. Since I have made a promise, I will fulfill it, never breaking my word."

The crowd's eyes brightened upon hearing him say this personally, believing him somewhat more.

Someone said, "Are you truly this generous?"

Yang Fei laughed heartily, "Do you not understand my character, Yang Fei? In the eyes of the Eight Great Forces, advanced cultivation techniques and martial arts secret manuals are treasures; they keep them to themselves, leading the Hidden Sect's cultivation into decline. Even in the past, the Taoist sect made the same mistake, reluctant to share advanced cultivation techniques. But I'm different. I believe to promote martial arts and let the Divine Continent's cultivation world return to its former glory, collaboration and resource sharing are necessary. Only in doing so can more outstanding talents be cultivated. These talents can then deduce more advanced cultivation techniques, making the cultivation world increasingly prosperous."

His words caused a considerable stir in the hearts of the thirty-three present.

As people of the Hidden Sect, their own families and sects were actually beneficiaries too, treating their own advanced techniques as treasures, never sharing them.

Moreover, they understood that once resources are shared, their competitors would grow, and the resources they, their families, or sects obtained, would consequently diminish.

So, although they understood Yang Fei's reasoning, it wasn't the willingness to act on it.

People are inevitably selfish.

Yang Fei's words pitched them into shock, yet they secretly shook their heads, feeling this young man overestimates human nature.

But no one doubted Yang Fei because they knew he had already made the Taoist cultivation technique public.

Regardless of whether he did so to preserve his life, he indeed did it.

After a brief silence, one person spoke, "Your idea is too naive, too idealistic and simplistic. If all cultivation techniques were made public, wouldn't outsiders also learn them?"

"That's right, Heaven and Penglai Realm have their own cultivation secrets. If they learn our methods while we don't understand their secret techniques, wouldn't we be manipulated?"

Everyone echoed.

Yang Fei scoffed disdainfully, shaking his head, "Seniors, please think carefully. With the same cultivation technique, why does each individual's progress differ, and the ultimate limit reached vary significantly?"

"Nonsense, everyone has different talent and aptitude, so naturally, the results differ."

Yang Fei smiled, "Correct, and that's why I dare make the Taoist cultivation technique public without fear. Because I, Yang Fei, am confident enough to believe even if others cultivate the same technique, they cannot surpass me. Hahaha, the prosperity of the cultivation world relies not on techniques, but on people; people are the true foundation."

Cui Wanchi and others' expressions changed, experiencing a subtle shift in thinking for the first time.

Yang Fei proclaimed loudly, "Getting back to the topic at hand, what I want is for the Divine Continent's cultivation world to reach unprecedented prosperity; when the number of strong cultivators multiplies, a mere Heaven and Penglai Realm would pose no threat. In my and my wife's view, personal gain means little; what matters is whether our China can be powerful, whether the Yanhuang Nation can sweep the world as in the Han and Tang Dynasties. These are paramount. Though you live in the Hidden Sect, you are all part of the Yanhuang Clan. Do you not wish to struggle for the revival of the Yanhuang Clan? Therefore, in my eyes, helping you enhance your power is not much, because when you become strong, it signifies the strength of our Divine Continent. As long as it's beneficial to the Divine Continent, to the Yanhuang Clan, I, Yang Fei, can do anything."



"Hmph, they're just nice theories. Do you aspire to be a sage, boy?" Someone snorted.

Yang Fei laughed loudly, "I don't aspire to be a sage. Truth be told, I'm entirely moved by my wife; you know what she's like."

The crowd nodded. Although after the Hidden Sect came out, their status had lowered extensively, it was all thanks to Qin Yanyang, yet they respected Qin Yanyang deeply from their hearts.

She was genuinely a remarkable woman.

Yang Fei continued, "You don't like hearing grand theories; let me speak some reality. Actually, I, Yang Fei, have ambitions. I want to lead everyone out of the Divine Continent, to conquer the globe; in this new era, new epoch, let's create a great era together, leading the future of Earth's humanity."

Everyone, are you willing to stand alongside me, Yang Fei, seeking a new opportunity for yourselves and your clansmen and sects behind, and have your names recorded in the history books of this new era's future?"

Chapter 889: Young Master Yang's Great Righteousness

Yang Fei's impassioned voice echoed throughout the room, continuously resonating in the ears of the thirty-three experts at the peak of the Innate Late Stage, then extending into the depths of their souls.

Beside him, even Hu Lizhong felt a surge of blood and energy as if his life could start anew, and his career could reach a new pinnacle.

He decided that in the future, even if there were a few places where he might wrong Minister Qin, he must undoubtedly follow Brother Yang.

Cui Wanchi gave Yang Fei a deep look, suddenly declaring loudly, "I, Cui Wanchi, am willing to follow Young Master Yang, only hoping to chart a new future for the Qinghe Cui Family."

"Cui Wanmin is also willing to follow Young Master Yang!"

"Cui Wanbang as well."

"With the Qinghe Cui Family united as one, how could I, Cui Wancheng, lag behind? Count me in, Young Master Yang."

The four brothers of the Qinghe Cui Family all expressed their willingness; they were much older than Yang Fei, some even old enough to be great-grandfathers. Yet now, each of them clasped hands into fists and raised them above their heads, kneeling on one knee, signifying their willingness to follow.

As the Cui brothers knelt, others in the room followed suit, clasping their fists and half-kneeling.

"Gao Changling of the Dragon Gate Sect pledges allegiance to Young Master Yang, hoping for a new prospect."

"Zhao Feibai of Qingshan Sect sincerely surrenders!"

"Qian Yunhai of Qingshan Sect follows Young Master Yang."

"Xie Guangyuan of the Xie Family from Taiyuan."

"Xie Guangping of the Xie Family from Taiyuan."

"Shen Wannian of the Shen Family from Guyong."

"..."

In an instant, all thirty-three people were half-kneeling on the ground, proclaiming their names and origins.

Yang Fei, eyes ablaze, observed the act of allegiance from the thirty-three and laughed heartily: "Please rise, seniors. I, Yang Fei, am not one for formalities. Let's skip such trivial rituals."

Yet everyone maintained a serious demeanor, saying in unison, "This is a rite of allegiance and cannot be omitted!"

"Having pledged allegiance, we harbor no second thoughts."

"Here we swear, from this moment, to follow Young Master Yang forevermore, never to betray; otherwise, we face a thousand cuts and a doomed lineage!"

Hearing those words, Yang Fei's expression sharpened, not expecting such determined attitudes from them.

The mere fact that these individuals were here already assured Yang Fei that they sought collaboration.

As for their loyalty, Yang Fei was confident in securing it. He believed that binding people together forever was simply about sincerity and benefits.

Sincerity, he undoubtedly possessed.

Benefits, he could provide them with.

Since these individuals were opting to pledge allegiance during their toughest times, his sincerity and benefits could indeed sway them.

Even before delivering benefits, most already demonstrated a certain degree of loyalty, which moved Yang Fei, evidencing a spirit of contract.

Indeed, these people from the Hidden Sect World, in some respects, still held reverence for righteousness and valued integrity and loyalty.

Concurrently, Yang Fei was secretly delighted.

All thirty-three were genuine masters, with many casting meaningful glances at him earlier, revealing they were on the cusp of entering the Divine Travel Realm. He needed only to impart the Taoist meditation and refining god technique, allowing them to quickly cultivate Divine Sense and step into the Divine Travel Realm.

Indeed, selecting and cultivating experts from the Divine Continent was too slow; only by sifting through the warriors of the Hidden Sect could his forces bolster more swiftly.

Subsequently, Yang Fei crossed the room, helping everyone up, one by one.

Initially, when he helped the first person up, others tried to rise, but Yang Fei went over, engaging in dialogue, memorizing their names and backgrounds.

Hu Lizhong followed closely beside Yang Fei, secretly breaking into a cold sweat for him.

All these individuals were strong Hidden Sect warriors; what if someone suddenly attacked? Yang Fei, with his Physical Body Realm depleted, would be in grave danger, would he not?

But in the end, all was well; none of the thirty-three made any sudden moves.

Hu Lizhong quietly admired, Brother Yang truly was daring.

Unbeknownst to him, Yang Fei had mustered the courage to make a round, ever vigilant and prepared to unleash Divine Thought instantaneously, sufficient to obliterate any opponent trying to attack.

Nevertheless, despite this, these warriors' rapid striking was still a substantial risk given his current Physical Body response speed.

But to win hearts, one must show a gesture of sincerity.

Leaving the crowd, Yang Fei addressed them, "Seniors, beside me is Hu Lizhong. From now on, we're all one. Should you wish, you may write a letter to your families or sect members and invite them to settle in Jiangbei County. My wife will liaise with the Five Great Forces to relocate your families and sect members here."

Upon hearing this, everyone displayed expressions of joy and gratitude.

"Young Master Yang's magnanimity!"

"Thank you, Young Master Yang."

"For such immense kindness, only unwavering loyalty can repay!"

After all, as powerful warriors, they had been reduced to prisoners; one could easily imagine the plight of their families and sects.

Some families had faced retaliatory attacks, nearing extinction due to their incarceration.

Others, though not experiencing complete annihilation, had been oppressed and bullied recently. Now, with Yang Fei willing to support their families and sects, how could they not be moved?

Yang Fei said, "Once you've written the letters, hand them to Old Hu, and he will arrange everything."

Amidst their gratitude, they all clasped their fists and greeted Hu Lizhong, forging connections.

Hu Lizhong's heart surged with emotion.

Indeed, following Brother Yang was the right choice.

Although these Hidden Sect experts were slightly more skilled than him, they now treated him with deference. Being positioned close to the water, fostering relationships with them was an invaluable resource and asset for the future.

Damn, the people Hu Lizhong befriended were all formidable figures.

My, how exciting to just think about it.

But I must strive hard, for only with formidable strength can I secure a future. Otherwise, despite their courtesy, they might look down upon me in private.

After all, I am a trusted close follower of Brother Yang; I mustn't tarnish Brother Yang's reputation.

Subsequently, Yang Fei looked at the crowd and said, "Everyone, cultivation actually consists of two parts: Body Refinement and Divine Cultivation. However, whether in the secular Martial Arts world or the Hidden Sect World, everyone essentially only cultivates one—Body Refinement."

On hearing this subject, everyone grew excited.

Was he this generous?

Having just met, not only did he show sufficient sincerity and respect, and offered to support their families and sects, but now he was about to teach them the method of cultivating Divine Sense too?

Indeed, their decisive choice to come and pledge allegiance was not only due to previous reasons but mainly because Yang Fei promised to teach them the method of cultivating Divine Sense, aiding their entrance into the Divine Travel Realm.

Amidst the expectant gazes of the crowd, Yang Fei continued, "Indeed, cultivation requires more than just Body Refinement; it also necessitates Divine Cultivation. Only by strengthening the Divine Soul Consciousness can we ascend to superior cultivation realms. Furthermore, even our prior Body Refinement was misguided. True Body Refinement can temper the Physical Body Realm into copper skin and iron bones, immune to water and fire, impervious to blades and guns."

"What did you say?"

"Is this true?"

"Can the physical body truly be refined to such a degree?"

"Wouldn't that be akin to the legendary Golden Body Immortal cultivation?"

Instantly, the crowd grew animated, exclaiming and inquiring fervently.

Though they were genuine Martial Arts experts, Yang Fei's words just now overturned their understanding of Martial Arts cultivation.

Chapter 890: You Really Give Pie

In response to everyone's inquiries, Yang Fei didn't waste words and directly threw out a big one.

He recited a few lines of the Taoist mnemonic for nourishing the soul.

But he didn't say them all.

Although he would eventually tell everyone everything, things needed to be given bit by bit. Only then would they understand the value, cherish it, and appreciate his kindness. Otherwise, if given too easily, it would make them feel worthless.

However, even those few short lines of the mnemonic caused the few experts among the thirty-three, whose souls were already quite nourished and were just a step away from the Divine Travel Realm, to tremble all over and stand frozen in place.

Everyone was seen murmuring to themselves, reciting those few lines of the Nourishing God and Mind Stabilizing Method with varying degrees of realization.

Soon, some directly sat cross-legged and closed their eyes in meditation.

Some continued to remain in a daze.

Others, after firmly remembering the few lines, looked at Yang Fei again, eager to gain more.

Yang Fei gave a gentle smile to those looking at him and slowly shook his head.

Those people immediately showed deep disappointment.

Some even felt a bit dissatisfied in their hearts. Previously, they thought he was generous and praised him for his high-mindedness, but it turns out he was even more cunning than others, deliberately keeping them on edge.

Yang Fei turned and left.



Hu Lizhong immediately followed.

He had long been taught the Taoist Nourishing God and Mind Stabilizing Method by Yang Fei and had been diligently cultivating it, feeling that he had made significant progress.

"Brother Yang, will you really tell them all the mnemonics?" Hu Lizhong asked curiously.

Yang Fei replied, "Yes, what we need now is a large number of talents. If we can quickly cultivate some Divine Travel Realm experts from these people, we'll have enough confidence to face the five forces of the Hidden Sect, as well as Heaven and the Penglai Realm. What we need to do is first have the capability to hold the land of the Divine Continent and guard Yunwu Mountain's base as a stronghold."

Hu Lizhong nodded and said, "That's right, although there is a large army deployed here, and the Military Department has many experts, if those top experts all come to attack, it's still difficult to resist, especially when you're not around."

Yang Fei's eyes flashed with cold light as he said, "Actually, just holding on like this is not a long-term plan. Unfortunately, I can't restore my Physical Body Realm right now, or we'd directly take people to hit the enemy, using offense as the best defense."

Hu Lizhong said, "Yes, striking first is the key. In a dark war, whoever is passive will suffer losses. It's a pity that those Hidden Sect experts aren't on the same page as us, or we could join forces with them to deal with Heaven, or the Penglai Realm, not giving them the opportunity to unite."

Yang Fei sneered, "Those Hidden Sect people are short-sighted, only caring for themselves, and can't achieve great things. Watch, Old Hu, once I cultivate these experts, the five forces of the Hidden Sect will all slowly pledge allegiance to me."

Hu Lihong immediately said, "Brother Yang, you're a great talent, and in the future, this world will surely be yours. I, Old Hu, am willing to serve you faithfully, heh heh, all I ask is to secure a good future for my children."

Yang Fei patted Hu Lihong's shoulder and laughed, "Don't worry, Old Hu, with our relationship of sharing life and death, I won't let you just drink soup while I eat meat."

Hu Lihong was overjoyed and said, "Brother Yang, actually, just having soup is enough for me."

Yang Fei jokingly scolded, "Get lost, keep a close watch on these people for me, and report to me immediately if anything happens."

"Yes, you can rest assured about this." Hu Lihong patted his chest to assure, then asked confusedly, "What are you going to do?"

Yang Fei rolled his eyes at him, "Can I be idle? I need to find a way to restore my Physical Body Realm cultivation soon, and at the same time, study Rune Tao well. If I can create enough talismans, even if I haven't recovered my Physical Body Realm, it's not impossible to go out and cause some trouble for the people of Heaven and the Penglai Realm."

Hu Lizhong said, "By then, can you take me with you?"

Yang Fei chuckled, "Someone like you might not be able to, too weak."

Hu Lizhong was harshly stimulated.

Yang Fei consoled him, "Now even the Divine Travel Realm is not absolutely safe, it's really dangerous for someone like you to go out wandering. I'm doing this for your own good. Stay at the center of Yunwu Mountain's base, guard the reactor, and cherish the opportunity of this abundant spiritual energy here. Cultivate diligently and reach the Divine Travel Realm soon."

Hu Lizhong was a bit moved and looked at Yang Fei asking, "Brother Yang, are you trying to brainwash me too?"

"Get lost, am I joking? You're suspicious of my sincerity?" Yang Fei was almost amused by anger, yet he couldn't help but ask, "Old Hu, do I give people the impression that I'm someone who likes to make empty promises?"

Hu Lizhong thought for a while and shook his head, saying, "You truly deliver."

Yang Fei laughed heartily, "Hmm, that's a high evaluation, not bad."

Returning to the valley, Yang Fei went to see Helian Rong. This young girl was still in a state of cultivation.

Although Yang Fei currently lacked his Physical Body Realm and couldn't perceive Helian Rong's realm, with his powerful Divine Thought, he could still detect the surging True Yuan within her.

It seemed indeed much stronger than before.

Time flew by, and a week passed in a blink.

On this day, almost all the people of the Hidden Sect had left the settlement area originally established for them.

According to intelligence gathered from big data, the vast majority of Hidden Sect members had successfully integrated into the secular world.

Of course, this process sparked many conflicts and clashes, but outside of a few Hidden Sect members refusing to comply with the restrictions and management of the Divine Continent police and other departments, the vast majority cooperated effectively.

Nonetheless, many bloody incidents still occurred, causing a lot of trouble for the relevant departments. The workloads of the police, city defense, and the newly established Qimen Management Bureau reached a peak, yet they were still overwhelmed.

Three more days passed, and the situation finally improved. The people of the Hidden Sect began to restrain themselves and quickly adapt to everything in the secular world, while ordinary secular citizens gradually overcame their fear and panic towards the martial artists of the Hidden Sect.

Everyone was striving to adapt to this entirely new world.

The same situation was true for the Divine Continent as it was for nations outside of it.

Relatively speaking, the Divine Continent handled this the best, with the two different worlds integrating and adapting to each other at the fastest pace.

That afternoon, Qin Yanyang returned relatively early, but Yang Fei noticed she was in a terrible mood.

"What's wrong?" Yang Fei asked with concern.

"The people of the Poison Sect have escaped," Qin Yanyang said bitterly.

"Escaped?" Yang Fei was stunned and said, "They're not prisoners, why would they escape?"

Qin Yanyang said helplessly, "They secretly crossed the border and left the Divine Continent from the south."

Yang Fei was shocked, "What, they left the Divine Continent? For what purpose, could they be trying to separate from the Divine Continent and collude with overseas forces?"

Qin Yanyang said in a heavy tone, "That's exactly what I'm worried about. Moreover, even if they don't collude with overseas forces, once they're taken down one by one by the opposing forces and wiped out, it would be a huge loss for our Divine Continent and Yanhuang. We currently can't unite the various forces of the Hidden Sect, and once the dark war starts, we simply cannot compete against Heaven and the Penglai Realm just in terms of quality of martial artists."