

Powerful 1151

Chapter 1151: Does It Make Any Difference?

As the three of them started to engage in a conversation here and there, the prohibition outside the Butcher Palace suddenly sent a signal.

After seeing the appearance of the person outside the hall, Yang Yan showed a wry smile and turned around to say to Gu Sheng, "Gu Sheng, go and bring the guest in."

"Yes, young master."

Gu Sheng nodded, responded immediately, and walked out.

Not long after, Gu Sheng hurriedly returned, closely following a certain someone's tail.

There was nothing he could do; even his young master Yang Yan probably didn't have a good solution.

"Eh... Why is Guoguo here?"

Elder Dugu showed a look of confusion upon seeing the newcomer.

Then he glanced at the visitor and then at Yang Yan.

Suddenly, he appeared to have an epiphany.

So that's how it is!

It was Guo Guoguo who came to find Yang Yan just as he returned to the Ancient Abyss Sect.

Originally, Guo Guoguo came in with her two little buns puffed up boldly, but after seeing Elder Dugu's expression, she rarely showed the embarrassment typical of a young girl.

Her initially brisk steps came to a halt beside Yang Yan, twisting her skirt with her hands and said shyly, "Master Dugu, why are you here?"

Elder Dugu winked at Yang Yan before turning his head to intentionally tease, "Why, is it only allowed for you to meet your little sweetheart, but not for us to have a chat with Yang Yan?"

"Who's meeting a little sweetheart?!"

Guoguo quickly got anxious and hurriedly argued.

Yang Yan happened to be looking at her awkwardly, not expecting her to glare back fiercely.

Alright, so it seems to be Yang Yan's fault again.

"Haha! No interruptions, no interruptions. Guoguo, do you have something? If not, Zimu and I will head back first."

Dugu said he was going back with a chuckle, yet his butt didn't move an inch on the stone stool.

Guoguo, of course, didn't believe Elder Dugu.

Everyone knows, she isn't afraid of Elder Dugu purely because of that... Elder Dugu acts more shamelessly than she does!

When she was a child, he even asked with a smile if she was willing to marry his future disciple, claiming that following Dugu would mean having meat to eat.

Hate to think that she was young and ignorant at the time, almost getting swindled by this unscrupulous guy!

To this day, Guoguo feels resentful at the thought.

So, she both hates and fears Elder Dugu.

"I wouldn't come looking for Yang Yan!"

Guoguo deliberately put on a pouty face and stood boldly beside Yang Yan, glaring at him hard with her eyes while clearly stating she didn't come to find Yang Yan.

"Oh! Is the Young Sect Leader here to see me?"

At some point, Lin Zimu also learned to joke, gracefully stood up, and said earnestly.

"I'm not here for you either, wishful thinking." Guoguo immediately glared at Lin Zimu and spoke fiercely.

Lin Zimu awkwardly smiled, attempting to appear calm, then slowly sat back down, "Drink tea, drink tea."

Yang Yan said somewhat helplessly, "Guo, if there's something you want to say, just say it!"

The moment Yang Yan spoke, Guoguo immediately rolled her eyes, placed her hands on her hips, and angrily questioned:

"You, I came to see you out of good heart, worried you might be missing an arm or a leg outside, and you didn't even know to offer me a seat. Are you... are you overlooking this young lady!"

Yang Yan found it somewhat amusing.

Her eyes were red just because he forgot to offer her a seat?

With a bitter smile, he stood up and vacated his seat with a grin, "Guo, please have a seat."

Guo Guoguo snorted, turned her head and grumpily said:

"I won't sit! How dare I sit in the host's seat. If word spread, wouldn't they say I'm a guest bullying the host."

Isn't that so?

You've always been like this, haven't you?

However, Yang Yan only thought such words in his heart, and didn't dare to voice them.

He had no choice but to take Guoguo's wrist, leading her to the seat beside his left hand and sincerely said, "Then Guo, please have a seat."

Being held by Yang Yan, Guo Guoguo clearly blushed and sat down slowly without saying a word.

Gu Sheng behind them glanced at Guo with slight envy.

In his view, even though Guo Guoguo is the Sect Leader's daughter, she couldn't compare to the nobility of his young master's partner!

His young master is the Saint Son!

You could go outside and check.

How many beautiful female disciples both in and out of the Ancient Abyss Sect yearn to share a bed with the young master but can't?!

"Guo, I may need to return to my hometown soon, so you won't need to come looking for me these few days," Yang Yan kindly reminded.

He did consider leaving without a word, but since he would ultimately return, given Miss Guo's temperament, who knows what trouble it might cause.

Guogu, with the pride of a peacock, raised her chin looking at Yang Yan and pouted, "Who would come looking for you! Don't flatter yourself."

Lin Zimu laughed and deliberately chimed in, "Indeed, how could the Young Sect Leader come looking for Yang? We don't even know if there will be any risks this time. The Young Sect Leader should join us."

This statement seemed to please Guogu. She looked at Lin Zimu with satisfaction.

This guy finally said something proper!

Hmm...

So, Guogu struck a pose indicating it's not that she wants to go, but they needed her, and she reluctantly agreed:

"Alright then, since you guys are so worried, I'll just have to sacrifice some of my cultivation time."

Unfortunately, at this moment, Yang Yan spoke at the wrong time.

"Guo, you're still at the seventh level of Qi Cultivation; it's better not to go."

This remark hit Guogu's sore spot.

Even though she has the lower-grade Dao Body, theoretically, her cultivation speed shouldn't be much slower than Lin Zimu.

Especially since she has a good father.

Resources wouldn't be lacking for her.

Yet, who within the sect doesn't know that the Young Sect Leader, who started cultivating earlier than the senior brother and had more resources, whose aptitude isn't much less than Lin Zimu's, is now only at the seventh level of Qi Cultivation.

In the Inner Sect for so many years, this aptitude is really just like any ordinary Inner Sect Disciple.

"How dare you say I'm at the seventh level of Qi Cultivation? What do you mean!" Guogu glared at Yang Yan fiercely.

Yang Yan, unafraid of dying, nodded: "Indeed, it's what I said!"

Guogu was so angry that her face twisted.

She seemed to want to prove her cultivation, and immediately released her pressure, stating word by word:

"I am at the seventh level, consummated!"

Yang Yan blinked his eyes and nonchalantly said, "Is there a difference?"

Guogu angrily stood up abruptly and strode out of the hall.

"Mind your own business about my cultivation! Anyway, I'm going to tell Dad and I am going! Hmmp!!"

Yang Yan stood there stunned, looking at Elder Dugu with some suspicion, "Why didn't the Elder try to persuade her?"

Chapter 1152: Overflowing Jealousy

Seeing Yang Yan's reaction, Elder Dugu immediately put on a cheerful face, exuding the demeanor of a sagely figure.

He habitually stroked his long beard and said airily:

"Otherwise, otherwise! Her realm is indeed no different, but you can't deny she has a good father!"

Alright, blame it on the nepotism clan.

Yang Yan gave a helpless, bitter laugh and cupped his hands toward Elder Dugu:

"Elder Dugu, then let's set off early tomorrow! No need to bring fellow disciples along. It'll suffice for Zimu and me to go, no need to make such a big fuss."

Elder Dugu put up a helpless stance again and sighed, saying, "My agreement is useless, this matter at least needs the Sect Leader's consent."

Alright!

There's no way around it.

Yang Yan sighed helplessly.

Afterward, Elder Dugu bade farewell to Lin Zimu one by one.

Because Yang Yan had already moved to the Ten Thousand Flowers Palace, the residences here were all for female disciples.

In their words, it was inappropriate to stay overnight at Yang Yan's place.

That night, Yang Yan slipped out to find Sect Leader Lin An, and after getting permission, he also received a token.

Tomorrow, he had to personally select ten Inner Sect Disciples and ten Outer Sect Disciples, along with two major stewards, for Yang Yan to leave the sect.

It wasn't that Lin An wanted it so, it's just that because of Yang Yan being a Sacred Body, Wandering Dragon Star had become quite tumultuous now.

As the most important person involved, Yang Yan's safety was a matter the Ancient Abyss Sect must consider.

As for letting disciples train alone outside, to be self-reliant, it's really just talk.

Have you ever seen a core disciple from a big sect venturing out without protective spiritual treasures and several sect experts?

Training is really just for ordinary disciples!

Early the next morning, just as the sky began to show a touch of pale color, a proud female voice came from outside the Slaughter Hall: "Dead Yang Yan, get up! Come with me to find the accompanying disciples!"

By this domineering tone, Yang Yan didn't need to guess who came.

Throughout the entire Ancient Abyss Sect, probably only the Little Witch Guo Guoguo dared to speak to him this way.

Similarly possessing great individuality, and stubborn yet pliable, how could Yang Yan possibly follow her lead!

Thus, although Yang Yan had already woken up, he exaggeratedly yawned, then put both hands comfortably behind his head, leisurely strolling out of the Butcher Palace.

He didn't care what Miss Guo was complaining about inside.

"Hey... ouch—take it easy, let go!"

Yang Yan was startled in place, flew a few meters away, before escaping Guo Guoguo's grip on his ear.

"This little girl, doesn't know her own strength!"

Yang Yan inwardly grumbled and, turning his head, saw Gu Sheng staring blankly at him.

Oh no, did he just see that embarrassing scene?!

Yang Yan secretly resented, exaggeratedly rolled his eyes, and uncharacteristically showed some authority to Gu Sheng: "Still watching? Go make some tea!"

Gu Sheng then seemed to awaken from a dream, accompanied by a smile, quickly running back into the Butcher Palace.

It's really not his fault!

Just when he saw Guo Guoguo coming over, he wanted to go inside the Butcher Palace to inform Yang Yan.

But who knew, this missy actually shouted outside without caring about her status!

Seeing his young master coming out, he naturally couldn't say more, just serving at the side.

He couldn't have imagined, this missy couldn't bear Yang Yan's deliberately casual attitude, and actually went directly to pinch his ear!

Helping either side would offend someone!

Moreover, neither Yang Yan nor Guo Guoguo were people Gu Sheng could afford to offend.

Helpless, he could only quietly watch from the sidelines.

Then he saw that scene he shouldn't have, almost getting caught in the crossfire.

Fortunately, his young master was magnanimous and wouldn't really mind these little things.

Gu Sheng sighed in relief while skillfully brewing tea, then came out to respectfully serve it to the glaring duo.

"Hmph! You didn't take my words seriously!" Guo Guoguo rudely took a sip from the teacup, glaring fiercely at Yang Yan and mocking.

Yang Yan circulated his energy for a while, only then did his ear feel a bit better.

He almost couldn't help but suspect that this young lady in front of him often twisted sect disciples' ears and had long been practiced at it.

"Alright, Junior Sister Guo, look, I'm up, right? We should go and meet with the others!" Yang Yan eagerly changed the topic.

Encountering a girl like Guo Guoguo, it truly feels like a scholar facing a soldier's logic; he didn't want to give her any more room to act.

Just as he put down the teacup, Yang Yan sensed a group of not so weak disciples coming toward his Butcher Palace from the sky.

When they landed and saw that the leader was Senior Brother Lin Zimu, Yang Yan understood that these should be the arranged accompanying disciples.

"Yang." Lin Zimu cupped his hands toward Yang Yan, smiling as he greeted.

"Zimu." Yang Yan also smiled and returned the gesture to Lin Zimu, seemingly reproachfully asking, "Didn't we say not to bring people from the sect?"

Lin Zimu replied helplessly, "After all, it concerns Yang, a basic preparation is still necessary. These disciples are considered our sect's elite, should be useful."

"Of course, there are also some disciples who really want to see what the Saint Son's hometown is like!"

After saying so, he glanced intentionally or unintentionally, and some young female disciples blushed slightly and lowered their heads a bit.

Yang Yan listened and didn't comment, but on the side, Guo Guoguo shamelessly chimed in:

"It's all well, taking some disciples out to broaden their horizons is better than only knowing cultivation all day."

"Just, don't pick the wrong ones. If something goes wrong, not only will it be useless, but will also burden the Saint Son!"

The term "Saint Son" was deliberately elongated by her, full of jealousy.

This girl worried about someone competing with her!?

Upon hearing these words, the disciples couldn't help but understand the hostility in the words.

The few female disciples then involuntarily stepped back.

How could they engage when the speaker was none other than the Sect Leader's daughter?

Seeing the situation wasn't right, Yang Yan frowned and finally spoke: "Anyone who feels the need for outside training, step forward."

Scanning the group of disciples, seeing them looking at each other with no movement, Yang Yan couldn't help but grin bitterly and added: "Or if anyone wants to get some fresh air, you're also welcome."

Guo Guoguo, hearing Yang Yan say this, angrily rolled her eyes at him.

This rascal, making it sound like a tourism trip.

Even if he didn't take her Guo Guoguo seriously, he should take responsibility for his own safety!

Just as she thought, Guo Guoguo suddenly blushed...

Wait!

What does it mean even if he didn't take her seriously?

The more she thought about it, the more convoluted it seemed, so Guo Guoguo simply flicked her sleeve, gave Yang Yan a glare: "Hmph! You deal with it yourself; I'm going to find Elder Dugu!"

With this said, Miss Guo stomped her foot heavily, leapt into the air, and disappeared directly.

Watching her disappear in that direction, Yang Yan had a wry smile in his heart.

Ah! What was that all about?

Examining the group of people carefully again, Yang Yan realized that aside from Lin Zimu and Liu Yizheng, the rest were almost strangers.

Chapter 1153: Reflection

Yang Yan pondered slightly and quickly came to terms with it.

No wonder.

During the last mission, the disciples of the Ancient Abyss Sect suffered heavy casualties.

Except for Lin Zimu and Liu Yizheng, whose cultivation was relatively high and recovered quickly, allowing them to be lively and energetic after a few days with healing elixirs, the other disciples are still recuperating!

As for the one ranked third on the Celestial Pride List, named Zhong Shiyi, his face has been completely lost, so it's not surprising that he didn't appear this time.

After Guo Guoguo left, the disciples, freed from the young sect leader's oppressive control, gradually stood up.

But what's going on with Liu Yizheng?

Why is he standing behind Lin Zimu, yet not stepping forward?

"Yizheng, what about you? Are you just here for a stroll?" Yang Yan teased.

Liu Yizheng was slightly startled and quickly stepped forward to answer, "Grandmaster Yang, I also want to go, but last time..."

He stopped abruptly at this point.

Seeing his hesitant look, it seemed the shadow from that monster last time was quite significant for him!

Yang Yan carefully scrutinized him up and down and suddenly frowned, asking, "Oh... you've established your foundation?"

As someone also in the Foundation Establishment Stage, and with a Perfect Foundation, Yang Yan naturally could see Liu Yizheng's current level.

Liu Yizheng was taken aback and then nodded lightly, somewhat awkwardly replying, "Yes, following the master's teachings, during the healing process, I sensed the opportunity for foundation establishment and then completed ordinary foundation establishment."

Liu Yizheng's casual words left the surrounding disciples, who were only at the seventh or eighth level of Qi Cultivation, all wide-eyed and speechless.

But upon reflection, it wasn't surprising.

After all, he was the sect's genuine second senior brother!

Although not as monstrous as Grandmaster Yang, who forced through thunder tribulation despite heavy injuries in battle, he completely met the conditions for ordinary foundation establishment.

He just hadn't started it yet.

"Hehe! Let's go, let's go. This time it's just a visit, nothing dangerous, so there's no need to worry. Just treat it as a bit of fun."

At this point, Yang Yan turned to indicate to Lin Zimu, "Please lead the way, Brother Zimu."

Lin Zimu nodded, revealed the Chixiao Sword, and soared into the air with sword control.

Yang Yan, Liu Yizheng, and the twenty selected disciples followed closely behind, heading to meet with Elder Dugu.

This time, Yang Yan didn't travel by sword. Instead, he effortlessly kept pace with Lin Zimu using his Perfect Foundation's strength.

The nearby disciples marveled at Yang Yan's Perfect Foundation's speed through the air while trying their best to activate their spiritual treasures to keep up with Lin Zimu and Yang Yan.

And although Liu Yizheng, with just ordinary foundation establishment, didn't have to exert much effort with the Dao Ling Sword, seeing Yang Yan travel effortlessly through the air also made him smile wryly.

This is the speed difference between ordinary foundation establishment and Perfect Foundation!

He wasn't the only one with thoughts in mind.

The originally leading Lin Zimu was also stunned to see Yang Yan reach such a speed without using a spiritual treasure.

It seems he also needs to start preparing for his Perfect Foundation!

At this time, Yang Yan naturally didn't know the inner turmoil of these two senior brothers.

His air travel wasn't intended to show anything.

It's just that he didn't want to burden Star Night.

After all, to Yang Yan, Star Night, which has been with him all along, is more than just a spiritual treasure.

More like an old comrade who shares life and death.

Out of respect, he would only use Star Night for combat, not for speed as a mount.

Unless in emergencies like the last time fighting the Snake Demon, which required sword control in battle.

The same goes for other weapons like Asura and Wu Kong, which have developed artifact spirits.

However, even he wasn't sure if Asura's temperament would agree with being used as a mount.

Although he had considered these issues many times, Yang Yan couldn't help but think.

Since coming to this Cultivation Planet, his power has improved, but it lacks something compared to before.

Before, he wasn't just brute force!

Various tools emerged endlessly, and his moves were Words Become Law.

But here, not only does he need to relearn Daoist techniques to make up for the lack of skills, but the weapons he usually uses also seem to have lost their previous efficiency.

Take Star Night, for instance. Previously, its power was "when Star Night appears, under the starry sky, nothing can hide."

Wherever starlight shines was within Star Night's attack range.

But now, Star Night seems unable to connect with the stars here.

Not only cannot it harness starlight, but its attacks are just similar to Sword Qi.

Even the once great power Life and Death Slaughter Slash now just looks like somewhat larger Sword Qi.

Thinking of this, Yang Yan's heart tightened with an inexplicable, ambiguous feeling.

Although he shouldn't belittle himself, he must face reality.

This feeling has always existed.

It's just that Yang Yan tried hard to ignore it, shifting his focus to learning this world's Daoist techniques to compensate for this gap.

Star Night is already like this, and he doesn't know if Asura and Wu Kong still retain their characteristics.

Asura's little Secret Realm, Wu Kong's Power of Space...

If their characteristics are lost too, they'd just be ordinary spiritual treasures.

Ultimately, Yang Yan always arrived at the same conclusion.

It's the difference in Heavenly Dao Laws causing all this.

If he returns to Earth, he should regain control of everything he knows...

The only thing giving him hope now is Ancestor Zongming's revelation that Star Night is a growth-type spiritual treasure.

This means that as long as the opportunity is right, it can evolve into a higher existence.

At that time, Star Night's power will surely reach new heights.

Even Yang Yan was curious about this.

He even wondered if his Asura and Wu Kong could evolve too?

"We've arrived."

Ahead, Lin Zimu softly said, bringing Yang Yan back from his thoughts.

"Hmm!" Yang Yan nodded slightly and led the disciples down.

"Humph! I've been waiting for you so long, you're finally here!"

Seeing Yang Yan and the others come down, the Little Witch, Guo Guoguo, snorted coldly and squeezed out a few words between her teeth.

From departure to now, only a few minutes passed.

Adding the time spent selecting people, it definitely didn't exceed ten minutes.

Why is her reaction so big?!

This time, not only Yang Yan, but even Lin Zimu was baffled, not knowing how they offended the young sect leader.

"Hehe, since you're here, let's get on the ship!"

Elder Dugu, who had been smiling, waved his right hand when he saw Yang Yan arrives, tossing out a spindle-shaped artifact.

This artifact expanded with the wind, quickly growing into a several-zhang long ship with a dragon head and tail.

Indeed, it's the Wandering Dragon Boat that Yang Yan and the others had sailed on before.

"Elder Dugu, this is?"

Yang Yan was about to ask when he saw a graceful shadow already on the dragon boat deck, precisely Guo Guoguo, who arrived ahead.

"Get on the boat quickly! You're even bringing these people!"

Chapter 1154: We've Arrived

Hearing Guo Guoguo's grumpy command, Yang Yan finally understood.

This girl was still unhappy that he'd brought along disciples she didn't want to come—in other words, those female disciples.

"Sigh—"

Yang Yan let out a sigh, didn't say anything more, and led everyone aboard.

He really didn't dare argue with this Little Witch, or who knew what kind of incident she'd stir up.

You had to know, Guo Guoguo had never had that many scruples; she couldn't care less what the occasion was.

He even felt baffled—how could this girl's temper be this bad?

Could it be... that time of the month?

But as a Cultivator, those problems really shouldn't exist, right?

The Dragon Boat began to slowly move, and in no time it was streaking forward like a comet.

After a while, Yang Yan could barely see the location of the Ancient Abyss Sect anymore.

Another ten-plus minutes passed, and Yang Yan suddenly felt the world spin. He hurriedly circulated his power to stay conscious.

Focusing his eyes, he saw that directly ahead of the Dragon Boat a ring-shaped Flowing Light Array had appeared!

Yang Yan instinctively wanted to unleash the power of his Foundation Establishment stage, but then felt a hand gently press down on his shoulder, and the Inner Strength that had already begun surging in his body instantly became docile.

Startled, Yang Yan turned his head, and only when he saw that it was Elder Dugu stopping his circulation did he relax.

"Look! This is the Guardian Barrier above the Wandering Dragon Star, protecting it from outside attacks."

"Of course, if something abnormal happens outside, we can also use this barrier to clearly find out what's going on."

Elder Dugu explained to Yang Yan, "Right now we're leaving the Wandering Dragon Star, heading for that Forgotten Land of yours—also known as the Hidden World."

Yang Yan nodded in understanding.

Although he'd seen quite a few Arrays in the Hidden World, compared to the barrier before his eyes, they were unquestionably minor tricks before a master.

"Heh heh, in a bit we still have to pass through some relay Spirit Arrays before we can reach that world. The Wandering Dragon Star and your Hidden World are still a fair distance apart."

As they spoke, the entire Dragon Boat had already smoothly slipped out of the Guardian Barrier and entered the boundless Star Universe.

"Last time we left the sect, it was to gather resources for the sect. We never expected to run into you. Looking at it now, you were the greatest harvest of that entire wandering trip!"

Elder Dugu squinted with a smile as he sized Yang Yan up from head to toe, stroking his snowy beard and nodding again and again in admiration.

Yang Yan couldn't help rolling his eyes.

Seeing Elder Dugu's expression, could it be he thought this trip back to the old place would bring that kind of luck again?

The other disciples of the sect had probably long since gotten used to this kind of Space Transmission Array, so on this journey they all just sat down where they were to cultivate.

Only one or two disciples with decent attainments in Spirit Arrays remembered to seize this opportunity to carefully observe the structure of the Teleportation Arrays they passed through along the way.

After listening to Elder Dugu's rambling, Yang Yan had intended to sit down and review the Daoist Techniques he'd learned.

But seeing these Teleportation Spirit Arrays, his interest was piqued too, and he began observing them with great relish.

And relying on his unique talent, he actually managed to grasp them on his own in no time, gradually feeling out some of the Rules behind the construction of Spirit Arrays.

You had to know, Elder Dugu was only a level-three Spirit Array Master; constructing these Space Transmission Arrays had taken him quite a long time.

To see that after looking a few more times, Yang Yan could actually start evolving the basic array patterns right in front of him left him indescribably shocked.

Not to mention the two ordinary disciples who were still in the learning stage.

"This level of talent really is..."

Elder Dugu was so excited he was at a loss for words for a moment, unable to find a phrase to express himself.

Only after calming down for a few seconds did he sigh, "Worthy of being the Saint Son!"

With his love of talent suddenly surging, Elder Dugu was about to go up and chat with Yang Yan, talk properly about the Array he'd just evolved, and give him a few pointers. But he watched as Yang Yan, who had been evolving array patterns, suddenly withdrew the Spiritual Power from his hands, stood up abruptly, and said in a very solemn voice:

"We're here."

Looking down from the Wandering Dragon Boat, they could clearly see the scene below.

Yang Yan remembered that the mountain to the northeast was Xu Mountain.

The scenes of the great battle from before were still vivid in his mind, but now that he'd returned, there was a feeling that things remained while people had changed.

Thinking of this, Yang Yan's gaze unconsciously grew complex and deep.

Guo Guoguo had originally wanted to run over and stick to Yang Yan to chat, but when she saw the look in his eyes, her courage inexplicably faltered and she didn't dare go over.

She lowered her head and fiddled with the hem of her clothes, her delicate brows knitting slightly, lost in unknown thoughts.

Lin Zimu saw that Yang Yan's reaction seemed a bit off and couldn't help feeling a stab of worry.

After hesitating for a moment, Lin Zimu walked straight to Yang Yan's side, patted him on the shoulder, and said, "What's wrong, getting cold feet now that you're near home?"

Prompted by his question, Yang Yan pulled his mind back from his memories and said with a grin, "How could that be! I was just thinking about how to break the barrier, that's all."

Then he turned and asked Elder Dugu, "Elder, do you happen to know how to break it?"

Elder Dugu rested his duster on his arm, lifted a hand to smooth his long beard, and only then slowly said, "That's naturally not difficult."

He flicked the duster, and a key instantly appeared in his hand.

The key was exquisitely delicate, perfectly smooth all over, with a faint ghostly radiance flowing within.

Yang Yan took a careful look and was certain that this was definitely more than just a mid-grade Spiritual Treasure.

Seeing how Yang Yan couldn't take his eyes off it, Elder Dugu felt a surge of pride, and said with a laugh:

"This was gifted to me by my master hundreds of years ago. Though it's only a top-grade Spiritual Treasure, it followed my master in Cultivation for many years and has been saturated with an extremely rich amount of Spiritual Qi."

Hearing this, Yang Yan couldn't help praising, "No wonder I see ghostly light flowing in it. As expected, it's no mortal item."

Elder Dugu chuckled and added, "In a bit I'll use this Spiritual Treasure to break the Hidden World's barrier. You just stand to the side and infuse it with Spiritual Power. Remember, don't use too much force. We only need to enter the Hidden World; there's no need to completely break the barrier open."

Yang Yan steadied his mind, rotated his wrist to test his Spiritual Power, and said, "Got it. Let's begin!"

Elder Dugu tossed the duster aside, flew up to the barrier, and summoned that delicate key, which immediately flared with ghostly radiance.

Yang Yan hurried after him, steadied himself at Elder Dugu's side, and raised his hand to slowly infuse Spiritual Power into the key.

Elder Dugu worked the key while observing Yang Yan at the same time.

He saw Yang Yan in a low horse stance, body bent forward, eyes firm. Although he was continuously sending out Spiritual Power, not a hint of anxiety showed on his face.

Even though it was his first time doing this, he was still moving with practiced ease.

Elder Dugu couldn't help once again marveling at the Saint Son's strength, and felt a faint twinge of regret in his heart for not having seized the chance to take this kid as his disciple.

While Yang Yan was focusing on breaking the barrier, he was not the only one watching him.

Guo Guoguo stood on the Dragon Boat, cheeks puffed out as she stared fixedly at Yang Yan.

Seeing him pour out Spiritual Power without end, she remembered how Yang Yan had said he'd only cultivated to the seventh level, and her heart couldn't help turning sour:

Hmph! What's so great about that? No matter how strong you are, sooner or later you'll still be my man.

She pouted, then turned around and went to pester Lin Zimu again.

On the other side, Elder Dugu carefully worked the key to break the barrier, and with Yang Yan's powerful support, it didn't take long for them to open up a suitably sized entrance.

Chapter 1155: Welcome, Immortal Master

Yang Yan retracted his spiritual power, calmed down, and then boarded the dragon boat alongside Elder Dugu.

Lin Zimu quickly stepped forward, offering Yang Yan a bitter smile as he said, "The Ancestral Master has finally returned. Junior Sister Guo has been thinking about you constantly."

Guo Guoguo also approached and, upon hearing this, shouted at Lin Zimu, "Who's been thinking about whom? Senior Brother, stop talking nonsense."

Lin Zimu twitched the corners of his mouth and had no choice but to smile and say, "Yes, yes, I'll go see if the junior brothers and sisters have any issues adjusting."

After saying this, he quickly stepped aside and hurried away.

Elder Dugu stroked his beard, displaying a fox-like grin. His gaze wandered back and forth between Guo Guoguo and Yang Yan before he too stepped aside.

Suddenly, only Yang Yan was left at the edge of the dragon boat.

Yang Yan glanced at Guo Guoguo, his eyebrows twitching uncontrollably.

Raising a hand to press against his twitching brows, he opened his mouth with a helpless tone, "Junior Sister Guo, what's the matter?"

Guo Guoguo pouted, unwillingly saying, "Who told you to ignore me for so long?"

Then, she shyly tugged at Yang Yan's sleeve and continued, "Are you pretending to ignore me because you're afraid of feeling shy when we're alone together?"

Yang Yan was startled. What kind of logic is that?

But he couldn't argue with her about this sort of thing. He just chuckled and said, "Elder Dugu doesn't come often, and he's unfamiliar with the area, so I need to guide him."

With that, he quickly freed himself from Guo Guoguo's grasp and hurried toward Elder Dugu.

Seeing Yang Yan's indifferent attitude towards her, Guo Guoguo stomped her foot in frustration and pouted as she followed him.

Elder Dugu, seeing the two approaching one after the other, couldn't help but show his fox-like grin again.

Yang Yan saw that smile, and his eyebrows twitched once more.

Faced with this little witch behind him, he bravely stepped forward. "Ahem! Elder Dugu, I'm here to guide you."

Elder Dugu cheerfully replied, "Oh, guiding is good, guiding is good! I was just worrying about that!"

Guo Guoguo paused, then approached and stubbornly said, "I want to guide too."

Elder Dugu's smile noticeably froze, and he awkwardly said while stroking his long beard, "You little girl, how would you know the way?"

Guo Guoguo stomped her foot again, glaring at Elder Dugu, "Can't I learn if I don't know? With the Saint Son teaching me, I don't need your nonsense."

Elder Dugu's eyes widened, almost tugging out his own beard in surprise.

But there was nothing he could do. She was the Sect Leader's daughter, a little witch who had caused countless troubles since childhood, and he was powerless to deal with her.

So Elder Dugu could only turn to Yang Yan, saying, "Hehe! Ancestral Master, you guide the way!"

Yang Yan had been watching this little witch entangle with Elder Dugu, happy to enjoy the scene.

But unexpectedly, it turned back to him in no time.

Especially when Elder Dugu called him Ancestral Master, it almost scared his soul out of him.

Despite the turmoil inside, Yang Yan didn't show it outwardly.

He lightly coughed twice to steady himself and began to guide Elder Dugu.

Seeing Yang Yan ignore her, Guo Guoguo felt secretly resentful.

As the Young Sect Leader, she was used to being domineering.

Encountering someone like Yang Yan who was unyielding and indifferent to her, she naturally felt displeased.

Reminded of Yang Yan's mockery of her abilities, Guo Guoguo felt even more bitter.

She could only sniffle and cast a cold gaze at the onlookers.

The crowd, seeing Guo Guoguo's icy gaze, shivered and quickly averted their eyes.

On the other side, under the tacit cooperation between Yang Yan and Elder Dugu, the Wandering Dragon Boat successfully entered the Hidden World.

Most of those present were visiting the Hidden World on Earth for the first time, naturally feeling a bit curious.

After all, this is the place believed to be the origin of humanity, known as the Forgotten Land.

Now entering the Hidden World, everyone couldn't help but gaze around in wonder.

Initially angered by Yang Yan, Guo Guoguo's youthful heart couldn't help but soften at the sight of such a scene.

She accompanied the others in looking down from the Wandering Dragon Boat.

Watching everyone, Yang Yan sighed internally.

"Stop!"

With Yang Yan's command, the dragon boat slowed down, gradually stopping and hovering in the air above the Hidden World.

Then, the massive dragon ship began to slowly descend, creating a huge cyclone in the air.

The scene below became increasingly clear to those on the boat.

Because they didn't deliberately conceal their presence, and due to the commotion of the descending ship, it quickly attracted a group of individuals from the Hidden World to investigate.

"Damn, they're here again! How long has it been since the last intrusion, and they're attacking again so soon?"

A young superpower user, anxiously watching the massive object slowly approaching from the sky, nervously shouted.

Parece que después de que Yang Yan se fue, el Mundo Oculto no fue inmune a las invasiones del Reino Exótico.

Although fortified by a protective barrier from Elder Dugu, the Demon Race nonetheless attacked here several times.

Although they ultimately didn't succeed, the disturbances caused alarmed the remaining forces in the Hidden World, leaving them on edge.

Therefore, upon spotting outsiders, they naturally assumed it was an enemy attack.

Just as the young man was about to call for support, an older man who had been observing the situation for a while stopped him.

"No, I don't sense any evil aura from these creatures of the Demon Race, so it shouldn't be those monsters."

"Also, I don't sense any hostility. It doesn't seem like an attack..."

The older man was about to continue his analysis when dozens of sword shadows swiftly descended from the ship.

As these people approached, he was even more impressed by their extraordinary presence.

With his abilities, he couldn't discern the cultivation of a single one of them.

In other words, all these individuals were more powerful than him.

The overwhelming aura almost made him kneel involuntarily.

But then he noticed the large words "Ancient Abyss Sect" on the side of the dragon ship and seemed to suddenly recall something, bowing respectfully to those controlling swords, adding, "Welcome, Immortal Master!"

Seeing the older man's posture, the others quickly understood the situation and followed suit, bowing down.

The recent demon-battling might have been etched deeply in the memories of everyone in the Hidden World.

Especially when the giant ship of the Ancient Abyss Sect suddenly appeared and dramatically turned the tide, ensuring the survival of the Hidden World, leaving a lasting impression on many.

While no one truly understood the existence of the Ancient Abyss Sect, they unquestionably regarded it as a divine entity beyond this world.

For this reason, regardless of their status in the Hidden World, all greeted them with utmost humility.

Chapter 1156: What's So Great About It

After Yang Yan landed, he was momentarily stunned to see the kneeling crowd before him.

Even when he was the Moonlight Emperor, he never received such treatment.

This reminded him of the scene when he arrived in Wu County.

Guo Guoguo, on the other hand, enjoyed the grand gesture, and couldn't resist mocking Yang Yan, "Oh—could it be that these people know the Saint Son of the Ancient Abyss Sect is coming?"

Upon hearing this, the Hidden World people pressed their bodies even lower.

Yang Yan rolled his eyes at her, stepped forward to help the nearest elder, and teased, "When I was still Moonlight, I didn't see you all being so respectful!"

The elder perked up at the mention of "Moonlight," slowly raised his head to meet Yang Yan's gaze, and trembled with excitement: "Moonlight... Are you the Moonlight Emperor, Yang Yan?"

This dialogue did not escape the ears of the kneeling crowd, their faces showing a hint of astonishment.

"How long has it been, has there been another Moonlight born?"

Seeing their reaction, Yang Yan found it amusing and couldn't help making a joke.

After a brief greeting, Yang Yan ordered everyone to rise and not to be so submissive, then went indoors with the elder to get a brief understanding of the situation after the war.

As for the accompanying disciples, Yang Yan dismissed them, telling them to go "train" themselves.

Even those familiar with him like Elder Dugu, Lin Zimu, Liu Yizheng, and Guo Guoguo had to wait outside, leaving Yang Yan to converse with the elder privately.

The elder, being one of the few great family elders left after the Hidden World's great calamity, had a good grasp of the post-calamity situation and quickly briefed Yang Yan on the recent Hidden World circumstances.

Fortunately, on that day, Elder Dugu and the Inner Sect disciples exterminated the Demon Race, dealing them a lethal blow, allowing the teetering Hidden World to survive.

The Demon Race's army retreated, and the Hidden World seized the opportunity to recover, not daring to let their guard down for a moment.

Lately, though the Demon Race has made several incursions, they have yet to succeed in invading.

However, they've somehow used a Secret Technique to awaken various Demon Race entities lurking within the Hidden World, causing significant damage as well.

Yet now, facing a common enemy, the major forces of the Hidden World have temporarily set aside past grievances to jointly resist the Demon Race.

Under these circumstances, the remaining Demon Race can't stir much trouble.

After understanding the general situation, Yang Yan headed out to join the waiting crowd, planning to find his still-living old acquaintances.

"Hey, where's Guo?"

Before leaving, while checking the numbers, Yang Yan suddenly noticed someone was missing, specifically the Little Witch Guo Guoguo.

This was indeed somewhat alarming.

Yang Yan wasn't worried about the Little Witch getting into trouble.

With her Qi Cultivation at the seventh level, she could match even a Titled Powerhouse.

Her power is akin to a top-tier presence within the Hidden World.

Moreover, as the daughter of the Ancient Abyss Sect Leader, the number of Magical Treasures on her was unknown, once unleashed, even Yang Yan would need to be cautious.

His fear was that this girl would stir chaos within the Hidden World.

Considering their stature, if they completely unleashed their powers, the entire Hidden World might not withstand and subsequently collapse.

Although upon entering, Elder Dugu had set up the Guardian Spirit Array to prevent accidents, the weakened Hidden World might not endure if a Titled Powerhouse unleashed their power here.

"Reporting to Ancestor, I saw Senior Sister Guo heading in that direction earlier."

A disciple promptly reported, alleviating Yang Yan's concerns.

Yang Yan secretly sighed in relief, nodded and smiled at him, then transformed into a stream of light and soared into the sky.

The direction pointed by the disciple was exactly where some of Yang Yan's old friends resided.

As if responding to Yang Yan's worries, a sudden powerful fluctuation erupted ahead.

Judging by the power, there were two Titled Powerhouses battling ahead!

Among the fighting, Yang Yan sensed two familiar presences.

One was indeed the Little Witch Guo Guoguo.

The feared situation had indeed occurred.

This girl had gotten herself into trouble again!

Yang Yan couldn't help but feel a bit annoyed.

Yet the other presence was even more familiar to him.

It even made Yang Yan pause.

Was it... Zhuge Wushuang?

Just what he feared, how did these two troublesome figures manage to meet suddenly?!

Darn it all.

Sensing the two auras growing more intense, Yang Yan had no time to ponder, he dashed into the battlefield.

"Stabilizing the Waves—"

"Ice Seal!"

Focused solely on stopping their fight, Yang Yan urgently deployed his old favorite moves, then unexpectedly noticed his Magic was effective within the Hidden Realm.

The previously clashing pair immediately ceased their fight, their energies subdued by Yang Yan's stronger presence.

Apparently, it was related to different regional Laws!

While Yang Yan rejoiced, the ice imprisoning Guo Guoguo suddenly shattered, followed by an angry roar from within: "You dare freeze the Young Sect Leader!"

Too busy to respond to the Little Witch, Yang Yan looked to the other side, dispersed Spiritual Power from his hand, and melted the ice encasing Zhuge Wushuang.

At this moment, Zhuge Wushuang's eyes were not only filled with shock but also welled with tears.

"My king..."

Zhuge Wushuang's aura, due to her low mood, reached its lowest point, slowly bowing before Yang Yan: "You're back!"

Yang Yan was also flooded with mixed emotions, calmed himself, nodded, and instructed, "Wushuang, quickly bring the other Nine Swords over, I have something to instruct!"

"Yes!"

Zhuge Wushuang struggled to contain her inner turmoil, bowed, and accepted the order.

Watching Zhuge Wushuang vanish as a beam of light, Yang Yan stood still and sighed lightly.

To say he wasn't excited, of course, would be impossible.

Even Guo Guoguo surprisingly refrained from quarreling, finally granting Yang Yan some peace.

"She's my subordinate, the Fifth Sword, Zhuge Wushuang."

Yang Yan looked toward the disciples who hadn't yet recovered from their shock, and spoke calmly.

Yet this only widened the disciples' mouths in amazement.

Who could have imagined that the Sect's Saint Son, who had already stepped into the Foundation Establishment, possessed such formidable power in this Forgotten Land?

Moreover, if just the Fifth Sword could match Guo Guoguo with her perfect Qi Cultivation at the seventh level!

Some disciples eager to ingratiate themselves with Yang Yan just chanted in admiration:

"Saint Son mighty!"

Only to receive a fierce glare from Guo Guoguo.

This made the eager disciple realize how foolish his shout was.

Among the surrounding disciples, none could help but show sympathy for him.

Yang Yan, as the Saint Son, naturally had the capital to bicker with the Little Witch.

While he, an ordinary Inner Sect Disciple, dared provoke this grand lady, only to end up not knowing how he died.

"What's so great about it!"

Guo Guoguo didn't bother with the crowd, cast a glare at Yang Yan, and then walked off into the distance.

Chapter 1157: You Can't Say It Like That

Lin Zimu looked at Yang Yan, about to say something, when he heard Yang Yan say to him, "Thank you, Zimu."

Lin Zimu understood the meaning behind his words.

He cupped his hands towards Yang Yan and went over to follow Guoguo.

At the moment, Guoguo was still full of grievances!

She was merely looking for a quiet place to vent her complaints. Who knew that after cursing Yang Yan a few times, she would provoke this crazy woman.

As the Young Sect Leader, she had always had smooth sailing within the Ancient Abyss Sect. How could she tolerate the sudden emergence of Zhuge Wushuang's aggressive string of questions?

Thus, these two highly distinctive women started fighting at the slightest disagreement.

During the exchange, Guoguo clearly felt Zhuge Wushuang's unabashed killing intent.

It seemed as if unless she achieved her goal, she would continue to fight relentlessly, never giving up.

This compelled Guoguo to fight with all her might.

Zhuge Wushuang's strength was slightly inferior to hers, but she managed to bridge the gap through her aura of slaughter, even gaining momentum as the battle progressed.

The fight grew fiercer, and just as everything seemed to spiral out of control, Yang Yan arrived in time to stop their battle with sheer strength.

"Why do you think Yang Yan is so great that he even has such henchmen?" Guoguo, who had already noticed Lin Zimu following them, said with a hint of sulkiness.

Lin Zimu knew well that Guoguo was just venting her spleen and simply listened quietly.

"Let's go. I'm meant to be the Saint Son's woman, how can I be bothered with his subordinates!"

Perhaps trying to find a way out for herself, Guoguo acted unconcerned, waving her hand to signal Lin Zimu to take her away.

On the other side, Yang Yan succinctly explained to the assembled Ten Swords what had happened after his entry into the Ancient Abyss Sect.

After hearing about Yang Yan's experiences, the Ten Swords initially felt shocked but gradually relaxed and even felt fortunate for him.

They were top-tier beings in the Hidden World, so accepting it wasn't difficult.

However, when Yang Yan made the introductions between Guoguo and the Ten Swords, the scene predictably turned awkward.

Anyone could smell the heavy sense of impending conflict from these powerful women clashing together.

Especially when Guoguo, Gongsun Ruyan, Zhuge Wushuang, and Mu Qingcheng all cast scrutinizing gazes toward him, Yang Yan even contemplated raising a shield to defend himself.

"Troublesome!"

Yang Yan groaned inwardly, glancing towards the Ten Swords and the familiar faces of Lin Zimu and Liu Yizheng within the Ancient Abyss Sect.

However, they all selectively ignored, leaving Yang Yan feeling isolated.

The original visit had developed into this, reinforcing Yang Yan's resolve further.

"King, your strength..."

Just when Yang Yan was at a loss, Fu Changjian timely shifted the topic, allowing him a sigh of relief.

Yang Yan knew what he wanted to ask, yet when he tried to answer, he realized he barely scratched the surface.

He could only vaguely attribute it to different Heavenly Dao Laws that forged such a power structure.

The conflict among the Ten Swords and Guoguo was still unresolved.

Zhuge Wushuang suddenly held Yang Yan and said, "King, now that you've returned to the Hidden World, but there are still some friends in the real world you haven't seen in a long time."

Gongsun Ruyan joined in, saying, "Since the last great battle, the connection between the Hidden World and the real world has been severed."

"Now we've regained our strength, yet we're unable to establish a channel back to the real world."

Mu Qingcheng, very much in sync, chimed in, "Yes, yes! It's been a long time since we've contacted Hanyun and Wuyan."

Though aware of their ulterior motives with such words, mentioning old acquaintances made Yang Yan's expression turn serious.

These three women, who usually sparred with each other, were banding together against an outsider now?

Obviously, this was because of Miss Guo's appearance.

When Guoguo heard their words, she immediately glared angrily at Yang Yan, her eyes filled with irritation and suspicion, as if she wished to dig two pieces of flesh from him.

But seeing Yang Yan's rare solemnity, Guoguo wasn't entirely unreasonable. She quickly retracted her angry demeanor and glanced elsewhere, seemingly unintentionally.

"Yang..."

Lin Zimu also sensed the off-key atmosphere, trying to console him, but didn't know where to start.

"Yes, haven't seen them in a long time!" After a moment of silence, Yang Yan smiled bitterly and lamented, "It seems there will be very few opportunities in the future to reunite!"

Sensing the trace of sadness in Yang Yan's words, everyone looked at each other in silence.

They wanted to leverage Yang Yan's bonds in the real world to handle Guoguo, but never imagined that Yang Yan's current strength couldn't unlock the channel, causing him additional sorrow.

"We shouldn't speak like this!" Elder Dugu, who had been silent, observing the unfolding drama, suddenly spoke, drawing everyone's attention to him.

Among all, Elder Dugu boasted the highest cultivation stage that was Golden Core Stage. Since he spoke, there must be a solution.

"Returning to the real world isn't impossible. You only need to reach the late Nascent Soul stage."

Elder Dugu continued to smile, yet his words were like cold water on the disciples' heads.

Joking!

The late Nascent Soul stage, isn't that surpassing the Ancient Abyss Sect's Ancestral Master's cultivation level?!

Not to mention reaching such achievements, even if they did, how long would that take?

Seeing the disciples' depressed spirits, Elder Dugu clicked his tongue and added:

"So, you're only Qi Cultivation disciples! You haven't tried, but you've given up already."

"Also, Yang Yan possesses the Celestial Flood Dragon Saint Body. Can he be measured by an ordinary standard?"

Upon Elder Dugu's words, the disciples finally realized.

Although the late Nascent Soul stage seemed impossible for them, it was certainly achievable for Yang Yan!

When Elder Dugu saw the resolute determination in Yang Yan's eyes, he nodded with satisfaction.

With such mindset paired with talent, surpassing Nascent Soul late stage, even reaching Divinity Transformation, Void Realm isn't surprising.

"With your spatial comprehension talent, by then reopening a passage between the real and Hidden Worlds will be entirely possible."

Elder Dugu's affirmation of Yang Yan also lifted the previously low spirits.

"Alright."

Yang Yan nodded, squinting slightly, speaking confidently.

The Ten Swords, familiar with Yang Yan, understood he had firmly resolved his mind.

Upon his return to the Hidden Realm, Yang Yan wished to stay for a few days, alleviating partial homesickness.

Additionally, although those disciples might not be exceptionally strong, within the Hidden World they equated to AAA grade powerhouses.

Suddenly being at the top made them enjoy themselves for a bit.

However, owing to Yang Yan, Elder Dugu, and the others overseeing, no trouble brewed.

As per Senior Brother Lin Zimu, experiencing the thrill of high status while not losing oneself—avoiding arrogance and recklessness, recognizing oneself—was a form of mental training.

Chapter 1158: Deployment

After an unexpected encounter with Zhuge Wushuang, Guo Guoguo became quite familiar with the trio who were initially her rivals.

It was unexpected for Yang Yan that their relationship didn't break down, nor did they end up fighting.

He wondered what they gathered frequently to discuss about.

During those days, Yang Yan didn't idle either. While striving to enhance the Heaven-Reaching Power that would allow him to stir up the Hidden World, he also received considerable guidance from Elder Dugu.

More importantly, this elder was willing to impart all his lifelong knowledge about Spirit Arrays!

A few days later, the Ten Swords requested Yang Yan to give pointers on the Immortal Slayer Sword Array they had been diligently practicing since the day Yang Yan had disappeared.

In recent days, the Ten Swords had opened a small Secret Realm in the Hidden World, where they sparred with Guo Guoguo and other sect disciples, adjusting themselves into a combat state.

Additionally, they recalled all their avatars that were stationed outside, signaling the time for the Ten Swords under Yang Yan's command to return.

First and foremost, they naturally needed to familiarize their king with their current combat strength.

Yang Yan gave a knowing nod and softly said:

"Form the array!"

In the blink of an eye, the Immortal Slayer Sword Array, composed with the full power of the Ten Swords, took shape, continuously emitting a heart-stirring spiritual power fluctuation.

Except for Guo Guoguo, Liu Yizheng, Lin Zimu, and others with relatively higher cultivation, all other disciples involuntarily took a step or two back.

Even Elder Dugu stroked his beard with interest and praised, "It's truly rare to witness such an intriguing combat technique in this Forgotten Land."

"My Lord, here we go!"

A majestic battle intent erupted from the Immortal Slayer Sword Array, as ten swords enveloped in dazzling halos of spiritual power swiftly shuttled back and forth around Yang Yan, binding him as if in a cage.

"Have they really trained to this level already—"

Yang Yan watched these swords of different attributes, yet perfectly coordinated, with a face of approval.

"Immortal Slayer Sword Array—Descent of the Immortal!"

With the order from the Ten Swords, the Immortal Slayer Sword Array unleashed its truly fierce killing move.

Ten swords locked onto every vital point of Yang Yan's body, advancing from all directions!

Some disciples watched with hearts pounding in fear.

Whatever disdain they held for the Forgotten Land dissipated entirely.

They realized that under such an assault, they would stand no chance if they were in his place.

Yet, if the Saint Son were to get injured, their fate wouldn't be favorable either.

However, seeing Elder Dugu's face remain calm and unperturbed, they breathed a sigh of relief quietly.

As the dust stirred by the battle settled, Yang Yan's figure stood firm at the original spot.

"Good, very good, excellent!"

Hearing Yang Yan's hearty laughter, the onlookers finally felt relieved.

Especially Guo Guoguo, whose tightly clenched fists relaxed as she turned away after seeing Yang Yan unharmed and muttered:

"Hmph, only this guy is so boring, always doing such pointless things!"

After delivering this powerful strike, the Ten Swords quickly withdrew from the array, hurrying to surround Yang Yan.

Seeing him unscathed, amid their surprise, they were genuinely happy for him.

They could never fathom Yang Yan's true strength.

This was their king, the Moonlight Emperor they willingly and eternally pledged their allegiance to.

"Not bad. I didn't expect you could unleash such great power already," Yang Yan looked at them, nodding with satisfaction.

This was indeed the truth.

If not for that last moment where Yang Yan first used Stabilizing the Waves to slow the Ten Swords' fierce assaults, then evoking Space Law to dodge the attacks, and finally utilizing Devouring Power to dissipate the strong spiritual power, he might have sustained some damage.

Three powerful techniques executed in smooth succession were necessary to withstand a strike from the Immortal Slayer Sword Array.

Seeing the sword array he created grow and thrive, Yang Yan felt immensely gratified.

Just as he was about to say more, Elder Dugu inconveniently interrupted, "Grandmaster Yang, since the outcome of this expedition is promising, it would be prudent to return to the sect soon with this news."

At those words, Yang Yan fell silent.

"My Lord, are you leaving again?"

The Ten Swords, understanding the immortal master's intention, with Zhuge Wushuang being the first to speak, looked at Yang Yan with reluctance, tears almost welling up.

Although Elder Dugu maintained a facade of indifference, inside, he felt slightly anxious.

If Yang Yan were really tempted to stay in his homeland, it would be troublesome.

Everyone eagerly watched Yang Yan, awaiting his last resolution.

"Elder Dugu," Yang Yan suddenly raised his head and asked, "Could I take them back to the sect with me?"

Clearly, Elder Dugu released a breath of relief.

As long as he wasn't to stay and not leave, everything could be negotiated.

Moreover, the Ten Swords under Yang Yan also possessed considerable strength, each with their own talents, fully qualified to enter the Inner Sect.

This time, they'd truly acquired a great treasure.

Though not as significant a gain as before, having suddenly augmented the sect with more than ten Inner Sect Disciples was splendid as well.

"Of course, that's possible!"

Elder Dugu suppressed his inner excitement but still had to showcase a bit of pretense by saying:

"I observe their talents are quite promising, they indeed qualify to join our sect, but it's up to them whether they'd like to."

Having secured cooperation with the Ancient Abyss Sect, convincing the Ten Swords should be much easier.

"How about you? Would you like to join the sect with me?" Yang Yan smiled at the Ten Swords, inquiring.

"The Ten Swords vow to follow our king to the death!"

In the evening, after observing everyone had gone to rest, Yang Yan called the Ten Swords to his room.

Yang Yan felt a surge of emotion seeing the Ten Swords stand respectfully in a row.

"Ahem!"

Yang Yan cleared his throat twice, scanning the Ten Swords before he began speaking: "I actually have something to inform you as I called you here today."

The Ten Swords exchanged glances, lowering their heads and replied in unison: "Please say."

Yang Yan paused before continuing, "This time I was accidentally brought to the Wandering Dragon Star and became a highly sought-after figure. So much so that many among the sects wish to plot against me."

"Although the Ancient Abyss Sect is among the top ten powerful sects on the Wandering Dragon Star, they cannot entirely guarantee my safety. Not long ago, I fell into a trap set by Yizheng Sect."

As he reached this point, Yang Yan couldn't help but sigh heavily.

The Ten Swords initially rejoiced at Yang Yan's treasured status after hearing such words.

But later, upon realizing how Yang Yan was being treated, they were both worried and angry, as if flames were about to erupt from their ten pairs of eyes.

After a moment of silence, one among the Ten Swords suddenly stepped forward.

Yang Yan looked up to see Fu Changjian standing before him, respectfully clasping his hands and saying, "I am willing to share the burden of our king and protect him thoroughly."

As he spoke, the remaining nine also stepped forward, clasping their hands and saying, "We are willing to share the burden of our king and protect him thoroughly."

Yang Yan's gaze once again swept over the group, his heart filled with gratitude, and he swallowed a few times.

After silently observing the serious expressions of the Ten Swords for a while, Yang Yan finally said, "Good, with such valiant warriors like you all, we needn't worry about the grand affairs failing."

"This time, heading to the Wandering Dragon Star, I wish to place you within the ten main sects to help me watch over everything and guard against unexpected incidents. Would you all be willing?"

Chapter 1159: The Return of the Ten Swords

As soon as Yang Yan finished speaking, the Ten Swords spoke in unison, "We are willing to serve the King, and will obey the King's every command."

There wasn't the slightest trace of hesitation. From their expressions, it was as if for Yang Yan's sake, they could charge into boiling oil and blazing flames, go through hell and high water without a second thought.

Obviously, before they made such a decision and said such words, even though Yang Yan believed in the bond he had forged in battle with Fu Changjian and the others, the Ten Swords were still ten different people.

Time had passed, and the Hidden World was no longer the same Hidden World as before.

And Yang Yan was no longer the Moonlight he used to be.

To have the Ten Swords follow him to wage war in another world, and even act as chess pieces to infiltrate foreign forces at great risk— even as their King, he still had to ask for their opinion.

Hearing the Ten Swords answer as if they were taking an oath, Yang Yan was so moved he was a complete mess, and said in a trembling voice:

"Good. From this day on, I, Yang Yan, will never let any of you down. If I go against these words, may heaven strike me with lightning!"

"King!"

Hearing this, the Ten Swords' hearts trembled. They cried out involuntarily.

Warmth flowed through Yang Yan's chest. He wondered what good deeds he had done in his previous life to meet ten such good brothers and sisters in this one.

"As for the specifics, we'll make a long-term plan after we arrive on Wandering Dragon Star and return to the Ancient Abyss Sect."

After speaking, Yang Yan paused for a moment, then continued.

"Alright, it's late. Everyone go back and sleep."

"Yes. King, please rest early as well."

With that, the Ten Swords withdrew from Yang Yan's room.

After the Ten Swords left, Yang Yan calmed himself a little, then also went out, heading to a secluded place nearby.

Yang Yan summoned Star Night. Under the starlight, Star Night shone with a dazzling radiance, its whole body exuding Spiritual Qi.

Yang Yan raised Star Night with force and swung it forward. The massive boulder in front of him instantly turned to dust.

Yang Yan couldn't help but feel excited. It seemed that after coming to the Hidden World, Star Night's power had increased quite a bit.

Yang Yan then thought, since Star Night was like this, would the other weapons be the same?

So, Yang Yan drew Wu Kong and Asura as well.

After a few rounds of testing, they all seemed different too.

Putting the weapons away, Yang Yan thought back to the first time he used them in the Hidden World. Compared with now, their power back then simply couldn't be mentioned in the same breath.

It seemed that as his strength grew, the power of his weapons was also gradually increasing.

Perhaps, as he continued to grow, these blades and weapons would also keep evolving, unleashing even more terrifying might.

Thinking of this, Yang Yan was thrilled.

He took a light breath to steady himself, then carefully put away Star Night, Wu Kong, and Asura before hurrying back to his room to sleep.

Time in the Hidden World passed in laid-back comfort.

If Yang Yan wasn't playing chess with Lin Zimu, he was chatting with the Ten Swords, living a free and easy life.

Of course, seeing Zhuge Wushuang, Mu Qingcheng, and the others being so attentive, Yang Yan would occasionally think of those women of his who were still in the Mortal World.

He wondered how they were doing now.

Were they missing him so much that they'd lost their appetite, maybe even suffering to the point where life felt worse than death...

On this day, Elder Dugu saw Yang Yan alone in his room and went over to gently knock on the door.

"Ahem! Um, Ancestral Master Yang Yan, are you there?"

Yang Yan had been sitting cross-legged cultivating. Hearing the voice, he came back to his senses.

"Come in."

Yang Yan withdrew his Spiritual Power and sat up straight.

Elder Dugu pushed the door open and entered. Seeing Yang Yan sitting upright and solemn, he couldn't help sighing again.

The Saint Son was indeed the Saint Son; even after returning to his homeland he could still focus on cultivation.

Unlike those other brats who only knew how to fool around!

Alas!

He should have taken him as a disciple the very first chance he got!

Regret, regret!

"Elder, is there something you need?"

Seeing Elder Dugu come in and stare at him with a face like bitter hatred without saying a word, Yang Yan finally couldn't help but speak.

"Oh, oh!"

Reminded by Yang Yan, Elder Dugu snapped back to himself, responded twice, then continued:

"It's like this, Ancestral Master Yang Yan. We've been in the Hidden World for quite some time now. I was wondering if it might be time to return to Wandering Dragon Star?"

When Yang Yan heard Elder Dugu mention going back, his heart shook. He suddenly looked up at Elder Dugu.

Caught off guard by Yang Yan's look, Elder Dugu unconsciously lowered his voice.

"Ahem."

He cleared his throat a few more times, then forced himself to continue:

"It's mainly about you, Ancestral Master. After all, you'll be attending the Immortal Cultivation Conference in three years, so you must cultivate diligently!"

"Although this Hidden World is a good place, its Spiritual Qi isn't as abundant as on Wandering Dragon Star. It will still affect your cultivation. So..."

By the time Elder Dugu said this, his voice gradually weakened as he glanced sideways to gauge Yang Yan's reaction.

In truth, Yang Yan wasn't willing to go back so soon.

However, Elder Dugu's words made a lot of sense. He did have to cultivate hard and prepare for the Immortal Cultivation Conference three years from now.

After pondering for a moment, Yang Yan spoke. "Alright, then we'll set off tomorrow morning."

The next morning, everyone gathered at the barrier.

Elder Dugu once again summoned a Spiritual Treasure, and a huge luxurious ship appeared in the air.

Guo Guoguo, Lin Zimu, and the others leaped aboard the Wandering Dragon Boat one after another, but the Ten Swords still stood by the barrier.

Seeing this, Yang Yan stopped and walked over to ask:

"What's wrong? Is there some problem?"

"No, King. We just think these people are really powerful and feel a bit envious, that's all."

Zhuge Wushuang replied, her eyes fixed unblinkingly on the Wandering Dragon Boat, full of envy.

It wasn't just her— the other nine swords wore similar expressions.

Seeing this, Yang Yan paused to think for a moment, then smiled and said, "After you arrive on Wandering Dragon Star, you'll definitely obtain all sorts of unexpected opportunities, and might even become stronger than them. Do you really think your talent is inferior to theirs?"

Hearing Yang Yan say this, the Ten Swords all showed ashamed expressions.

After all, in the Hidden World they could be considered top-tier existences.

The only reason these people's strength currently surpassed theirs...

Was nothing more than a difference in environment and Cultivation Technique.

In terms of talent, aside from a monster like Yang Yan, who had they ever conceded to?

How could they be envious and deny themselves?

After thinking it through, they all cupped their fists and spoke in unison:

"We will absolutely not bring shame to the King!"

And so, the group boarded the Wandering Dragon Boat and began their journey home.

"Wandering Dragon Star is one of the stars in the Cultivation Star System, and our Ancient Abyss Sect is located on Wandering Dragon Star..."

Lin Zimu was introducing the situation of the Ancient Abyss Sect to the Ten Swords, who were gathered around him like a bunch of curious kids.

Originally, these questions were directed at Yang Yan, but he found it troublesome and dumped them on Lin Zimu, then ran off to the side to discuss the Space Transmission Array with Elder Dugu.

Lin Zimu had no choice but to accept his fate.

Probably no one would have thought that the dignified senior brother of the Ancient Abyss Sect would be assigned the role of "commentator" by Yang Yan.

Everyone could only shake their heads at the thought. After all, Yang Yan was their Ancestral Master.

Elder Dugu saw this and could only give a helpless smile.

"Right, right! Our sect is very powerful, especially after we gained the Saint Son."

The surrounding disciples also gathered around, chiming in to give the Ten Swords additional explanations.

Chapter 1160: Ten Swords' Constitution Test

Especially some of the female disciples here, seeing a few of the Ten Swords looking quite handsome, were shy yet eager to make conversation, chiming in one after another.

As for the male disciples, over this period they had noticed Zhuge Wushuang and others' attitude towards Yang Yan, so naturally, no one dared to entertain any wild thoughts.

"Elder Dugu, these space transmission arrays and guardian barriers are truly profound and boundless!"

Yang Yan turned to Elder Dugu in admiration after pondering over the teleportation arrays and protective barriers on his own.

"Indeed! These teleportation arrays and guardian barriers are quite extraordinary! However, given your insight, Saint Son, I believe you have already gained quite a bit."

Elder Dugu stroked his beard meaningfully as he spoke.

Yang Yan waved his hand modestly and said:

"Compared to Elder Dugu, I've merely glimpsed their forms, nothing to speak of. In the future, I intend to seek your guidance, hoping Elder Dugu won't withhold it!"

Elder Dugu was quite pleased with Yang Yan's humility and eagerness to learn, he clapped his hands and said cheerfully: "Very good! Ask anything and Dugu will surely share all knowledge without reservation! Hahaha!"

Soon after, Yang Yan and the others had passed through layers of guardian barriers and returned to the Ancient Abyss Sect on Wandering Dragon Star.

"We've returned to the sect. I'll take Yang Yan and the Ten Swords to see the Sect Leader; the rest of you are dismissed to do as you please." Elder Dugu instructed everyone after securing the Wandering Dragon Boat.

"Yes!"

Everyone responded in unison and began to disperse.

"Dad! We're back!!"

Guo Guoguo saw Lin An from afar and began to shout.

"Guoguo, you all returned? So soon?" Lin An asked.

"Sect Leader, the connection between the Hidden World and the existing world is severed, didn't see all my kin, only my ten subordinates."

Yang Yan took the opportunity to reveal the identity of Fu Changjian and the others in the hall.

"I've brought them back; they'll be training with me in the future. Moreover, Elder Dugu said their aptitude is exceptional, it won't be a loss to the sect."

Lin An laughed heartily: "What a jest from Saint Son, when has the Ancient Abyss Sect ever been stingy about raising a few more people? And since they're under Saint Son, even if they're not sect disciples, staying at Ancient Abyss is no problem."

Elder Dugu evidently anticipated Lin An's reaction; he flashed a fox-like smile and suggested in a lowered voice.

"I think we can have them tested for their constitution. If they're above Spirit Body, why not let them join our Ancient Abyss Sect as disciples, hmm?"

Yang Yan smiled slightly and quickly glanced at the Ten Swords: "That would be up to them. I can't decide for them."

Unexpectedly, as soon as Yang Yan spoke, there was no need for anyone else to reply, as Fu Changjian already said solemnly:

"We will follow orders. Besides, we're curious about our own constitutions."

Fu Changjian spoke while cupping his fists toward Yang Yan, Sect Leader Lin An, and Elder Dugu.

The other nine behind him also nodded in agreement.

Clearly, the Ten Swords had reached a consensus on this matter long ago.

"Haha! This is certainly excellent," Sect Leader Lin An said in agreement.

"So, who will go first?"

Elder Dugu smiled broadly as he addressed the ten people before him.

"I'll go first!"

Jing Hong stepped forward to begin the first test.

Elder Dugu nodded, gesturing to the black stone tablet nearby, "Jing Hong, right? Just place your hand in the groove on the stone tablet in front of you."

Jing Hong wasted no time and placed his hand into the groove.

Immediately, the tablet trembled slightly, a dazzling light burst forth.

"Haha, very good, very good! It's an Upper Dao Body! Rare indeed, truly rare!"

Elder Dugu excitedly revealed Jing Hong's constitution, nodding with great satisfaction.

He felt like fortune was smiling upon him!

Encountering Yang Yan with a Sacred Body was remarkable enough, but now testing revealed an Upper Dao Body, leaving him utterly delighted.

At this moment, he was quite eager to see what surprises the remaining nine people might bring him.

Gazing at the next few individuals, Elder Dugu nodded repeatedly, his old face breaking into a wrinkled smile.

"Wow! Jing Hong is so impressive; a Dao Body shouldn't be mediocre, but didn't expect it to be an Upper Dao Body, just a notch below the Sacred Body!" Zhuge Wushuang remarked with envy.

"Yes! Indeed, I'm quite curious about my own constitution!"

Gongsun Ruyan nodded repeatedly, somewhat unconsciously clutching her hands at her chest.

Zhuge Wushuang cast a meaningful glance at her, didn't point it out, only smiled slightly.

"Alright! Well done! Second one!" Elder Dugu began the second test.

"Me!"

Frost Heaven was also eager to find out his constitution.

Upon reaching the Ancient Abyss Sect, the previously proud Ten Swords truly realized that their strength in this world was far from enough.

Before, they had a vague understanding that different constitutions often dictate one's future potential.

Thus, everyone was keenly hopeful of having a favorable constitution, ensuring future cultivation would be twice as effective with half the effort.

Frost Heaven nervously placed his hand into the groove, feeling as if awaiting judgment, hesitant to watch the black stone tablet's reaction.

"Upper Dao Body!!"

Elder Dugu's voice trembled slightly.

Evidently, two consecutive Upper Dao Bodies had thoroughly excited him.

Therefore, his gaze upon the remaining Eight Swords was filled with deep hope.

"Wow! Another Upper Dao Body!! Amazing!"

Seeing someone testing at the platform, many disciples had already gathered to watch.

Just now, an Upper Dao Body had strongly impressed them.

Now, there was another Upper Dao Body, everyone couldn't help but gasp in surprise.

Could they not be astonished?

Consider that the Ancient Abyss Sect was merely a seventh-rate sect, yet attaining a Sacred Body made the whole Wandering Dragon Star take notice.

But now, two more Upper Dao Bodies have arrived.

Looks like the Ancient Abyss Sect is truly poised to soar to greater heights this time.

"Wow haha! I'm also an Upper Dao Body!" Frost Heaven couldn't contain his satisfaction with the result, bursting into laughter.

"Hmm, not bad! Not bad! Work hard, your prospects will surely be immeasurable."

Elder Dugu seemingly casually nodded to encourage them, though his heart was already brimming with joy.

Truly the heavens bless the Ancient Abyss Sect!

Haha!

One Sacred Body, and now two Upper Dao Bodies.

Crucially, there under Yang Yan are altogether Ten Swords, with only two tested so far, both Upper Dao Bodies.

What then about the remaining eight?

Perhaps there's even bigger surprise awaiting.

Or taking a step back, even if it's slightly less favorable, at least two or three more are not out of question!

With such thoughts, Elder Dugu impatiently said: "Next!"