

Powerful 1181

Chapter 1181: Challenge at the Door

Lin Zimu smiled slightly, gently blocking with his sword, the blade stopped as if sinking into a mud pit.

It was only because Lin Zimu held back!

"Don't think the Ancient Abyss Sect is easy to bully!"

Lin Zimu just wanted to take Guoguo back quickly and did not want any complications.

As soon as the man heard they were from the Ancient Abyss Sect, he was already thinking of retreating.

After all, they are one of the top ten sects, his own sect wouldn't dare clash with such a giant!

"How do you prove it?"

The man kept a calm facade.

Lin Zimu was not surprised by this result and directly showed the sect's token!

"It's actually true, I must not make such a formidable enemy over this!"

The man silently prayed in his heart.

"Since you're friends from the Ancient Abyss Sect, this is indeed a misunderstanding. You may go, send my regards to Sect Leader Lin!" The man said with a smile.

"Thank you, brother!"

Turning around to Guoguo, he said: "Let's go, Young Sect Leader!"

With that, he and Guoguo transformed into two sword shadows and hurried towards the camp.

When the two of them reached the camp, they found everyone waiting for them.

"Huh, why is the Sect Leader out here?" Lin Zimu asked puzzled.

"The Sect Leader also sensed a familiar aura." Yang Yan said.

"Didn't I tell you not to come? Why did you still come?" The Sect Leader was a bit angry upon seeing Guoguo.

"I wasn't looking for you, I was looking for Yang Yan, who'd want an old man!"

The Sect Leader was somewhat infuriated by the retort.

His eyes widened in anger.

"Ridiculous, how many talents are gathered here, this place is a hotspot of troubles, where opportunities and dangers coexist, what if you have a mishap?"

The Sect Leader grew more and more angry as he spoke.

"Aren't you treating life as a joke!"

"Hmph, I don't care, I want to stay here, even if I die, I won't leave!"

Guoguo seemed indifferent to the Sect Leader's anger, remaining stubborn.

"Ah, forget it, remember to stay with the group, don't wander around!" The Sect Leader, a bit helpless.

"Got it, got it." Guoguo found him nagging, hopping to Yang Yan's side, sticking out his tongue.

Yang Yan also shook his head helplessly.

"Alright, everyone take a rest!" said the Sect Leader then went into the tent.

The others left, leaving only the bone-chilling wind piercing the soul like needles.

This cursed weather, vegetation is extinct, birds and beasts vanished without a trace.

Yet the valley remained restless, the sounds of martial arts training filled the whole valley!

Everyone was preparing for tomorrow's inevitable battle.

The purpose of this event was well understood, ostensibly to exterminate monsters, but in reality, it was to search for treasures and boost the sect's strength.

After all, in this world of survival of the fittest, having formidable sect strength is indeed an excellent form of hidden protection.

Some restless disciples went around challenging others, partly to show off their own strength, and partly with the sect's permission to understand the true situation of other sects.

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"Bang! A huge rock shattered." The man seemed unsatisfied with the result.

"Senior Brother Ban is amazing, achieving such a level of this Sword Technique at this age is unparalleled!" A disciple praised.

Hearing this, the man couldn't help but smile.

This man was none other than the principal disciple of the Sword Sect — Ban Deming.

At a young age already at the Foundation Establishment Stage, far surpassing others in the sect.

Having absolute strength, he was also a bit arrogant.

"In my opinion, not even the Ancient Abyss Sect's Saint Son Yang Yan is a match." Other disciples flattered him.

"Yang Yan? Is he the one who shone brightly to save disciples?" Ban Deming seemed unimpressed.

"Yeah, quite a formidable person. Why not go meet him, Senior Brother Ban?" The disciples egged him on.

"No way, the Sect Leader strictly prohibited unauthorized dueling!" Although he said so, his eyes were filled with eagerness for battle.

"With Senior Brother Ban's strength, how many rounds could he last?"

"True, let's go check it out!" Ban Deming sneered disdainfully.

He and the disciples turned into sword shadows and flew away.

...

"Bang!" A longsword plunged into the ground, scattering countless fragments.

"Tell Yang Yan to come out and fight me."

Soon enough, the Sword Sect crowd arrived.

"Come out and fight!" The others joined in the ruckus.

The Ancient Abyss Sect people, seeing the situation, sent someone in to report.

"Grandmaster Yang, the Sword Sect people are here to challenge!" A disciple rushed in.

"Let them leave, no need to cause unnecessary trouble, I still need to train!" Yang Yan seemed unconcerned.

"Ah!"

"What happened?" Yang Yan was a bit surprised.

"He injured one of our disciples and is being aggressive, demanding you to come out and fight!" Another disciple rushed in.

"Let's go see."

With that, Yang Yan went out with two disciples.

As soon as he stepped outside, he saw a disciple lying beside him, took out a jade bottle, and asked the other disciples to tend to the injured.

"Who dares to cause trouble in the Ancient Abyss Sect's camp?" Yang Yan was somewhat angry.

When he looked up, he saw Ban Deming hovering in the air, his eyes turned cold.

Yang Yan hadn't planned on intervening in the matter with Lin Zimu, after all, some matters are best resolved personally.

But he didn't expect this person to come knocking.

"I heard you've broken through to the Foundation Establishment Stage? Coincidentally, so have I."

Before he even finished speaking, Ban Deming shot directly with a sword thrust.

Forcing someone to make a move immediately.

The disciples below gasped in surprise.

Yang Yan snorted coldly, vanishing instantly.

Star Night wielded Thunderbolt Power, slashing towards Ban Deming's back.

Ban Deming had anticipated this, Yang Yan's Space Law had long been in his intelligence reports.

He turned instantly, the second movement, Plum Blossoms in Three Movements, a dance of thousands of sword blossoms.

In just the first clash, neither had gained the upper hand.

Ban Deming squinted slightly, this scenario was clearly within his expectations.

Sword Emperor's Fury, a streak of blood light across the sky, began to show its phenomenon.

This technique had already reached its initial stage compared to the previous fight with Lin Zimu, back then it showed no phenomenon.

As the most powerful move in the Sword Emperor Scripture of the Sword Sect, reaching Great Success, it exhibits three thousand miles of blood light fury, only displayed fully by Nascent Soul cultivators.

Yang Yan laughed heartily, his green robe fluttering.

Once upon a time, Sword Raising Heaven, with overwhelming divine might, cleaving Thunder Tribulation, shattering the azure sky.

Today, if Heaven remains intact, it shan't shatter all things but only your sword.

Still using that technique, the disciples who once followed Yang Yan to slay demons felt their blood boil, recalling that day: under the sky where Thunder Tribulation raged, only one man stood, relying solely on one sword, the edge pointed directly, the azure sky would shatter.

"Azure Vault Technique — Shattering Heaven!" However, now it seemed somewhat like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut!

Sword Aura collided, Ban Deming felt a wave crash over him, threatening to flip him directly to the ground.

He steeled his heart instantly, frantically surged his spiritual power, his power abruptly soared. The sword's light suddenly stretched ten feet long, if not for Yang Yan being his opponent, he might have already won.

Among contemporaries on Wandering Dragon Star, how many could withstand this? This is the Sword Sect's disciple!

Chapter 1182: The Storm Approaches

It's a pity that Ban Deming encountered Yang Yan, the Yang Yan who had achieved Perfect Foundation Establishment and Sword Raising Heaven, the Yang Yan with a Flawless Divine Body!

Today, when Yang Yan said he would shatter swords, he was intent on smashing Ban Deming's sword!

No matter how fierce you are, I can still break it with a single sword.

Yang Yan shouted loudly, his Flawless Divine Body wildly absorbing Spiritual Power, shattering the void around the sword repeatedly.

Crackling sounds!

Ban Deming felt powerless in his hand and inwardly cried, "Bad!" The sword in his hand turned into fragments. He immediately summoned a Magical Treasure to barely block it.

"Impossible, you, absolutely impossible!"

Ban Deming's face was full of disbelief.

The world knows the fearsome nature of Sword Intent, but those who truly touch this level are extremely rare.

Yang Yan did not speak; he still didn't fully understand the world's comprehension of Sword Intent.

The latter saw he didn't speak, his face twisted like a ghost; he was a Sword Dao prodigy, a signature talent of the Sword Sect!

From that first draw with Lin Zimu, he considered it a lifetime of shame, and now his sword has been shattered by someone!

He felt he had suffered the cruelest punishment in the world!

As a sword wielder, he had to use other Magical Treasures at the last moment to barely block it!

"You're strong, Saint Son Yang Yan!" Ban Deming said through clenched teeth.

"But I don't believe you can break this sword of mine!"

A flicker passed by, and Ban Deming took the sword from a disciple watching below.

"Asura rises, Mad Demon Sword!"

A powerful Evil Qi slowly emanated from Ban Deming, turning the sword's body into a mysterious black.

"Stop!" The strong sword technique was dispersed.

Ban Deming spat a mouthful of fresh blood, but compared to the aftermath of using the sword, it was far better!

An elder descended from the sky.

"Old Xu, what's going on with you?" At this time, Sect Leader Lin came out with a smile, knowing fully what had happened just now. He was completely confident in Yang Yan.

"We admit defeat!"

After saying this, he threw an exquisite bottle to Sect Leader Lin.

"Everyone, go back!" Then he led Ban Deming and the disciples away.

"Disperse, treat the injured disciples well. Yang Yan, go cultivate yourself!"

"Alright, Sect Leader."

The crowd dispersed.

...

"Impatient, doesn't understand conserving strength, quickly go rest, tomorrow morning you still have to enter the canyon."

Sect Leader Xu reprimanded, especially seeing Ban Deming use a forbidden technique, he was even more angry.

But some things, he couldn't criticize further, after all, as someone who's been through it, he understands the pain this young man is suffering!

Just hope he doesn't lose his sword wielder's heart because of it.

That evening, Yang Yan summoned Wushuang and the others for a talk.

"Tomorrow morning's action is too dangerous, make sure to stay beside me!" Yang Yan said seriously.

Witnessing Ban Deming's strength today, he couldn't help but worry about tomorrow's action.

Especially his last move, it seemed to be called Asura Sword, even Yang Yan felt a pang of fear!

"We understand, Master." The three replied.

"By the way, we saw Frost Heaven today too." Mu Qingcheng interjected.

"I saw him too, and it's evident he's giving it his all. We must strive to cooperate with him."

"Also, if we encounter others in the future, we must cooperate with them, not letting them reveal any flaws!"

"Understood, Master. We hope they can help you accomplish these missions, and we'll do our utmost to assist you." The three promised.

Yang Yan looked towards the distance, with a smile on his face.

"Sect Leader Lin, come give a speech!" The Sword Sect Leader looked at Lin An with a smile.

"No, no, let Sect Leader Xu go! The Sword Sect has always been the leader of the Ten Great Sects!"

"Haha, the future of Ancient Abyss Sect is truly limitless!"

"You're exaggerating, you're exaggerating!" Lin An yawned persistently. He absolutely couldn't go give a speech. If he did, wouldn't that mean the strength of Ancient Abyss Sect was already recognized as the head of the Ten Sects?

"Let Sect Leader Xu please!"

"Then I'll not stand on ceremony!"

Lin An smiled slightly!

This act was merely to strike a blow at Ancient Abyss Sect!

Your Ancient Abyss Sect's future might be bright, but right now you must still bow to our Sword Sect!

"Everyone is an outstanding disciple of each sect. Sending everyone out this time is to eliminate the monsters in the Land of the North Cold and remove evil for the people. We must work together, not fight amongst ourselves, and handle things cautiously."

"As the leaders of Wandering Dragon Star, the disciples of the Ten Great Sects must lead by example!"

...

Heavenly Dao Rules may change, but empty talk remains timeless.

Yang Yan shook his head helplessly.

"Alright, sects, let's set off!"

Xu Hua didn't have much mood to continue talking, after some obligatory empty talk, he directly returned to the Sword Sect's place.

After all, this journey, that person is the main act!

Upon entering, a vast snowy country, endless whiteness.

The Cold Wind pierced the skin, disciples of some smaller sects felt stabbing pains even after activating their Protective Spirit Light. Hard to imagine how the monsters inside survive!

"Yang, do you feel something's off here?" Lin Zimu flew on his sword to Yang Yan's side.

"Too quiet, right?"

"Exactly!"

"There must have been some stories here!"

Under the banner of eliminating monsters, but not a single monster has been seen along the way, don't you find it too unusual?

Moreover, because the Land of the North Cold is rarely visited, there should be more peculiar and strange things appearing.

"Better watch out!" Lin Zimu couldn't help but recall the experience of eliminating a snake with Yang Yan last time, his eyes flashing with cold light, where there's abnormality, there must be something sinister!

Lin Zimu bid farewell and left, flying on his sword to other disciples, reminding them to be cautious!

Yang Yan smiled upon hearing it, Lin Zimu, a typical worrywart!

Aren't there still Sect Leaders and elders here?

"Eliminate monsters? Perhaps we might be eliminating humans instead!" Yang Yan thought as he walked quietly, long harboring suspicions.

The disciples felt uneasy after hearing the senior brother's words and started to discuss among themselves.

Sect Leader Lin An heard the disciples' discussions and thought it best not to panic at this moment.

"Everyone, calm down, stop discussing. We have a lot of people this time, those low-level monsters will definitely flee upon seeing us."

"We must not eliminate monsters without finishing them and we're already in upheaval ourselves."

"Everyone, relax a bit, don't be too tense. For now, enjoy the scenery or discuss with your brothers and sisters to promote each other's cultivation."

"Only deeper in will the higher-grade monsters appear. If I hear any inappropriate comments again, there will be punishment according to sect rules."

No rules, no form; houses have family rules, nations have national regulations, sects have sect rules.

Seeing the Sect Leader's decree, the disciples fell silent.

After all, Lin An was known for being resolute.

But inside, he wasn't as calm as he appeared.

Chapter 1183: Finding a Way Out

After traveling on the road for a while, the people of the Ancient Abyss Sect suddenly heard a clamor ahead, accompanied by bursts of spiritual power fluctuations.

"Does it seem like someone is fighting up ahead?"

Zhuge Wushuang asked, showing a wary expression.

"Let me take a look."

With that, Lin Zimu transformed into a rainbow shadow and dashed forward.

In less than a quarter of an hour, Lin Zimu returned to report that it was the Dharma Gate and Pill Sect disputing over a Snow Leisure Grass.

"In that case, let's just go around; there's no need to get involved."

Sect Leader Lin An then ordered everyone to follow him on a detour.

Yang Yan nodded as well.

The road ahead is still long, and getting involved in other sects' conflicts now is truly not a wise choice.

"Eh? Aren't we going to compete for that Snow Leisure Grass? That's a medium-grade spirit grass."
Guoguo asked in surprise.

"How do you even know this?"

Yang Yan raised an eyebrow, looking genuinely surprised.

"I thought you only knew how to play around."

"Hey, Yang Yan, what do you mean I only know how to play? I'm also the Young Sect Leader, how could I not know these things!"

Guoguo was quite irritated by Yang Yan's words, hands on her hips.

Though she harbored admiration for Yang Yan, she was genuinely speechless at his remark.

The people around couldn't help but laugh, for Grandmaster Yang had indeed offended the Little Witch.

Many in the sect had experienced the tricks of the Little Witch Guoguo.

Even as the Grandmaster, Yang Yan may not find peace if he angers this Little Witch.

However, come to think of it, when has Yang Yan ever had peace?

"Alright, stop arguing, we should focus on the journey."

It was Elder Dugu who came to mediate.

"Competing with the two sects for a mere medium-grade Snow Leisure Grass isn't worth it." Elder Dugu shook his head with a smile.

"We're only on the outskirts of the Land of the North Cold, certainly there's better stuff inside, let them fight it out!"

Elder Dugu smiled deeper, his crafty wisdom evident.

"Disciple understands." The disciples around Elder Dugu replied.

"Let's hurry on, we can't lose the watermelon while picking up sesame seeds."

Yang Yan urged:

"If we're late, the treasures inside the Land of the North Cold might get snatched by others."

With that, everyone sped up their sword flight, ignoring those people.

However, their desire to avoid involvement didn't mean others wouldn't actively seek them out.

After all, with over 30 people from the Ancient Abyss Sect, even trying to bypass others might inevitably draw attention.

Despite their efforts to keep quiet and leave no traces, they were still noticed by the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate.

"Sect Leader Lin, you're here at the right time. Please judge impartially, isn't the Dharma Gate being unreasonable!"

On seeing the people of the Ancient Abyss Sect, the Sect Leader of the Pill Sect immediately stepped forward, pulling Lin An with indignation.

Meanwhile, the Sect Leader of the Dharma Gate also gathered, attempting to bring Lin An to their side.

Lin An truly didn't want to deal with disputes between sects.

However, when both sect leaders personally approached him to arbitrate, it was hard for him to refuse on the spot.

If avoidance is impossible, then at least make a show of diplomacy.

Thus, Lin An could only accompany with a smiling face, signaling both to calm down before slowly stating their cases.

This Snow Leisure Grass isn't particularly rare, but it is a very fine medicinal herb.

With this grass as an auxiliary material, many pills can improve in quality, which explains the competition between the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate.

Lin An listened as the two steadfastly held their own grounds, while following them to the site of their dispute over the Snow Leisure Grass.

Amidst the pristine white snow, a pure white little flower blossomed silently, its petals clear as glass, with threads of ice spiritual power emanating from the stamens.

The Snow Leisure Grass was already surrounded tightly by people from the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate, with tensions ready to explode.

Neither side willing to budge, occasional minor conflicts broke out, with some light injuries but no major battles resulting in serious casualties.

Seeing the arrival of three sect leaders together, both sides promptly ceased fighting.

Then they collectively saluted Lin An: "Greetings, Sect Leader Lin."

"No need for formalities, let's not be too distant." Lin An raised his hand, speaking warmly.

Then someone bravely reported, saying that this herb was evidently discovered by the Pill Sect first, yet the people from Dharma Gate came to snatch it. Did they think the Pill Sect was easy to bully?

The Dharma Gate people immediately retorted, saying finders keepers, and since the Pill Sect hadn't harvested it yet, the Snow Leisure Grass remained unowned.

The two sects began arguing again, neither yielding to the other. Despite fighting, their strengths matched evenly, and not even their sect leaders' words could convince the other side, hence seeking Ancient Abyss Sect as a third-party mediator.

Yang Yan watched this farce with indifference.

In this situation, helping either side would offend the other, which was quite the headache.

Thus, Lin An had no choice but to find a way to ease the dispute between the two sects.

"Alright, everyone stop fighting, let's not hurt the harmony between our sects." Lin An smiled, mediating.

"The deeper inside the Land of the North Cold, the more precious treasures lie. Fighting now only harms everyone."

"Besides, we're all here to eradicate demons; fighting over a single medicinal herb is simply counterproductive. If things get blown out of proportion, it won't be good for anyone."

"We're here to eliminate threats for the people, we can't let demons be, and first fall into internecine strife ourselves."

Lin An spoke sincerely, without taking sides, initially prioritizing the greater good, though without stating clear opinions, yet undeniably flawless.

"Your Dharma Gate is indeed being too aggressive, aren't you?"

The Sect Leader of the Pill Sect glanced at the Dharma Gate Sect Leader, smirking:

"The medicinal herb was clearly found by the Pill Sect first, you shouldn't be too excessive."

"Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, finders keepers. You know our Dharma Gate disciples were present!" the Dharma Gate Sect Leader retorted without backing down.

"Besides, you haven't harvested it yet; agreeing to split with you is already a big concession."

The two sect leaders took the lead in the commotion, so naturally the disciples from both sects began to argue.

Seeing the disciples of both sects argue so heatedly, Lin An was also helpless.

He could clearly see through the scheming of these two sect leaders.

It was nothing but wanting him to stop this fight?

In sect disputes, losing momentum must be avoided at all costs!

From the scattered words of disputes between the sects, he discerned that the entire incident started when disciples from both sects discovered the Snow Leisure Grass simultaneously.

Then it escalated into a sect conflict!

Even the sect leaders were overwhelmed, as their two sects' strengths were equal. Whoever conceded would gain a reputation for cowardice but if neither conceded, fighting over that small herb and both losing out is evidently a terrible loss!

Just then they happened to encounter Ancient Abyss Sect, clutching at a lifeline!

After all, the entire Wandering Dragon Star now knew Ancient Abyss Sect was shining, especially having a Celestial Flood Dragon Sacred Body, with limitless prospects.

As soon as Sect Leader Lin An spoke, both sect leaders could legitimately cease fighting, preserving the prestige of both sects!

Even the disciples under them couldn't see the rationale, only blaming Ancient Abyss Sect for interfering.

"I thought of a compromise. Let you first pick this Snow Leisure Grass and keep it with me. After this operation ends, we'll distribute it later." After some thinking, Sect Leader Lin said calmly.

Chapter 1184: Head-On Clash! Formidable Body

Seeing this, Lin An was rather hesitant as well. After all, everyone liked such a treasure, yet given his status he couldn't openly favor anyone. He then said, "Since there's so much dispute over who this belongs to, and the road ahead is fraught with unknown dangers, we should be conserving our strength right now. I'll keep this herb for the time being, and once this trip is over we'll decide its ownership."

Hearing this, everyone stopped arguing and voiced their agreement one after another.

Just as Lin An put the Snow Leisure Grass away, Yang Yan's brows furrowed. With a grave expression, he walked to Lin An's side and said, "Sect Leader, something's happening."

At his words, everyone grew alert and carefully scanned their surroundings. Sure enough, something was approaching through the grass to their front-left.

In an instant, everyone was in full battle formation.

After all, with the Sect Leaders of the three great sects here, plus Yang Yan and countless disciples, no ordinary creature would dare come near.

Yet whatever was in the grass was actually approaching them of its own accord, so its strength was definitely not weak.

Just as they expected, a five-meter-long giant snake burst out of the grass. Its entire body was pitch-black, a pair of wings grew from its back, and there was a white dot on its head. This serpent was called the Cold Radiance Snake.

It opened its bloody maw, spread its wings, and roared at the crowd. Some of the weaker disciples were stunned on the spot.

The crowd instantly boiled over.

"It's actually a Cold Radiance Snake, and judging by its appearance it's reached the Foundation Establishment Stage."

"Why would a Cold Radiance Snake appear on the outskirts of the Land of Extreme Cold?"

For a moment, many disciples completely lost their composure.

At this moment, the Dharma Gate Sect Leader spoke up, "This Cold Radiance Snake already has the cultivation of late Foundation Establishment. By rights, it should have transformed into human form, but for some reason it's still maintaining its true body. Looks like something has gone wrong."

Seeing that these people didn't take it seriously at all, the Cold Radiance Snake burned with fury, its massive body ramming toward the group.

Although this Cold Radiance Snake was nothing to be feared in and of itself, the disciples of the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate were both somewhat exhausted from their earlier clash, and could only keep dodging behind the disciples of the Ancient Abyss Sect.

The disciples of the Ancient Abyss Sect were not afraid either. Facing the gigantic Cold Radiance Snake, they spread out and encircled it, twenty disciples surrounding the serpent.

"Red Wind Palm!"

One disciple took the lead and launched an attack. His left hand turned scarlet, and the wind from his palm condensed into a Wind Blade, striking straight toward the Cold Radiance Snake's head.

However, the body of a late Foundation Establishment Cold Radiance Snake was as hard as solid stone; ordinary attacks couldn't break through its defense at all. Instead, that disciple was swept flying.

Fortunately, that disciple's strength wasn't weak, and this blow didn't cause him any serious harm.

Seeing this, the disciples of the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate all let out a breath of relief. The Ancient Abyss Sect still had a Saint Son. They'd heard that title more than a few times. This Cold Radiance Snake couldn't even seriously injure an ordinary disciple; as long as the Saint Son made a move, then there was Wuyou.

The disciples of the Ancient Abyss Sect immediately swarmed forward like a hive of bees. In an instant, all kinds of Cultivation Techniques and treasured swords were unleashed in succession, all landing on the Cold Radiance Snake's body.

Yet.

Although this Cold Radiance Snake wasn't posing a lethal threat to these disciples, the body of a late Foundation Establishment demonic beast simply didn't fear these techniques. It let those Cultivation Techniques and swords strike its body at will, constantly counterattacking against the disciples of the Ancient Abyss Sect. Before long, quite a few disciples had suffered minor injuries.

Seeing this, Yang Yan stepped forward of his own accord, staring straight at the five-meter-tall Cold Radiance Snake.

Being stared at by Yang Yan made the Cold Radiance Snake grow irritated. Its massive tail smashed down at Yang Yan. Yang Yan's figure flickered, dodging the blow; the ground instantly sank into a large pit.

Yang Yan quickly closed in on the Cold Radiance Snake's side, raising his fist to smash down toward the serpent's back.

The disciples of the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate all showed looks of astonishment—Yang Yan was actually planning to rely on his fleshly body alone to fight the Cold Radiance Snake!

"Dong! Dong! Dong!"

Yang Yan threw three punches. The Cold Radiance Snake actually felt pain and retreated a few meters. The pain made it lose its composure, and it took the initiative to attack. Its enormous wings swept horizontally toward Yang Yan, but Yang Yan remained utterly fearless and met it head-on.

"Dong! Dong! Dong!"

Yang Yan struck three more punches. The Cold Radiance Snake cried out in pain, cold light flashing in its mouth. A beam of white light shot from its jaws. Not daring to be careless, Yang Yan dodged to the side. The white light struck a boulder, and the boulder was instantly frozen solid.

Yang Yan kicked off the ground with both feet, soaring five meters into the air. His twin fists gathered power, then hammered down on that giant head. The Cold Radiance Snake roared, opening its bloody maw to swallow Yang Yan whole. Yang Yan snorted coldly, twisting his body, one foot stepping on the Snake Head as his fist smashed toward the wings on its back.

Accompanied by the sound of bones snapping, the wings on its back were actually broken clean off by Yang Yan's brute force!

Its body twisted as the Snake Head whipped back, slamming into Yang Yan. Yang Yan took the blow full-on and was knocked to the ground. The Cold Radiance Snake didn't give him the slightest chance to catch his breath; its massive tail smashed down again. Yang Yan hurriedly dodged, and the tail once more struck only empty air.

Seeing this, the Cold Radiance Snake pulled away, widening the distance between itself and Yang Yan. It had already felt the strength of Yang Yan's fleshly body. At first, when Yang Yan opted for close combat, it had only been scornful—just a human who had only just completed Foundation Establishment, actually daring to brawl with it, a late Foundation Establishment demonic beast.

A powerful body was the natural advantage of demonic beasts; it hadn't taken Yang Yan seriously at all. Yet the reality was that the fleshly body it prided itself on was actually inferior to this human's, and its own wings had even been brutishly broken by him.

At this moment, Yang Yan glanced at his own fists, seemingly dissatisfied with those previous blows. He then tore the clothes from his body, baring his upper torso. Bronze-colored skin was revealed. A few of the female disciples traveling with them shyly covered their eyes, yet still peeked through the gaps between their fingers.

Lin An gave a slight nod. Yang Yan was indeed a piece of fine jade waiting to be carved. He hadn't neglected the tempering of his fleshly body just because he possessed a Sacred Body. No matter how many Magical Treasures one had, they were ultimately external things. Sooner or later there would come a time when Magical Treasures could no longer be used, and when that day came, one could only rely on one's own body.

Yang Yan took the initiative, his legs driving hard against the ground. His whole person shot out like lightning. To the onlookers, all that could be seen was a blurred silhouette.

When he was three meters from the Cold Radiance Snake, Yang Yan raised his fist high. His fist, like a sandbag, carried a gale of force as it drove straight toward the Snake Head.

The Cold Radiance Snake naturally didn't dare take it head-on. Its head jerked back as its tail stabbed toward Yang Yan's right side.

The tip of its tail rang like a sharp sword, and for a moment it carried the momentum of piercing through all things under heaven!

Yang Yan twisted his body to the side. The tail tip sliced past his chest, cutting open a gash, then actually pierced straight through a boulder beside him.

Yang Yan glanced at the shattered stone on the ground, his expression tightening slightly. This Cold Radiance Snake truly had something off about it. With its strength, it should have been able to massacre those disciples who'd surrounded it earlier. Even if it couldn't kill them all, seriously injuring them would have been child's play. Yet just now it had pretended that it could only withstand their attacks by relying on its physical body. There was definitely a reason behind this.

But Yang Yan had no intention of wasting more time on it. Although there were many experts here, to prevent other unforeseen changes, he decided to end the battle quickly. Even in their earlier bout of close combat, he had yet to fully unleash the power of his fleshly body.

With that thought, he retreated a few steps, then began circulating his qi. He wanted to fully erupt with all the strength of his fleshly body. He wanted to see just how strong his body would be at full explosion!

The Cold Radiance Snake also sensed Yang Yan's aura. Cold light flashed again in its mouth, slowly condensing into a glowing sphere between its jaws. This was the Cold Radiance Snake's ultimate killing move.

Absolute Zero Seal.

This move could Ice Seal all things, leaving not a blade of grass alive for several kilometers around!

The two of them gathered their power, ready to strike!

Chapter 1185: Taking Advantage of the Opportunity

There was a thundering sound as man and beast suddenly parted.

When the crowd opened their eyes, sore from the piercing light, they saw the Cold Radiance Snake explode.

Everyone except Sect Leader Lin An was momentarily stunned.

In this battle, Yang Yan's performance indeed amazed everyone.

Especially at the moment when the Cold Radiance Snake's absolute nullification was broken, light spots fell everywhere, and Yang Yan landed gently, resembling a War God.

With just one strike, he eliminated the Cold Radiance Snake that had launched a fatal attack!

Yang Yan indeed demonstrated his prowess among the disciples of the three sects.

"Chang Yu, go and deliver some of our alchemy pills to the Ancient Abyss Sect and Dharma Gate."

The Pill Sect Leader instructed the Daoist Child beside him.

"But Master, we've consumed some during the confrontation with Dharma Gate, and if we distribute them again, we won't have any left..."

Chang Yu said, puzzled.

"Just do as I say."

The Pill Sect Leader interrupted Chang Yu.

"Yes, Sect Leader."

Then the Pill Sect Leader turned to his chief disciple, Ye Changqing, and asked:

"Changqing, why do you think the Cold Radiance Snake appeared in the middle perimeter of the Land of the North Cold?"

"Disciple doesn't know."

Ye Changqing pondered for a while but couldn't deduce the reason and replied.

"Alas, I fear this operation is far from simple."

The Pill Sect Leader seemed to have anticipated such a response and said solemnly, hands clasped behind his back.

"Sect Leader Lin, these alchemy pills are sent as per our leader's instructions."

Seeing Sect Leader Lin An inquiring about the disciples' injuries, Chang Yu stepped forward and said.

"Oh, thank you for the Pill Sect Leader's generosity!"

Lin An glanced towards the Pill Sect direction, without any pretensions, called Lin Zimu over to receive the pills.

"Sect Leader, what's the matter?"

"Zimu, distribute these pills, and keep the surplus."

Sect Leader Lin instructed.

"Yes!"

"Guo'Er, how are you? Are you alright?"

Seeing all the disciples start to recuperate, Lin An approached Guo Guoguo and asked with concern.

"Father, I'm fine. You should go check on Yang Yan first, as he was the main force!"

Guo Guoguo said and then dashed toward Yang Yan.

Sect Leader Lin An watched Guo Guoguo shake her head and also walked over to Yang Yan.

He had no worries about Yang Yan.

After all, Yang Yan had a Flawless Divine Body; even if the Cold Radiance Snake was in the late Foundation Establishment stage, it was irrelevant.

Yang Yan had eliminated quite a few cultivators in the late Foundation Establishment stage.

"Yang Yan, are you okay? No injuries, right?"

Guo Guoguo ran up to Yang Yan and began to 'check' him herself.

"I'm fine, hey, don't randomly touch!"

Yang Yan jumped to one side, avoiding Guo Guoguo by quite a distance.

"I say, Young Sect Leader Guo, are you taking the opportunity to take advantage of Wang?"

Zhuge Wushuang said slowly, arms crossed.

Guo Guoguo immediately realized, and her cheeks flushed crimson, hurriedly explaining with her head down:

"I... I didn't..."

"Haha, dare to act, but afraid to admit it? Think we didn't see it?"

Gongsun Ruyan echoed promptly.

Guo Guoguo felt even more embarrassed. Her inappropriate touch on Yang Yan's body dawned on her at the moment, and now it just sounded worse with the girls' comments.

"Yang Yan, are you okay? The Pill Sect has sent some alchemy pills; you should keep some."

Sect Leader Lin An walked over and spoke.

"Father! They're bullying me!"

Upon seeing Sect Leader Lin An, Guo Guoguo started to complain.

However, the girls clearly weren't afraid of this tactic, rolling their eyes collectively at Guo Guoguo, much to her annoyance.

"Alright, Guo'Er. Stop fooling around."

Sect Leader Lin An comforted gently.

"Thank you, Sect Leader, I'm fine."

Yang Yan cupped his hands towards the Sect Leader.

"That's good."

"Sect Leader, are these pills really that effective?"

Yang Yan asked the Sect Leader while observing the pills.

"Absolutely, these are just low-grade pills; higher-grade ones are even more coveted treasures that can save lives in crisis."

"Oh? It must be difficult to refine them, right?"

Yang Yan continued to ask.

"Indeed, it is complex. As far as I know, making pills requires herbs, a medicine cauldron, a pill formula, and special flames, among others. This is just the basics; if you're interested, you can consult the alchemists in my sect for guidance."

The Sect Leader replied.

"Thank you, Sect Leader, for the enlightenment."

Yang Yan bowed in gratitude to the Sect Leader.

Alchemy?

Could I possibly refine them?

Thinking of this, Yang Yan glanced at the Pill Sect Leader not far away.

Judging by their act of gifting pills, the Pill Sect Leader appears honorable!

Moreover, he thought, their disciples should be more adept in alchemy than the average person, and instruction from them should be beneficial.

"Wang, what are you looking at? The Sect Leader has walked far away."

Xiaocao said, waving a hand in front of Yang Yan.

"I wasn't looking at anything, let's go."

Yang Yan replied then followed the Sect Leader.

"Yes!"

Wood Grass and the other four immediately followed.

After a while, the disciples of the three sects had all recovered, and the leaders of the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate walked together towards Sect Leader Lin An, saying:

"Thanks to the Ancient Abyss Sect this time."

Dharma Gate's Sect Leader Chu Yuxian cupped his hands towards Lin An.

"Sect Leader Chu, you're too kind. Even if it wasn't us, I believe the two of you could have eliminated that Cold Radiance Snake."

Lin An cupped his hands in return.

"Sect Leader Lin has a point, but about our herb..."

Chu Yuxian suddenly brought up the matter of the Snow Leisure Grass, fearing Sect Leader Lin might forget.

"The Snow Leisure Grass will be returned to you as we agreed before once the demon-slaying operation concluded."

Hearing this, Sect Leader Chu immediately said.

"Then thank you, Sect Leader Lin."

"No problem."

"In that case, Sect Leader Lin, we will part here."

Chu Yuxian said, cupping his hands once more to Sect Leader Lin with no regard for the Pill Sect Leader standing nearby, bidding farewell.

"Well... Alright, since Sect Leader Chu has other plans, let's part ways here."

Sect Leader Lin was momentarily stunned by Chu Yuxian's abrupt departure but soon reacted.

"Farewell!"

Chu Yuxian finished speaking and led his disciples away in another direction.

"Tch! Isn't he just afraid we'll snatch his herb? We disdain to walk with them."

A disciple from the Pill Sect whispered at the back.

The words immediately resonated among the Pill Sect disciples.

"Hmph! Isn't that right? So eager to snatch our herbs; why hasn't he stepped up to eliminate the Cold Radiance Snake?"

Another disciple echoed.

"Exactly, exactly, he's been hiding at the back all along..."

Another disciple was about to continue speaking, but recoiled into silence from the Sect Leader's glare.

"Thank you, Ancient Abyss Sect, for your assistance."

The Pill Sect Leader expressed gratitude to Sect Leader Lin.

"Sect Leader Pill, you're too kind; we should thank you for the pill gift."

"Haha, Sect Leader Lin is courteous. May I ask if my Pill Sect could travel together with the Ancient Abyss Sect?"

The Pill Sect Leader promptly inquired.

"Haha, of course, that way our two sects can look out for each other."

Lin An cheerfully agreed.

"Indeed! Thank you, Sect Leader Lin!"

"No problem, no problem!"

Upon hearing the Pill Sect Leader's words, Yang Yan was quite pleased.

This way, wouldn't I have more opportunities to learn about alchemy?

Chapter 1186: Something's Not Right

As soon as the two Sect Leaders finished speaking, they led their disciples on the road.

After flying for a while, Lin An sensed someone was using telepathy to communicate with him.

"Sect Leader Lin, it's Dan Xuan."

Lin An turned his head and heard the Sect Leader of the Pill Sect, Dan Xuan, using telepathy, but in person, he still appeared as if nothing was happening and continued on the road.

Realizing the other party had something inconvenient to say aloud, Lin An replied through telepathy:

"Sect Leader Dan, what is it?"

"Sect Leader Lin, do you know the true purpose of this action?"

"This... isn't it to exterminate demons and seek treasure?"

Sect Leader Lin asked back, already calculating in his mind. After all, the Ancient Abyss Sect has already become a sect of many affairs.

"I guess it may not be so simple."

Dan Xuan replied.

"Oh? What do you mean by that?" Lin An raised an eyebrow.

"Previously, that Cold Radiance Snake, as Sect Leader Lin should know, only appears in the inner region of the Land of the North Cold, it shouldn't show up in this middle outer ring."

"From the fact that it couldn't transform into human form, there's something suspicious about this incident."

Dan Xuan said gravely.

"Please elaborate, Sect Leader Dan."

"It couldn't transform into human form, possibly due to some restriction. I suspect something might have happened there, forcing it to leave."

"..." Lin An's heart skipped a beat, not knowing what Dan Xuan meant!

The two Sect Leaders continued their secret telepathy, but since they both intentionally concealed it, others saw them as silent from beginning to end.

According to what Lin Zimu and Guo Guoguo said, Yang Yan also got a general understanding of the Pill Sect's situation.

The chief disciple of the Pill Sect is named Ye Changqing, a remarkable figure not only highly talented in alchemy but also at the top tier among the Pill Sect disciples, with cultivation at the Foundation Establishment Realm. Moreover, he has good conduct and is worth befriending.

So Yang Yan left Guo Guoguo and the others, flew to Ye Changqing's side, and started chatting with him.

"I heard that Senior Brother Ye is skilled in alchemy and has an excellent cultivation technique."

"The Saint Son overpraises me, compared to the Saint Son, we still need a lot more practice to be worthy."

After chatting for a while, the two became somewhat familiar with each other, addressing each other as "Ye Brother" and "Yang Brother."

After the conversation, Yang Yan had a preliminary understanding of Ye Changqing, confirming the opinions of others that indeed, he is someone worth befriendng.

Similarly, Ye Changqing found that although Yang Yan, as the Saint Son of the Ancient Abyss Sect, had the Heavenly Sacred Body, he was not arrogant and also wanted to become friends.

"Ye Brother, I heard that you have a deep knowledge of alchemy, may I seek your guidance?"

After getting closer to Ye Changqing, Yang Yan began inquiring about alchemy.

"Oh? I wonder which aspect Yang Brother wants to know about?"

Ye Changqing turned his head to look at Yang Yan and asked.

"Uh, well, I know nothing about alchemy, so I'll trouble Ye Brother to start from the basics."

After Yang Yan finished speaking, he showed a humble, eager-to-learn expression.

This humility made Ye Changqing feel flattered and quickly begin to explain.

"Oh, that is no problem, let me start with the basics."

"In general, alchemy is about extracting the effective medicinal power of various materials into a pill through alchemy techniques,"

"The skill of the alchemist and the quality of the pills are categorized by grade; the higher the grade, the stronger the alchemical skills. Of course, higher-grade pills are also more precious. And each grade of pills is divided into lower, middle, and upper tiers,"

"For those in alchemy, the essentials are medicinal materials, tools like medicine cauldrons and pill formulas, spiritual power for alchemy, and sufficient alchemical talent. It's actually a bit more complex than a spirit array."

Ye Changqing explained slowly.

"Oh, I heard my Sect Leader mention this before."

Yang Yan nodded and said.

"Yes, for alchemists, the most precious things are pill formulas, medicinal materials, and alchemical talent."

Ye Changqing continued.

Alchemy talent? I wonder if my Flawless Divine Body has any special talent for alchemy?

As for spiritual power, I should have enough. Judging by the materials, it seems that the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate were fighting over herbs for alchemy before.

Yang Yan thought.

"I heard the Sect Leader mention the necessity of special flames?"

Yang Yan suddenly remembered what Sect Leader Lin An had mentioned and asked.

"Yes, without flames it's impossible. Flame is also one of the spiritual powers required for alchemy, and it's the most commonly used in the field, especially some special flames of heaven and earth. More extraordinary rare alchemical spiritual powers also include forces like decomposition and fusion."

Decomposition, fusion? I wonder if my Devouring Power can come into play?

Yang Yan compared as he listened.

"What kind of flame does Ye Brother have?"

Yang Yan asked curiously.

"You're asking the right person. I happen to possess a special flame called the 'Life Spirit Flame.'"

This question hit Ye Changqing's sweet spot. As he spoke, he separated a wisp of entirely emerald-green flame from his fingertips.

"This Life Spirit Flame is considered one of the milder special flames in the Star Universe, possessing the special power to nurture plants."

Though he said so, Yang Yan clearly sensed the terrifying energy within that small wisp of flame. If this is considered mild, then the more violent ones must be terrifyingly powerful?

"Wow! Ye Brother is amazing!"

Yang Yan praised without reservation.

"I apologize, Brother Yang. However, within our sect, my second junior brother Song Qiao is the strongest in alchemy."

Ye Changqing humbly continued.

"This alchemy..."

The two chatted and walked, and Yang Yan frequently nodded, looking very teachable.

From this, Yang Yan also learned that Ye Changqing's alchemy level had already surpassed the second tier, and he owns a mid-level spiritual treasure—the Flame-Devouring Bowl—that can absorb all flame attacks.

He couldn't help but sigh that the Pill Sect indeed has profound foundations.

Yang Yan and Ye Changqing had a great conversation, unintentionally facilitating interactions among other disciples from the two sects.

"Brother, are you a disciple of the Pill Sect? Thank you for your pills, my previous injuries feel much better now!"

An Ancient Abyss Sect disciple thanked a Pill Sect disciple.

"Brother, no need to be polite. It's an order from our Sect Leader. If you want to thank someone, thank our Sect Leader."

However, that Pill Sect disciple was indifferent and replied bluntly before moving away quickly.

"Looks like the rumors are true, alchemists are really proud..."

The snubbed Ancient Abyss Sect disciple could only shake his head helplessly.

"Brother, forgive him, his temper isn't good, he speaks this way, please excuse him."

At this moment, another Pill Sect disciple came forward to explain.

"Hmm, it's no problem..."

The two sects thus continued negotiating as they traveled some distance.

"Sect Leader Lin, do you feel it? There's a spiritual power fluctuation ahead."

The Sect Leader of the Pill Sect suddenly stopped and spoke to Lin An.

"Yes, I feel it. It's probably another sect engaging in combat."

Lin An said in a deep voice.

"Let's go take a look."

With that, the two Sect Leaders, along with Yang Yan and others who also sensed the battle fluctuations, all went forward to observe.

"Sect Leader Lin, aren't those the people from the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers? What are these female disciples fighting with?"

From afar, Dan Xuan saw the group of female disciples from the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers constantly attacking a mass of fog and asked puzzledly.

"It's probably some kind of monster, and it seems a bit troublesome. They appear to be in a stalemate."

Lin An observed for a while and said.

Yang Yan also observed from a distance for a while and said, "Something is not quite right with this fog."

Chapter 1187: Mutated Snow Demon

In a large mass of dense fog, numerous snow-white bizarre creatures appeared intermittently.

Outside the dense fog, many flower petals and vines shaped by spiritual power fluttered about, enclosing the fog within.

"Damn it, why are these monsters so troublesome!"

Seeing several snow-white creatures breaking through the blockade and rushing out, several disciples of the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers immediately launched an attack without hesitation, soon reducing them to ashes.

Yang Yan wanted to get a clear look at the creatures, only to see their bodies quickly transform into white mist and return to the dense fog.

It was indeed somewhat strange.

Lin An and Sect Leader Dan Xuan moved to the side of Valley Master Hua to inquire about the situation.

"This... it seems to be a Snow Demon?"

Sect Leader Dan Xuan was somewhat puzzled. If they were truly Snow Demons, they should have been dealt with a long time ago.

Valley Master Hua said in a deep voice:

"They are indeed Snow Demons, but not ordinary ones."

"We've been fighting for so long with no avail, unable to truly eliminate them!"

The Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers ranks second among the top ten sects, just below the Sword Sect. How could these monsters be so formidable?

Sect Leader Dan Xuan squinted his eyes and observed up close for a while, saying:

"These Snow Demons' strength is only around Foundation Establishment, they are numerous, but are they really so difficult to deal with?"

Valley Master Hua glared at him and continued:

"A single Snow Demon's strength is indeed around Foundation Establishment. But what if they can't be killed, or if they resurrect after being killed?"

Sect Leader Dan Xuan was speechless, followed by Lin An who seemed to notice something, saying:

"They seem to have the ability to transfer the remaining spiritual power to their kin."

Valley Master Hua nodded, acknowledging this statement.

"These abominations should have been lurking beneath the ice cap. For unknown reasons, they have migrated out in groups. These Snow Demons are different from those we've encountered before. They seem to have undergone some mutation, making them very hard to deal with!"

"Initially, it was the Ice Spirit within these Snow Demons that caught our eye. Who knew after making a move we would discover... Alas!"

Needless to say, both sect leaders also speculated that the slain Snow Demons were absorbed by their kin, transferring energy and gradually increasing individual strength.

"You know, disciples of the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers mainly cultivate the Flower Dao, which cannot restrain these Snow Demons. At first, we could eliminate some of the weaker ones. But as it progressed, our attacks became less effective, almost unable to harm the Snow Demons."

"If I strike and defeat them, there is a worry it might quickly spawn a monster with a level higher than Golden Core. So, I must let them hold off for a while to observe and find a way to deal with them."

At that point, Valley Master Hua showed a bitter expression; the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers was truly in trouble this time.

Upon hearing, Lin An fell silent, deliberating for a moment before saying:

"The urgent task is to find out the reason behind these Snow Demons' mutations."

Having said that, his palm suddenly surged with suction power, pulling a weaker Snow Demon from the fog, confining it between the three.

"Valley Master Hua need not worry, may our two sects come to assist?"

Sect Leader Dan Xuan also expressed his stance.

"That would be excellent." Valley Master Hua gladly accepted Dan Xuan's assistance.

The three sect leaders began analyzing the specific causes of the mutations and meanwhile sent disciples from their sects to assist.

Disciples from the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers were still locked in a standstill with the dense fog, when suddenly dozens of sword shadows whistled over. Just as they instinctively turned to defend, they heard voices echoing around.

"We are your reinforcements, don't be nervous, let's fight the enemy together."

"Junior brothers and sisters, our reinforcements are here, join them in fighting the enemy!" said the leading female.

This woman was none other than the senior master sister of the Inner Sect of Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers—Baihua Fairy, who possessed an excellent Spirit Body and was now at the early stage of Foundation Establishment.

"Ye, let's compete to see who kills more Snow Demons." Yang Yan wanted to further bond with Ye Changqing.

"Sure, let's compete!" Ye wrapped himself in flames and charged into the monster group.

Yang Yan shook his head, drew the Star Night Sword, and charged in.

"Azure Vault Technique—Shattering Heaven!"

Sword flowers danced like musical notes, with each thrust came a Snow Demon's shriek!

"Watch out, Ye!" The Star Night Sword lunged forward with the voice, hitting the Snow Demon behind Ye Changqing.

He then realized there was a Snow Demon behind him, quickly moving closer to Yang Yan, standing back to back, fighting the enemy together.

"Thanks, Yang, but I killed ten, how about you?" Ye Changqing was somewhat breathless, seemingly having consumed a lot just now.

"Including that last one, only nine."

"Hahaha, looks like I won." Ye Changqing was somewhat pleased.

"Your flames are particularly effective against cold attribute monsters, nothing can be done." Yang Yan said helplessly.

"Thank you to both for your help. On behalf of the junior brothers and sisters of the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers, thank you." Baihua Fairy assumed a sword collection posture and came to thank Yang Yan and Ye Changqing.

Although she had not yet forgiven Yang Yan for his past actions towards her, the surface etiquette must not be overlooked!

"Thanks are enough, don't come so close!" Although Guo Guoguo's strength wasn't high, her speed was quite fast, immediately blocking between the two.

"I am simply expressing my gratitude without malice!" Baihua Fairy was bewildered by Guo Guoguo's actions.

"You're a big girl, keep your manners, just thank politely from a distance! Don't you agree?" Saying so, she glanced at Mu Qingcheng and Gongsun Ruyan beside her.

The four women also heard Guo Guoguo's words, saw the situation, and silently thought that the young girl was indeed jealous!

However, their hearts remained tense, as they knew nothing about the pretty woman beside Yang.

"Sorry for the inconvenience!" Baihua Fairy courteously nodded before leaving to join another side of the battle.

Yang Yan saw this situation and couldn't help but shake his head. He moved to Guo Guoguo's side, "She was just coming to express gratitude, we helped them break the encirclement, why treat her like that?"

"I don't care!" Guo Guoguo was upset at Yang Yan for scolding her.

The battle continued for over three hours. Although Yang Yan and the others gained some Ice Spirits, one Snow Demon had absorbed too much spiritual power, its strength barely surpassed Golden Core; ordinary disciples' attacks could no longer harm it.

Now, elders from the three sects had to join the battle.

The disciples temporarily ceased their attacks on the Snow Demons, stepping aside, as creating another Golden Core Snow Demon would be self-defeating.

Taking advantage of this time, Yang Yan quickly exchanged insights with Baihua Fairy, Ye Changqing, and others on their discoveries during battle, and pulled back Elder Dugu who was preparing to help.

"If we can prevent that white mist from spreading, perhaps we can stop them from merging into one." Yang Yan looked into Ye Changqing's eyes, "I noticed before that when Ye's flames killed a monster without leaving white mist, the Snow Demons nearby were unaffected, unlike earlier when their strength increased."

"Really?" Ye Changqing had to secretly admire Yang Yan's meticulous observation.

"Yang, keep going!"

"Moreover, think about it, how can a Snow Demon come into contact with another Snow Demon when one dies? Only through the snow mist!" Yang Yan suddenly smirked at Dugu.

Elder Dugu smiled, a good kid, he had already guessed what Yang Yan was going to say next.

"I must trouble Elder Dugu to set up a spirit array that can absorb the snow mist!"

Dugu nodded.

Ye Changqing suddenly realized, giving Yang Yan an additional degree of admiration.

"But why didn't I think of something so simple myself?" He thought with a bitter smile.

"However, I'm just making a guess, specifics still require discussion with the sect leaders!"

Meanwhile, the sect leaders in another location also reached the same conclusion.

Chapter 1188: Demon Vanquished, Tainted with Evil Qi

"Although we still don't understand why these Snow Demons can inherit the residual spiritual power of similar corpses, it should be as you see: these white mists are the key issue."

Seeing Yang Yan come to inquire, Lin An also informed him of the discussion results among the three Sect Leaders.

Having cracked the key to the Snow Demons' abnormal ability, Yang Yan immediately gathered Dugu, other Sect Elders, Ye Changqing, Lin Zimu, and Baihua Fairy. After briefly arranging the battle plan, they quickly dispersed and returned to combat.

"Start the battle!"

At Yang Yan's command, the scattered individuals quickly circulated their spiritual power, ready to strike.

Ye Changqing took a deep breath, and the emerald Life Spirit Flame blazed fiercely in his palm.

"Go!"

With a shout, several strands of ghostly green flame jumped out from the Life Spirit Flame in his hand, quickly diving into the mass of white mist. Suddenly, they expanded with the wind, rooting themselves on the Snow Demons and burning them to ashes in an instant.

"Well done, Ye!"

Seeing the Snow Demons turned to dust without leaving any snow mist, Yang Yan felt relieved and said.

This was the heart of the Life Spirit Flame, which was also the key to Ye Changqing's victory against the Snow Demons, leaving no snow mist!

Ye Changqing turned to smile at Yang Yan. Little did he know this slight distraction gave a giant Snow Demon, nearly at the Golden Core level, an opportunity.

The giant quickly formed a massive ice spike and hurled it fiercely at Ye Changqing.

Ye Changqing, fully focused on controlling the flame, had no energy left to dodge in time, and could only watch as the ice spike speared towards him like a breaking wind.

"Bang!" A loud noise echoed, and Yang Yan, gripping Star Night with both hands, sped over from the side with lightning speed, forcefully knocking the ice spike aside.

"Thank you, Yang!" Ye Changqing removed the emergency Life Spirit Flame Armor he had set up, and said to Yang Yan with lingering fear.

"No need to thank me, Ye." Yang Yan waved his hand nonchalantly. Then, tightly gripping Star Night again, he leveraged his power to charge at the giant Snow Demon, pressing the attack.

"Azure Vault Technique: Shattering Heaven!"

A strike shattered the ice crystals the Snow Demon casually threw, and Yang Yan wielded Star Night to slash at the Snow Demon's huge arm shielding its head.

"Azure Vault Technique: Fengduan!"

Star Night, trailing a starlight, hacked down viciously on the Snow Demon's arm.

However, Star Night felt like it was hitting cotton, leaving merely a scratch before being halted by a soft force, unable to penetrate further.

"Ha! You plan to use soft force to defend against the hard?"

Yang Yan's eyes flashed with a sharp gleam, and he uttered two words:

"Devour!"

The soft force suddenly had no effect on Star Night, and Yang Yan seized the opportunity to exert force, cleaving the Snow Demon's arm entirely!

"Roar!" The Snow Demon roared in pain.

The severed arm immediately transformed into a large mass of snow mist upon landing, and it quickly attempted to re-enter the Snow Demon's body.

Not willing to let it succeed after barely injuring it, Yang Yan instinctively called for Elder Dugu and at the same time, wrapped Star Night in thick Devouring Power, plunging it into the snow mist to prevent its return.

"Ha ha, leave it to me!"

Elder Dugu waved his robes, and a Spirit Array he had long prepared flew out, enveloping the snow mist. It acted like a vacuum cleaner, sucking all the snow mist into the array.

"Grandmaster Yang, behold, this is the most basic Devouring Spirit Array, also called Devouring Array. It can devour ownerless objects, but one must reach Qi Cultivation level three to resist its devouring power."

Since Elder Dugu decided to pass on his knowledge to Yang Yan, he seized every opportunity to teach Yang Yan about Spirit Arrays, even amidst battle.

Yang Yan was speechless when a strong sense of danger suddenly surged, prompting him to execute a Small Shifting technique and move tens of meters away, looking back to see another giant hand of the Snow Demon overhead.

Had he been any slower, he would certainly have been severely injured.

The giant hand still hung in midair, and upon closer inspection, it was bound by several massive vines summoned by Baihua Fairy and a few elders, along with a group of Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers disciples, stopping its descent.

Seeing Yang Yan teleport tens of meters away in an instant, Baihua Fairy was momentarily stunned and said somewhat awkwardly:

"I didn't expect Saint Son Yang to have such great body technique, we really acted unnecessarily."

Noticing it was the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers attempting to rescue him, Yang Yan's attitude noticeably cooled.

At this moment, a wave of green fire suddenly surged out from the side, instantly engulfing the Snow Demon, seemingly indicating Ye Changqing had rejoined the battle after recovering for a while!

At this moment, the Snow Demon, now clad in a layer of green fire film, went completely mad, screeching deafeningly as it lunged at Ye Changqing.

However, after severely injuring the Snow Demon, Ye Changqing's face turned pale, indicating that the use of this move was also exceedingly exhausting for him.

"Protect the senior disciple!"

"Cover for the senior brother!"

The elders and disciples of the Pill Sect quickly positioned themselves in front of Ye Changqing, while some went to contain the rampaging Snow Demon.

It's worth noting, previously Yang Yan had swiftly intercepted an attack aimed at Ye Changqing, ensuring their precious senior disciple remained unharmed. If Ye Changqing were to suffer any injury right under their noses again, they would indeed be culpable.

"I implore everyone to join me in exterminating this demon!"

Seeing the Snow Demon fall into a disadvantage, the crowd was inspired, each fervently launching another round of attacks against it.

"Contain it, while I use the third-level Devouring Spirit Array to obliterate it!"

Elder Dugu suddenly shouted, his palms swiftly flipping hand seals, dazzling the eye. Subsequently, hundreds of bright magic points shot out, swiftly forming a sizable spirit array above the Snow Demon.

"Devouring Spirit Array, devour!"

As the spirit array began slowly operating, certain parts of the Snow Demon below started showing signs of instability! Pieces of its skin began transforming into snow mist being absorbed into the array, as a significant portion of the Snow Demon actually belonged to others!

"Grandmaster Yang, this is the third-level Devouring Spirit Array, otherwise known as...one must reach Foundation Establishment cultivation to escape this array."

Elder Dugu proudly introduced it to Yang Yan.

However, more than the array itself, Yang Yan was intrigued by Elder Dugu's technique in setting it up.

With Ye Changqing's Life Spirit Flame suppression, and Yang Yan along with other elders and disciples delivering the final blows, the Snow Demon couldn't hold on any longer and finally toppled over, then was thoroughly dissected and absorbed into the array.

As the Snow Demon was completely annihilated, the disciples, after exhaling a sigh of relief, couldn't help but cheer.

This time, they witnessed just how terrifying the strength of Golden Core cultivation could be. And this was merely defensive and life force capabilities, if it involved Daoist techniques of the same level, the outcome would be quite different.

Afterwards, the Pill Sect didn't forget to seize "compensation" from the now-dissolved Snow Demon. It was impossible for a creature of such cultivation not to contain some treasures within.

Hence, Sect Leader Dan Xuan led the entire sect in the envious and surprised stares of disciples from the other two sects, successfully refining the snow mist extracted from the Devouring Spirit Array into Ice Spirit and distributed it among everyone after negotiating with the two Sect Leaders.

The disciples were immersed in the joy of acquiring treasures, all relaxing their vigilance. Only Yang Yan, after habitually inspecting these Ice Spirit, discovered a trace of evil qi within.

Although unsure what exactly this qi signified or the consequences of absorbing it, better safe than sorry, Yang Yan decided to inform Sect Leader Lin An of the abnormal situation.

Lin An listened then stroked his chin and remarked:

"Given this, it's highly likely the Snow Demon was infected by something, leading to its mutation. The previous Cold Radiance Snake also behaved strangely, I suspect these demonic creatures were all contaminated..."

Thus, Lin An adopted Yang Yan's suggestion and ordered the temporary isolation of these Ice Spirit within the sect.

Then Lin An and Yang Yan shared their concerns with the other two sects.

Dan Xuan, being an alchemist, is always exceptionally sensitive to the composition of all things. He had not detected anything unusual during the refining of these Ice Spirit, hence he was somewhat skeptical upon hearing the words from Yang Yan and Lin An.

But on second thought, the Ancient Abyss Sect had no reason to deceive them, so he accepted Lin An's proposal, planning to address the issue further upon returning.

Later, the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers declined the Ancient Abyss Sect's invitation, opting to travel independently.

A group of male disciples from the Ancient Abyss Sect had been eagerly anticipating the journey alongside numerous beauties from the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers, but now, faced with dashed hopes, each lamented and sighed.

These disciples were unaware that the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers once participated in besieging the Ancient Abyss Sect.

On the surface, the two sects appeared harmonious, united in eliminating the demon. Only those familiar with the situation could sense Yang Yan's ire towards them. Hence, they could never have the face to travel alongside the Ancient Abyss Sect.

"Hey, hey, hey, how long does it take to say goodbye? Isn't there an awfully lot of chatter?"

Baihua Fairy was bidding farewell to Yang Yan, suddenly interrupted by Guo Guoguo.

"Yang Yan, let's go, the Sect Leader...has some matters to discuss with you!"

Guo Guoguo rolled her eyes, pulling Yang Yan to fly back, not forgetting to jest at Baihua Fairy:

"Don't just stand there, behaving like it's the final farewell..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Yang Yan was whisked away by this Little Witch.

Chapter 1189: The Pill Sect's Past Affairs

"Alright, everyone find a suitable place and take a break."

Not long after the people from the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers departed, the Ancient Abyss Sect and Pill Sect also halted their progress. Instead, the sect leaders of both sects ordered a pause for the journey.

The decision was just given, and the disciples of both sects were somewhat puzzled. People from the Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers had already left first, why are we pausing the treasure hunt?

After a round of murmurs among the disciples of the two sects, they finally sent their senior disciples Lin Zimu and Ye Changqing to represent them and raised their doubts to the sect leader respectively:

Disciples within the sect are not tired yet, their physical strength is sufficient to continue; wouldn't this pause make us fall behind?

The two sect leaders exchanged smiles and simultaneously looked at Yang Yan.

After all, it was his suggestion.

Yang Yan had long sensed something indescribably off but couldn't pinpoint the issue, hence he proposed a pause to observe changes and clear his thoughts.

But it was just a feeling, he couldn't be sure, naturally he couldn't say he called for a halt because he didn't understand the situation.

But since the question was raised, Yang Yan had to provide a persuasive reason.

Fortunately, he had already considered this issue thoroughly during his discussion with the sect leaders.

So, amid the puzzled gazes of the disciples, Yang Yan leapt onto a nearby high ground and explained:

"Everyone has seen that currently we are only in the outskirts, yet already encountered monsters that require our Ancient Abyss Sect, Pill Sect, and Valley of Ten Thousand Flowers to work together to handle."

"And that's just the outskirts; it's uncertain what level of creatures will appear once we enter the inner circle. Therefore, it's best to take a break now and adjust our condition to be ready for the challenges ahead."

Many disciples nodded in agreement and didn't dispute it, though some untimely voices of doubt emerged:

"With this halt, aren't we afraid of letting other sects surpass us? Won't we be leaving the treasures inside to others?"

Upon hearing this, many disciples began to waver and were caught in dilemma.

Seeing his persuasion take effect, that person was about to feel proud but saw Yang Yan smiling and looking at him with a gaze of compassion for his foolishness.

"You have to be alive to take it, don't you..."

Yang Yan said with a cold smile, then swept his gaze over the disciples of the two sects, and said:

"Does anyone here still think there's a sect that can proceed alone afterward?"

"Even if they manage to seize treasures, they will inevitably pay a price; why should we become the vanguards?"

"It's better to let them take the risk first, then we can follow and reap the benefits."

Now, finally no disciple posed any more doubts.

After reaching a consensus, the disciples of the two sects began to set up the resting area.

On the Ancient Abyss Sect's side, Elder Dugu directly arranged a simple Level-One Spirit Array, which only serves as an alarm if there are intrusions.

The disciples also took out spiritual treasures for area defense, quickly clearing the grounds and started resting.

Although currently the Ancient Abyss Sect and Pill Sect are on good terms, they haven't reached a stage where they are inseparable, hence they rest separately.

Nevertheless, some privately amicable disciples from both sects seized the chance for exchange, contributing to the promotion of relations between the two sects.

Guoguo was interested in Pill Sect disciples' spiritual treasures and enthusiastically approached to inquire and identify them. Knowing she was the Young Sect Leader of the Ancient Abyss Sect, the disciples of the Pill Sect, although somewhat annoyed by Guoguo's temperament, had to accommodate her.

Meanwhile, Yang Yan also took the opportunity to converse further with Ye Changqing.

When asking about the relationship between the Pill Sect and Dharma Gate, Ye Changqing helplessly shook his head, covering up the initial trace of disdain he showed, and said:

"This Dharma Gate has no feud with my Pill Sect, but their attitude towards people and matters is truly annoying; many disciples look down on each other."

"Just like what Yang Yan saw earlier, that Snow Leisure Grass was discovered by me and some disciples first, and just as one disciple was about to pick it, a squad from Dharma Gate jumped in!"

Upon hearing this, Yang Yan couldn't help but inwardly criticize.

Though whoever talks about this feels justified, if it had happened to him, he would have been fighting for it without a word.

"However, between our two sects, there are just minor conflicts. It's the Yizheng Sect that is deeply despised by everyone in our sect."

The ensuing narrative from Ye Changqing provided unexpected information to Yang Yan.

Elder Dugu only informed him that Wandering Dragon Star holds the Immortal Cultivation Conference every ten years to select talents for the Dao Sect, but did not mention there is a pre-selection Sect Conference held before the Immortal Cultivation Conference.

Only the young generation that excels in the Sect Conference gets the eligibility to participate in the Immortal Cultivation Conference.

And in the Sect Conference seven years ago, Pill Sect's leading disciple was murdered by Yizheng Sect contrary to the rules of the conference, losing the chance to participate in the Immortal Cultivation Conference.

From then on, the two sects harbored deep resentment towards each other.

But considering the Immortal Cultivation Conference was approaching at that time, and their own lack of strength, Sect Leader Lin Xuan braved the inner hatred and refrained from seeking vengeance.

They naturally didn't accept the hypocritical compensation offered by Yizheng Sect, choosing to endure humiliations and await revenge.

Fortunately, the internal unity of Pill Sect managed to remain intact amidst the upheavals, understanding the actions of their sect leader.

However, during the last Immortal Cultivation Conference, a disciple from Yizheng Sect joined Dao Sect and Yizheng Sect received rewards from Dao Sect, further growing stronger, making revenge even more elusive.

Hearing the disgraceful deeds of Yizheng Sect, Yang Yan sighed repeatedly, then spat out word by word:

"Yizheng Sect, huh! Hmph, I wouldn't forget what they did to me and the four swords."

"What happened?"

"Never mind..."

Just as Yang Yan responded, he felt the ground began to shake slightly, and increasingly violently.

The Spirit Array set up by Elder Dugu started to alert, waking up the resting disciples on the ground.

"What's happening? Is this ice field going to... collapse?"

One awakened disciple shouted in alarm.

"No way... How could this happen?"

The disciples of the two sects started discussing anxiously, perplexed by the sudden situation.

The sect leaders, elders, Lin Zimu, Yang Yan, Ye Changqing, and other leading disciples managed to remain calm, analyzing the situation.

"I didn't sense any spiritual power fluctuations underground; is the geological structure really changing?"

After sensing, Elder Dugu said.

"No. If you look closely, the tremor is coming from that direction."

"Moreover, there are indeed no spiritual power fluctuations; it seems like a normal external force."

As an alchemist, Pill Sect's sect leader Dan Xuan's perception of the external world is naturally more acute than those of the same level.

Before the elders of the two sects could speak to stabilize the disciples' emotions, Guoguo's loud order was heard:

"Why panic! Aren't you supposed to be the elites of the sect? If the ground collapses, can't you just fly up?"

The Young Sect Leader can indeed lead in a crucial moment!

Oh right, as long as they fly up, there's no issue!

Those agitated disciples heard this and felt embarrassed, immediately flying into the air.

Looking in the direction pointed out by Sect Leader Dan Xuan, they saw the snow dust churning on that horizon, as if there was a fairly large group of people and horses storming towards them, causing the ground vibrations.

Chapter 1190: Conflict Arises

Seeing this setup, everyone from the two sects was on high alert.

"Wow, could it be we've encountered a polar storm?"

Someone exclaimed while observing the mighty phenomenon in the distance.

"Are you blind or stupid? Storms come from above, can't you see something is coming from the ground over there?"

"..."

After witnessing the cause of such a commotion, disciples from both sects began to speculate about the approaching entity.

"They're getting closer!"

Seeing this, everyone instinctively tightened their grip on their weapons.

As those entities from Yuanfang approached closer, an elder identified the group in the front rushing forward:

"Those seem to be Sword Sect disciples."

"Looks like they're in some trouble!"

Elder Dugu squinted and smiled.

Ye Changqing and Lin Zimu looked towards the large group of monstrous creatures following the Sword Sect disciples, and then Ye Changqing calmly said:

"The ones chasing them should be Poisonous Cold Spiders."

Lin Zimu noticed Yang Yan's puzzled expression and explained:

"They are a species of spider demon beasts, containing extremely cold and poisonous venom. Who knows how they got themselves into such trouble."

Yang Yan asked, "What, are these monsters strong?"

Guo Guoguo approached and said, "If only you paid more attention! These spider demons individually aren't much, but they usually move in swarms, their strength lies in their terrifying numbers!"

"I bet this Sword Sect got themselves tangled with these spider demons, strength doesn't help when you're outnumbered!"

Guo Guoguo said gloatingly.

As the spider swarm approached, the previous alarming sounds that woke the disciples grew more terrifying, resembling boulders rolling down a mountain, roaring.

"Hey, why are there only a few disciples among those people, where's their Sect Leader and elders?"

"They probably got separated, leaving these unlucky ones behind! You know, once these spider swarms target their enemy, they won't stop!"

"Good thing we paused here for a while, just like our Grandmaster said!"

"Haha, those Sword Sect disciples are in for it now!"

Upon hearing these discussions from Ancient Abyss Sect disciples, Yang Yan, who was focused on that group, furrowed his brows and muttered to himself:

"Why is he also in there..."

Other four swords floated to Yang Yan's side, merely saying: "King..."

Yang Yan slightly nodded and whispered:

"Don't reveal yourselves later."

The three leaving swords from the ten swords of Frost Heaven were also among those fleeing Sword Sect disciples!

Ancient Abyss Sect disciples were still gloating and discussing when suddenly a shout was heard:

"Oh no, they're coming towards us!"

"Hey, they really are!"

Next, Guo Guoguo snapped:

"What's the fuss! There are so many of us, of course they can see us!"

Those disciples who were gloating earlier suddenly looked distressed, lamenting:

"Oh—how did we get dragged into this!"

Yang Yan informed Sect Leader Lin An that Frost Heaven was also among them, then went along to discuss with Pill Sect's Sect Leader.

"Looks like the trouble now involves not just them, but us too."

Elder Dugu chuckled wryly.

Inside Pill Sect, an elder observed for a while, then said:

"These spider demons have power around the Foundation Establishment Stage, though they are numerous, with the combined strength of our two sects, we can eliminate them!"

Sect Leader Dan Xuan shook his head and said:

"It's not worth it, even if we win it's a waste of effort."

Sect Leader Lin An agreed:

"Although they need to be exterminated, they haven't gone out to harm people, so there's no need to destroy them."

"Let's temporarily retreat for now!"

Others nodded in agreement with Sect Leader Lin An's decision.

"In name, different sects should assist each other, so we'll help those disciples from the Sword Sect, thus making Sword Sect owe us a favor."

After Lin An spoke and seeing no objections, he launched the Wandering Dragon Boat, ordering disciples to board.

Though Sect Leader Dan Xuan was a bit confused, he didn't question much and also launched Pill Sect's Wandering Dragon Boat, preparing to relocate.

Lin An was notified by Yang Yan that Frost Heaven was among them, hence made this plan.

After taking in the fleeing Sword Sect disciples aboard, Ancient Abyss Sect also left the place by boat.

The Wandering Dragon Boat's speed was naturally faster than Sword Flight, soon leaving the spider swarm far behind.

As the leading sect among the top ten, Sword Sect's disciples are typically proud, and now, effectively under others' protection, they had to swallow their pride.

However, due to the mutual exclusivity between the two sects' disciples, the boat's atmosphere became awkward at times.

These Sword Sect disciples, except when boarding and expressing thanks, maintained stern faces the rest of the time, visibly uncomfortable.

Later, some Ancient Abyss Sect disciples complained about missing treasure opportunities due to accommodating these Sword Sect disciples, nearly causing a conflict.

Fortunately, with Guo Guoguo's straightforward "mediation," both sects' disciples submitted.

"Hmph, if not for our Sect Leader's generosity, we would've kicked you off already!"

Seeing disciples from his own sect stirring trouble, Guo Guoguo swung her long whip and disciplined the disciple, causing shock in disciples from both sects.

This Little Witch Guo Guoguo's fame seemed destined to spread far and wide.

This girl, at just the seventh layer of Qi Cultivation, could subdue disciples at the eighth and ninth layers, making Yang Yan see her in a new light.

Yet, the calm between the sects didn't last long before more substantial disputes arose.

This time, even Guo Guoguo got involved.

The trigger was indeed Frost Heaven, who joined Sword Sect.

Upon being recognized by former acquaintances from Ancient Abyss Sect, Frost Heaven openly admitted joining Sword Sect.

It's easy to imagine the shock and anger among Ancient Abyss Sect disciples witnessing this.

"I thought you were just wild and disliked, I didn't expect you to betray the sect!"

"Why did you join Sword Sect? Weren't we treating you well enough at Ancient Abyss Sect?"

"I knew it, you guys are all ungrateful wolves!"

Ancient Abyss Sect's disciples were furious, shouting and roaring as if they were about to act.

The endless curses and mocking words constantly surrounded Frost Heaven's ears, yet he seemed unaffected, lightly responding:

"Everyone has their ambitions, after some experience, I felt Ancient Abyss Sect wasn't suitable for me, isn't it allowed to leave?"

Frost Heaven's reasonable argument incited public outrage among Ancient Abyss Sect disciples, mixing disdainful and insulting looks thrown at him, even prompting some to charge at him.

Guo Guoguo directly sought Sect Leader to complain, urging him to capture Frost Heaven for his betrayal.

Yet, other Sword Sect disciples couldn't sit idly as Frost Heaven, who joined Sword Sect, was besieged and also retaliated:

"Clearly it's your Ancient Abyss Sect's skills that can't keep people, how can you blame others?"

"Hmph, how amusing, Brother Cui is already one of Sword Sect's, want to snatch people?"

"..."

Both sides grew increasingly tense because of Frost Heaven, and the atmosphere became more heated.