

Powerful 1241

Chapter 1241: The Fox Borrows the Hu Wei's Authority

This is...

The Cold Flood Dragon's cry of pain!

What's going on?

Only after quite a while did his pain-wracked eyes gradually regain vision, and he finally saw what was in front of him clearly.

He saw the Cold Flood Dragon curled up in front of Yang Yan, shivering.

The other four great beasts were also all prostrated on the ground, their bodies trembling as if utterly drained.

This scene truly made everyone present's eyeballs almost pop out.

The five great beasts that had been so ferocious and overbearing just now were now all lying prone on the ground, shivering before one man...

In broad daylight, what the hell kind of ghostly sight is this?!

Many people thought their eyes had been dazzled by that blinding light earlier. They rubbed their eyes hard and opened them again.

Only, the result was destined to disappoint them.

Everything was so real there was simply no room for refutation.

"Senior brother, pinch me. I... I'm not dreaming, am I?!"

"Could Saint Son Yang Yan be a Celestial God descended to earth? The ten Sect Leaders couldn't do it, but Yang Yan did it as easily as flipping his hand."

...

Even the Soul-devouring Tiger couldn't help grumbling, "Huh? Since when did my Yan get so damn awesome! These guys actually all knelt down in front of him?"

They were silent for a long, long time before everyone finally snapped out of their shock, all staring wide-eyed and dumbfounded at Yang Yan.

Not to mention the others, even Yang Yan himself spaced out for a moment before he finally forced himself to come back to his senses.

He sank his mind inward to check his own condition, and only then did he faintly notice the clue.

Turned out, the Black and White Life Seal Nascent Void had given him last time were still floating in his body, only a bit dimmer.

Right now, Yang Yan finally heard the Cold Flood Dragon's Telepathy: "M-my lord, this lowly one did not know my lord was here. I have offended you in many ways, I beg my lord's forgiveness."

Yang Yan looked at the Cold Flood Dragon and the four other great beasts prostrated before him, shivering, his expression odd, but he couldn't help wanting to laugh inside.

Although he didn't understand why the Cold Flood Dragon and the four beasts were so respectful to him, Yang Yan knew all of this was caused by the Black and White Life Seal Nascent Void had given him.

Right now, however, he had no choice but to completely revise his view of Nascent Void and finally grasp the might of a Sacred Artifact on a deeper level.

Even a Cold Flood Dragon at the Golden Core pinnacle, faintly touching an even higher realm, was terrified of a Sacred Artifact that was partially damaged. One could imagine how terrifying a Sacred Artifact's power was.

But when he thought about it, he could accept it.

On the whole Wandering Dragon Star, Sacred Artifacts were simply unseen—at least on the surface, no one knew of any.

Of course, that was excluding Nascent Void that they saw this time in the Demon Cave.

Thinking of this, Yang Yan couldn't help letting out a sigh.

He had once thought that after a few more years he might grow into the supreme powerhouse of Wandering Dragon Star. Now that he thought about it, that was truly laughable.

In the end, he was nothing but a frog at the bottom of a well.

Leaving Wandering Dragon Star, how vast was the outside world, how exciting was the Jianghu... Yang Yan knew nothing of any of that, so what right did he have to talk about asking the peak of the Martial Dao and calmly watching the rise and fall of the world?

Yang Yan silently swore that in this life he would definitely break out of Wandering Dragon Star, roam the boundless cosmos, ask the peak of the Martial Dao, become a Star Universe Great Power, and truly control his own life.

"You all can leav—" Yang Yan hurriedly changed his wording mid-sentence, "You all get up and walk around a bit."

At first Yang Yan had wanted to let them leave, but on second thought he felt that would be way too wasteful.

Since they feared him so much—or more precisely, feared the Lifebound Seal Talisman Nascent Void had given him—then why not make good use of it!

Powerhouses like these as enforcers were something you could only run into by pure luck.

If he just let them go like this, wouldn't that be way too wasteful?

"Wandering Dragon Star is about to fall into chaos. Are you willing to help me pacify the disaster and restore peace to this land?" Yang Yan sent Telepathy to the five beasts, deliberately putting on an old and seasoned air.

"Willing, willing, we are willing..."

The Cold Flood Dragon took the lead to agree in a hurry, afraid that if this lord in front of it got unhappy, it would die on the spot and everything would be over.

Seeing this, Yang Yan was overjoyed.

On the surface though, he stayed calm, posing as some lofty expert, making the Void-Devouring Tiger who knew his bottom line grind its teeth.

This really was a petty man getting his way!

The way he pretended to be all high and mighty—if you didn't know what was really going on with this guy, you'd really be fooled by him.

Others might not know, but it couldn't be clearer.

After all, it was also a member of the Void-Devouring Tiger Race. Having its own clan's Sacred Artifact Lifebound Seal Talisman used by someone else to put on a show, there was no way it could be feeling good about that.

Still, even though it was displeased, the situation was stronger than the tiger, and it had no choice but to endure for now.

Yang Yan subduing the five beasts, in truth, was also a big boon for it.

After all, it had already formed a contract with Yang Yan.

They truly shared honor and disgrace, prospered and suffered together.

Now that Yang Yan had taken in five powerful underlings in one go, that meant it had gained five super helpers as well.

To take a step back, if those five had kept pressing the attack relentlessly, the two of them really wouldn't have had any way to deal with it.

In the end, they might really have been wiped out by them.

Since they could turn hostility into friendship so easily, why not?

"Then I'll be relying on everyone from now on."

Yang Yan forcibly suppressed his excitement and spoke in an even tone.

He was thinking that with the five beasts backing him from now on, there would probably be no one left on Wandering Dragon Star who could stand against him.

At least, on the surface that would be the case.

The five beasts all rose and moved to stand behind Yang Yan. Their former ferocity was gone without a trace; they stood respectfully, making everyone's jaws drop.

One man in front, five great beasts behind—such a luxurious lineup had no second on Wandering Dragon Star as it was now.

If everyone knew that the meek little tiger that had always been at Yang Yan's side was also an expert whose strength had reached the peak of the Foundation Establishment Stage, with considerable insight into the Path of Space, their expressions would definitely be even more colorful.

Silence—

The scene was deathly still.

Other than the howling wind and snow and faint breathing, there was nothing else.

"Yang Yan, what... what on earth is going on?!" After a long while, Lin An finally spoke, breaking the silence, looking at Yang Yan in utter confusion.

In an instant, everyone present shifted their focus to Yang Yan, quietly waiting for his answer.

Being stared at like this, Yang Yan felt a bit embarrassed and didn't know where to start. After organizing his thoughts a little, he slowly said, "It's all because a friend of mine knows them."

As soon as he said this, everyone sucked in a sharp breath.

What?

Did they hear that right...

Just because a friend of his knew the five great beasts, these five beasts were that respectful to a Cultivator at the Foundation Establishment Realm?!

Then who exactly was this friend!

This person could actually make a Cold Flood Dragon with half a foot stepped into the Golden Core Realm and the five great beasts at early Great Golden Core Realm be this terrified just from seeing Yang Yan, their "friend."

Yang Yan hadn't expected those words to cause such a stir and quietly laughed to himself.

Looks like, in this world of the law of the jungle, in the end you really still need your own strength to have deterrence!

But with so many experts around him now, it wouldn't be a problem for him to strut sideways across Wandering Dragon Star where no Grandmaster existed.

Chapter 1242: An Aura Like a Rainbow

Yang Yan knew very well that the matter of the Nascent Void Lifebound Seal Talisman must never be mentioned.

Not to mention that letting people know there is a Sacred Artifact on Wandering Dragon Star would stir up a bloody storm and potentially disturb the Nascent Void, affecting its ability to suppress evil creatures.

The key is, "an innocent man harbors a treasure, and he will become guilty because of it."

If people learned he carried a Sacred Artifact's Lifebound Seal Talisman, wouldn't he become the target of everyone?

Though there were five formidable beasts guarding him, open threats are easy to defend against, while hidden ones are hard to evade. Who knows if there are people around him eyeing him covetously?

The main concern is the five formidable beasts around him. On the surface, leading five Golden Core Realm experts looked immensely illustrious, but Yang Yan knew better than anyone, once the five beasts knew the Nascent Void was weak and could not disengage, his own life would also be in danger.

Now, he was only borrowing the Nascent Void's prestige to act powerful. If any sign of weakness was shown, it would lead to self-destruction, dying without a burial place.

After quite some time, everyone finally started discussing, expressing surprise. Looking at Yang Yan, their eyes were full of envy.

At this moment, the sect leaders finally understood the situation before them and stepped forward to offer congratulations.

"Congratulations to the Ancient Abyss Sect on gaining new power, and congratulations to Saint Son Yang Yan on forming new alliances."

"It's much to celebrate that the Ancient Abyss Sect will unite the Wandering Dragon Star today!"

"Sect Leader Lin, Saint Son Yang Yan, why not seize this joyous occasion to form an alliance with the strong on Wandering Dragon Star?"

...

The sect leaders' flattery and goodwill were undisguised.

Whether they originally had friendly relations with the Ancient Abyss Sect or had conflicting interests, they now all had to bow their heads.

After all, circumstances outweighed individuals.

Yang Yan's power was at its peak now; no one dared to challenge his sharpness.

It's said that when one person attains the Dao, even their closest rise to the heavens.

Yang Yan is a disciple of the Ancient Abyss Sect, and his strength naturally elevates the sect's status.

If the Ancient Abyss Sect only showed signs of becoming the top of the ten sects before, Yang Yan's rise confirmed it as the rightful leader among them.

Those who initially intended to cause trouble restrained their intentions, realizing the Ancient Abyss Sect's unparalleled supremacy and could only yield and compromise!

It was the emergence of the exceptional genius Yang Yan in the Ancient Abyss Sect they blamed.

Not only did he possess the once-in-a-millennium Celestial Flood Dragon Saint Body, with exceptional talent, but countless miracles also occurred with him.

Crucially, he had a mysterious friend, whose exact nature remained unknown.

Even those who disliked him the most had no thought of opposing him.

As for certain high-level sect members, originally intending to nip the prodigy Yang Yan in the bud, they dared not even entertain that idea now.

Yang Yan did not find the change in everyone's attitude surprising.

Even without considering Lin An and the other powerful members of the Ancient Abyss Sect, Yang Yan, along with the Ten Swords and the five formidable beasts, could sweep across the entire Wandering Dragon Star.

Yang Yan smiled slightly, shook his head, and said calmly, "Everyone, please be assured that no matter how strong the Ancient Abyss Sect becomes, we will adhere to our founding principles and will never swallow other sects or suppress them by force. However..."

Yang Yan paused, exuding a powerful aura.

As he glanced around, everyone lowered their heads, not daring to meet his gaze.

Finally, his eyes lingered briefly on Yizheng Sect and Lingying Sect, before continuing:

"If they don't offend me, I won't offend them. If they offend me, I will surely eliminate them!"

With these words, some people were unsteady, fearful, and anxious, fearing they might become Yang Yan's target.

Some wanted to plead but couldn't bring themselves to lose face.

After all, they were Golden Core Realm experts themselves.

The atmosphere became quite peculiar, with some rejoicing while others were fearful.

"There's no need for everyone to be so tense. In the future, we hope to have your support!"

Yang Yan smiled gently, a stark contrast to his earlier seriousness.

Only then did everyone relax, having thought Yang Yan might use this to make a big fuss and eliminate the dissenters.

At first, Yang Yan had also considered whether to directly eliminate those who had opposed him before, to resolve his grievances.

But upon reflection, he dismissed the idea.

If it were in the past with a significant discrepancy in strength, Yang Yan would certainly seize the opportunity to eliminate the opposition and forestall future troubles.

As people stand at different heights, their mindsets naturally differ.

Yang Yan now stood at the pinnacle of Wandering Dragon Star.

Without relying solely on his strength, just by the power he currently possessed, there was none to rival on Wandering Dragon Star.

Yet Yang Yan hoped soon to stand at this height purely by his strength, without relying on others' abilities.

"Now that things are settled, everyone, please rest well, and once we've recuperated, we'll head for the center of the Land of the North Cold,"

Seeing Lin An unwilling to speak further and giving him the stage, Yang Yan did not stand on ceremony and spoke directly.

Now, the weight of his words probably far exceeded that of Lin An, and he naturally took the responsibility.

Everyone had their own thoughts, dispersed, set up camps, and began to recuperate.

The five sect leaders were significantly injured, but with the Pill Sect present, their injuries weren't so troublesome given full treatment.

Still, healing takes time, as illness recedes like unspooling silk.

At night, the cold wind howled, and snow filled the sky.

Yang Yan stood solemnly by the blazing bonfire, with a carefree Void-Devouring Tiger lying on his shoulder, sleeping soundly after being full and satisfied.

Beside him were the five newly subdued formidable beasts, all standing respectfully.

The ability of the five beasts to advance consecutively in a short time intrigued Yang Yan.

"Cold Flood Dragon, there is something I don't understand. Could you enlighten me?" Yang Yan telepathically asked the five beasts.

"Please speak, Master," the Cold Flood Dragon immediately responded with respect.

Yang Yan pondered for a moment before asking, "When we first met in the Celestial Beast Forest, your realm was clearly in the early Golden Core Realm. How did you leap to become a peak Golden Core Realm expert in such a short time?"

Yang Yan couldn't help feeling a bit awkward when asking, which is understandable.

After all, having once conspired with the Void-Devouring Tiger to steal the Dragon Lotus cultivated for years, now working together inevitably left some psychological barriers.

"That was a stroke of luck," the Cold Flood Dragon said nonchalantly, hurrying to reply, "We were trapped in the Demon Cave for thousands of years. You might know the conditions inside: incomplete Heaven and Earth Laws, suppression on cultivators, scarce resources, and thin spiritual power."

"I struggled for nearly ten thousand years to barely break into the Golden Core Realm. Later, with your presence stirring the Celestial Beast Forest, I sensed the exit of the Demon Cave."

As the Cold Flood Dragon spoke of this, it paused, unable to hide its excitement.

After a moment, it continued, "I started attempting to break the exit seal but found it too strong for me alone. Then I joined forces with the Cyan Scale Eagle, Black Death Tiger, Flying Mantis, and Wolf King to break the seal and escape the Demon Cave."

At this point, Yang Yan still hadn't received the answer he sought, causing him to frown slightly.

Chapter 1243: We Ask for Your Benevolence

Clearly having noticed something, the Flying Mantis then picked up the topic and said:

"My lord, the Heavenly Dao Laws in the Demon Cave are incomplete, so cultivation is naturally difficult, with danger at every step. The slightest carelessness means eternal damnation, body and soul annihilated."

"Compared with the same realm outside, cultivating inside the Demon Cave at least costs several times more effort and time than the outside! The countless hardships and perils one has to go through are really unbearable to look back on."

"This is also the fundamental reason why, despite us cultivating for a thousand years, our realms are not high."

The Cold Flood Dragon took over again: "Once we lowly ones left the Demon Cave, no longer suppressed by heaven and earth, and patched up the missing Laws in our bodies, our strength naturally skyrocketed."

"That is the true reason we lowly ones were able to break through repeatedly in such a short time."

After listening, Yang Yan still felt a bit weird.

He certainly knew these fellows were definitely not young.

But he never would have thought that the five Exotic Beasts in front of him were actually several thousand years old.

Old monsters who had cultivated for thousands of years—he had no idea how much more effort they had paid than ordinary people to make it this far in the Demon Cave.

Thinking about it now, once the five great Exotic Beasts broke through the restrictions and completely cast off their shackles, it was no wonder that in just a few days they could advance by leaps and bounds, making a thousand-mile stride in a day, and display their current strength.

At the same time, Yang Yan also felt deeply fortunate.

The Heavenly Dao Laws of this stretch of heaven and earth they were in were still relatively complete, and the Spiritual Power was several grades richer than in the Demon Cave.

At least cultivating here wouldn't be like in the Demon Cave, with so many shackles; it was certainly much easier than it had been for these five fellows.

"Then have the Laws in your bodies already been repaired by now?" Only after a short pause did Yang Yan come back to himself and continue asking.

The faces of the five great Exotic Beasts looked somewhat bitter; in the end it was still the Cold Flood Dragon, as the leader, who shook its head and spoke via Telepathy:

"Born with incomplete Heavenly Dao Laws, they have already been deeply rooted in our bodies. To change that now—easier said than done!"

"What happened is merely that we were suppressed for too long at our original realm in the Demon Cave. Once out of the Demon Cave, our realms rose rapidly—this is nothing but the result of long accumulation bursting forth."

In Yang Yan's heart, a hundred thousand grass mud horses were galloping.

So many Cultivators might spend their entire life stuck at a bottleneck without breaking through, yet these five great Exotic Beasts actually broke through several realms in a row simply because they'd been suppressed for too long.

If others found out, wouldn't they die of anger?

However, when Yang Yan thought it over, he felt relieved.

They had cultivated for several thousand years to finally achieve this result; the hardships and suffering they had gone through were absolutely beyond the imagination of ordinary people.

"So doesn't that mean if you can 补全修成 the Dao Laws throughout your bodies, your strength can still improve?" Yang Yan, though he understood in his heart that this was surely the case, still wanted a definite answer from their mouths.

"Mm, we should be able to raise a few more realms! But again, easier said than done. At the very least, we absolutely don't dare to dream of it." The Black Death Tiger answered offhandedly.

Its tone gave Yang Yan a heavy mental hit.

He didn't know whether to say the Black Death Tiger's nerves were thick, or it was just born that way.

Don't even talk about rising several realms at once—even the tiniest bit of progress was something Cultivators dreamed of but couldn't get.

Even for Yang Yan himself, with his extraordinary talent and as a once-in-ten-thousand-years Flawless Divine Body, each realm he ascended required countless time and massive effort.

Not to mention how much more time and effort it cost to break through between major realms.

Before Yang Yan could finish ranting inwardly, the five great Exotic Beasts were already staring at him eagerly.

Those fervent gazes made Yang Yan feel uncomfortable all over; he hurriedly sent a Telepathy message: "If you've got something to say, just say it. Don't hem and haw."

Only then did the Cold Flood Dragon grin.

But it was better when it didn't smile; that bloody mouth was rather creepy.

At least Yang Yan absolutely didn't like the sight.

"We hope my lord will lend us more aid in the future, help us cast off these heavy, clumsy bodies as soon as possible, and transform into human form." The Cold Flood Dragon said respectfully.

The other four beasts behind it seemed to have a tacit understanding; they immediately echoed in unison, "We beg my lord to grant this!"

Only then did Yang Yan see the light.

The five great Exotic Beasts had cultivated for thousands of years no matter how you looked at it; logically, they should already have taken human form and be able to speak human language.

Yet the five great Exotic Beasts before his eyes still had to use Telepathy to communicate.

Although the Beast Blood of the five great Exotic Beasts wasn't pure, inferior to the Devouring Void Tiger, born with certain flaws, in theory their intelligence shouldn't be this low.

What's more, they had already cultivated for thousands of years; by any calculation, they were existences at the old-monster level.

However, the intelligence they were showing now clearly wasn't high; this must also be a result of long-term suppression in the Demon Cave.

With this thought, Yang Yan finally nodded and said, "As long as it's something I can do, I'll definitely do my utmost to help. But..."

Yang Yan changed the topic, suddenly fixing his blazing gaze on the five great Exotic Beasts, asking meaningfully, "You don't dare to try it lightly yourselves and have to seek help. That means this matter isn't that simple, right?"

If it had been in human form, Yang Yan would definitely have seen an awkward expression on the Cold Flood Dragon's face at this moment.

It had thought Yang Yan would agree in one breath, but it hadn't expected the little schemes in its heart to have long been seen through.

After exchanging a glance with the others, the Cold Flood Dragon could only give a bitter smile and send a Telepathy message: "Please don't blame us, my lord. We truly didn't mean to hide anything. This recasting of the Dao Body Law is anything but something that can be summed up in a single sentence."

"Oh? How so?" Yang Yan knew nothing about this and immediately followed up with a question.

After all, the only similar thing he had experienced was changing his cultivation system; as for other matters, he had never set foot in them.

The Cold Flood Dragon promptly explained, "From the moment a Cultivator starts cultivating, they are closely linked with the heaven and earth they reside in. The completeness or incompleteness of the Heaven and Earth Laws to a great extent determines the ultimate height a Cultivator can reach."

"But in the Demon Cave the Heavenly Dao Laws are incomplete; those incomplete Laws have long since been deeply planted into a Cultivator's body during their cultivation."

"If one wants to mend the Laws within their body and make them complete, that means giving up all their previous cultivation, breaking before standing, and starting all over again."

After hearing this, Yang Yan was truly shocked.

To abandon the cultivation you already have and start over from scratch...

How much courage did that take?!

Seeing Yang Yan's expression, the Cold Flood Dragon suddenly laughed, even speaking in a tone of comfort:

"Please rest assured, my lord. As long as the Laws within the body can be successfully repaired, then recovering our strength will only be a matter of time."

"After all, the foundation and experience of thousands of years of cultivation are still there. Compared to purely cultivating anew, it will naturally be twice the result for half the effort."

"We might even, given the right chance, advance by leaps and bounds and return to our peak in no time!"

Only then did Yang Yan feel as if a weight had been lifted off his shoulders.

If the powerful henchmen he had just taken in became weaklings before they even got to do anything and needed him to look after them instead, wouldn't that be like getting himself a few ancestors for nothing?

"You can all relax. Since you've followed me, Yang Yan, your affairs are my affairs. I'll definitely do everything in my power to help." Yang Yan quickly patted his chest and promised.

Chapter 1244: That Person

At this moment, Yang Yan was indeed using the five Exotic Beasts as free hired thugs, but what he wanted even more was for them to truly become a great source of strength for him, to follow him in sweeping across the world and stand with him at the very peak of power.

Yang Yan knew very well that, leaving aside the strength of these five Exotic Beasts right now, even in the future they would absolutely be stocks with terrifying potential.

After all, the fact that they could stand out in a Demon Cave with such harsh conditions was enough to prove their extraordinariness.

This extraordinariness manifested in their physical constitution, talent, and perseverance.

If they were carefully nurtured, they would definitely become a great help to him in the future.

After they finished their discussion, Yang Yan turned around, intending to leave.

He had only walked a few steps when he suddenly thought of something again, turned back, and said:

"Cold Flood Dragon, I'll take this Dragon Lotus as a temporary loan. In the future, once I have a treasure of equal value, as long as you like it, I'll return it to you."

The Cold Flood Dragon was slightly stunned, as if not quite used to Yang Yan's politeness, and immediately replied, "The Dragon Lotus is of no great use to this little one anymore. If my lord has taken a liking to it, please do accept it!"

This time it was Yang Yan's turn to be a little surprised.

He naturally did not know that, from the power he had displayed, the Cold Flood Dragon had long since dispelled any thought of taking back the Dragon Lotus.

Besides, although it had come this time specifically for the Dragon Lotus, with the improvements of these past few days, the Dragon Lotus was no longer as indispensable to it as before.

Even without the Dragon Lotus, it could still advance by leaps and bounds, breaking through again and again.

It even had the confidence that it did not need to suffer the pain of having all its bones shattered and its true body remolded, but could directly transform into a true dragon.

If one were to be strict about it, it actually ought to be thanking Yang Yan.

If he had not stolen its Dragon Lotus, it would never have led the other four Exotic Beasts to break through the restraints, escape with their lives, and gain the terrifying strength they now possessed.

At this moment, Yang Yan was also secretly overjoyed.

The change in the Cold Flood Dragon's expression just now had been clearly captured by him.

He had not expected that a Flood Dragon that had lived for several thousand years would be this simple-minded, submitting to him so completely and so easily.

The ten Sect Leaders of the Ten Sects had expended a great deal of strength in their battle with the five Exotic Beasts.

Even with the Pill Sect's assistance, they still needed some time to adjust and recover.

Fortunately, with Yang Yan now sitting in town here, they no longer had to worry about any more foreign enemies invading, and could finally calm their hearts and properly recuperate.

During these ten-odd days, Yang Yan had not been idle either.

Last time when he ran into the Snow Demon, Elder Dugu just happened to be away and could not set up the third-level Devouring Spirit Array, so he had no choice but to expend quite a few precious Evil Qi Pearls to finally escape.

After that encounter, he truly realized the importance of Spirit Arrays.

After the pain came reflection, and Yang Yan resolved to study Spirit Arrays, just in case.

Thus, whenever he had any free time, Yang Yan would practically run over to Lin An to ask for advice on Spirit Array-related questions.

This really did make Lin An somewhat surprised.

Had the sun risen from the west?

The always completely uninterested Yang Yan was now so eager to learn Spirit Arrays.

Lin An could not be more satisfied with this change in Yang Yan.

Right now, Yang Yan's momentum completely crushed Lin An's, yet he never showed off his strength or stepped on others.

He remained neither arrogant nor impetuous when things happened, calm and composed, something that very few people could achieve.

Lin An always felt that Yang Yan was bound to become the most dazzling existence on this planet.

What he, this Sect Leader, needed to do now was simply to fulfill him as much as possible and give him a helping hand.

For several days in a row, Yang Yan followed Lin An in studying knowledge related to Spirit Arrays.

It had to be said, Yang Yan indeed had talent in Spirit Arrays.

In just a few short days, Yang Yan had already attained quite a solid understanding of Spirit Arrays.

Of course, this also benefited from Yang Yan's photographic memory.

Although studying Arrays depended more on comprehension, memory was also a crucial link.

Only by memorizing first could one later truly integrate and understand, and actually construct an Array.

At the moment, Yang Yan still could not independently control and set up a Spirit Array, but he could now barely construct the nodes.

In the end, a Spirit Array was nothing more than using special methods to cause Spiritual Power to resonate, thereby achieving the effect of using little strength to move great weight.

A Spirit Array could often borrow the Power of Heaven and Earth, pushing Spiritual Power to its utmost.

Yang Yan had pondered for a long time over the Yin Yang Five Elements Array Map he had obtained in the Underground Hall of the Demon Cave, yet had never managed to glean even the slightest gain.

After thinking it over, he felt it might as well be better to show it to Lin An, who was proficient in Spirit Arrays; perhaps something could be researched from it.

He had originally thought of showing it to the Cold Flood Dragon, hoping to get some answers from its mouth.

Not only had it come from the Demon Cave and thus knew more about the situation inside, it had also lived for several thousand years, so its experience was surely much broader than that of Lin An and the others.

But after thinking it through carefully, he still rejected that idea.

Yang Yan knew very well that this thing was anything but simple, and he had not been with the Cold Flood Dragon for long; he actually did not have much confidence in its loyalty.

What was more, the Cold Flood Dragon had submitted to him purely because of the Nascent Void; it might not have many thoughts now, but as time passed, resentment would inevitably arise.

So better be safe than sorry; for something like this, Yang Yan did not plan to share it with him for the time being.

"Th-this... where did you get this thing?!"

As soon as Lin An saw the Yin Yang Five Elements Array Map, he immediately became incomparably excited, his whole body trembling.

He stared wide-eyed, locking his gaze on the Yin Yang Five Elements Array Map as if he were looking at a peerless treasure.

"Sect Leader, what exactly is this?"

Seeing how excited Lin An was, Yang Yan became even more certain of his own suspicions.

It seemed this thing was really not simple.

Otherwise, with Lin An's composure, even if it were a treasure, he should not have lost his bearing like this.

"If I've guessed correctly, this Array Map comes from the hands of that person of the Ancient Times." As Lin An spoke to this point, worship filled his expression.

Yang Yan was deeply puzzled and hurriedly asked, "That person?"

"Yes! That person. Yang Yan, where did you get this thing from?" Lin An slightly calmed himself and looked at Yang Yan with anticipation all over his face.

Well!

That was as good as not saying anything.

Yang Yan thought for a moment, then immediately brushed it off. "I obtained it by accident in the Demon Cave."

He naturally could not tell Lin An the truth.

As for the matter of the Underground Hall in the Demon Cave, the fewer who knew, the better.

Lin An was no exception.

There is a saying that there is no wall that does not leak wind; if he was not careful, it could bring about a catastrophe of annihilation for him.

Moreover, he definitely would not reveal any information related to the Mysterious Key.

"Sect Leader, forgive me for being presumptuous, but who exactly is that person?" Yang Yan could not help but ask further.

Lin An let out a heavy sigh and spoke in a faint voice, "In the Ancient Times, the Star Universe was in turmoil, dark and evil forces invaded, the gods could not hold them back and were forced to retreat again and again, and vast stretches of the Star Universe in the cosmos fell."

"Just as Wandering Dragon Star was about to fall, at the last critical moment, a Spirit Array Grandmaster of the Hidden World on Wandering Dragon Star, Zhao Heng, stepped forward. With his peerless mastery of Spirit Arrays, he barely held back the advance of the dark and evil forces, waiting silently for the Immortal Realm's rescue."

"But one by one, the other Star Universes fell, and wherever the darkness passed, all life was wiped out. Fear grew in the Immortal Realm's heart, and they were forced to close the Star Sect, severing this stretch of the Star Universe."

Speaking of this, Lin An let out another heavy sigh.

Chapter 1245: Advancing

Actually, Yang Yan knew the legend that Lin An spoke of.

Because he was new here, Yang Yan took the opportunity at the Scripture Pavilion to thoroughly understand the history of Wandering Dragon Star.

The situation then was extremely bleak, even the reinforcements from the Immortal Realm that came to help this land ultimately stopped in their tracks, fearing that once the passage was opened, the whole Immortal Realm might be plunged into trouble.

This action by the Immortal Realm utterly disheartened the people of this world.

The remaining Great Powers from various factions in this land gathered to discuss strategies for resisting the enemy.

At the time, Wandering Dragon Star was considered a major force in this realm, with powerful clans standing tall, boasting considerable combat strength.

However, in the face of a dark storm sweeping across the entire Star Universe, many powerful warriors were at a loss.

At this moment, Zhao Heng, who had always been low-key and reticent, stepped forward and made a startling statement.

"If everyone can assist me, I believe we have a chance to fend off the invasion of this evil force."

The powerful warriors all knew Zhao Heng's capabilities and trusted that he wouldn't make baseless claims, so they placed all their hopes on him.

With that, Zhao Heng gathered the strength of the world's warriors, extracted the vitality of hundreds of planets surrounding Wandering Dragon Star, and set up an array to isolate it from the outside world.

Though this approach prevented Wandering Dragon Star from being invaded by the dark storm, it also cut off the path to the Immortal Realm.

In the end, Wandering Dragon Star relied solely on itself and the vitality drawn from a dozen or more planets for sustenance.

Over time, this led to the gradual depletion of spiritual power on Wandering Dragon Star until it was exhausted.

Yang Yan knew some of the legends, but naturally, not as clearly as Lin An understood them.

After hearing his account, Yang Yan couldn't help but feel a sense of longing in his heart.

Is this the means of the Great Powers of Star Universe?

Is this the true power of the Spirit Array?

After a while, Yang Yan came back to his senses and asked, "What happened to Grandmaster Zhao Heng and those Great Powers?"

"Ever since then, they seemed to have vanished from the world, their whereabouts unknown." Lin An sighed heavily, regret momentarily flashing across his face.

Nowadays, few on Wandering Dragon Star know of this secret; even if they do, it's considered mere idle talk, with few believing it's true.

But Yang Yan could tell that this was no made-up story, but something that truly happened once upon a time.

Otherwise, Lin An wouldn't react this way with his level of cultivation.

Lin An remained silent for a while, then raised his head and said to Yang Yan, "I can't discern anything from this Array Map; its complexity exceeds imagination."

"This matter is of great importance, you must take good care of it and let as few people know as possible, to avoid unnecessary trouble."

Lin An's voice faded, and he turned somewhat dejectedly and left.

Yang Yan watched Lin An's retreating figure and couldn't help but lose himself in thought.

It seems the things he once worried about are bound to happen!

This Spirit Array, after millions of years, must have suffered some damage, and the invasion of Wandering Dragon Star by the dark storm is just a matter of time.

The current Wandering Dragon Star is no longer filled with the mighty clans of Ancient Times, nor is there someone like Zhao Heng; if the dark storm invades, it would be unstoppable, sweeping across Wandering Dragon Star.

"It seems that the immediate priority is to enhance my own strength as much as possible." Yang Yan gazed at the starry sky, once again realizing the importance of strength.

While it may not mean saving the world, at least one must have the power to protect oneself when disaster strikes!

In the following days, Yang Yan was diligently studying the Spirit Array with Lin An, even more seriously than before.

It's undeniable, Yang Yan possessed extraordinary talent in the Spirit Array; in just a few days since he started delving into it, he had already mastered the outline of the array's particles.

Such speed, though not unprecedented, made it hard to find two talents like him in the current age.

Of course, while studying the Spirit Array, he didn't neglect the cultivation of his Spiritual Power.

Under the guidance of Cold Flood Dragon, Yang Yan's strength skyrocketed, and he had now reached the late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm.

This was also thanks to the high concentration of Spiritual Power in the Land of the North Cold, making his cultivation easier than before.

Yang Yan not only consolidated his existing cultivation but also deliberately enhanced his combat power.

This is why the Ten Sects, despite knowing the dangers of this place, still brought so many disciples here.

Someone who hasn't experienced real combat, no matter how high their level, will still lack combat awareness.

Under the management of the Pill Sect, the injured from the Ten Sects nearly fully recovered.

No one wanted to delay further, as being in the Land of the North Cold gave everyone a sense of oppression, making them uncomfortable and eager to leave soon.

Though everything seemed peaceful these days, with no anomalies appearing, everyone knew it was merely the calm before the storm.

Even though everyone knew there were unknown dangers at the center of the Land of the North Cold, difficulties that even the combined strength of the Ten Sects couldn't resolve, no one backed down in the face of profit.

Yang Yan had a faint feeling that a vague power seemed to be calling to him from the center of the Land of the North Cold.

If it were before subduing the five Exotic Beasts, Yang Yan might have considered whether to proceed due to safety concerns.

But now, Yang Yan would advance without hesitation.

After all, with the presence of five powerful beings at his side, unless faced with someone beyond the Golden Core Realm, there's no one who could cause him any trouble.

After some reorganization, the Ten Sects once again set out towards the center of the Land of the North Cold, the group marching impressively, it's quite a spectacle.

Since Yang Yan subdued the five Exotic Beasts, aside from Guo Guoguo, everyone showed great reverence towards Yang Yan.

During casual conversation, there was an inevitable sense of constraint.

Even Ye Changqing, who previously conversed freely with Yang Yan, subconsciously kept his distance, and when he couldn't avoid facing Yang Yan, he was somewhat restrained.

Yang Yan smiled bitterly in his heart, who would've thought that getting a few powerful supporters would push him away from these people!

Fortunately, the Four Swords treated him the same as always; except for a bit of apprehension towards the five Exotic Beasts, they didn't intend to distance themselves, which gave Yang Yan a bit of comfort.

"Cold Flood Dragon, you stayed in the Demon Cave for so long, do you know anything about the Land of the North Cold?" Yang Yan suddenly remembered that these five Exotic Beasts behind him were natives of this place, surely they knew something.

"Master, you truly misunderstand us. Though we've been in the Land of the North Cold, we were always trapped in the Demon Cave, never stepping out. So we know very little about the situation here."

Cold Flood Dragon replied with some embarrassment.

As a native, yet knowing nothing about the land naturally made it feel somewhat awkward.

"Oh! Since that's the case, then forget it. However, having you five with me eases my mind." Yang Yan looked towards the snow-misted land ahead, speaking slowly.

Indeed, though accompanied by five Exotic Beasts, he never let his guard down.

He knew well that this journey was not easy, and countless unknown dangers awaited ahead.

The main group advanced for half a day, but the anticipated trouble did not arise.

Aside from everyone shivering from the cold, everything remained particularly calm.

Yet, such calmness made everyone more cautious.

Chapter 1246: Avalanche

Yang Yan always had a feeling that someone was monitoring their every move from beginning to end.

It all felt like it had been arranged by someone long ago.

Now, they were just following someone else's plan step by step.

In fact, Yang Yan wasn't the only one with this illusion; many people felt it deeply.

But after overcoming so many obstacles to get here, how could they easily give up!

No matter what, they wanted to see what lay at the center of the Land of the North Cold, which so many people yearned for.

This mindset drove everyone, even though they knew dangers lurked ahead, to forge on bravely and investigate.

"Senior brother, next time can you catch me a couple of pets to play with? You seem so impressive! Look at those guys, they're all staying far away, not daring to get close."

Guoguo somehow sidled up to Yang Yan and whispered this to him.

While speaking, she couldn't help but glance at the five Exotic Beasts beside Yang Yan, her face full of envy, clearly not joking.

Yang Yan was speechless.

What was this girl thinking?

Considering them as pets, she really had some nerve.

The five Exotic Beasts felt strange upon hearing this.

They were among the top beings on the Wandering Dragon Star, yet this girl regarded them as pets.

If it weren't for Yang Yan, they might have already become a meal for the Cold Flood Dragon as soon as she spoke.

Meanwhile, the Void-Devouring Tiger on Guoguo's shoulder couldn't help but burst into laughter, nearly losing its balance and tumbling down.

These big, fierce beings could probably only be seen as pets by a bold lady like Guoguo!

For now, only Yang Yan, the Void-Devouring Tiger, and Guoguo could joke around so freely.

Only they could create such joy and laughter.

Given that the Void-Devouring Tiger is a Divine Beast and naturally suppresses other Exotic Beasts, it naturally didn't fear the five Exotic Beasts much.

However, everyone else remained silent, looking tense and vigilant, as if facing a great enemy.

Even though they knew Guoguo was joking, no one laughed, each maintaining a stern expression, not daring to relax.

With Guoguo around, the journey was much more fun, or at least that was how Yang Yan felt.

"Everyone, be ready!"

The three of them were laughing when Lin An's warning echoed, causing them to become alert.

Others were even more on guard, their True Qi swirling, ready to act at any moment.

Following Lin An's gesture, everyone looked ahead and saw a tremendous storm of snow and wind rushing toward them.

Was this... an avalanche?

Many disciples were terrified and ashen-faced.

Though they were cultivators, they were only at the Foundation Establishment Realm, feeling helpless against such natural disasters.

In an instant, the faces of the sect leaders, including Lin An, turned very grim.

If it were just an avalanche, having more than ten Golden Core Realm experts seated would be no problem.

However, it was evident that this avalanche was more than it seemed, likely not just snow!

"Sect Leader Lin, the situation is not optimistic!" Xu Caomu, Sect Leader of the Sword Sect, said worriedly to Lin An.

"Yes." Lin An nodded, then turned to the other sects and said, "I believe all of you have seen it; this avalanche is not simple, and there seems to be a trace of Snow Demons within it, so everyone must be very careful."

Lin An only conveyed this through Telepathy to the ten sect leaders and Yang Yan, fearing it would cause panic among all the disciples.

Once people's hearts are scattered, the situation will become even harder to control.

"Everyone doesn't have to panic, and I hope all sect leaders will lend me a hand."

Lin An decided, lightly tapping with his fingertips, and saw numerous Spirit Array nodes appearing before everyone's eyes.

Ten nodes, twenty nodes, thirty nodes...

In a moment, thousands of Spirit Array nodes appeared around Lin An.

The nodes moved with a thought, quickly and orderly arranging themselves.

In just a blink, a complete Devouring Spirit Array appeared before everyone's eyes.

Yang Yan was dumbfounded.

Is this the means of a Talisman Master?

The Spirit Array before him seemed several levels higher than the level three Devouring Spirit Array set up by Elder Dugu on the outskirts of the Land of the North Cold, and it was completed in one go.

Compared to his ability to form only a dozen nodes and not fully control them, it was incomparably stronger.

After arranging the Devouring Spirit Array, Lin An didn't stop.

With a wave of his hand, he continued to condense Spirit Array nodes.

Swish, swish, swish!

Again, thousands of Spirit Array nodes appeared before the crowd.

Lin An stood in the center of the formation, his fingers lightly tapping, arranging the nodes systematically, and soon another grand array appeared before them.

Only then did Lin An stop.

Due to the considerable mental exhaustion, his complexion became somewhat pale, but the worry on his face slightly diminished.

"Sect Leader, this is?"

Yang Yan marveled at the two complementary great formations before him, filled with wonder.

This was the first time he saw Lin An personally arrange an array, and he was truly awed by such a display.

Though he was mentally taxed, upon Yang Yan's inquiry, Lin An immediately explained:

"This is a ninth-level Devouring Spirit Array and a ninth-level Defensive Spirit Array, the latter known as Thorny Armor, which can use the impact of the avalanche to rebound and protect us."

Saying this, Lin An slightly raised his voice and spoke loudly to the disciples behind him: "I'm sure the front array doesn't need much explanation from me, right!"

The disciples had already been stunned by their master's grand display, and only returned to their senses upon this question, echoing, "Sect Leader is mighty!"

Lin An gave a helpless smile, took a deep breath, and said to the other sect leaders, "I've given it my all, and now it's up to you, brothers. I hope you will lead everyone to work as one and strive to maintain the array and get through this crisis."

Although the grand array was complete, maintaining its operation required a lot of Spiritual Power, and without Spiritual Essence to provide it, they could only rely on everyone's continued infusion of Spiritual Power to sustain it.

"Sect Leader Lin has worked hard, and we will certainly spare no effort."

Just as these words were spoken, the avalanche arrived.

Rumble!

A thunderous crash rang out as the avalanche struck the Spirit Array, causing the Devouring Spirit Array and the Defensive Spirit Array to shudder violently. Under the continuous infusion of Spiritual Power from everyone, the arrays gradually stabilized.

"It's holding! It's holding!"

The disciples cheered joyfully as the Array steadied.

Only the ten sect leaders and a few senior disciples remained frowning, worried.

"I'm afraid it's not that simple!" Yang Yan said slowly as he watched the wind and snow voraciously swallowed by the Devouring Spirit Array.

The disciples heard this and looked outside the array.

Sure enough, the avalanche, which should have ended after its impact, showed no signs of stopping, with the snowstorm continuing to batter the array.

Moreover, everyone caught glimpses of something moving in the snow fog.

Indeed!

This avalanche was no accident; it was formidable and mysterious.

Chapter 1247:

""This... this is a Snow Demon!"

A single stone stirred up a thousand ripples, and a sharp-eyed disciple shouted in terror, which instantly filled the whole formation with panic.

Although there were the ten Sect Leaders and the five Exotic Beasts led by Yang Yan holding the line, now they were all surrounded by Snow Demons. And judging by the overwhelming momentum blotting out the sky, it was obvious the Snow Demons came prepared.

Moreover, this wave of Snow Demons seemed far stronger than those encountered before.

This was exactly what the ten Sect Leaders were worried about.

The Snow Demons in front of them were clearly much stronger than before, and with the unending wind and snow, the Devouring Spirit Array was almost rendered ineffective under their constant assault.

Barely maintaining it would only waste Spiritual Power meaninglessly without much significance.

In this storm, the Snow Demons, originally weak individually, became annoyingly difficult to deal with, their ghostly attacks nearly impossible to defend against.

The most crucial part was, even if one managed to kill them, these Snow Demons could transfer their strength to other individuals.

Even with many experts here giving it their all, it's extremely difficult to wipe them out in one go.

If this drags on longer, the situation could turn quite dire.

Now, faced with such a horrifying situation, not only were the disciples in panic, but even the Sect Leaders felt some anxiety.

Just in the moment of their distraction, several powerful Snow Demons broke into the Spirit Array and launched a frenzied attack on them.

However, the number of Snow Demons that rushed in was limited, and the ten Sect Leaders sitting in command were not to be trifled with.

Under their combined resistance, how could the Snow Demons withstand such a thunderous approach, being cleared away in the blink of an eye.

But, the number of Snow Demons was simply too large, and each was unafraid of death, one wave after another, seemingly endless and inextinguishable.

No matter how many experts there are, ultimately two fists cannot defeat four hands, and under the endless exhaustion against the Snow Demons, no one could withstand for long.

As more Snow Demons entered the Spirit Array, the Sect Leaders were finding it hard to cope, and from time to time, a few weaker disciples were struck down.

Seeing the disciples' sorry state, the Sect Leaders felt their hearts ache while also finding the situation quite bitterly amusing.

While the Spirit Array could prevent some Snow Demons from breaking in, it also restricted their own movements.

Compared to the Snow Demons' unchecked rampage, the others appeared somewhat restrained, hesitant to unleash their full strength against the Snow Demons for fear of accidentally damaging the Spirit Array, losing their last line of defense.

Yang Yan had been carefully observing from the start.

He felt something odd about the Snow Demon's behavior this time.

Compared to the previous two incidents, these Snow Demons seemed more organized this time.

It felt as if an invisible hand was guiding their actions.

"Sect Leader, do you think someone is instructing these Snow Demons from behind the scenes?" Yang Yan transmitted his doubts to Lin An, seeking further validation of his thoughts.

After all, given Lin An's prowess and experience, he should be able to discern some clues.

Lin An heard this, and also frowned.

He quickly took a closer look and found these Snow Demons indeed appeared different from before.

Not only had their strength improved significantly, but their assault on the Spirit Array was unusually coordinated, rather than haphazard and chaotic.

His brows furrowed tightly together, looking towards the mountain peak where the avalanche appeared, he slowly said, "Indeed! I fear that there's a cunning and powerful presence hidden within this storm!"

Yang Yan pondered for a moment, watching the two crumbling Spirit Arrays and the blood-soaked struggles of the people, a hint of worry appearing in his eyes.

Facing the endless Snow Demons, though everyone was united, the situation seemed less than optimistic.

At this rate, the Spiritual Arrays might be completely demolished before long.

Instead, it might be better to take the offensive.

The saying goes, to catch the bandits, first capture their leader. If they could take down the mastermind, resolving the current crisis would be a cinch.

Thus, Yang Yan thought for a moment, then turned to the others and said, "Thank you all for holding on a while longer, I'll head out with the Cold Flood Dragon to seek out the source of this calamity and hopefully resolve this crisis."

Yang Yan didn't waste words and immediately gathered the Cold Flood Dragon, Cyan Scale Eagle, Black Death Tiger, Flying Mantis, and Wolf King, preparing to venture out.

"Sect Leader, I request you open the Spiritual Array for us for a moment." Yang Yan turned his head and asked Lin An.

Lin An hesitated for a moment, then nodded.

With a light touch of his finger, a portal appeared before Yang Yan and the others.

"Take care!"

Lin An gave Yang Yan a deep, expectant look.

Yang Yan smiled slightly, said nothing more, and stepped out with the five Exotic Beasts.

As soon as he stepped out, the violent snowstorm greeted him directly.

Yang Yan, although prepared, was still shocked by such a fierce assault.

However, before he could steady himself, an overwhelming wave of Snow Demons rushed towards him.

Seeing the swarming Snow Demons, Yang Yan couldn't help but feel a numbness in his heart.

If Snow Demons could spit, with such a number, even just one spit from each could drown him.

However, being worried doesn't mean being afraid.

In this world, there hasn't been a presence that could truly terrify him!

Yang Yan wielded Star Night, circulating his Spiritual Power rapidly around him.

Accompanied by screams, the nearby Snow Demons were shredded apart repeatedly.

Yet, the Snow Demons felt no fear, their constant deaths only igniting their ferocity further, more and more Snow Demons charged at Yang Yan.

Even more frightening was, the strength of the Snow Demons assaulting Yang Yan was getting higher and higher, even if he had the Gang Qi Shield, it was showing signs of breaking.

After a while, sweat covered Yang Yan's forehead, breathing heavily.

He was acutely aware that within just ten short breaths, his Gang Qi Shield would be damaged, and his whole body would be exposed to the Snow Demon's attacks.

"Master, we're here to assist you!" The Cold Flood Dragon and the five Exotic Beasts exchanged quick glances and surrounded Yang Yan in a protective ring.

The aura emanating from them was tangible, shielding Yang Yan closely, making it hard for the Snow Demons to get close.

It had to be said, strong power is the real truth.

Just earlier, Yang Yan, giving his all to maintain the Gang Qi Shield, barely held off the Snow Demons.

Yet, in the hands of the five Exotic Beasts, they handled it so easily.

This is the difference in realms, which no talent or physique can compensate for.

The commotion here attracted more and more Snow Demons, shifting the pressure and alleviating the burden on the ones within the Spirit Array.

As more Snow Demons were killed, the stronger the Snow Demons they faced.

However, at this moment, Yang Yan's brows were tightly knitted.

This dragging on won't work!

One could tell from the Snow Demons' attacking behavior.

This was definitely not a random attack; it was purposeful.

The current Snow Demon army resembled an organized, disciplined force, targeting Yang Yan as the primary objective."

Chapter 1248: Twelve Ice Sculpture Guards

Up until now, neither Yang Yan nor the Five Exotic Beasts had actively counterattacked, only focusing on defense, which was purposeful.

Initially, Yang Yan thought the mastermind might be hiding atop the snowy mountain.

But now it seemed, controlling these Snow Demons for a responsive adaptation meant the enemy must be nearby.

Or, at the very least, there was a proxy or avatar controlling everything from a hidden spot.

Now, they were using themselves as bait to lure the opponent into making a mistake, then catch him to uncover what was really going on.

Finally, Yang Yan noticed something peculiar.

The Origin from the Snow Demons killed by the Five Exotic Beasts didn't disperse chaotically but was quickly aggregating in a specific direction.

It seems the target is hiding there!

"Cold Flood Dragon, Black Death, Wolf King, Cyan Scale Eagle, and Mantis, follow me."

Once Yang Yan locked onto the target, he suddenly shouted explosively, vanished from where he stood, and dashed towards the right.

Seeing Yang Yan charging toward the center where the Snow Demon Origin was gathering, the five Exotic Beasts naturally didn't fall behind and followed suit, executing their Body Technique to protect Yang Yan.

The actions of one person and five beasts were like stirring a hornet's nest.

Roar!

A crazed roar echoed in the Void, and the Snow Demons originally attacking the Spirit Array in turns seemed stimulated and immediately changed direction, rushing toward Yang Yan's group recklessly.

Seeing the reaction of the Snow Demon Legion, Yang Yan's lips subtly curved upward.

It appears his speculation was correct, the target they locked onto was indeed the mastermind's hideout.

He's scared.

"Cold Flood Dragon leads the charge, attack at the fastest speed!" Yang Yan instructed the Cold Flood Dragon to strike while swiftly retreating with Body Technique.

Whiz!

The Cold Flood Dragon, without hesitation, transformed into a bolt of lightning, rushing straight into the core of the Snow Demons.

Though the other five Exotic Beasts were slightly slower, their aura exploded in an instant, following it and launching a stormy attack.

Roar!

The dragon's roar echoed to the heavens, countless Snow Demons vanished in an instant under the Cold Flood Dragon's icy mist.

The remaining four Exotic Beasts had their own techniques; any Snow Demon coming close was dismembered in an instant, both form and spirit extinguished.

In no time, screams arose one after another.

Fortunately, the Snow Demons were formless and shapeless; otherwise, the path of the Five Beasts would be littered with bodies and rivers of blood.

Yang Yan followed closely with his Protective Wind Shield, yet despite this, he still felt the strong Snow Demon Origin continually rushing toward him, causing his mind to briefly daze.

If one could train in such an environment, it would certainly yield twice the results with half the effort!

Yang Yan sighed inwardly.

However, he was quite aware this was merely wishful thinking.

The Snow Demons were many, fearless of death, but under the joint attack of the Five Exotic Beasts, they were hard to approach.

Thus, with the Cold Flood Dragon paving the way and the other four beasts assisting, Yang Yan's group advanced overwhelmingly and invincibly.

The Cold Flood Dragon itself favored cold and shadow, primarily cultivating the Path of Profound Nether, thriving naturally in this extremely cold Land of the North Cold.

The other four Exotic Beasts had profound cultivation, relying solely on their formidable power for destruction.

As they encountered increasingly powerful Snow Demons, the pace of this team finally began to slow down.

Yang Yan, on the other hand, was inwardly delighted.

The previous Snow Demons were weak, with minimal Power of Origin, which he was not particularly interested in.

But as their strength grew, and the Power of Origin became more abundant and pure, it constituted a great supplement for Yang Yan.

Thus, with the Five Beasts guarding, Yang Yan discreetly captured the Snow Demon Power of Origin, gathering them up.

In such a short period, Yang Yan already reaped considerable rewards.

As they advanced, the wind and snow intensified, and the number of Snow Demons steadily increased, while their strength significantly improved.

Yang Yan and the Five Exotic Beasts, now fully synced in mind and action, saw victory in sight; without needing discussion, they forcibly accelerated their pace.

Soon after, they encountered a formidable Snow Demon of the Foundation Establishment Realm pinnacle.

Most importantly, this opponent clearly possessed intelligence.

Upon contact, the opposing Snow Demon strongman's Divine Thought transmitted: "This is the forbidden ground of my Snow Demon clan. Stop immediately!"

Without waiting for Yang Yan to speak, the Cold Flood Dragon directly retorted: "This may be your Snow Demon clan's forbidden ground, but it is not our territory. You initiated the attack; now we've come to retaliate, and you wish to call a halt? Wishful thinking!"

Before the Cold Flood Dragon finished speaking, it launched itself like an arrow, charging straight at the Snow Demon strongman.

Boom boom boom!

Bang bang bang!

The intense fighting sounds did not last long before the Cold Flood Dragon returned.

Yang Yan only noticed that in its front claws, it prominently held a silvery-white Inner Core!

Without needing Yang Yan to speak, the Cold Flood Dragon seemed to anticipate his thoughts, directly offering the treasure: "Master, earlier I noticed you were collecting Snow Demon Origin. I assume this Snow Demon Inner Core is immensely beneficial to you; please accept it!"

Yang Yan gladly accepted the Snow Demon Inner Core, fiddled with it for a while, and nodded with satisfaction: "The Cold Flood Dragon did well. The energy within this Inner Core is pure and suits my needs. Thank you!"

Before the Cold Flood Dragon could speak, the Cyan Scale Eagle suddenly screeched, its massive wings flapping as it soared, darting directly into the Snow Demon army, which hesitated due to the leader's demise.

Bang bang bang!

Boom boom boom!

Another round of intense fighting broke out, this time lasting slightly longer; eventually, as the Cyan Scale Eagle returned, it too brought back a glowing silvery-white Snow Demon Inner Core.

In terms of rank, it was nearly identical to the one Yang Yan held.

The Cyan Scale Eagle also presented this Inner Core to Yang Yan, delighting him.

The remaining three Exotic Beasts followed suit, each capturing a major target amidst the Snow Demon army, thereby adding three more Inner Cores to Yang Yan's collection.

As the saying goes, target the leader first during a conflict; with the Five Exotic Beasts presenting treasures to Yang Yan, the Snow Demon Legion, now leaderless, fell into brief chaos.

Initially, Yang Yan's group progressed swiftly due to the Snow Demon Legion's inability to mount an effective resistance.

But soon, the clever Snow Demons moved commanders to the rear, leaving only cannon-fodder Snow Demons charging continuously.

Though their pace slowed, they continued advancing relentlessly, as no Snow Demon could block their forward march.

"Ugh!"

While collecting Power of Origin, Yang Yan bumped into the suddenly stationary Cold Flood Dragon, grunting in pain, his blood slightly stirred.

"Why did you stop suddenly?" Yang Yan questioned, rubbing his forehead in curiosity.

The Cold Flood Dragon turned a deaf ear, its gaze fixated ahead on the twelve Ice Sculpture Guards standing silently.

Only then did Yang Yan notice the twelve Ice Sculpture Guards and the grand gate behind them that had appeared unexpectedly.

Chapter 1249: Crisis

The gate stood in the Void, not located within any wall.

Upon closer inspection, it seemed to merge with the entire Void, towering over the skies, thicker than the earth; the more one looked, the more extraordinary it seemed.

Yang Yan stared at it intently for a while, feeling as if the gate contained centuries, the whole Star Universe, full of endless mysteries.

Most importantly, it resembled a giant mouth embedded in the Void, constantly devouring the endless Power of Origin from the Snow Demons.

"Huh, the snowstorm has stopped!"

Moments later, Yang Yan realized that the surrounding snowstorm had long disappeared, leaving a peaceful and tranquil environment.

Soon, he discovered that they had unknowingly stumbled into a completely unknown space.

Silence...

Around him, it was eerily quiet, almost frighteningly so.

Apart from the faint sound of his own breathing and heartbeat, there was nothing else.

In such an oppressive atmosphere, Yang Yan dared not move, afraid of accidentally triggering some mechanism or angering the twelve Ice Sculpture Guards, leading to dire consequences.

He always felt that although these twelve ice sculptures showed no signs of life on the surface, they were far from being mere ornaments.

"After a million years, someone has finally reached this place." A voice, ancient and hoarse, echoed from within the gate, with each syllable seemingly striking the soul of everyone present.

"Master, what should we do now?" Cold Flood Dragon also sensed the eeriness of the place and couldn't help but feel fearful.

Yang Yan remained silent for a moment, clenched his teeth, and resolutely said, "Move forward!"

Having come this far, turning back was not an option.

Moreover, the lives of everyone outside were in his hands.

If they turned back now, not only would the hardships they faced earlier be wasted, but the lives of their brothers and sisters outside would also be at risk.

Although the ten sect leaders and other figures could take some disciples away to escape, how many would perish in the avalanche, more accurately, die at the mouth of the Snow Demons!

This was a loss the ten sects absolutely had to bear, and a result Yang Yan did not wish to see.

Yang Yan led the way, stepping onto the icy avenue guarded by twelve Ice Sculpture Guards, but the anticipated danger did not occur; apart from the sound of his footsteps and his pounding heart, there was nothing else.

Yang Yan wiped the cold sweat from his forehead and called out to the five Exotic Beasts: "Everyone, cautiously move closer; it seems there's no dan..."

Before Yang Yan could finish speaking, a violent tremor emanated from beneath his feet.

He quickly used Small Shifting, stepping off the icy avenue, only to find himself surrounded and unable to escape, as it seemed he was one step too late.

The twelve Ice Sculpture Guards, originally stationed on either side of the icy avenue guarding the gate, had already surrounded the group, their crimson eyes fixed on them.

"Golden Core peak?!" Cold Flood Dragon's eyes widened, exclaiming in terror.

The words exploded in Yang Yan's ears like Celestial Thunder.

"Twelve Golden Core Realm peaks, how... how is that possible?!"

Not only was Yang Yan shocked, but even Cold Flood Dragon and the others found it hard to believe.

Although they had always stayed in the Demon Cave and were unaware of the specific situation on Wandering Dragon Star, they knew well that achieving the Golden Core Realm was not easy.

After thousands of years of cultivation, Cold Flood Dragon managed to reach the peak of Golden Core Realm only due to the pressure from heaven and earth, but these twelve Golden Core Realm Ice Sculpture Guards showed no signs of life, resembling puppets.

It was unknown who had such a grand gesture to have twelve Golden Core Realm peak masters guard the gate.

"Master, what do we do now?"

Cold Flood Dragon regained composure after a brief shock, looking at Yang Yan with a worried expression.

"Among thirty-six stratagems, fleeing is the best strategy, run!" Yang Yan truly had no confidence in confronting these twelve Golden Core Realm puppets, his first reaction was to urge everyone to flee.

Even with Cold Flood Dragon's formidable prowess, it was impossible to simultaneously rival twelve masters of the same level.

Yang Yan personally activated escape mode, using Small Shifting to its extreme.

Yet, no matter how fast he was, how could he compare to Golden Core Realm masters!

In just an instant, an Ice Sculpture Guard's longsword was already aimed at him.

Damn it!

Never thought my legendary reputation would end here, huh?!

Yang Yan watched as the longsword rapidly enlarged in his view, his heart filled with despair.

Is this really the end?!

At this moment, Yang Yan was already locked onto by the longsword; he wanted to dodge, but suddenly realized the space had completely immobilized him, making it difficult to move.

The chance to evade that life-threatening strike was almost zero.

Yang Yan felt unwilling, but powerless to change things, resignedly closing his eyes.

"Clang..."

As the forceful wind approached, just when he felt he was about to be split in two by the sword, a sudden crisp sound of metal clashing appeared in his ears.

The expected pain did not appear, and Yang Yan instinctively opened his eyes.

In his sight was Cold Flood Dragon's forepaw holding the longsword coming down.

"Master, evade, I'll hold these fellows off for you." Cold Flood Dragon sent through Telepathy, followed by a dragon roar as it battled with the twelve Ice Sculpture Guards.

Aside from Cold Flood Dragon, the four Exotic Beasts followed suit, joining the battle circle, unleashing various secret techniques without reservation.

Even so, the opponents were ultimately twelve Golden Core Realm peak masters; Cold Flood Dragon's combat strength was formidable, and the four Exotic Beasts were exerting all efforts, yet they fell into a disadvantage in numbers, unable to gain any edge.

Defeat was only a matter of time.

Although the twelve Ice Sculpture Guards were puppets that could only attack based on instinct, their coordination was extremely tight, essentially flawless.

"Continuing like this is not a solution!" Yang Yan furrowed his brows, watching the five Exotic Beasts gradually struggle, his heart tightened.

Retreating was not an option now, nor could he advance, a powerful sense of helplessness welled up within Yang Yan.

Giving it all!

He gritted his teeth hard, suddenly employing Small Shifting, his whole body transforming into a shadow, racing towards the gate.

The twelve embroiled Ice Sculpture Guards seemed to sense Yang Yan's intention, suddenly rioting, with two Ice Sculpture Guards forcefully disengaging from the battle array, brandishing their treasured swords to kill Yang Yan.

The five Exotic Beasts, caught off guard, were already struggling; now facing the rioting Ice Sculpture Guards, they were even more overwhelmed, only able to watch helplessly as two Ice Sculpture Guards rapidly approached Yang Yan.

No matter how fast Yang Yan was, the level difference was evident, and escaping the pursuit of Golden Core peak masters was impossible.

In the blink of an eye, the two Ice Sculpture Guards reached Yang Yan's back, swinging their longswords down forcefully; not matter his extraordinary talent, to an unripe Golden Core peak master's eyes, he was merely a blade of grass, killing him as simple as squashing an ant.

The previous scene replayed before Yang Yan's eyes, how could he resign himself to being buried here?

He still had great ambitions unfulfilled, the world not yet settled, how could he pass away now!

Twenty meters, ten meters, five meters...

The longsword was before Yang Yan's forehead; his eyes filled with blood, unwillingness surged, and he yelled hysterically: "My fate is mine, not Heaven's!"

Chapter 1250: Unknown World

However, the miracle Yang Yan hoped for did not occur.

The longsword wrapped in frost cleaved down forcefully, striking Yang Yan's body.

Yang Yan slowly fell, his unwilling eyes glaring angrily at the heavens.

"My lord..."

The five exotic beasts exclaimed, their hearts unsettled for a long time, knowing this person had a connection to that powerful being in the Demon Cave and had died just like that.

If it were to find out about this later, it surely wouldn't spare them easily.

But for now, they couldn't worry about that; the priority was how to escape!

If life was lost, discussing anything else would be pointless.

Neither the Ice Sculpture Guard nor the five exotic beasts realized that at the moment Yang Yan fell, a faint light emerged from the space ring on his finger.

It was that mysterious key of unknown material emitting a strange glow.

This flash of light disappeared in an instant, with everything returning to normal.

No one knew how much time had passed when Yang Yan suddenly saw a glimmer of light in the endless darkness.

Where am I?

He felt as if all the strength in his body had been drained, and he struggled to open his eyes.

Unfortunately, despite several attempts, he ultimately failed.

He felt as if he was in a cold, eerie space, where apart from the speck of light in front releasing a bit of warmth, his body and even his soul were nearly frozen.

He still having consciousness was indeed something that made Yang Yan overjoyed.

Because at the moment the sword struck him, Yang Yan felt as though not only his body was being torn apart, but his soul was also being slashed by the sword.

He thought he would be completely annihilated, body and soul, but now that he was conscious, what more could he ask for?

However, the most important thing now was to quickly figure out his current situation and respond accordingly.

He calmed himself, carefully gathering his strength, trying to open his eyes.

During this process, he was convinced that not only had he preserved his soul and consciousness, but even his body was intact.

He was still alive!

Finally, after an unknown period, Yang Yan felt his strength was sufficient and once again attempted to open his eyes.

Success!

There was no dazzling sensation; the surroundings were void, completely engulfed by darkness.

What was engulfed by the darkness was not only his sight but also his senses.

"Where am I? What about the Cold Flood Dragon and the others?" Yang Yan muttered to himself, subconsciously pinching himself.

Indeed, he was still alive, but in this endless darkness, he couldn't figure out where he was.

Yang Yan tried several times, but sadly his spiritual sense couldn't extend too far, being blocked by an invisible force of darkness about ten meters away, unable to advance any further.

Ultimately, Yang Yan gave up exploring, helplessly gazing at the illusory space, filled with doubt.

Under normal circumstances, under that sword, there was absolutely no chance of survival.

Yang Yan even concluded that he was already dead.

However, what was inexplicable was that he was so tangibly present here.

"Could it be, this is the world after my death?"

At this thought, Yang Yan couldn't help but let out a bitter smile.

Could his life really end just like this?

He was indeed unwilling.

After fighting for half his life, invincible, must he end as a speck of dust in this dim place, truly difficult to accept?

Yang Yan stood quietly in place, not knowing how much time passed before he came back to his senses, his previously gloomy eyes suddenly revealing determination.

"Even after death, I am still Yang Yan, second only to the heavens, even if this is the Yama Hall, I will still make a scene."

Yang Yan was born unwilling to be ordinary, and even less willing to accept fate without a fight.

Once he made up his mind, he scanned the surroundings, determined to find a way out.

But besides the boundless darkness, there was nothing else, not even a slight breeze, let alone any signs of life.

Yang Yan pondered, thinking that even if it was risky, he couldn't just stay here ruminating.

With a slight exertion of his legs, Yang Yan intended to soar into the air.

"Huh?!"

The next moment, he suddenly paused.

Originally preparing to utilize Small Shifting, he suddenly found it impossible to perform it no matter what.

After a brief hesitation, he tried several more times, but all efforts were fruitless.

Unfortunately, this did not deter him.

Yang Yan focused inwardly, carefully examining his own condition.

With one look, he noticed, to his shock, that his spiritual power was exhausted, and various cultivation techniques couldn't be executed at all.

At this moment, his situation was essentially the same as an ordinary, non-cultivated person on Wandering Dragon Star, apart from being physically stronger.

He steeled himself, chose a direction, and began walking.

No matter what dangers the road ahead may hold, it was better than waiting for death here.

He walked for an unknown time, one day, two days, three days...

Finally, utterly exhausted, he collapsed, weakly looking toward the distance, struggling a couple of times before failing to get up again.

"I didn't expect I, Yang Yan, to die in such a depressing way!" Yang Yan whispered to himself as his vision darkened and he fainted again.

"Where is this?"

Unaware of how much time had passed, he regained consciousness once more.

Suddenly opening his eyes, Yang Yan sat up swiftly.

In front of him was unexpectedly a graveyard, desolate, lonely.

After a moment, he started walking with stiff steps on this desolate land, his mind blank.

He tried hard to remember something.

But alas, his memory seemed devoured by something; despite trying hard, nothing came to mind.

So, he slowly stood up, walked aimlessly forward with heavy steps.

At this moment, the outside world seemed irrelevant to Yang Yan.

He roamed alone in the mountains, drinking from springs when thirsty, eating wild fruits when hungry, not knowing which direction he headed.

Suddenly, a foul wind attacked, and a Hydra, with its gaping maw, lunged at him fiercely.

Although his power was lost, his body's instinctive reactions remained, and Yang Yan forced his body to twist, narrowly dodging the attack.

The Hydra, missing its target, became furious.

Roar!

With a roar, its tail whipped like a lance.

Yang Yan, unable to dodge, was struck heavily to the ground, spitting a mouthful of fresh blood.

The Hydra's eyes glowed red as it opened its maw full of fangs, biting towards him.

The hideous snake head kept enlarging in Yang Yan's eyes, and in his spasmodic state from being struck, how could he escape?

At a moment of life and death, Yang Yan just saw a figure flickering, and his vision went black again.

One second...

Two seconds...

Three seconds...

It seemed as though nothing had happened.

Moreover, the feeling from just now seemed familiar...

Unfortunately, the two episodes of fainting had exhausted all of Yang Yan's strength, dizziness engulfed his mind, and he simply drifted into sleep.

When he opened his eyes again, what appeared before him were several innocent, childish faces and a simple grass hut.