

Primordial 216

Chapter 216: The Vastness of the Ruins

The Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron, formed by Spiritual Power, was frantically absorbing the Spirit Spring in the pool.

After Lin Chen's breakthrough to the Eighth Level of Spirit Gathering Realm, this was the first time he attempted to materialize the rudimentary form of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron as described in the cultivation technique. According to the description, the power of this Three-legged Cauldron was beyond Lin Chen's imagination, as it was said to be a divine object capable of refining all things under heaven and even the sun, the moon, and the stars.

At this moment, as Lin Chen invoked it for the first time, he felt its immense power.

As soon as the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron appeared, the Spirit Spring in the pool was wildly extracted.

Through the transformation of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron, the Spirit Spring was immediately absorbed with frenzy by Lin Chen.

The Primordial Transformation Art was incredibly powerful to begin with, and this time the act of deploying the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron through the technique accelerated Lin Chen's refining speed to an unprecedented quickness.

In a short period, the entire pool was emptied by Lin Chen, and as the Spirit Spring was absorbed, his body was greatly strengthened. The most direct indication of this was the aura on Lin Chen's body, which was definitely not something a martial artist of the Spirit Gathering Realm could possess, and his realm was also close to breaking through to the Ninth Layer of the Spirit Gathering Realm.

The Spirit Spring from this pool, if absorbed by an ordinary martial artist, could enhance the cultivation of a practitioner in the Spirit Gathering or even the Melding Earth Realm by several levels.

However, once inside Lin Chen's body, it merely brought his minor realm to the brink of a breakthrough, while his body, in other respects, was substantially strengthened.

Yet the energy Lin Chen required for his advancement far exceeded that of a martial artist at the same realm, so this pool of Spirit Spring was insufficient to support the enhancement of his cultivation.

Roar——

Just as Lin Chen finished absorbing all the Spirit Spring in the pool, the White Mink, which had been slumbering in the distance, finally sensed the anomaly.

The moment it opened its eyes, it immediately saw Lin Chen withdrawing the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron just as the formerly abundant Spirit Spring in the pool had dried up. This sudden change left the White Mink both confused and astonished.

With its fierce claws and teeth bared, the White Mink roared at Lin Chen. Despite its smaller size compared to other magical beasts, its roar was thunderous, and the aura it emitted was incredibly powerful.

However, just as it furiously lunged at Lin Chen, intending to tear this human before it to pieces, it found itself surrounded by an invisible formation barrier.

No matter how it collided or gnashed its teeth, it was unable to break through the barrier before its eyes.

Moreover, this invisible barrier not only trapped it inside, but also contained an illusory realm with an irritatingly hot environment, brought on by the formation and extremely unpleasant for it.

If it remained in this environment, not only would its cultivation fail to progress, but it would also decline—a maddening torture for the beast.

Looking at Lin Chen, the White Mink's eyes were filled with hatred.

Roar——

The White Mink was clearly intelligent; it understood that doing nothing would mean being trapped here forever. And in this moment, its anger towards Lin Chen had reached a boiling point, the instinct to see Lin Chen dead rising within it. This fury spurred it into action, refusing to remain passive.

The White Mink stood up and with a big breath, a Water Breath Wave was formed, which it then spit out at the invisible barrier before it.

Boom——

As the Water Breath Waves struck the barrier one after another, numerous cracks began to appear on the formation barrier. Lin Chen estimated the White Mink's strength to be around the Seventh Layer of the Melding Earth Realm.

If Lin Chen had to deal with it, although it would be somewhat troublesome, it was not utterly unmanageable. If truly driven into a corner, Lin Chen was prepared to reveal all his cards and slay it.

Boom—

As another Water Breath Wave struck the formation barrier, the barrier before them finally shattered. However, the White Mink was panting heavily, showing that destroying the formation set up by Lin Chen had drained a lot of her strength.

After the formation was broken, the scorching illusion inside also disappeared. The White Mink's face revealed joy, for living in such an illusion was enough to drive it mad.

Looking towards Lin Chen in the distance, the spiritual spring in the pond had dried up. It felt an immense rage inside, not only had this human trapped it within a ferocious inferno of an illusion, but he had also plundered the spiritual spring in the pond. Its body leapt, biting towards Lin Chen.

Its claws waved in the air, and immediately a Spiritual Light Claw Strike was launched. Lin Chen saw this and didn't dare to be careless; he gathered his strength and threw a punch.

Powerful spirit waves spread all around, countless trees collapsed, and both human and mink were forced to retreat.

The spiritual wisdom of the White Mink was not inferior to humans, and at this moment, a look of shock appeared on its cute furry face—it could not have imagined that this human possessed such terrifying strength.

Though the White Mink's body was not as mighty as those stronger magical beasts, it had long resided by this pond and possessed the Cold Ice Attribute within its body, creating attacks with extreme Cold Ice Power. It thought this puny human could easily be frozen and killed in a single strike.

But to its surprise, not only did this human withstand its attack, but he was also completely unharmed—an unthinkable feat.

Even so, the White Mink did not plan to let Lin Chen go. The spiritual spring had been refined by him, and only by eliminating Lin Chen could it quench the hatred in its heart.

"Heaven and Earth Treasures belong to the powerful. Considering you had no intention of killing me before, I will let you go,"

"If you continue to be troublesome, don't blame me for skinning you to make a mink coat."

Lin Chen looked at the White Mink coldly, his words carrying a hint of icy killing intent.

The treasures of this world were ownerless by nature. Now that he had absorbed the spiritual spring, Lin Chen did not wish to expend more strength on this White Mink, so he warned the other party.

Lin Chen believed that with the White Mink's spiritual intelligence, it would understand this principle.

If it insisted on persisting, Lin Chen would have no choice but to use some more of his strength to kill it right there.

Roar—

After the White Mink's pupils rotated slightly, it froze in place, without making any further move.

It knew that Lin Chen truly possessed the strength he claimed, especially given the aura he had just released, which clearly did not belong to the Spirit Gathering Realm.

So, it had no choice but to give up and watched with open eyes as Lin Chen slowly walked away.

Though the spiritual spring in the pond was gone, after a long passage of time, it would ultimately be regenerated.

After leaving the pond, Lin Chen traveled for half an hour and finally arrived at a wide-open territory; at first glance, it was utterly astonishing.

The expanse of this world was beyond Lin Chen's imagination. His Divine Sense could not detect too far, but with his naked eyes, he could see mountains in the distance many miles away that seemed to have some structures, but they were too far for Lin Chen to be sure.

Lin Chen estimated that even if he flew at full speed towards them, it would take at least three days' time.

After all, there are always stronger people out there, more profound heavens beyond. No matter how strong one is, who knows what dangers lay in this space? If Zhao Yijing attracted too much attention and was targeted by those powerful magical beasts, the trouble would be significant.

Hence, Lin Chen needed to find Zhao Yijing sooner to avoid her encountering any dangers.

After roughly four or five hours of traveling, Lin Chen, besides coming across a few magical beasts with cultivation levels above the seventh or eighth level of the Melding Earth Realm, encountered no other incidents.

Lin Chen surmised that they must still be on the periphery of the secret realm as the magical beasts' cultivation levels were only at the Melding Earth Realm.

After all, such an ancient secret realm has existed for countless years; it must surely contain powerful magical beasts.

Boom—

Suddenly, Lin Chen heard noises coming from a canyon ahead, as if someone was fighting.

Whether they were humans or magical beasts, Lin Chen wasn't sure. Thinking it might be Zhao Yijing, he quickly directed the spiritual bee towards the source of the noise.

Once the spiritual bee's viewpoint was relayed to Lin Chen's eyes, a look of surprise immediately appeared on his face.

Because the source of the commotion turned out to be a group of martial artists fighting over something.

One group, all dressed in blood-colored robes, were unmistakably demon cultivators from the Black Cloud Sect. Lin Chen even recognized a familiar figure among them, Jia Shaluo, whom he had clashed with in the Mire Dragon Marsh Secret Realm before.

Standing beside Jia Shaluo was another man with blond hair. Their behavior towards each other seemed rather intimate, and the aura they emanated was nothing short of extraordinary.

The group currently battling them was dressed in green. Lin Chen recognized them; they were disciples of the Taixuan Sect, not far from the domain of his Jade Cauldron Sect.

Lin Chen had expected that after the emergence of this ancient site, not only would his Jade Cauldron Sect's people be present, but other forces from the Great Flame Dynasty as well. However, he hadn't anticipated that the Black Cloud Sect would be able to enter.

Considering the location of this ancient site was within the realm of the Jade Cauldron Sect, the situation seemed unfavorable for the Jade Cauldron Sect. Otherwise, the higher-ups of Jade Cauldron would not have allowed members of the Black Cloud Sect to enter the site.

If the Black Cloud Sect were to gain any opportunities within, it would be yet another blow to the Jade Cauldron Sect.

It wasn't long before Lin Chen stealthily approached the site above the canyon where the two forces were battling, concealing himself in the bushes.

Looking up, Lin Chen saw the object the two groups were vying for: a medicinal herb ablaze with flames, emitting an aura that marked it as extraordinary.

"This is the Fiery Rainbow Flower, which blooms once every thousand years. This one with four petals must have existed for at least four thousand years. Being a fourth-grade spiritual medicine, it is immensely beneficial for martial artists cultivating fire attribute techniques and practicing body refinement."

"Hehe, luck is on my side to have come upon such a rare flower."

Lin Chen watched the Fiery Rainbow Flower in the canyon from afar, a smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

Having cultivated the Scorching Sun Divine Fist to the middle tier realm, he had been unable to find a direction for breakthrough.

Now, with this fire attribute peculiar flower that also possessed benefits for body refinement, it might be of help to his cultivation technique.

He had already secretly decided to find a way to acquire this peculiar flower for himself.

At that moment, the battle between the two groups had intensified. The Black Cloud Sect had about a dozen martial artists, while the Taixuan Sect had around twenty people.

Even though the Taixuan Sect had more fighters, the demon cultivators inherently possessed greater strength than martial artists of the same realm, so Black Cloud Sect wasn't at a disadvantage.

On the contrary, the disciples of the Taixuan Sect were all wounded, some severely so.

Had they not had greater numbers, they probably would have all fallen to the hands of the Black Cloud Sect Disciples.

The Black Cloud Sect, being demon cultivators with a bloodthirsty nature, had no fondness for these self-proclaimed orthodox sects. If given the chance to annihilate them, they would certainly not show mercy.

Lin Chen, observing the forces, walked out calmly from the bushes, approached the edge of the canyon, bent down, and plucked the Fiery Rainbow Flower, swiftly storing it in the space of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron.

"Who's there!? Who's this brat that dares to steal our spiritual medicine? Leave the spiritual medicine immediately, or you will suffer a fate worse than death."

Both groups were engaged in fierce combat, but upon seeing Lin Chen's sudden appearance, they were momentarily stunned.

None of them could have anticipated that while they fought fiercely, someone would take the opportunity to steal the medicine, and that the thief was merely a Martial Artist at the Eighth Level of the Spirit Gathering Realm.

The one threatening Lin Chen was a member of the Black Cloud Sect.

He was a long-haired disciple at the Ninth Layer of the Spirit Gathering Realm. Because the fighting capabilities of Black Cloud Sect Disciples were generally stronger than ordinary martial artists, he didn't take Lin Chen seriously despite Lin Chen's cultivation level being at the Eighth Level of the Spirit Gathering Realm.

"The spiritual medicine grew here; it's unclaimed property. How does it become yours?"

"If you truly want it, you're welcome to come and take it."

Lin Chen said to the Black Cloud Sect Disciple, a faint cold smile spreading across his face.

Hearing this Martial Artist at the Eighth Level of the Spirit Gathering Realm daring to talk back to a member of the Black Cloud Sect, the Taixuan Sect people were taken aback, seizing the opportunity to beat a hasty retreat.

Chapter 218: One Punch Instant Kill, Terrifying Deterrence

Originally, it was the disciples of Taixuan Sect who first discovered the Fiery Rainbow Flower; just as they were preparing to pick it, they didn't expect Black Cloud Sect's people to suddenly appear.

The people of Taixuan Sect initially did not want to give up on this Fiery Rainbow Flower, but after a skirmish with the people of Black Cloud Sect, they regretted their decision, for those from Black Cloud Sect were far stronger than them; they were completely outmatched.

Even though they had the advantage in numbers, as the battle wore on, they gradually found themselves at a disadvantage. They wanted to leave but couldn't find the opportunity.

However, the appearance of Lin Chen diverted the attention of Black Cloud Sect, and seeing this, they didn't hesitate to make their escape.

Watching the disciples of Taixuan Sect flee, the people of Black Cloud Sect did not pursue them, since their goal was the Scorching Sun Rainbow Flower. As long as the spiritual medicine was still there, they didn't care about the people of Taixuan Sect. As long as they remained in this space, there would be plenty of time to deal with Taixuan Sect later.

At that moment, Jia Shaluo also noticed Lin Chen, and a look of terror appeared on her face.

Although her cultivation had now broken through to the First Layer of the Melding Earth Realm and could possibly reach the Third Layer by using a secret technique, she still stood no chance against Lin Chen.

Perhaps it was because of the last time in the Mire Dragon Marsh Secret Realm, where she witnessed the terrifying power of Lin Chen's Rusty Dagger, that she now had a shadow in her heart. Her first instinct now was to not provoke Lin Chen.

"Kid, do you know who we are?" Let me give you ten breaths of time to hand over the spiritual medicine and kowtow three times on the ground," one Black Cloud Sect Martial Artist said mockingly while looking at Lin Chen.

Actually, even if Lin Chen really did as he said, handing over the spiritual medicine and kowtowing three times, they still wouldn't let Lin Chen go. They enjoyed watching Lin Chen being humiliated, losing his dignity, and dying in a fit of fury.

However, this Martial Artist had picked the wrong target to mock this time.

"Young Master Huang, this lad is not easy to deal with, we need to be cautious," Jia Shaluo slowly approached the blond young man and whispered in his ear.

Her suggestion stemmed from her fear of Lin Chen's strength.

If Lin Chen were to detect their murderous intent, and if he were to counterattack, probably no one among them would be a match for Lin Chen.

After all, Jia Shaluo still vividly remembered Lin Chen's terrifying combat power in the Mire Dragon Marsh Secret Realm, and now Lin Chen's cultivation had improved even further.

"Oh? You seem to be so afraid of him; he's just a worthless Eighth Level of Spirit Gathering Realm," the blond young man, known as Young Master Huang, dismissed Jia Shaluo's words, still not taking Lin Chen seriously at all.

He did not interfere too much with his subordinate's ridiculing of Lin Chen.

Seeing that Young Master Huang noticed him, the Black Cloud Sect Disciple knew his chance to shine had come. After all, Young Master Huang was the grandson of one of Black Cloud Sect's direct line elders. If he were to gain the favor of Young Master Huang, his status in Black Cloud Sect would skyrocket, and he'd be more than just a common lackey.

So, when he saw that Lin Chen dared to talk back, he immediately walked over to Lin Chen.

"Kid, next life, open your eyes wide and be smarter. Some people are not to be trifled with so carelessly," the Black Cloud Sect Disciple said upon arriving in front of Lin Chen, unleashing the full power of his Ninth Layer Spirit Gathering Realm and swinging his fist down towards Lin Chen, intending to annihilate him with this single punch.

Boom— —

However, Lin Chen merely swung a casual punch, colliding with the man.

The next moment, the Black Cloud Sect disciple was blasted away like a cannonball, smashing onto the ground with a tremendous noise.

After a few moments, as the dust settled, a large pit appeared on the ground, and the man who had attacked Lin Chen lay silently in the pit, lifeless, without a trace of breath.

Surrounding them, including the blond man and Jia Shaluo, everyone fell silent, and the quietness became terrifying.

Jia Shaluo and the others couldn't help but swallow hard. The Black Cloud Sect disciple who had made the move, although not the most powerful among them, was still considered medium grade. Such strength would have been more than enough to deal with a Martial Artist of the eighth layer of Spirit Gathering Realm.

But what was the outcome? He was instantly killed by Lin Chen with a single move, a result none of them could have imagined.

Jia Shaluo looked at Lin Chen, and the most shocked of all was her.

Back in Mire Dragon Marsh, she and Lin Chen had become enemies when he destroyed her beloved pet poisonous snakes, driving her into a furious pursuit to kill Lin Chen.

At first, she thought she could easily kill Lin Chen, but what about the end?

Not only did she fail to kill Lin Chen, but she also witnessed his formidable strength.

Nowadays, Lin Chen had grown to such a point that she felt tremendous pressure.

After returning to the Black Cloud Sect, she practiced diligently, even raising some more poisonous snakes, improving her strength. She silently vowed to take revenge on Lin Chen someday.

But at this moment, having seen Lin Chen, she no longer felt confident that she could defeat him. In the face of Lin Chen, her heart was filled with only fear.

At this moment, the man with blond hair clenched his fists. After witnessing Lin Chen's punch just now, he too felt somewhat apprehensive.

He had completely underestimated Lin Chen's strength. No wonder Jia Shaluo, such a ruthless character in the Black Cloud Sect, had reminded him to catch him by surprise and to join forces with others to eliminate Lin Chen instantly.

"You guys, strike together and slay this boy!"

Huang Siqiang glanced at Lin Chen a few times. If he allowed Lin Chen to leave just like that, it would be quite a blow to his face, so he immediately gave orders to several Black Cloud Sect disciples.

The others initially intended to please Huang Siqiang, but now, everyone was clearly aware of Lin Chen's powerful strength. He could easily blast away a Martial Artist of the Ninth Layer of Spirit Gathering Realm with a single punch, and he had the ability to do the same to them.

Naturally, they were not willing to follow Huang Siqiang's order, while Jia Shaluo and two other Martial Artists with stronger auras turned around and ran immediately, not wanting to stay behind at all.

Huang Siqiang glanced at Jia Shaluo and cursed in his heart, "Damned woman," thinking that fleeing for life at this moment was akin to disrespecting him and made it even harder for him to command these people.

"Young Master Huang, this boy's methods are too strange, better to let him go."

The surrounding Martial Artists spoke up one after another, their gazes toward Lin Chen were clearly filled with some fear.

Anyone who could scare the Witch Jia Shaluo into running away was definitely not an easy opponent.

Chapter 219: Show Strength, Travel Together

"Insolence, do you dare defy my orders? Once we return to the Sect, see if I don't have my grandfather demote you all to Outer Sect disciples and send you to toil away in the Outer Sect."

"So what if this kid is strong? After all, he's just one person. You are all the elite of my Black Cloud Sect. If you can't defeat a Martial Artist of the Eighth Layer of the Spirit Gathering Realm together, how will you ever shoulder great responsibilities in the future?"

Huang Siqiang looked at the Black Cloud Sect disciples around him and saw their gazes lingering in the direction where Jia Shaluo and the other two Second Layer Melding Earth Realm Martial Artists had left, feeling utterly furious in his heart.

But under Huang Siqiang's threatening and 'pie-in-the-sky' rhetoric, the surrounding Black Cloud Sect disciples glanced at each other, then drew their weapons and joined forces to attack Lin Chen.

Clearly, Huang Siqiang's words had some effect. As Lin Chen watched these people rush toward him, sword in hand, a smile appeared on his face. With the strongest among them, Jia Shaluo and the other two, having already left, Lin Chen no longer feared the rest.

"Since you're seeking death, don't blame me for being unmerciful."

Although Jade Cauldron Sect and Black Cloud Sect were sworn enemies, Lin Chen did not want to actively seek trouble with the Black Cloud Sect within these ruins. After all, preserving strength to seize opportunities was the key. But now that the people of Black Cloud Sect had attacked first, Lin Chen certainly would not back down.

A streak of flowing light passed by, and the Flowing Light Sword appeared in Lin Chen's hand. He looked towards the rushing Black Cloud Sect disciples and directly slashed with his sword.

The High Mountain Flowing Water Swordsmanship had already been cultivated by Lin Chen to the Fifth Form, becoming more and more proficient. Coupled with the enhanced Spiritual Power within Lin Chen's body, the might of his High Mountain Flowing Water Swordsmanship was now no less than the Fiery Flame Palm stacked with nine palms.

Swish, swish—

Several streaks of sword light flashed past, Sword Qi slicing through the bodies of the Black Cloud Sect disciples who had charged at him, causing them to fall to the ground instantly.

With just one sword strike, Lin Chen had slain seven disciples of the Black Cloud Sect.

Seeing this, the other Black Cloud Sect disciples' faces changed dramatically. They had never imagined that a Spirit Gathering Realm Martial Artist could be this strong, finding themselves no match for Lin Chen even when they joined forces.

"Run!"

Huang Siquang did not dare to linger any longer after witnessing Lin Chen's terrifying strength. He no longer had any desire for the Fiery Rainbow Flower that Lin Chen had obtained.

If he continued to entangle with Lin Chen, he might end up staying here for good, and he did not wish to die.

Watching Huang Siquang flee for his life, where would the others dare to stay? They too employed their movement techniques to escape the area.

Lin Chen watched them flee but did not pursue. In these ruins, one never knew the dangers that could lurk, and rashly chasing down enemies could easily put his own life at risk.

Hum—

And indeed, just as those Black Cloud Sect disciples had just flown out of the canyon and reached the sky above the distant forest, countless green vines shot up towards the heavens from the forest below, instantly piercing the bodies of the Black Cloud Sect disciples.

Witnessing this scene, Lin Chen was immediately shocked, feeling fortunate that he had wisely chosen not to pursue.

The green vines that had appeared in the sky were clearly extremely powerful, definitely of the Heaven-reaching Realm Level, far beyond what Lin Chen could handle.

It seemed that these ruins indeed harbored unimaginable dangers in every corner. Lin Chen decided once more to proceed with extreme caution hereafter, lest he fall prey as the Black Cloud Sect disciples did.

Thus, Lin Chen planned to rest and recuperate before setting out again.

However, at this moment, those Taixuan Sect disciples who had fled this place earlier suddenly came back.

It turned out these fellows hadn't left at all but had found a place to hide, wanting to witness the conflict between Lin Chen and the Black Cloud Sect.

Although Lin Chen's cultivation seemed unremarkable, only at the Eighth Level of the Spirit Gathering Realm, daring to stand up to the Black Cloud Sect at this time meant he was no minor character indeed.

They hid in the shadows, and the outcome did not disappoint them, Lin Chen, with his own strength, had actually killed about half of the Black Cloud Sect disciples, and the rest had fled in disarray.

"These guys are quite astute."

Lin Chen looked indifferently at the Taixuan Sect disciples before him, not taking them seriously at all in his heart.

If they intended to eye the Beaded Fiery Rainbow Flower on Lin Chen's person, he wouldn't mind giving them the same fate as those Black Cloud Sect fellows.

"Senior Brother Lin, we thank you for your earlier intervention, which allowed us to avoid being entrapped by those demon cultivators from the Black Cloud Sect."

"We are disciples of the Taixuan Sect, my name is Zhao Ming, may I ask from which sect Senior Brother hails?"

Leading the Taixuan Sect disciples, the white-clothed male approached Lin Chen, bowed slightly to thank him, and made no mention of their earlier flight out of fear, nor did they bring up the Fiery Rainbow Flower.

It was a joke to even think of it; having seen Lin Chen's terrifying strength, how could they dare to mention that matter, fearing it might shorten their lives.

While Lin Chen didn't appear to be a demon cultivator, entering these ruins meant that even fellow sect members could turn on each other over profit, let alone strangers they didn't know.

If Lin Chen were to eliminate them here, nobody in the outside world would even know.

"My name is Lin Chen, a disciple of the Jade Cauldron Sect."

Lin Chen looked at the Taixuan Sect disciples before him, seeing no need to hide his identity, and he informed them directly.

Since the Taixuan Sect was not an enemy of the Jade Cauldron Sect, there was no harm in these people knowing his identity.

"So, it's Senior Brother Lin from the Jade Cauldron Sect. The green vines earlier were far too dangerous. We wish to join Senior Brother Lin to explore this ruin together. May I know Senior Brother Lin's thoughts on this?"

Zhao Ming looked at Lin Chen hopefully.

Lin Chen also looked at them and after a brief consideration, nodded.

The intentions of these people were very clear; they must have believed that being with him could avoid a lot of dangers after witnessing his power.

Lin Chen had the same idea too; there were numerous dangers within these ruins, and if others could scout for him, it would be beneficial, so he agreed to it.

"Some matters, it's better to clarify in advance. Since we're forming a team, should we encounter fortune or discover treasures within these ruins, it's better to discuss the distribution beforehand to avoid unnecessary disagreements later on."

Lin Chen looked at Zhao Ming and expressed his thoughts.

Lin Chen had no expectation of these folks being of any use to him; their numbers being larger, in case treasures were discovered, they might ask for an unfair share, so it would be better for Lin Chen to separate from them now rather than later.

Chapter 220 Unusual Movement Ahead

"Senior Brother Lin, rest assured, we have a clear understanding. If we find any treasures, you will have the first pick, and the rest will be distributed based on everyone's contribution to the team's effort. What do you think, Senior Brother Lin?"

Zhao Ming was very sensible. After witnessing Lin Chen's formidable cultivation, he knew that sticking close to Lin Chen would only bring benefits, and getting fewer shares of the treasures was worth it.

The other disciples from the Taixuan Sect all nodded in agreement, fully endorsing Zhao Ming's decision.

"Since that's settled, then let's move forward together. In return, I will alert you to any dangers," Lin Chen said indifferently.

This statement immediately brought happy expressions to everyone's faces. With Lin Chen's promise, they felt much more at ease. Here, everyone's range for Divine Sense did not exceed a hundred meters, rendering it virtually useless.

Their earlier discovery of the Fiery Rainbow Flower was purely by chance. If they had noticed the people from the Black Cloud Sect earlier, they wouldn't have approached to harvest it directly. Instead, they would have chosen to lie in ambush, catching the Black Cloud Sect unawares.

But now such talk was useless; no one dared to entertain thoughts against Lin Chen.

With a unanimous decision, they continued their journey.

Having witnessed the piercing vines in the forest attack a disciple of the Black Cloud Sect, they were very cautious and careful, not moving quickly.

Along the way, they encountered several Magical Beasts with not weak cultivations, but managed to avoid them with Lin Chen's reminders.

After spending an hour together, they felt that Lin Chen was even more powerful than they had imagined because he alerted them to the Magical Beasts they encountered, which they themselves could not detect with their Divine Sense. Lin Chen, however, managed to do so.

What they didn't know was that Lin Chen's Divine Sense didn't actually have much more range than theirs. It was only because he had Spiritual Bees scouting around, serving as his eyes, that he could detect the Magical Beasts early.

After two more hours of travel, they came across two more groups of people in the forest.

One group was also from the Taixuan Sect, though fewer in number than Zhao Ming's party with only six people, led by a man in grey with long hair.

"Senior Brother Song, this is wonderful, meeting you here. Let's journey together," Zhao Ming said immediately upon seeing the other party, proposing that they team up.

Having experienced Lin Chen's abilities on the way, which allowed them to avoid many dangers from Magical Beasts, Zhao Ming, being from the same sect, naturally had good intentions and wanted Song Jingshi to receive the same help as they did.

Song Jingshi, seeing Zhao Ming's politeness and considering that Zhao Ming and his group outnumbered them, agreed, secretly thinking that if they encountered danger, he had others to shield him as cannon fodder.

The other group, after introducing themselves, turned out to be from the Jade Cauldron Sect like Lin Chen, consisting of just four people, three men and one woman.

Lin Chen didn't really like to socialize. He hadn't been with the Jade Cauldron Sect for long and only truly knew a few people like those from Jade Bird Peak and Wang Yilin, so he didn't take the initiative to reveal his identity and talk with the four disciples from his sect.

After teaming up with the others, they resumed their journey. As they progressed, Song Jingshi grew increasingly upset.

He noticed that Zhao Ming and his group seemed to defer to the opinions of the member of their team with the Eighth Level of Spirit Gathering Realm cultivation in everything they did.

Even their words and actions were cautious, treating him as if he were an elder, though Lin Chen was not from their Taixuan Sect. This bothered Song Jingshi greatly; he felt Zhao Ming and the others were losing face for their sect.

At that moment, they reached a small mountain path shrouded in thick fog. Zhao Ming and his group stopped again to ask Lin Chen for his opinion.

Whether to take a detour or to continue along the path, Lin Chen's answer was not to worry, as there was no danger ahead, and they could proceed. This instantly ignited the fury within Song Jingshi.

"Enough already! Isn't every one of you stronger in cultivation than this weakling of the Eighth Layer Spirit Gathering? Can't you have your own opinions? You only move forward when he says so? What? Is he blessed with foresight or is his Divine Sense capable of detecting the direction in these ruins?"

"Everyone's Divine Sense is affected; I do not believe that his, a mere Eight Layers Cultivation weakling's Divine Sense, is stronger than mine, a Second Layer of the Melding Earth Realm."

Song Jingshi raged, clearly upset that Zhao Ming did not consult him about which way to go and instead asked Lin Chen, a stranger.

"Although you agreed for him to join our group, the arrangements I made with you earlier do not include them," Lin Chen said indifferently, looking at Song Jingshi and the others while addressing Zhao Ming. His words implicitly suggested that should they find any treasures, he would still have the priority to pick and would not consider Song Jingshi and his group for any share of the remaining loot. If Zhao Ming and his group wanted to divide it, it would be calculated among them.

After all, Lin Chen had played a significant role all this while, averting collisions with powerful Magical Beasts seven or eight times unbeknownst to them. Had they encountered the beasts, with their level of strength, only a few of them might have survived.

Yet, these people had not been of the slightest use to Lin Chen.

Regardless, not a word of thanks came from Song Jingshi and his group, who spoke rudely and disparaged Lin Chen. He was simply being generous by not taking the matter to heart.

Hearing Song Jingshi's words, Zhao Ming and the others frowned slightly. The image of Lin Chen's formidable strength in dispatching the Black Cloud Sect disciple was still fresh in their minds, and they certainly didn't want to offend Lin Chen.

"Senior Brother Song, if you trust me, please believe in Senior Brother Lin's words. His Divine Sense indeed can detect the surroundings," Zhao Ming said, stepping up to speak for Lin Chen and to remind Song Jingshi.

If Song Jingshi continued making foolish comments to offend Lin Chen and anger him, Zhao Ming wouldn't be able to protect him.

As Song Jingshi was about to retort after hearing Zhao Ming's words, he saw Lin Chen suddenly raise his hand and point ahead.

"There's movement ahead; for some reason, there's a surge of powerful energy. It could possibly be something containing a strong Spiritual Power, perhaps even a treasure," Lin Chen said.