

Stronger 211

Chapter 211: Breakthrough to the Fifth Layer, Dramatic Increase in Strength, Mysterious Jade_2

"After all, the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang are nominally under the jurisdiction of the Great Xia Dynasty. However, the true experts of these Six Prefectures are actually gathered at Prince Yu's Mansion. Aside from a few Grand Elders of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect who guard the Southern Border and can barely contend with the experts from Prince Yu's Mansion, who else could resist them!"

Lin Xuankong looked at Zheng Yunrui. "You seem quite well-informed! What is the cultivation of that Golden Armor Golden Blade Martial Cultivator from just now, and Little Yu King?"

Zheng Yunrui sighed. "It seems Brother Mu has been diligently cultivating for years, paying no mind to worldly affairs. Which Martial Cultivator in the Southern Border doesn't know the fearsome reputation of Little Yu King? He is now at the Mid-grade Sixth Layer and is the only one in the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang to have reached the Sixth Layer before the age of thirty, with hopes of advancing to the Seventh Layer! Although his current strength isn't comparable to those old monsters who've cultivated for a hundred or even two hundred years, with such cultivation speed, becoming the foremost expert of the Southern Border is only a matter of time! As for the Golden Armor Golden Blade Martial Cultivator by his side, his name is Jin Zongshan. His strength is at the Early Stage of the Sixth Layer, and he specializes in the Golden Light Saber Technique; his power is also formidable! Most importantly, these people come from Prince Yu's Mansion and possess numerous treasures. Their strength cannot be judged by cultivation tier alone!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong glanced toward Little Yu King's group in the distance. His gaze lingered on the Golden Armor Golden Blade Martial Cultivator, a hint of battle intent gradually emerging in his eyes.

Zheng Yunrui noticed his expression, and a look of concern appeared in her eyes. "Jin Zongshan made his name over twenty years ago. He has been immersed in the Golden Light Saber Technique for many years and is known as one of the eighteen Golden Armor Guards of Prince Yu's Mansion. His strength is comparable to the leaders of top sects and patriarchs of top families, perhaps even surpassing them. He's not someone to be trifled with! Brother Mu, you obtained Little Yu King's Demon Fox Demon Pearl; it's really not a loss for you!"

Lin Xuankong pondered for a moment, then looked at Zheng Yunrui. "You seem to have a map as well. May I take a look? I'm planning to find a safe place to consume the Heavy Water Spiritual Object and break through my realm!"

Zheng Yunrui said, "Of course..." She took a map from her bosom and handed it to Lin Xuankong. However, just as Lin Xuankong was about to take the map, she suddenly remembered something. "Wait, what did you just say? You want to consume a Heavy Water Spiritual Object to break through your realm? But aren't these Sunflower Water Spiritual Objects typically used by those at the Fourth Layer to break through to the Fifth Layer?"

Lin Xuankong took the map. Looking at it, he said, "Nothing wrong with that!"

Zheng Yunrui raised her hand, touching her bun in confusion. "No, no, no! Of course, there's a problem! You instantly killed over a dozen Tier Five Corpse Scorpions. With that kind of combat power, how could you possibly be at the Fourth Layer Realm? Even I, at the Early Stage Fifth Layer, would find it difficult to defeat a single early-stage Tier Five Corpse Scorpion, let alone over a dozen! You... you... you're at the Fourth Layer?"

Lin Xuankong smiled. "Just a few minor tricks!"

Minor tricks? A Fourth Layer Martial Cultivator killing over ten Tier Five Corpse Scorpions was just 'minor tricks'? Zheng Yunrui's eyes widened.

But soon, she seemed to think of something else. "No, no, no, that's not right! What Martial Cultivator in this world would directly consume a Spiritual Object to break through? After we leave the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, you should give the Spiritual Object to an Alchemist of the officials. Have them refine it into a Sunflower Water Treasure Elixir before you consume it! If you directly consume Heavy Water Spiritual Objects, the success rate is said to be less than two percent. You only have two Heavy Water Spiritual Objects left; if you consume them directly, your chances of advancing will be incredibly low!"

She shook her head repeatedly at Lin Xuankong. "In Martial Dao cultivation, the greatest taboo is being too hasty. You mustn't waste such priceless Heavy Water Spiritual Objects!"

Lin Xuankong knew she meant well, so he didn't argue. Then, he pointed to a spot in the bottom-left corner of the map. "According to the map's records, there are no Cold Pools within a hundred miles of this location, and Corpse Scorpions are scarce. Let's choose this spot! By the way, aren't you going back to Yan Yunfei and his group?"

"They're a bunch of cowards; there's no point in sticking with them! Besides, following that Little Yu King means I'll inevitably be ordered around by him. It's just too unpleasant!"

「Half an hour later,」

At the entrance of a cave on the eastern side of the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Zheng Yunrui watched Lin Xuankong walk into the cave. "After consuming the Heavy Water Spiritual Object, if you're successful, it generally takes at least twelve Hours to nurture the newly formed Sunflower Water Vein. You go on in. I happen to have nothing else to do, so I'll rest near the cave entrance for a while and help guard for you."

After Lin Xuankong walked into the depths of the cave, Zheng Yunrui sat on a large boulder at the entrance and sighed. Two drops of Heavy Water Spiritual Object... together, the success rate is probably just over three percent? But success rates don't add up like that. It's possible that even a hundred Heavy Water Spiritual Objects wouldn't guarantee success. Some unlucky individuals might fail to advance to the Fifth Layer even with two or three hundred! This Mu Shiba is really too impatient for results... Still, the Heavy Water Spiritual Objects are his; how he chooses to waste them is up to him!

While waiting, Zheng Yunrui took out a piece of Demon Flesh. After consuming it and feeling her Qi Blood gradually becoming abundant, she then retrieved a round, pale white Jade from her bosom. After calming her mind and steadying her breath, she activated her True Qi. Instantly, a stream of white True Qi enveloped her right palm. Her gaze focused, and she began to channel the True Qi into the Jade. The semi-transparent Jade flickered with brilliance, its pale white color gradually becoming more lustrous and pure. However, Zheng Yunrui's originally rosy complexion quickly turned pale, and her movements became weaker. It was unknown what this Jade was made of, but it could actually cause a Fifth Layer Martial Cultivator to become weak and feeble in such a short time.

「Half a Cup of Tea Time later,」

Footsteps echoed from the depths of the cave. Zheng Yunrui turned her head and saw Lin Xuankong already walking out.

She couldn't help but shake her head secretly. Just as I suspected, he didn't advance to the Fifth Layer. Otherwise, he definitely wouldn't have come out so quickly!

Mu Shiba must be feeling quite dejected right now. How should I comfort him? She rubbed her broad palms together, thinking to herself, Should I give him a hug? But I'm an unmarried maiden; that wouldn't be appropriate!

Lin Xuankong was oblivious to what the girl with the bun hairstyle was currently thinking. With a joyful expression, he walked to the cave entrance and took a deep breath of the Ba Mountain Secret Realm's air, which carried a trace of toxins.

[Realm: Transcendence Early Fifth Layer]

[Yin Talisman Technique: Returning to the Essence 1/450]

[Pine Crane Longevity Technique: Attained Minor Success 159/500]

[Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique: Attained Minor Success 161/450]

[Eight Gates Celestial Eye: Fifth Layer 105/200]

[True Qi: 49,999/500,000]

[Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique: Entering the Hall 70/100]

[Blood Eating Technique: Entering the Hall 90/100]

[Blood-Burning Secret Technique: Entering the Hall 20/100]

[Divine Protection Elixir: Mid-grade Pill Technique 29/72]

[Heart Thought: Mortal Tier Sixth Grade 11/80]

With the enhancement from the [Vigorous in Old Age] Life Plate, his cultivation speed for anything would increase sixtyfold. How could he be like others, needing a dozen or so tedious Hours to advance?

At this moment, within his Dantian, a small, ring-shaped Heavy Water Vein was continuously rotating. Twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots circled this Heavy Water Vein. Not only had the power of these twenty-four Divine Thunder Roots become even more profound, but water pattern-like Runes continuously appeared on them, shimmering with an arcane light! Even without releasing these Divine Thunders, Lin Xuankong was absolutely certain that, after being nourished by the Heavy Water Vein and now bearing these special Runes, they would be more than ten times more powerful than before if released at close range!

Currently, his Life Plate showed that his realm had impressively advanced from Fourth Layer Perfection to the Early Fifth Layer of Transcendence, and his Yin Talisman Technique had reached the Returning to the Essence stage!

The other most significant change was that his Perfect Qi Blood, which had previously filled his Life Plate to capacity, had now condensed nearly tenfold under the influence of the Heavy Water Vein, transforming into much stronger True Qi. This was also why his advancement had taken Half a Cup of Tea Time. Otherwise, with a sixtyfold enhancement, why would he have needed even that much time!

At this moment, although his Qi Blood points had decreased from 499,999 to 49,999, and the quantity was nearly ten times less, the quality had increased tenfold! Furthermore, the storage space in his Life Plate was now free again. He could once more consume large amounts of Demon Flesh to raise the Grade of his Blood Eating Technique and increase the quantity of his True Qi!

Finally, he had advanced to the Fifth Layer!

I wonder what it would be like now if I were to unleash Divine Thunder Illusion, Thunderous Radiance, and the Soul-Extinction Celestial Thunder Divine Technique? What if I used the Ruyi Battle Armor while casting them? Furthermore, if I were to use my Black Soul Wondrous Jade, Ghost Frog King's Demon Pearl, and other treasures, how powerful would they be?

Zheng Yunrui, standing to the side, looked at him with a puzzled expression. "You failed to advance to the Fifth Layer, so why do you look so joyful? If you're upset about the failure, just tell your sis here. You don't need to force a smile!"

Chapter 212: The Wonderful Uses of Profound Truth Stone, Is Mu Shiba at Sixth-Layer Perfection?

"Failed your promotion? Don't worry, I'm here to console you!"

When Lin Xuankong heard Zheng Yunrui's attempt at consolation, he couldn't help but feel speechless. He was about to explain when he suddenly saw the White Jade in Zheng Yunrui's hand and couldn't help but ask, "I'm fine, no need for consolation! But this Jade in your hand is so smooth and lustrous, and it seems to have a strong aura flowing through it. I've never seen anything like it!"

Stroking the Jade in her hand, Zheng Yunrui raised her eyebrows and said, "This kind of Profound Truth Stone comes from the Central Divine Dynasty on the eastern side of Boundaryless Mountain. It's normal that Brother Mu hasn't seen it. In our Great Marsh Prefecture, apart from the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect and the Holy Dragon Association, other factions like the Guo Family, Black Tiger Gang, and Huang Family probably don't possess any. Furthermore, this type of Jade can only be activated by Martial Cultivators at the Fifth Layer or higher, so ordinary Martial Cultivators naturally wouldn't have seen it!"

Hearing Zheng Yunrui say this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but think back to the Jade Token given to him by a Mysterious Female Cultivator in Demon-Suppressing Valley. The quality of that Jade Token was indeed similar to this White Jade. "What's the use of this Jade? Can it automatically protect its owner?"

Zheng Yunrui exclaimed in surprise, "A Jade that automatically protects its owner? Brother Mu, you've seen such a thing? Those Mid-grade Jade Tokens that can automatically protect their owner and have small Arrays engraved on them are only possessed by Major Sects in the Central Divine Dynasty. How could I possibly have one!

"The Profound Truth Jade in my hand was purchased by my father when he went to the Central Divine Dynasty on business; it took seven or eight pieces of Exorcism Equipment to trade for this one piece! As for the Jade Brother Mu mentioned—the kind that can automatically protect its owner—that would likely require an entire suit of Exorcism Armor in exchange for a single one. Even then, such items are incredibly rare, having a price but no actual market. Without extraordinary connections, how could anyone possibly buy it!

"As for the use of my Profound Truth Jade, it's actually for storing True Qi. When a Martial Cultivator reaches the Fifth Layer, activating Secret Techniques or Cultivation Techniques requires the consumption of True Qi. However, the amount of True Qi that the Sunflower Water Vein, Wood Vein, and Thick Earth Vein can nurture is ultimately limited. In prolonged combat, they will inevitably run dry!

"Even if one has Elixirs and Demon Flesh to replenish Qi Blood, absorbing and converting them into highly condensed True Qi takes time. In the heat of battle, where is the time for that? Would your opponents or Demons pause the fight to wait for your recovery?"

"But this Profound Truth Jade allows Martial Cultivators to store a portion of their True Qi in it during regular cultivation. Then, during intense combat, this True Qi can be drawn out at any time, greatly extending a Martial Cultivator's combat duration!"

Lin Xuankong inspected the Profound Truth Jade carefully. "Such a Jade exists! Does it store a large amount of True Qi?"

Zheng Yunrui nodded. "Of course, a lot, a very large amount! This Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade of mine can store an amount of True Qi equivalent to the entire capacity of a Fifth-Layer Perfection Martial Cultivator! If I encounter combat, it can increase my endurance multiple times over, definitely allowing me to easily win against Martial Cultivators of the Same Tier!"

After speaking, she took out another semi-transparent Jade from her bosom. "This time, entering the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, my father let me bring two of our family's treasured Profound Truth Jades. If Brother Mu likes it, I can temporarily let you use this one! However, since you haven't yet advanced to the Fifth Layer, you can only store some Qi Blood in it."

Lin Xuankong took the semi-transparent Jade, looking at Zheng Yunrui in surprise. "Miss Zheng, you should be aware of my strength. Telling me the uses of such a precious Jade so casually, aren't you afraid I'll be overcome by greed and rob you?"

Why not be overcome by lust for my beauty instead? Zheng Yunrui discontentedly touched the bun on her head. She spoke with some disappointment, "Brother Mu, you have such amazing strength, you carry the Ghost Frog Demon Pearl, you acquired the Demon Fox Demon Pearl from the Little Yu King, and you even have a full set of Battle Armor. Someone as wealthy and well-equipped as you surely wouldn't care about my little Jade! Most importantly, I perceive you as a steady and low-key person, not someone cunning or malicious. Otherwise, I certainly wouldn't have revealed such a treasure in front of you!"

Lin Xuankong chuckled while holding the Jade. "You speak so highly of me; even if I did harbor any ill intentions, I'd be too embarrassed to act on them!"

"Actually, having ill intentions isn't entirely forbidden..." Zheng Yunrui suddenly said bashfully.

Lin Xuankong was left speechless.

This bun-haired girl, what on earth is she thinking?

He shook his head and looked at the semi-transparent Jade in his hand. Then, he mobilized the True Qi in his Heavy Water Vein and began to inject it into the Jade. Within just a dozen breaths, the formerly semi-transparent Profound Truth Jade had transformed into a lustrous white, filled with powerful True Qi.

Seeing that the Profound Truth Jade was now full of True Qi, Lin Xuankong, who had initially been full of anticipation, couldn't help but frown.

[True Qi: 49,949/500,000]

His Life Plate showed that his True Qi Amount had only decreased by fifty points... and the Profound Truth Jade was already full, unable to take any more! So, this Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade can only store fifty points of True Qi? According to Zheng Yunrui, the amount of True Qi stored in the Profound Truth Jade is equivalent to the entire True Qi capacity of a Fifth-Layer Perfection Martial Cultivator. Does that mean an ordinary Fifth-Layer Perfection Martial Cultivator's Sunflower Water Vein can only store fifty points of True Qi???

That's far too little! Lin Xuankong frowned deeply.

However, upon reflection, True Qi is extremely condensed. One point of True Qi is equivalent to ten points of Perfect Qi Blood. This means fifty points of True Qi are equivalent to five hundred points of Perfect Qi Blood. Considered this way, what a Fifth-Layer Perfection Martial Cultivator can accomplish isn't insignificant at all. At the very least, they could activate a Demon Pearl several times, making them many times more powerful than a Fourth-Layer Martial Cultivator!

Chapter 213: The Wonderful Uses of Profound Truth Stone, Is Mu Shiba at Sixth-Layer Perfection?_2

After all, ordinary Martial Cultivators can't be compared to me!

However, although this Profound Truth Jade is extremely precious, it's completely useless to me! The amount of True Qi my Life Plate can store is tens of thousands of times that of ten Profound Truth Jades! And this is only for now... When I reach seventy or eighty, who knows how much pure True Qi it will amount to—a hundred thousand times, perhaps several hundred thousand times?

Lin Xuankong was pondering when, beside him, the topknot on Zheng Yunrui's head suddenly perked up.

She widened her eyes, staring at the Profound Truth Jade in Lin Xuankong's hand, which had turned pure white. Her eyes were full of confusion.

"Eh?"

"Brother Mu, you... you... how can you activate True Qi?"

Lin Xuankong was surprised. "Why can't I activate True Qi?"

Zheng Yunrui froze. She carefully sized up Lin Xuankong for a while, a look of realization finally dawning on her face. She nodded repeatedly, the topknot on her head swaying twice.

"I see! Brother Mu, you really know how to joke! It turns out you're not a Fourth Layer Martial Cultivator, not even a Fifth Layer Martial Cultivator. You must be a Martial Cultivator at Sixth-Layer Perfection!"

"Otherwise, how could you have so much True Qi in your body to instantly fill the Profound Truth Jade!"

"Only a Martial Cultivator at Sixth-Layer Perfection, possessing both the Sunflower Water Vein and the Wood Vein, could possibly fill a Grade-Entering Profound Truth Jade instantly!"

She suddenly looked up at Lin Xuankong.

"So, when you entered the cave just now, you weren't using the Heavy Water Spiritual Object to advance? No wonder you came out so quickly! Oh my goodness, a Martial Cultivator at Sixth-Layer Perfection! I, Zheng Yunrui, actually know a Martial Cultivator a full Realm stronger than my own father!"

Lin Xuankong: ...

I didn't say anything, yet you guessed so much! As for the reason I can inject so much True Qi... it's hard to explain for a moment! My Life Plate has the talent to store a large amount of True Qi; I can't just casually disclose this to others!

So Lin Xuankong had to remain silent, neither denying, acknowledging, objecting, nor agreeing.

Zheng Yunrui, on the other hand, stood up, her face full of joy.

"Brother Mu is so powerful, actually a Martial Cultivator at Sixth-Layer Perfection! No wonder you weren't the least bit afraid of that Little Yu King before. With this strength, you're definitely capable of dominating the Great Marsh and the Ba Mountain Secret Realm. Even that Little Yu King might not be your match!"

"How fortunate Yunrui is to have met such a powerful Martial Cultivator like Brother Mu... This... this Profound Truth Jade, please accept it as a gift from Yunrui to commemorate our friendship!"

Zheng Yunrui, her topknot perked up, looked at Lin Xuankong with utter amazement and reverence.

Lin Xuankong: The misunderstanding is getting deeper. I wish I were a Martial Cultivator at Sixth-Layer Perfection right now!

He shook his head and handed the Profound Truth Jade back to Zheng Yunrui. "I can't accept such a precious jade without earning it. It's very important to you; how can I take it so casually!"

After saying this, he didn't wait for Zheng Yunrui to refuse and continued, "I've made some progress in my cultivation and need to test it out. I'm going to take a look around! Please wait here for a moment.

When I return, we'll leave this place and go to other Cold Pools. With your map, we should find more Cold Pools and hopefully some more Heavy Water Spiritual Objects. I'll share some with you then!"

With his strength now greatly increased, he was naturally itching to test his various abilities and see how much they had improved!

Zheng Yunrui, dumbfounded, took the jade. When she looked up at Lin Xuankong, he had already vanished into an afterimage, heading into the distance.

As Zheng Yunrui watched his afterimage cover more than ten li in an instant before disappearing into the distance, she was once again somewhat amazed.

Looking down at the two jades of different colors in her hands, she lamented silently: Every time I consume a lot of Demon Flesh, convert it into True Qi, and infuse it several times, the Profound Truth Jade in my hand never turns pure white. Yet Brother Mu only gave it a squeeze, and another piece of Profound Truth Jade turned pure white within ten breaths, completely full! My father, who is at the Late Fifth Layer, is far, far from being able to do this. The difference between people is truly immense!

Brother Mu infused so much True Qi into the jade, yet he's still so vigorous and brimming with True Qi. My guess must be correct; he's definitely at Sixth-Layer Perfection!

Zheng Yunrui's topknot perked up very high; had she really latched onto such a powerful benefactor?

「Less than half an hour later,」

Zheng Yunrui sat by the giant rock at the cave entrance, slowly infusing True Qi into the jade in her hand. Then, she looked somewhat confused towards the sky a hundred miles away.

At this moment, a hundred miles away, the sky was clear and cloudless. Yet, thick bolts of lightning constantly appeared, striking towards the heavens and shimmering brightly.

She thought to herself, The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is indeed different from the outside. This kind of lightning from a clear sky... if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, it would be hard to believe. The crucial

point was that such long and powerful lightning bolts couldn't be cast by Martial Cultivators; it could only be a natural phenomenon! My father said that in the Central Divine Dynasty and Boundaryless Mountain, when Great Demons and Demon Kings attempted to break through the Ninth Layer to become Demon Emperors, they might encounter countless bolts of lightning from a clear sky. This phenomenon was referred to as a Demon King's Celestial Tribulation! The scene before me is very similar to the Celestial Tribulation my father described when I was young. Growing up, I thought my father was just teasing me. I never expected that lightning could truly strike from a clear sky! However, there shouldn't be any Demon Kings present in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm... after all, this place contains the Celestial Demon Bone. Demon Kings and Great Demons wouldn't dare enter!

「A few miles away,」

Two Martial Cultivators stood beside a pile of jagged rocks, also looking at the strange clear-sky lightning with astonished faces!

The two men wore green robes and appeared to be around thirty-seven or thirty-eight years old. One of them was Liy Ruoqing, the Master of the Black Tiger Gang's Great Marsh Hall.

At this moment, he clutched a Demon Fox Demon Pearl, frowning as he gazed at the sky a hundred miles away. He said in a low voice, "Second Brother, this lightning is quite strange. Is someone activating a powerful Thunder Technique?"

Liy Ruo Ying, also holding a Demon Fox Demon Pearl, shook his head. "Thunderbolts that span such vast distances and possess such power... even the Sect Leader of the Yin Talisman Sect couldn't unleash them. This is likely beyond human capability; perhaps it's just a peculiar natural phenomenon!"

Liy Ruoqing nodded, then glanced a few miles behind him.

There, two Vice Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang, both at the Mid-grade Fifth Layer, were watching over some forty Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators. All of these cultivators had faces tinged with a purplish-black hue, clearly poisoned by Corpse Scorpion Venom.

He withdrew his gaze and said, "We've collected eight drops of Heavy Water Spiritual Objects and over two hundred Zhengyuan Grass plants from these people. With this much Zhengyuan Grass, if we capture a few more Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators, we can consider heading to the Secret Realm Center!"

"Although Second Uncle warned me not to covet the Celestial Demon Bone, it's an ownerless treasure. If there's a chance, we must try for it. If we could truly obtain the Celestial Demon Bone..."

Liy Ruo Ying frowned. "The center area is filled with Poisonous Fog, and most plants and rocks there contain deadly toxins—a kind of poison that even Zhengyuan Grass cannot neutralize. Besides, the Celestial Demon Bone is extremely difficult to refine! With our current cultivation, it's far beyond our reach!"

"What are we afraid of?" Liy Ruoqing said coldly. "We've captured so many Martial Cultivators; let them scout the way!"

"As for refining the Celestial Demon Bone, I have ten thousand pounds of Tier Three Demon Flesh in my Ghost Frog Pouch. We'll set up a Grand Array and force these dozens of Martial Cultivators to refine it together!"

After speaking, he looked towards Zheng Yunrui at the cave entrance a few miles away, turning the Demon Pearl in his hand.

"Second Brother, judging by this woman's appearance and attire, she should be Zheng Yunrui from the Zheng Family Trading Company. The Zheng Family Trading Company, which trades between the Rakshasa Kingdom and Great Xia, has always been immensely wealthy. Although she's only twenty-seven or twenty-eight, thanks to abundant resources and training, her strength is quite formidable; she's already at the Early Stage Fifth Layer!"

"Capturing this Zheng Yunrui might yield more Zhengyuan Grass, and possibly other valuable items! Besides, capturing one more Martial Cultivator will increase our chances of refining the Celestial Demon Bone!"

Chapter 214: The Overwhelming Battle Style, Black Tiger Gang? More Like Paper Tiger Gang!

A moment later, the two had already turned into phantoms and rushed towards the somewhat distracted Zheng Yunrui.

Zheng Yunrui, who was lost in thought, pondering who 'Mu Shiba' really was and why he was so strong, only noticed the two when they were within two miles of the cave. Her expression changed as she activated her Battle Armor and looked towards Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying.

Seeing their faces, she nervously clenched the Profound Truth Jade in her hand. "Liy Ruoqing of the Black Tiger Gang, Liy Ruo Ying!"

As a Martial Cultivator of the Great Marsh Prefecture, she had naturally seen these two before and had long heard of their renown.

Liy Ruoqing, Master of the Black Tiger Gang's Great Marsh Hall, and Liy Ruo Ying, Master of their Law Enforcement Hall, were both Late Stage Fifth Layer experts. Both were in their prime, their Qi Blood extremely abundant and vigorous, making them considerably stronger than Li Baimei, the Steward of the Holy Dragon Association. Crucially, the two were heading straight for her, clearly targeting her.

At this moment, the two from the Liy Family had stopped over two hundred zhang away.

Liy Ruoqing, the Master of the Great Marsh Hall, said calmly, "I didn't expect to meet Miss Zheng of the Zheng Family Trading Company here. The Corpse Scorpions in this Ba Mountain Secret Realm are powerful. Isn't Miss Zheng afraid of danger, wandering alone?"

Zheng Yunrui's heart fluttered with panic, but she maintained a confident façade and replied in a steady tone, "How could I be alone? Naturally, I have several companions nearby who are stronger than I am. Hall Master Liy, you've come to greet me. Is there something you need?"

Liy Ruoqing chuckled softly. He and Liy Ruo Ying had observed Zheng Yunrui for a full quarter of an hour, confirming there were no other Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators nearby before decisively approaching. How could he be fooled by her bluff now?

Liy Ruo Ying then said, "If you have companions, all the better. Have them all join our Black Tiger Gang's team!"

Zheng Yunrui frowned. Join the Black Tiger Gang's team? And be used as their pawns? The thought of retreat, of escape, had already surfaced in her mind. But if I flee too far, Mu Shiba might not be able to find me! A wave of anxiety washed over her.

Liy Ruoqing scrutinized her for a moment. When he saw the jade glowing with white fluorescence in her hand, his eyes lit up as he recognized the legendary Profound Truth Jade. A glint of greed appeared in his eyes. "Second Brother, no need to waste words on her. She's just an Early Stage Fifth Layer cultivator. Capture her!"

After speaking, the Demon Pearl in his hand suddenly flashed. Instantly, a five-tailed, Five-eyed Demon Fox, as tall as a two-story building, appeared in the clearing between the three, radiating dense Demon Qi. Then, its five eyes snapped open, and five crimson beams of light shot directly towards Zheng Yunrui!

Liy Ruoqing was indeed decisive and ruthless; the moment he attacked, he unhesitatingly activated the powerful Demon Fox Demon Pearl!

BOOM! With a tremendous crash, the boulder, several men tall, at the cave entrance instantly disintegrated under the assault of the five light beams, exploding into countless fragments that scattered in all directions.

Zheng Yunrui, having dodged the attack, no longer dared to hesitate. Her figure flickered as she rapidly retreated.

Unfortunately, though Zheng Yunrui was fast, the Demon Fox summoned by Liy Ruoqing, a Late Stage Fifth Layer powerhouse, naturally possessed Late Stage Fifth Layer speed and power, far surpassing hers.

Its four paws moved like a whirlwind, and in the blink of an eye, the distance between woman and fox rapidly closed.

All the while, the Demon Fox's five light beams shot out wantonly, battering the Fifth Layer expert Zheng Yunrui and leaving her in a sorry state.

She did her utmost to evade but was still struck twice. If not for her full suit of Battle Armor and the protection of her Condensed True Qi, those two blows alone would have been enough for the Demon Fox to injure her severely.

In a mere dozen breaths, the two men, the woman, and the fox had already covered several miles. Zheng Yunrui, while fleeing, channeled all her True Qi into a green luminescence to counterattack the Demon Fox.

Yet, a sliver of despair began to creep into her heart. Liy Ruoqing's Demon Fox alone had already beaten her to the point where she couldn't fight back. The Late Stage Fifth Layer powerhouses of the Black Tiger Gang truly lived up to their reputation!

I can probably only last a few dozen more breaths at most before my True Qi is depleted, she thought. Even with the Profound Truth Jade in hand, it will only slightly delay my defeat!

What's more, Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, two formidable Late Stage Fifth Layer experts, haven't even attacked yet. They haven't even activated the Black Tiger Gang's exceptionally powerful Black Soul Wondrous Jade. If those two were to activate the Black Soul Wondrous Jade together, I'd be defeated in an instant!

Mu Shiba! Brother Mu! Brother Mu! Why haven't you come back yet?!

Liy Ruo Ying, still in pursuit of Zheng Yunrui, shouted to Liy Ruoqing, "Brother, be careful not to kill her! If you really plan on heading to the central region, an Early Stage Fifth Layer warrior like her will be quite useful!"

A cold smile appeared on Liy Ruoqing's face. "Of course I know..."

Hearing this, the despair on Zheng Yunrui's face deepened. They want to capture me alive? Go to the central region? What for?

Just then, BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM! A series of five explosions thundered ahead of Zheng Yunrui, and a massive amount of Demon Qi began to spread wildly.

Directly in Zheng Yunrui's path of escape, five enormous Demon Foxes, each as tall as a two-story building, suddenly materialized. They stood in a neat line, completely blocking her way.

Zheng Yunrui's expression changed drastically. One Demon Fox alone had already rendered me powerless... and now there are five Five-eyed Demon Foxes...

However, Zheng Yunrui wasn't the only one whose expression changed drastically at the sudden appearance of five giant Demon Foxes ahead; Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying of the Black Tiger Gang were equally stunned.

"Five Demon Foxes..." Liy Ruo Ying, who had been looking relaxed and confident, now wore an expression of shock. Even with strength comparable to Liy Ruoqing's, and as the Law Enforcement Hall Master of the Black Tiger Gang, he had never witnessed such a spectacle: five Demon Foxes appearing simultaneously, all of an Equal Tier, so perfectly aligned. It was too uniform, too terrifying!

Chapter 215: The Overwhelming Battle Style, Black Tiger Gang? More Like Paper Tiger Gang!_2

"Quick, dodge!"

Liy Ruo Ying was startled as Liy Ruoqing suddenly shouted and pulled him to the side.

At this moment, except for one Demon Fox attacking Liy Ruoqing, the other four simultaneously activated crimson beams. A total of twenty beams shot towards the spot where the two were standing!

Just as Liy Ruoqing was pulling Liy Ruo Ying to evade, he suddenly felt a tight grip under his feet. Looking down, he saw a Shadow of the Black Soul beneath both his and Liy Ruo Ying's feet. Two black shadows that had silently sneaked up on them were now simultaneously using their power to grasp both brothers' legs tightly. The immense power of the Shadows of the Black Soul made it impossible for these two Late Stage Fifth Layer fighters to break free!

"BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!"

The two were stunned as twenty beams struck their position simultaneously. The endless, ferocious power of the Demon Techniques roared along the twenty crimson beams, continuously bombarding them. As the beams engulfed their bodies, they activated their Battle Armor, but facing the beams head-on was unbearable... Their Protective True Qi was quickly being worn down by the beams!

In his panic, Liy Ruo Ying tried to activate his Demon Fox Demon Pearl, but just as he was about to, a red Long Tongue lashed out from behind and snatched it away...

Despair washed over Liy Ruo Ying's face instantly. Where did this red Long Tongue come from?

In their desperate struggle, the two brothers launched their Black Tiger Claw Radiance attacks at the shadows gripping them, trying to break free. Unfortunately, the Black Soul Jade refined by the Black Tiger Gang's old leader was simply too formidable!

The shadows' ability to endure attacks far exceeded that of Same Tier Martial Cultivators, leaving Liy Ruqing and Liy Ruo Ying unable to break free from the Shadows of the Black Soul. Though their means of attack were crude and simple, relying solely on close combat and entanglement, the two Shadows of the Black Soul, combined with the beams from the four Demon Foxes, had perfect synergy—a match made in heaven!

To make matters worse, the four Demon Foxes rapidly closed the distance while firing beams. In an instant, they covered hundreds of yards, closing in on the Liy Family Brothers, their twenty thick tails whipping with a "CRACK! CRACK!" sound!

The ground trembled continuously as cracks appeared and dust filled the air.

Three breaths later, Liy Ruqing couldn't sustain the expenditure of his True Qi any longer. The Demon Fox he had summoned dissipated, allowing another Demon Fox to join in the assault on the two brothers!

Six breaths later, Liy Ruqing and Liy Ruo Ying's Protective True Qi was rapidly exhausted under the intense barrage!

The Battle Armor of these two renowned Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang reverted to weapon form, their bones and flesh continuously being destroyed under the crimson beams!

These two famed powerhouses of the Black Tiger Gang, who wielded great power in the Great Marsh Prefecture, found themselves despairing as their deaths loomed, never once seeing their attackers' faces.

Just as their True Qi was depleted and their bodies were about to disintegrate, the attacks abruptly ceased. Then, the two shadows used their shadowy bodies to securely restrain them!

As the dust settled, a figure emerged. Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, barely alive, looked up. Their panicked faces were full of uncertainty. The person before them appeared to be in their twenties and did not fit the image of any formidable warrior from the Great Marsh Prefecture or Nanyuan Prefecture that they recognized!

"Brother Mu is incredibly strong, defeating Late Stage Fifth Layer cultivators with such ease, it's like a walk in the park!"

The initially disheveled Zheng Yunrui brightened upon seeing the newcomer, her twin hair buns instantly perking up.

"The distance I traveled was a bit far, so I got back a bit late!" Lin Xuankong said, frowning at Zheng Yunrui's dust-covered face.

Zheng Yunrui smiled, "Not too late, just in time!"

Then she turned to the Liy Family Brothers, somewhat smug, "I told you I had a powerful ally, didn't believe me? Surprised now, aren't you, dear Hall Masters!"

Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying's expressions turned grim as they struggled in vain, their bodies drained of True Qi and unable to break free from the Shadows of the Black Soul's restraints!

The two were filled with doubt and suspicion. They couldn't ascertain the newcomer's Realm, strength, or origin, but the fact that he possessed five Demon Fox Demon Pearls was already indicative of his terrifying power. Even Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying each only had one, and the entire Black Tiger Gang only had five, including theirs!

The greatest mystery to them was how this person had two Black Soul Wondrous Jades and could wield them...

Lin Xuankong casually picked up the two Black Soul Wondrous Jades and two Demon Fox Demon Pearls, along with the two sets of Battle Armor and one Ghost Frog Pouch belonging to the brothers.

Placing them all into the Ghost Frog Pouch, he looked at Liy Ruqing and Liy Ruo Ying.

He felt somewhat sentimental. Not long ago, even a minor Black Tiger Gang thug like Ma Xiong could instill fear and unease in him. But now, after just a few months, having advanced to the Fifth Layer and with his strength greatly increased, two of the three great Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang were his prisoners, their lives in his hands! Indeed, having advanced to the Fifth Layer, he hadn't even needed to use the Yin Talisman Thunder Skill. Just two Secret Techniques and a few of his many Demon Pearls had been enough to defeat the two Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang in an instant! The Black Tiger Gang, which once dominated the Great Marsh Prefecture, had effectively become a Paper Tiger Gang before his Fifth Layer strength!

After a moment of reflection, he looked at the considerable loot in his hands. The Black Tiger Gang's Hall Masters truly are treasure troves! Two Black Soul Wondrous Jades, two sets of Battle Armor, two Demon Fox Demon Pearls! With these, in my next battle, I could have seven Demon Foxes standing together, using their thirty-five eyes to unleash thirty-five crimson beams in a frenzied barrage! Coupled with four Fifth Layer Shadows of the Black Soul for close combat, a Tier Five Ghost Frog King for Invisibility attacks, a Tier Five Marsh Python for tail lash attacks, a Tier Five Evil Sheep for powerful charges, and being entangled by a Tier Five Demon Vine and Manluo Demon Grass... What kind of combat effectiveness could such a lineup achieve? Dealing with an Early or Mid-Stage Sixth Layer opponent shouldn't be too challenging! But where exactly is that Little Yu King?

At this moment, Zheng Yunrui, recognizable by her twin hair buns, chuckled. "Brother Mu, you're so formidable. Those five Five-eyed Demon Foxes appearing all at once scared me to death. But since you're at Sixth-Layer Perfection, why not summon a Tier Six Demon Fox! I've never seen how fierce a Tier Six Demon Fox can be. I would love to see Brother Mu summon one, just to see how imposing a six-eyed, six-tailed Demon Fox would be!"

Lin Xuankong was taken aback by those words:...

Meanwhile, the tightly restrained Liy Ruqing and Liy Ruo Ying heard her words, their pupils shrinking. Could this Brother Mu actually be at Sixth-Layer Perfection?

Liy Ruqing's face filled with incredulity. Even their uncle, Prefect Liy, and Elder Hua from the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect are only at the Late Stage Sixth Layer, far from reaching Sixth-Layer Perfection!

The higher one climbs in Martial Dao, the harder it becomes to make progress. Breaking through the bottleneck from Late Stage Sixth Layer to Sixth-Layer Perfection could take even those with great Talent a decade or more... Could this Martial Cultivator before them really be a terrifying Sixth-Layer Perfection expert?

Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying exchanged a look, their hearts filled with panic. Though they had their doubts, they were absolutely certain that someone who could defeat them both so effortlessly couldn't possibly be just at the Fifth Layer!

If Zheng Yunrui wasn't just speaking casually and this expert before us is truly at Sixth-Layer Perfection... then his venturing into such a dangerous place is likely not for Heavy Water Spiritual Objects. Someone at Sixth-Layer Perfection would surely be after Thick Earth Spiritual Objects! If he's not here for Heavy Water Spiritual Objects, could it be for the Celestial Demon Bone?

Liy Ruoqing's thoughts raced, and an idea flashed through his mind—a possible chance for survival!

Chapter 216: Celestial Sect Saintess Seeks Help, Master of the Secret Realm and the Invincible Land

Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying, two legitimate Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang, couldn't withstand Lin Xuankong's attacks. Naturally, the two Vice Hall Masters guarding the dozens of Martial Cultivators were even more defenseless and were dealt with in an instant!

When Lin Xuankong and his party arrived, one of the Black Tiger Gang's Vice Hall Masters was suppressing the resistance of several Martial Cultivators, intending to kill a few as a warning. However, before he could act, the two Vice Hall Masters were reduced to flying dust by the concentrated attacks of seven Five-eyed Demon Foxes—"fly-dust," for short!

Thus, Lin Xuankong gained two more sets of Battle Armor and a Ghost Frog Pouch. The Black Tiger Gang was indeed wealthy, a treasure-laden gang!

At this moment, the forty-odd Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators who were poisoned by the Corpse Scorpion Venom stared at the seven gigantic Five-eyed Demon Foxes, their hearts pounding like drums.

Lin Xuankong turned to look at Liy Ruoqing, who was bound by shadows, and asked, "Why are you capturing so many Martial Cultivators and using Corpse Scorpion Venom to control them?"

Liy Ruoqing hesitated for a moment, a glimmer of hope in his eyes, and said, "It's for the Celestial Demon Bone!"

"Celestial Demon Bone?" Zheng Yunrui exclaimed upon hearing this. "The Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm is said to be between Tier Two and Tier Three. Even a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone ranks among the middle of the eighteen Celestial Demon Bones owned by the Great Xia Dynasty. If it's Tier Three... many Tier Eight Powerhouses have perished due to the allure of this Ba Mountain Secret Realm's Celestial Demon Bone! Although you and Liy Ruo Ying are Tier Five experts, what makes you think you can refine the Celestial Demon Bone when even Tier Eight Powerhouses have failed?"

Liy Ruoqing proudly replied, "The Great Xia Xiao Family has refining methods. The Prince Yu's Mansion, Prince Dong's Mansion, Prince Qi's Mansion, Prince Yi's Mansion, and Prince Zhenbei's Mansion all have refining methods. Since our Liy Family possesses the Black Tiger Secret Realm, of course, we also have refining methods. Moreover, our Liy Family's refining methods, passed down for over two hundred years, are not inferior to theirs. Why shouldn't we try?"

Lin Xuankong had heard Han Feiyan and Ye Kai mention the Celestial Demon Bone before, but only vaguely. Hearing about it again now, he couldn't help but be a bit confused. "Celestial Demon Bone? So you need to control so many Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators?"

Liy Ruoqing glanced at the forty-odd Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators around them, his gaze flickering, then lowered his head.

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong looked at the forty-odd Fourth Layer Martial Cultivators.

The Martial Cultivators, saved by Lin Xuankong, were naturally immensely grateful. Having witnessed Lin Xuankong easily kill two Black Tiger Gang Vice Hall Masters and control two Hall Masters, they already held a deep respect and fear for the 'Mu Shiba' before them. All of them clasped their hands in thanks!

Among them, a Fourth Layer Perfection Martial Cultivator stepped forward, clasped his hands, and said, "Elder Mu, I am Sun Haiguang from Wine City. If not for your intervention, we would surely have fallen victim to Liy Ruoqing. Thank you for saving our lives. Next, Liy Ruoqing may have to explain the matter of the Celestial Demon Bone to you, Elder. This is not something we should listen to, so I will take my leave first. If Elder Mu ever comes to Wine City, the Sun Family will surely welcome you with open arms. Whatever you command, we will go through fire and water for you!"

Sun Wudi, who had once stood out in Demon-Suppressing Valley, had now become mediocre in strength in this Ba Mountain Secret Realm. He couldn't even escape the control of two Black Tiger Gang Vice Hall Masters! Seeing this, the other Martial Cultivators also clasped their hands, reporting their names and backgrounds.

Lin Xuankong glanced at the faces full of dark aura, casually took out a hundred Zhengyuan Grass from the Ghost Frog Pouch of a Black Tiger Gang Vice Hall Master, and handed them to Zheng Yunrui. "Distribute these. These Zhengyuan Grass were probably also taken from them by the Black Tiger Gang!"

For others, Zhengyuan Grass was of great value. For Lin Xuankong now, it was just a casual item. Moreover, in this poison-filled Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Zhengyuan Grass was a life-saving herb for others but completely useless to him!

Seeing this, the forty-odd Martial Cultivators were immensely grateful and bowed repeatedly in thanks.

Sun Haiguang and about a dozen other Martial Cultivators with decent strength even promised on the spot that if they found Heavy Water Spiritual Objects in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, they would wait at the secret realm's exit for Elder Mu and give him some as a token of their gratitude.

Moments later, the crowd dispersed, and Lin Xuankong looked at Liy Ruoqing. "You can speak now!"

Liy Ruoqing's eyes flickered, then he said, "The refining method for the Celestial Demon Bone is extremely important. Only a few dozen people in the entire Great Xia Dynasty know it! If someone can use this method to obtain the Celestial Demon Bone, they have a chance to establish a family that can last for thousands of years! Revealing such a great secret to you, Elder, I only hope that you will promise one thing: after I tell you the refining method for the Celestial Demon Bone, spare my life and Liy Ruo Ying's life!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong looked at the Tier Five Corpse Scorpion confined in the Profound Iron Cage in the distance and thought of the Black Tiger Gang's numerous brutal actions. A sneer formed in his heart. He nodded. "Very well. Mu Shiba always keeps his word. As long as you tell, Mu Shiba will spare both your lives!"

Liy Ruo Ying, beside him, sighed deeply. He knew that this man's strength was overwhelming and that his and his brother's lives were in his hands. Even though the man had promised not to take their lives, if he went back on his word, they would be powerless... However, without this temporary solution, he and his brother would probably die immediately!

Chapter 217: Celestial Sect Saintess Seeks Help, Master of the Secret Realm and the Unbeaten Land_2

Liy Ruoqing stared at Lin Xuankong, his eyes flickering. He naturally knew that the name Mu Shiba might not be this person's real name. However, judging by Mu Shiba's righteous act of releasing more than thirty Martial Cultivators and gifting them Zhengyuan Grass, the man before him was certainly no bloodthirsty villain! The most important thing was that he and his brother had likely never offended him; they had only attracted such a formidable individual because they had wanted to deal with Zheng Yunrui. Revealing the refining method should be their last hope for survival!

After gritting his teeth and hesitating for a moment, he frowned and began to explain, with Zheng Yunrui constantly interjecting beside him, carefully supplementing details about the Celestial Demon Bone.

A moment later, Lin Xuankong nodded slightly, a hint of surprise in his eyes. The Celestial Demon Bone, it turned out, was an extraordinarily rare and precious treasure, far more so than Demon Pearls. Demon Pearls are treasures that can significantly enhance a Martial Cultivator's combat power, while a Celestial Demon Bone can grant a Martial Cultivator ownership of an entire Secret Realm!

For example, the Black Tiger Gang's Black Tiger Secret Realm had been derived from a single Tier One Celestial Demon Bone. It had gradually expanded into a micro-Secret Realm encompassing hundreds of thousands of acres, forming a miniature world akin to a Sumeru!

And the old gang leader of the Black Tiger Gang, who had refined the Celestial Demon Bone within his body, thus possessed all the powers associated with the Black Tiger Secret Realm. These included the ability to cause illusions for any being who stepped inside, to gradually alter the forms of the mountains and rivers derived from the Celestial Demon Bone, and to prevent any Martial Cultivator from entering or leaving the Secret Realm. Without the permission of the Celestial Demon Bone's owner, not even Ninth-Layer Demons or Demon Kings could enter or leave. The Master of the Demon Bone was, therefore, almost invincible within the Secret Realm. Beyond this, there were numerous other mystical uses!

After Liy Ruoqing and Zheng Yunrui finished explaining the uses of the Celestial Demon Bone, Lin Xuankong looked at Liy Ruoqing with a touch of surprise. "The Liy Family's Black Tiger Gang actually possesses such fortune, to have such an extraordinary Black Tiger Secret Realm. I truly underestimated your Black Tiger Gang and the Liy Family!"

Liy Ruoqing's eyelid twitched. "Elder Mu, our Black Tiger Gang shouldn't have offended you, have we?"

Lin Xuankong shook his head silently, then stared into Liy Ruoqing's eyes and said, "Next, tell me about your Liy Family's refining method!"

Liy Ruoqing, seeing that he didn't directly answer his question, couldn't help but feel uneasy.

This Mu Shiba possesses two pieces of Black Soul Wondrous Jade, which is very odd. Normally, besides the Great Xia Royal Family, the Black Tiger Hall Master, and the old gang leader, others wouldn't have had the chance to obtain one! Of the two pieces of Black Soul Wondrous Jade that were lost some time ago, one likely fell into the hands of the Conical Hat Guest, and the other was carried by Liy Ruofeng and lost during the Demon Slaying Conference! Could this person before me actually be the Conical Hat Guest?! No, no, definitely not the Conical Hat Guest! The Conical Hat Guest's strength is at the Fifth Layer at most; he should be far from possessing such prowess! Otherwise, with the Conical Hat Guest's temperament, if he possessed Mu Shiba's current strength, he would have probably stormed the Great Marsh Hall and flattened it long ago! So who is he really? Did he obtain the Wondrous Jade from the Great Xia Royal Family?

Just as Liy Ruoqing was filled with doubts, far in the distant sky, a flicker of light suddenly appeared. A massive firework exploded, its flames constantly transforming, forming the shape of a blood-red phoenix. The phoenix's long beak pointed in a specific direction. This phoenix flame persisted in the sky for some time before finally dissipating.

Seeing the fiery light, Liy Ruoqing, Liy Ruoying, and Zheng Yunrui all revealed peculiar expressions.

Zheng Yunrui frowned. "The long beak of the Profound Phoenix Flame points toward the middle region of the Secret Realm, approaching the center. This Profound Phoenix Flame is a signal that can only be initiated by the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect Saintess. According to the laws of the Great Xia Dynasty, anyone who sees the Profound Phoenix Light Flame, regardless of their location, must immediately head in the direction indicated by the phoenix's beak. Failure to do so will result in being charged with violating the sacred decree of the Great Xia Dynasty's Celestial Sect!"

"We are clearly within the Ba Mountain Secret Realm right now, yet the Celestial Sect Saintess has released the Profound Phoenix Light Flame, a signal used only in emergencies? Could it be that the Celestial Sect Saintess has arrived in the Secret Realm, encountered some danger, and needs to summon

all Martial Cultivators within the Secret Realm to confront this danger? But if the Saintess entered the Secret Realm, she should at least be accompanied by Celestial Sect Elders and the Great Xia Royal Guard! That fiery light isn't at the Secret Realm Center, and it's also highly unlikely she encountered a Tier Six Poison Scorpion there. Could there be some other danger in that middle region of the Secret Realm, something so severe that even the Celestial Sect Saintess and Celestial Sect Elders require assistance?"

Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruoying exchanged a glance, each lost in their own thoughts.

The Celestial Sect Saintess's safety was of no concern to them; they themselves were like lambs on a sacrificial altar, hardly in a position to worry about anyone else's life or death! Still, a change of scenery might bring a change of fortune.

After pondering for a moment, Liy Ruoqing spoke, "Celestial Sect Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er is not just the Celestial Sect Saintess; she is also the most doted-upon Third Princess of Emperor Xiao of Great Xia. If she is facing life-threatening danger within the Secret Realm, anyone who can rescue her will undoubtedly earn the Third Princess's favor and gratitude!"

"Elder Mu, with strength like yours, you should be comparable to a Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect Elder, perhaps even stronger. If you were to go and save the Third Princess, such a tremendous meritorious deed would yield unimaginable benefits—they might even surpass the benefits of a Celestial Demon Bone! Enfeoffment and a noble title are distinct possibilities!"

Chapter 218: Celestial Sect Saintess Seeks Help, Master of the Secret Realm and the Unbeaten Land_3

Zheng Yunrui's eyes also brightened upon hearing this.

"That's right, Brother Mu, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Normally, how could the Celestial Sect Saintess need anyone's help? If we could gain the favor and gratitude of the Celestial Sect Saintess, it would be like ascending to the heavens in one step!"

Lin Xuankong, however, frowned slightly. These few people before me all think I'm at Sixth-Layer Perfection or an Early Stage Seventh Layer. But I know my own strength too well. Currently, I'm only at an Early Stage Fifth Layer. Although I can confidently face and defeat a Fifth-Layer Perfection or Early Stage Sixth-Layer opponent, dealing with a mid-grade Sixth Layer is already troublesome. More powerful than a Late Stage Sixth Layer Celestial Sect Elder? Do they really think masters grow on trees? Can I fight across more than one and a half major Realms?

The Elders of the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect are all Late Stage Sixth Layer. In addition, the Celestial Sect Saintess herself should possess many Treasures, plus some guards. If such a lineup can't handle it, going myself might just be sending myself to die! Moreover, fame breeds trouble. Currently, settling the various matters in the Great Marsh Prefecture and focusing on Cultivation is the right path. With my Vigorous in Old Age Life Plate, do I need the help of any Saintess or Princess? This chance to curry favor with the Princess of Great Xia or the Celestial Sect Saintess should be left to other loyal and brave people. Accompanying my Young Lady and Yu Fei is better than anything else!

Thinking of this, he frowned and looked at Liy Ruoqing. "Stop wasting time. Continue explaining the method of refining the Celestial Demon Bone!"

Zheng Yunrui couldn't help but show a look of surprise. Brother Mu is so strong; if he went, he would certainly be able to shine. Why wouldn't he go? Does Brother Mu not care about gaining the favor and gratitude of the Princess of Great Xia? What kind of background must he have to give up the chance to connect with a Saintess? But with such a significant background and origin, how could he not know the secrets of the Celestial Demon Bone?

For a moment, she looked at Lin Xuankong, full of doubt, feeling increasingly unable to see through the mysterious Mu Shiba before her.

Liy Ruoqing was clearly a bit surprised as well, but seeing Lin Xuankong's cold expression, his heart suddenly tightened. Not daring to refute, he could only begin to explain.

「Over half an hour later,」

After listening to the entire refining method, Lin Xuankong said, "Refining the Celestial Demon Bone actually requires an Array, and it costs millions of Qi Blood? Are you kidding me?"

Liy Ruoqing's face was resolute. "I, Liy Ruoqing, swear that every word is the truth. If there is even half a lie, may heaven strike me with five thunders! The method to set up the Refining Array requires decades of study to master. If Senior wishes to refine it, I will definitely assist with all my power and personally perform the Array Formation!"

An oath? Lin Xuankong's eyes flickered, and he said, "Swear a different oath!"

Liy Ruoqing was a little puzzled. "What kind of oath?"

Moments later, after swearing the new oath, both Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying looked bitter.

By the Zhi God above Great Xia, I swear I will never betray Mu Shiba, never reveal anything about the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, and will wholeheartedly perform the Array Formation for Mu Shiba, or else my Divine Soul will be obliterated, and I will never be reborn... This oath was simply too harsh, too vicious!

The two exchanged a glance, their eyes full of despair. From now on, the dignified Hall Masters of the Black Tiger Gang would actually become someone else's slaves!

Lin Xuankong then walked to the Profound Iron Cage imprisoning the Tier Five poisonous scorpion, contemplating. Although these unfortunate brothers from the Black Tiger Gang have already sworn a vicious oath, to fully control them, I still need to take comprehensive measures! After all, this concerns the refining of the Celestial Demon Bone and the journey to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm Center. If I cannot completely control these two, how can I feel at ease focusing on Cultivation and continuing to increase my strength on the way?

Thinking of this, he reached towards the small gate of the cage. Zheng Yunrui couldn't help but exclaim, "Brother Mu, be careful! That's a Tier Five Corpse Scorpion. Even a Sixth Layer or Seventh Layer Martial Cultivator's Cultivation would greatly diminish if poisoned by it!"

Liy Ruoqing and Liy Ruo Ying's eyes lit up. This Mu Shiba dares to touch the terrifying Corpse Scorpion without even taking Zhengyuan Grass; he's courting death! Even though we've sworn a vicious oath and can't betray or attack him, him dying on his own wouldn't count as betrayal... Freedom is right in front of us!

Chapter 219: Saintess Decree with Generous Rewards, Mysterious Prison

In the central region of the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, near a Cold Pool, Xiao Ying'Er sat silently on a white carpet, her face pale, steadily absorbing the two drops of Heavy Water Spiritual Object in her hand. As the Heavy Water Spiritual Object diminished, her initially pale face gradually regained some color. Her curled eyelashes trembled slightly, and then she opened her eyes.

Nearby, four Early Stage Fifth Layer handmaidens and two Late Stage Fourth Layer bearers, whose bodies were covered in blood, guarded vigilantly. Seeing Xiao Ying'Er's injuries had recovered a bit, joy appeared on their faces.

Hua Yanluo, who stood to the side with white hair, bowed respectfully. "Saintess, if the Demon Qi in your meridians has lessened somewhat, it would be best to set off immediately! That Seventh-Tier Brown Bear Liao People must have also seen the Profound Phoenix Light Flame and may be heading there. If it gets there before us, we'll be in trouble!"

Upon hearing this, Xiao Ying'Er, whose expression was usually as calm as an old well, showed a flicker of anger, her delicate brows furrowing slightly.

Just half a day earlier, shortly after entering the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, their party had encountered a Brown Bear Liao People. That Brown Bear Liao People actually claimed it wanted to capture Saintess Xiao Ying'Er to present her to its Demon Lord, the Golden-haired Demon Bear, for her to serve tea and groom it!

The Third Princess of Great Xia and Celestial Sect Saintess, Xiao Ying'Er, had never faced such provocation and immediately erupted into battle.

However, they were unprepared for that Brown Bear Liao People being a Seventh-Tier Great Demon, which also possessed the Mountain-moving Power Talent of the Golden-haired Demon Bear.

Even though Xiao Ying'Er used all her Magical Treasures, she was no match for the Brown Bear Liao People. Two Late Stage Fourth Layer bearers were smashed into meat patties on the spot. Xiao Ying'Er herself was struck on the shoulder by a bear paw. Condensed Thick Earth Demon Qi from the Seventh-Tier Great Demon invaded Xiao Ying'Er's meridians. This caused her severe injuries on the spot and halted the operation of her Sunflower Water Vein and Wood Vein True Qi!

During this crisis, Xiao Ying'Er activated the Rare Holy Arrival Jade Token, using the micro Profound Mysterious Array within it to teleport her remaining party a thousand li away, to this location.

To expel the condensed Demon Qi of the Seventh-Tier Great Demon, Xiao Ying'Er absorbed the Heavy Water Spiritual Object she had obtained in the Secret Realm. This was to quickly purge the Demon Qi. Meanwhile, Hua Yanluo, after discussing with the four princess's handmaidens, released the Profound

Phoenix Flame. Her aim was to summon experts from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm to vanquish the demon together.

Xiao Ying'Er stood tall, looking at Hua Yanluo. "Releasing the Profound Phoenix Flame is likely futile! The Martial Cultivators in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm are mostly Fourth Layer, with only a few being Fifth Layer. Even if we manage to gather some Martial Cultivators, they will be no match for that Seventh-Tier Great Demon; they will only die in vain!"

Hua Yanluo clasped her hands and said, "Saintess, the center of the Ba Mountain Secret Realm has numerous High Tier Corpse Scorpions. The venom of Tier Four and above Corpse Scorpions could mildly affect Seventh Layer Martial Artists and Seventh-Tier Great Demons. The venom of Tier Five and above Corpse Scorpions can weaken a Seventh-Tier Great Demon's strength. If we can obtain Tier Six Corpse Scorpion Venom, it would definitely reduce the Seventh-Tier Great Demon's cultivation to the Sixth Layer. This would give us a chance to deal with it!"

Xiao Ying'Er frowned. "Corpse Scorpion Venom can affect not only that Seventh-Tier Great Demon but also Martial Cultivators. Who would dare risk their life to make contact with Corpse Scorpions and use their venom! Your plan is difficult to execute!"

Determination appeared on Hua Yanluo's face. "Great rewards inspire bravery. If the Saintess goes to the gathering point and announces great rewards, there will always be brave warriors willing to approach the Great Demon with Corpse Scorpion Venom! If one person cannot get close to the Great Demon, then ten will; if ten cannot, then a hundred! In this way, if we can enlist numerous Martial Cultivators to carry Corpse Scorpion Venom to deal with the Seventh-Tier Great Demon, we will eventually have a chance to make it suffer from the deadly poison!"

Xiao Ying'Er heard this, and a hesitant look appeared on her pretty face. "In that case, who knows how many Fourth and Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators will have to be sacrificed! It's incredibly difficult for a Martial Cultivator to reach the Fourth or Fifth Layer, often taking decades of effort. These individuals are the elites of our Great Xia Dynasty!"

Hua Yanluo's brow rose slightly. "Saintess, if we can use the Corpse Scorpion Venom of the Ba Mountain Secret Realm to eliminate a Seventh-Tier Great Demon, it equates to saving countless lives! That Brown Bear Great Demon likely comes from the second herb field of the Sealed Dragon Mountain Range. If we eliminate it, it would be like severing one of the Golden-haired Demon Bear's crucial limbs! This will be pivotal to the Saintess's plan to reclaim the herb field! This matter benefits the country and its people. Compared to such a great cause for the nation, what are the lives of a few Martial Cultivators! If I can

find a Tier Six Corpse Scorpion, I am also willing to carry the Corpse Scorpion Venom and perish together with that Seventh-Tier Great Demon!"

The four handmaidens and two bearers around them also knelt solemnly, declaring with conviction, "We are also willing to carry the deadly poison and perish together with that Seventh-Tier Great Demon!"

Xiao Ying'Er was moved by this. After pondering for a moment, a look of determination appeared in her beautiful eyes. "Then let's head to the gathering point and see if any Martial Cultivators have gathered there!"

「A little less than an hour later,」

Xiao Ying'Er and her entourage had arrived at the location indicated by the 'beak' of the Profound Phoenix Flame. The two bearers set down a new palanquin at the outer edge of the gathering point, while Hua Yanluo walked towards the assembled cultivators.

By this time, over four hundred Martial Cultivators had gathered. Most of them were relatives of the City Lords from various cities, appointed by the Great Marsh Prefecture officials. The majority were Late Stage Fourth Layer or Perfection Stage Martial Cultivators.

At this moment, seeing Elder Hua Yanluo approach, the multitude of Martial Cultivators gathered around her. A Mid-grade Fifth Layer Martial Cultivator cupped his hands and said, "Vice City Lord of Prison Dragon City, Zhou Zhenghu, pays his respects to the Celestial Sect Elder!"

Chapter 220: Saintess Decree with Abundant Rewards, Mysterious Prison_2

The surrounding Martial Cultivators also respectfully cupped their hands in greeting, their faces full of reverence. Elder Hua Yanluo of the Celestial Sect held a position higher than Prefect Liy, wielding great power and authority. Usually residing in the inner city, they rarely had a chance to meet her. Now that they could greet her up close, they were naturally very eager.

Hua Yanluo nodded slightly and said, "Recently, I encountered a Tier Seven Great Demon in the Secret Realm and fought a bitter battle without success. That Tier Seven Great Demon will likely track me here. At this moment of crisis, I used the Profound Phoenix Flame to summon all of you, hoping we can join forces to fight that Tier Seven Brown Bear Liao People!"

Upon hearing this, the expressions of the over four hundred Martial Cultivators present changed abruptly. A Tier Seven Great Demon... and it was the Brown Bear Liao People, infamous for its brutal strength! How could they not be afraid? Even a single Late Stage Tier Five Brown Bear Liao People would be deadly enough that not one of the four hundred plus Martial Cultivators present could face it alone! The Brown Bear Liao People's Talent, Frenzy Palm, could unleash twelve times its normal power. Any Martial Artist of the Same Tier would perish upon contact, shattering instantly!

Seeing their expressions, Elder Hua Yanluo frowned. She briefly explained the plan she had previously discussed with Xiaoo Ying'Er: to use Corpse Scorpion Venom against the Tier Seven Great Demon.

Instantly, the faces of the numerous Martial Cultivators changed once more; fear flickered in everyone's eyes. Who wouldn't be afraid of Corpse Scorpion Venom? At best, it could lower one's Cultivation; at worst, it could turn one into a half-dead Poison Corpse and annihilate their Divine Soul!

Amidst their fear and hesitation, Xiaoo Ying'Er's voice suddenly came from a small sedan in the distance, "Whoever uses Corpse Scorpion Venom to affect the Tier Seven Great Demon will be rewarded with fifty thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh. Whoever uses Corpse Scorpion Venom to lower the Tier Seven Great Demon's Cultivation will be rewarded with one hundred thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh, a Ghost Frog King's Demon Pearl, and the position of City Lord. Whoever uses Corpse Scorpion Venom to reduce the Tier Seven Great Demon's Cultivation to Tier Six will be rewarded with two hundred thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh and three Demon Fox Demon Pearls. They will also be granted the position of Second-Grade Saint-Protector General, whose salary and status are one grade higher than the Prefect's! Survivors will receive their rewards; the families of those who sacrifice themselves will receive double!"

As Xiaoo Ying'Er's voice spread, the Martial Cultivators, whose faces had previously shown terror, now looked confused. Soon, however, most of their breathing grew heavy, and many secretly gulped. Even if they weren't sure who was in that ordinary small sedan or whether her words held weight, just hearing the rewards was enough to stir their hearts! Tens of thousands, even up to two hundred thousand jin of Tier Three Demon Flesh; three incredibly valuable Demon Fox Demon Pearls and one Ghost Frog King's Demon Pearl; the unique position of Saint-Protector General, with status higher than a Prefect... These successive rewards struck them like a bolt from the blue! The highest-ranking person among them was merely a Vice City Lord of one of the Great Marsh Hundred Cities, a position a full four levels below that of a Prefect. And this didn't even take into account such coveted rewards as the Demon Fox Demon Pearls and the Ghost Frog King's Demon Pearl!

At this moment, Elder Hua Yanluo suddenly furrowed her brows and sternly commanded, "The Saintess has issued her decree in person! What are you all dawdling for?"

"The Saintess? The Saintess herself has come?!"

"That ordinary small sedan actually holds the Saintess!"

"Heavens! That's the Third Princess of Great Xia!"

"It's the Saintess! It's truly the Saintess!"

The crowd immediately snapped out of their daze, looking towards the small sedan in the distance with utter astonishment.

Zhou Zhenghu, the Vice City Lord of Prison Dragon City, was the first to rush near the sedan, kneeling with a THUD. "Greetings, Saintess! This subordinate is willing to lay down his life to resolve the Saintess's concerns!"

Seeing Vice City Lord Zhou Zhenghu act in such a manner, the over four hundred Fourth Layer and Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators all knelt down one after another, collectively shouting, "Greetings, Saintess!"

Dozens of Fifth Layer Martial Cultivators' eyes lit up as they shouted, "We will definitely resolve the Saintess's concerns!" "We vow to eliminate the Demons for the Saintess!" "We are willing to go through fire and water, shrinking from no sacrifice!"

If Hua Yanluo was a great personage they could only dream of currying favor with, then the Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er in the sedan was a transcendent figure so lofty they wouldn't have dared to even entertain the thought of approaching her before! Now that they knew the Saintess was in the sedan, even without the rewards, they would be eager to get stained with Corpse Scorpion Venom if it meant brushing against that Tier Seven Great Demon... If they could truly win the Saintess's favor and survive, not only would they themselves secure rewards and ensure worry-free Cultivation in the future, but their entire families would instantly become the most sought-after and untouchable top-tier clans in the Great Marsh Prefecture—even their chickens and dogs would ascend to heaven!

Seeing this, Elder Hua Yanluo nodded slightly and said, "City Lord Zhou, arrange for some people to continue gathering the Martial Cultivators arriving here. The rest will immediately follow the Saintess to the Secret Realm Center to prepare to engage that Tier Seven Great Demon!"

Beside the Profound Iron Cage, Lin Xuankong was about to open it to grab the palm-sized Tier Five Corpse Scorpion. However, after carefully examining the Profound Iron Cage, a trace of surprise appeared in his eyes. The Profound Iron Cage appeared to be only eight inches high and eight inches square, seemingly unremarkable. However, each vertical and horizontal bar of the cage was engraved with thousands of dense, intricate, and unique profound Inscriptions, and embedded within these Inscriptions were thousands of extremely fine jade pieces. Although the Tier Five Corpse Scorpion trapped within the Profound Iron Cage continuously pulsed with Demon Qi and venom, it was rendered completely immobile by the gleaming of countless fine jade pieces and Runes. Furthermore, the Tier Five Corpse Scorpion's Demon Qi and venom were suppressed and contained near its body, unable to diffuse even slightly!