

Worth 501

Chapter 501: The Green Fire Island Lord

The mission to gather identity tokens awarded different battle credits for different types of tokens. This was clearly outlined in the mission details. For example, a hundred battle credits would be awarded for the submission of an identity token that belonged to an outer sect disciple!

This surprised Wang Baole. He wouldn't have felt this way without a basis of comparison available. Compared to the majority of the earlier missions he had seen, which only awarded single- or double-digit battle credits, an outer sect disciple's identity token would earn one hundred battle credits. It was clearly quite a good reward.

What kind of disciple am I now? I wasn't issued an identity token after arriving at the Vast Expanse Dao Palace... Wang Baole lost himself in thought. He recalled what Little Missy had shared about the power and strength of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Then, he considered the current state of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. A thought began to form in his mind.

Perhaps this isn't the real Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The real Vast Expanse Dao Palace rests in the sword body that's pierced through the sun... The identity tokens that the mission requires are the identity tokens belonging to the disciples of the former Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

Wang Baole continued reading the mission details as he thought over the matter. He soon saw the reward for an inner sect disciple's identity token. It was worth a thousand battle credits!

Wang Baole's heart began to speed up at the sight of that. His eyes almost popped out of their sockets when he saw that there were other higher-tiered rewards.

Twenty thousand credits for core disciples!

Twenty-five thousand credits... for an Elder's token!

And... oh my god, a Grand Supreme Elder's identity token is actually worth... five million credits! Wang Baole might have been able to hold back his shock for the earlier rewards, but when he found out that the final reward for a Grand Supreme Elder's identity token was five million credits, he couldn't control his gasp of shock.

His gasp was heard by another Vast Expanse Dao Palace cultivator who had just received his own mission and was about to leave. The cultivator rolled his eyes and glanced at Wang Baole. He had been scornful at first, but then he noticed Wang Baole's figure. The scorn on his face eased away. Even though he could tell that Wang Baole wasn't a cultivator from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, and despite having heard many rumors regarding the group of cultivators who had come from the Federation on Earth, Wang Baole's figure still made him see Wang Baole in a different light. He smiled and said.

"If I can get my hands on the Grand Supreme Elder's identity token, I'd be an idiot to give it away for five million credits. That thing... if you can get your hands on it, the rights it contains could probably allow you to command the entire sect!"

Wang Baole turned his head upon hearing those words. He blinked. The cultivator standing beside him had a child-like face that showed no hint of his age. His cultivation was like his own, at the early-stage Core Formation realm. As for his status—the disciples around them seemed polite to him when they saw him.

These were unimportant. What was most important... was his figure. What Wang Baole saw was a man who stood above the rest, exemplary and incredibly slim.

As Wang Baole eyed the fat cultivator's figure, the other also glanced at Wang Baole's tummy. Approval flashed across his eyes. He smiled and said.

"Fellow Daoist, you've got quite a nice figure."

Wang Baole's eyes flashed. He coughed and spoke.

"Since we both have such amazing figures, why not get to know each other better?" As he spoke, Wang Baole pulled out a bag of snacks that had already been opened from his storage bracelet and handed it over to the fat cultivator.

The fat cultivator had been about to say something before he saw the snacks and promptly forgot what he was going to say next. He took the bag and sniffed at it. Then, he pulled a piece out, popped it into his mouth, and tasted it. His eyes lit up.

"The taste is a bit funny, but it's not bad at all." As he spoke, he pulled out a few fruits from his storage bag and threw them at Wang Baole.

They appeared to make their acquaintances through this exchange of snacks. They didn't engage in any deeper conversation, though they did exchange their contact details before leaving.

There were still no arrangements made for Wang Baole in the next two weeks. Besides training, Wang Baole also spent some time thinking about the fat cultivator called Yun Piaozi. He shared a portion of his dwindling supply of snacks with the cultivator. The equally slender and slim duo built a friendship on this exchange of snacks.

It might only be a budding friendship, still considerably weak and fragile, but this was still the first native cultivator that Wang Baole had come to know in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

Besides, he wasn't of Feng Qiuran's faction or Mie Liezi's faction, but a disciple of You Ran. His stance towards the Federation was that of neutrality.

In addition, they seemed to share similar interests and hence could chat about many things. Wang Baole took the opportunity to find out why he hadn't been assigned anything. Yun Piaozi seemed to have his ways as well. He soon found out why for Wang Baole.

Wang Baole had been waiting for an entire month without being assigned to an outer island like the other Federation Seedlings. This wasn't because the Vast Expanse Dao Palace wanted to keep him on the main island. It was because he was the only Core Formation realm cultivator amongst the Federation Seedlings, as well as their leader. Feng Qiuran's intentions were to place him on an island that was rich in Spirit Qi and of a tier only slightly lower than an island typically run by a Nascent Soul. He could then monopolize the island's Spirit Qi and resources.

The island had already been identified. It was one of the top twenty treasure islands amongst the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's numerous islands. A spirit meridian rested within the island. In addition, the island also produced an herb called the Green Fire Grass. It wasn't an expensive herb, but once planted on the island, it enjoyed a high survival rate and flourished across large parts of the island.

This was also why the Green Fire Island was highly valued, and why Wang Baole's placement was strongly opposed by Mie Liezi's faction. Mie Liezi himself had his own candidate for the island lord. The dispute between the two parties resulted in the delay in Wang Baole's deployment.

"But Brother Baole, there's no need to be so anxious. I've heard that the two Elders seem to have come to a compromise. You should be receiving your orders soon."

Yun Piaozi found Wang Baole relatable and easy to talk to, but he had no intention of forming a deeper friendship. However, he knew how to deal with people and enjoyed investing in them. He quite liked Wang Baole as well. Be it his first initiation of communication or what he was sharing with Wang Baole now, he saw both as a kind of investment.

It would be great if he reaped any benefits from his investments in the future, but even if he didn't, there was no loss on his part. After sharing what he had found out with Wang Baole, Yun Piaozi patted his tummy and left Wang Baole's residence.

Wang Baole sent Yun Piaozi off before returning to his residence. He narrowed his eyes as he thought about what Yun Piaozi had said. He began to look forward to what the Vast Expanse Dao Palace had in mind for him.

After all, he didn't wish to remain in this guest residence, to be greeted with cold gazes, condescending stares, or not be greeted at all and seen as invisible every day when he went outside.

Yun Piaozi's information was indeed accurate. Within three days, Wang Baole received his deployment orders. He was to report at the Foreign Affairs Hall early the next morning. The Foreign Affairs Hall would bring him and Mie Liezi's disciple, Liang Long, and head for the Green Fire Island. They would jointly manage the island and share its resources!

Liang Long? Upon receiving the orders, Wang Baole raised his eyebrows. An image of the young cultivator, who had annoyed him in the Heavenly Questions Hall that day, surfaced in his mind.

Do they want us to fight it out? Wang Baole laughed. There was a cold glint in his eyes. He sat down cross-legged and began a meditative rest. When morning arrived, Wang Baole opened his eyes. He rose to his feet and left his residence, heading straight for the Foreign Affairs Hall.

Wang Baole didn't arrive too early. When he arrived, Liang Long was already there. Next to him was a late-stage Core Formation realm elderly man. The elderly man was dressed in a Daoist robe. He was near skeletal, and a sharp light shone in his eyes. He was the head of the Foreign Affairs Hall, the one who was going to be their guide.

He paid Wang Baole no attention at all, and hardly any attention to Liang Long as well. As a member of the neutral faction, he had no intention of getting involved in the factional dispute between the two Elders. After Wang Baole arrived, he only spoke briefly before flipping his sleeve and taking flight.

"The two of you, come with me!"

There was a cold light in Liang Long's eyes. He stared at Wang Baole, then sneered. He immediately took flight and followed closely behind the Elder. Wang Baole's expression remained unchanged. However, he could sense Liang Long's cultivation. It seemed stronger than before. It was clear that he had a breakthrough recently. A deep, unfathomable light flashed in his eyes. He took flight as well and appeared on the other side of the Elder. The three of them transformed into three rainbow arcs, dashing out from the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island as they headed into the distance, the vast sea of molten lava and fire serving as their backdrop!

Chapter 502: A Difference in Opinion

The Green Fire Island was located northwest of the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island. It was surrounded by seven to eight smaller islands and could be considered a greater island in the region. A spirit meridian rested within the island. In addition, it produced Green Fire Grass. That was why it counted itself as one of the top twenty out of hundreds of outer islands belonging to the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

The top ten islands were run by the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's Nascent Soul realm cultivators. The remaining islands, like the Green Fire Island, were mostly run by the three Elders as well as disciples of Nascent Soul realm cultivators. None would easily allow others to intrude into their territories.

This was why when Feng Qiuran proposed to allow Wang Baole monopoly over the Green Fire Island resources, that her proposal had been met with Mie Liezi's vehement opposition. They finally came to a compromise to allow Wang Baole and Liang Long to share the island.

No one openly disclosed their intentions, but both Mie Liezi and Feng Qiuran intended for the two to battle it out. Mie Liezi was confident of his disciple's skills. Once Liang Long obtained the high ground and overpowered Wang Baole, it would serve as an advantage to Mie Liezi's plans in fighting against Feng Qiuran in the future.

Similarly, Feng Qiuran wanted fervently for the Federation's disciples, especially Wang Baole, to showcase their abilities. This would ease the pressure on herself and boost the confidence of the members in her faction. In the past few days, the situation had taken a turn. Those in her faction who seemed to follow her orders without protest were beginning to have secret doubts.

Wang Baole might not understand the details of the conflict between the two, but he had read the high officials' autobiographies since he was a child. Having experienced the Federation administration and its internal political conflicts and infighting, he was hardly a stranger to such tensions. After some careful contemplation, he was able to see what was going on as well.

He didn't display any strange behavior during the journey. He followed the Foreign Affairs Pavilion's Pavilion Head in front of him and sped through the heavens. This was Wang Baole's first time leaving the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island. Waves of heat surged in his face as he traveled. The lands were boiling molten lava. There were occasional eruptions of flames, like waves splashing, that both alarmed and terrified. The dark maroon skies and the multitudes of islands cast a strange light in Wang Baole's eyes as he gazed upon them.

It was clear that this was an extremely hostile environment. It was drastically different from the Federation. If not for the rich Spirit Qi, Wang Baole would have thought this place to be the hell that was depicted in the legends of Earth.

Liang Long threw a glance at Wang Baole. His eyes once again showed his open condescension and contempt, and he snorted. He eyed the head of the Foreign Affairs Pavilion in front of them and decided not to openly mock Wang Baole. However, he had already made up his mind. Once they landed on the island, and after the members of the Foreign Affairs Pavilion left, he would teach this lowly creature a good lesson. The title of cultivator was not something anyone could have!

The thought of losing never even crossed his mind. The resources and techniques he possessed gave him full confidence. Most importantly, he had advanced from the early-stage to the mid-stage Core Formation realm a few days ago.

It's not possible to kill this lowly creature, but I should be able to break his limbs, render his cultivation useless, and maim him completely! At that thought, a cold light began to burn in Liang Long's eyes.

Wang Baole glanced at Liang Long. He snorted inwardly as well. The head of the Foreign Affairs Pavilion in front of the pair was naturally aware of the tensions between the two, but he could not be bothered with them. He quickened his pace, and they dashed through the heavens and finally reached their destination after an hour.

Before them, in the vast ocean of fire, was a large island. It was one-tenth of the size of the Martian special regional city. The land was black, and almost half of the island was covered in purple grass.

The island had three mountain peaks. The middle was the tallest, like a sharp blade that pierced the heavens. The peaks on its left and right were its secondary peaks that protected it on both sides.

Even before they drew near, Wang Baole could immediately sense the immensely rich Spirit Qi exuding from the island. The intensity of the Spirit Qi was almost as strong as that of the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island.

They approached the island. There was a public square on the middle peak on Green Fire Island. A dozen or so cultivators awaited there respectfully. Amongst them were five Foundation Establishment realm cultivators, while the rest were at the True Breath realm. They appeared to have waited for quite some time. They were cultivators from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace who were training on this island.

Amongst them was a middle-aged man with a mustache. His cultivation was at the perfected Foundation Establishment realm. He was clearly the leader of the group. When he saw Wang Baole and the others in the sky, he hurriedly took a few steps forward and extended a bow heavenward.

"Disciple Zhou Biao greets Pavilion Head Li!"

The other cultivators hastily extended their greetings after he had spoken. Their voices rang out. The head of the Foreign Affairs Pavilion led Wang Baole and Liang Long forward and landed in the public square before everyone.

He ignored Zhou Biao. He turned and looked at Wang Baole and Liang Long, then said coolly.

"This is Green Fire Island. From now on, the two of you are the Island Lords of this island. You are both equal in rank and status!"

"Alright. I'm only responsible for bringing you here. I won't get involved in other matters. Farewell!" The head of the Foreign Affairs Pavilion seemed unwilling to stay a moment longer. He turned and transformed into a rainbow, dashing off into the distance in an instant.

As soon as he departed, Zhou Biao and the other cultivators' eyes flashed and swept across Wang Baole and Liang Long. It was at that same moment that Liang Long turned around suddenly. His eyes were filled with murder as he stared at Wang Baole.

"Lowly..."

"Lowly your ass!" Wang Baole didn't give Liang Long a chance to finish what he was saying. He yelled and, with a sudden burst of speed, appeared before Liang Long, leaving an afterimage of himself where he had stood originally. He raised his right hand and drove it forward in a punch!

It was Supernova!

Powered by a Core Formation realm cultivation, his Supernova unleashed a power that surpassed what he had unleashed previously. His punch landed with the force of an avalanche. The skies thundered, and bolts of lightning appeared around Wang Baole. They surged outwards and transformed the surrounding area into a pool of lightning.

Everything happened too quickly. Shock and alarm flashed across Liang Long's face. He had intended to say a few words before striking. He hadn't expected Wang Baole to be so decisive. He hurriedly raised his right hand and waved it before him, a mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivation erupting from his body, transforming into a hurricane that attempted to stop Wang Baole.

A moment had barely passed since he had swallowed the rest of his taunting words and hastily countered Wang Baole's attack. Wang Baole's fist landed on Liang Long's defensive hurricane, and a thunderous boom shook the skies. Alarm colored Liang Long's face. He seemed shocked and incredulous and felt as if he was being crushed by a mountain. His body shook violently as his organs felt like they were being crushed. The hurricane he had summoned as defense seemed unable to withstand the force of Wang Baole's attack. It twisted and warped, and appeared on the verge of collapse. He was forced to stumble backward and retreat.

What kind of physical body does he have? He's so strong!

The backlash from their collision swept outwards like a mindless tornado. Zhou Biao and the others gasped and retreated hurriedly.

They had originally rooted for Liang Long. Wang Baole, after all, was an outsider. At that moment, however, the ferocity that Wang Baole had unleashed was enough to make them question their decision. It seemed that... the law of the strongest prevailed no matter where one was!

The head of the Foreign Affairs Pavilion hadn't gone far. He paused in mid-air, lowering his head and glancing below. He didn't attempt to stop the fight, but simply picked up his pace and left.

The fight hadn't ended. Just as Liang Long stumbled back clumsily, Wang Baole twisted his neck to the left. A loud cracking sound rang out. With a stomp of his right foot, he dashed out. A large megaphone appeared in his right hand as he flipped his hand over, and a fierce grin split his face wide. He charged towards the shocked Liang Long, yelling.

"I've wanted to kick your ass since that day in the Heavenly Questions Hall!"

The augmented power of a seventh-grade Dharmic Armament megaphone was mind-blowing. It transformed Wang Baole's words into aural shock waves, so loud they were like the thunderous roars of a god. The force of the aural attack sent the Sea of Fire around the island erupting outwards. Zhou Biao and the others almost went deaf as their eardrums shook violently. Blood spilled from their mouths.

One could imagine the fate that Liang Long, who faced the attack head-on, suffered. Terror colored his face. He felt reality distorting as the aural shock waves traveled through the air. A force that shook the heavens and earth, that struck terror deep into his heart, was surging towards him with an intensity and power that threatened to level mountains and part oceans!

At that exact moment when the aural shock wave exploded, Wang Baole formed a series of hand seals with his left hand. Bolts of lightning shot towards Liang Long. Wang Baole's right leg shot upwards with stunning speed, ripping through the air and igniting a series of aural explosions. Its target... between Liang Long's legs!

Chapter 503: You Want to Fight Me?

A mere mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivator, and you still dare to fight me? This Liang Long has only one ball. I have three! Wang Baole thought arrogantly. His attack had completely overpowered Liang Long. Since forming a Heart Core, the strength of his physical body had reached terrifying levels. In addition, he still had a Lightning Core and a Dark Core.

Practicing the Lightning Immortal Transformation strengthened the foundations of his cultivation. As he struck, lightning bolts descended from the heavens and rendered Liang Long almost powerless to fight back. He was forced to react and unable to unleash many of his own attacks.

Wang Baole charged forward like a raging Tyrannosaurus, threatening to rip everything in his path apart. Liang Long quaked in his boots. His eyes reddened as he became trapped in such a critically dangerous moment. He retreated hastily, yanked a jade pendant that had been concealed underneath his clothes off his neck, and pressed it.

You have Dharmic Armaments? So do I!

The jade pendant started shining instantly. It transformed swiftly into a huge turtle shell that encased Liang Long within. The aural shock waves from Wang Baole's megaphone arrived as soon as the turtle shell was formed, surging forward, thundering, and crashing onto the turtle shell.

The skies quaked with deafening thunder. The force of the aural attack erupted, splitting the earth open in numerous places. However... the turtle shell protecting Liang Long only suffered a slight dent, and it healed almost instantaneously!

The spectators had no time to observe the scene before Wang Baole's lightning bolts approached immediately after his aural attack. They landed on the turtle shell, but they only caused a slight dent in the turtle shell. They seemed unable to shatter it. Then, Wang Baole approached. He lifted his right leg, and his kick landed on the turtle shell. That was when a sliver of a crack appeared on the turtle shell.

Even so, this crack healed immediately before his eyes!

Wang Baole frowned and retreated. Liang Long was finally able to catch his breath. His facial features were contorted into an extremely ugly expression. He stared unblinkingly at Wang Baole's right leg. The brief sigh of relief was followed swiftly by terror and shock. He knew how precious this turtle shell was. It was a defensive treasure that had been a gift from his master. It was able to withstand an attack from a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. A Core Formation realm cultivator wouldn't be able to cause it any harm.

He had tested this many times while fighting others and while carrying out missions in the sword body. However, just a moment earlier, a kick from Wang Baole had actually caused a crack in the turtle shell. It might have healed instantly, but that still sent fear into his heart. He thought about where Wang Baole had been aiming for, and his hair stood on end.

Despicable!

While Liang Long released a breath of relief, a cold light flashed in Wang Baole's eyes. He dashed out again. This time, he was faster and didn't give Liang Long a chance to react. He approached and raised his right hand for another attack.

It wasn't a single punch, but a series of punches!

A series of thunderous booms erupted. Wang Baole was like a hurricane, lashing out repeatedly against Liang Long's turtle shell. The sound of his fists and kicks connecting with the turtle shell thundered and rang out in the air. He unleashed the power of his three cores at the same time. Regardless, he could only manage to inflict more cracks on the turtle shell.

Liang Long wasn't having a good time himself either. Despite the turtle shell being able to withstand the attacks, it still shook from Wang Baole's kicks and punches. The tremors weren't limited to once or twice. Wang Baole had unleashed more than a hundred punches without pause and kicked a dozen or so times. The resultant quakes were enough to send Liang Long's blood churning. It felt awful.

This experience of being hit without being able to hit back drove Liang Long mad. His eyes shone with murder. He was about to unleash his killer move when he held himself back.

I'm going to wait for him to tire himself before I strike. I'll use this turtle shell to exhaust his energy!

Liang Long grit his teeth at that thought. Wang Baole had an awful expression on his face at this point as well. The turtle shell was giving him a headache. He couldn't break it apart.

I've encountered something like this before... As Wang Baole sent another punch forward, he recalled a similar experience when he had been in the Spirit Breath Village. He had trapped the other party inside something else then.

I'll do just that. You really think there's nothing I can do to you? Wang Baole grew impatient at that thought. He retreated suddenly and raised his right hand. The glow of a spell erupted instantly.

It was then that Liang Long's eyes flashed as he saw Wang Baole's retreat. This was the moment he had been waiting for. His hands came together to form a series of hand seals. He roared and bit the tip of his tongue, spilling blood. He raised his right hand and made a grabbing motion in the air. His spilled blood transformed into a blood saber before him, and his hand gripped it. He was about to retaliate when the tip of a small bell appeared within the glowing light in Wang Baole's hand!

It expanded rapidly and grew to an enormous size in an instant. It was over three meters tall and exuded a terrifying power. It... surpassed that of the giant megaphone and seemed to be at the level of an eighth-grade Dharmic Armament. There was a giant red python on this huge bell, coming to life as it roared. This python was the remnants of a god inside the huge bell!

Wang Baole formed a series of hand seals. The large bell fell buzzing over Liang Long's head the same moment his blood saber was unleashed. It descended with a loud boom, trapping Liang Long and his turtle shell within and encasing them within a seal!

Liang Long's blood saber slashed forward then and landed on the bell, causing the bell to shake and release a deafening ringing that shook the earth. Liang Long was flung sideways repeatedly by the violent aural vibrations. He released a cry, and blood spilled from his lips. His fury was indescribable as he howled madly.

His cry sent the huge bell buzzing again. Liang Long's heart started beating violently. He was on the verge of madness. However, there was nothing he could do about it. His blood saber might be powerful, but it couldn't slash open the bell with a single blow. He would have to unleash multiple attacks.

He could imagine the deafening ringing that would result from each attack, that would lash back at him. He wouldn't be able to sustain the use of the turtle shell for such a long period of time as it required too much Spirit Qi. Resentment filled Liang Long. He was about to bite the bullet and unleash everything he had when alarm flashed across his face.

This artifact can cut off Spirit Qi! He could immediately sense that he had been cut off from the Spirit Qi outside the bell. He was unable to absorb and replenish his Spirit Qi!

Everything drove the already resentful and frustrated Liang Long further into a mad fury.

At present, Wang Baole stood outside the huge bell. He threw a glance at the bell, then snorted. The bell could only be used once and couldn't last long, but Wang Baole didn't feel much loss using it now. After all, he had caught plenty of remnant thoughts of gods on Mars. As long as he had enough materials, he would be able to refine another one.

You have that turtle shell of yours, right? Seems quite impressive. Let me make this more challenging for you! Wang Baole stuck his chin up in the air arrogantly. He kicked the bell a few times, triggering a series of loud ringing. Then, he decided that he couldn't be bothered with it anymore. He turned and stared at Zhou Biao and the others around him. Their faces were pale, and when they looked at him, it was with eyes of shock and terror.

"Has the cave abode here been cleaned up? Someone, lead the way!" Wang Baole said coolly. The breathing of Zhou Biao and the others quickened. They hastily greeted Wang Baole, and respectfully led him to his cave abode.

His cave abode... naturally sat atop the main mountain peak. It rested on the very top of the peak. One could gaze upon the vast Sea of Fire. This was the spot on the island where Spirit Qi was the richest. There was also a Spirit Pool inside the cave abode.

The amenities and daily necessities were comprehensive. Wang Baole smiled with great satisfaction after entering and inspecting the cave abode.

Zhou Biao and the others had originally planned for Liang Long to have this cave abode. However, they had witnessed with their own eyes Wang Baole's violence and dared not offend him. They released a sigh of relief after leading Wang Baole straight into his cave abode. Then, they stared at one another. They could see the resignation in one another's eyes.

"There's nothing we can do about it. We can't afford to offend him. Let's just be more careful from now on." Zhou Biao sighed. He turned to his fellow cultivators and passed down his instructions. A Foundation Establishment realm cultivator amongst them hesitated, then asked softly.

"Senior Brother Zhou, what about Uncle-Master Liang?"

"That's out of our hands. We cannot get involved. Didn't you see how even Pavilion Head Li of the Foreign Affairs Pavilion washed his hands of this..." Zhou Biao thought for a bit. The fearsome image of Wang Baole's violent punching and kicking appeared in his mind. He shuddered and then shrugged quickly.

Everyone left their own separate ways quickly. What remained was the giant bell in the public square and Liang Long's occasional howls of resentment escaping from within.

Chapter 504: First Dip in the Sea of Fire

Wang Baole was immensely pleased at the moment, having acquired his own cave abode on the ancient greenish-bronze sword. He was clearly pleased with the cave abode he had gotten as well. It had eight rooms, and aside from an area for seclusion, there was also a Spirit Pool in the center of the cave abode. The water was formed from Spirit Qi and filled the area with a thick and rich Spirit Qi.

The other rooms were all set aside for specific uses. There was a room for growing herbs, another for rearing Spirit Beasts, and yet another for refining pills. What pleasantly surprised Wang Baole was the room with a stone slab in it. It was synced to the stone slab on the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island that issued missions. He would be able to accept all his missions here.

He could only accept missions though. Once a mission was completed, he would still need to return to the main island for evaluation before he could receive his battle credits. Even so, this was already a pleasant surprise. It would save a great deal of traveling time for him.

The cave abode took care of all the daily needs of a cultivator.

In addition, when he stepped outside the cave abode and stood atop the mountain peak, he was greeted with a clear view of his surroundings. Besides having a view that went on for miles, the cave abode was also the center of the island's defensive array formation.

After looking around, Wang Baole decided on one room as his main area of residence. He tidied it up, then sat down cross-legged. He began to think about his future plans.

I have to earn some battle credits quickly. At the same time, I have to gain a better understanding of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace as well as the ancient greenish-bronze sword... After some thought, Wang Baole went into the room with the mission stone slab. He pressed his right hand onto the stone, and a long list of missions appeared in his mind instantly.

Wang Baole disregarded the missions awarding single-digit battle credits. He planned to focus on missions that awarded battle credits in the range of fifty points. Those awarding more battle credits were either too challenging or time-consuming, so Wang Baole didn't consider them at all.

After a round of selection, Wang Baole's eyes lit up as they locked onto a particular mission.

The extermination of Inferno Rats and the collection of fresh beast cores. One beast core was worth thirty battle credits!

The mission also provided some brief information on the Inferno Rat. It was a beast that lived in the Sea of Fire, and its appearance resembled a rat. It wasn't a powerful fighter, with most Inferno Rats being at the Foundation Establishment realm. Only the Inferno Rat King was at the Core Formation realm.

Foundation Establishment realm cultivators might have been able to complete this mission if the only difficulty came from the Inferno Rat itself. However, only Core Formation realm cultivators could carry out this mission. This was because Inferno Rats rarely left the Sea of Fire. They could only be found in the sea.

Foundation Establishment realms were unable to enter the Sea of Fire. They would only be able to last a span of a dozen breaths or so before they were burned to death. Only Core Formation realm cultivators, with the aid of protective spells, could remain in the Sea of Fire for long periods of time.

That was why any mission that involved the Sea of Fire could only be carried out by a Core Formation realm cultivator.

Wang Baole thought for a while as he studied the mission details. He sent a voice transmission to his only friend in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, the fat cultivator, to ask him for more information on the Inferno Rat. The fat cultivator sent over whatever information he had to Wang Baole without hesitation.

Wang Baole thanked him and then studied the contents of the mission. His eyes narrowed gradually.

"The Inferno Rat might not be a strong fighter, but it's extremely fast when in the Sea of Fire... In addition, when a cultivator enters the Sea of Fire, he will continue to suffer the corrosive poison of the fiery sea despite the defenses he has on. The Spirit Qi in the Sea of Fire is unstable and cannot be absorbed. That is why one should not overuse their spells. Note that one's speed will also be affected when in the Sea of Fire."

Wang Baole read through the information and fell into a contemplative silence. Then, decisiveness flashed in his eyes. He didn't hesitate and immediately accepted the Inferno Rat mission.

Then, Wang Baole took a look at the sky. It was near evening. Based on what the fat cultivator had given him, the Sea of Fire was least corrosive and toxic at night. Even though Foundation Establishment realm cultivators would still be unable to enter, a Core Formation realm cultivator would be able to stay in the sea for a longer period of time.

He didn't waste any time at all. He walked out of his cave abode, then transformed into a rainbow and dashed off. Liang Long, who was still trapped in his huge bell, had long been forgotten.

Wang Baole left the Green Fire Island and raced above the Sea of Fire. He monitored movements in the sea, hoping to find Inferno Rats that might have surfaced. He also kept looking to the skies. The skies darkened visibly an hour later. Wang Baole thought for a bit, then stopped in his tracks. He slowly descended until he stood above the Sea of Fire. He wasn't so brash as to charge straight into the ocean. Instead, he floated above it, inspecting and checking to ensure that he wouldn't suffer severe injury before slowly sinking into the sea.

The world around him turned into a dark maroon as he sank gradually downward. The sound of flames dancing resounded in his ears as a scorching heat surged inward from all directions and surrounded him.

Fortunately, Wang Baole wasn't only a Core Formation realm cultivator; his physical form was also at the Core Formation realm. His level of defense and protection vastly surpassed that of other early-stage Core Formation realm cultivators. He only felt mild discomfort after sinking into the lava and soon recovered.

Everywhere around him was lava. Even though it hindered vision, even without sight, a Core Formation realm cultivator could have a clear grasp of everything happening around him just by relying on his other senses. His senses simply might not extend as far.

When Wang Baole had formed his Heart Core, he had formed a sliver of Spiritual Sense that startled even Li Xingwen. He hadn't been all that aware of it at first. However, now that he was in the lava, he could clearly sense that there was something different.

He was pleasantly surprised by the discovery that he didn't need his eyes to see through the obstruction of the lava. Images of his surroundings appeared naturally in his mind, and he could see as far as ten yards away.

This would definitely shock other Core Formation realm cultivators if they found out. Their senses could only extend as far as one to two yards in the lava. This was one of the reasons why the Inferno Rat's beast core was worth so much.

Let's test out the mosquitoes... After he could see his surroundings clearly in his mind, Wang Baole immediately summoned his mosquitoes. Ten mosquitoes flew out from inside his body instantly. Unfortunately, some were unable to withstand the lava when they appeared and seemed ready to disintegrate and melt away. Only the gray mosquito appeared unaffected.

After a series of attempts, Wang Baole realized that the ordinary mosquitoes could only survive for a span of forty breaths before dying.

Fortunately, I can keep on summoning those ordinary mosquitoes... Wang Baole's eyes flashed. He got the mosquitoes to spread out, and his line of vision expanded swiftly and exponentially to a hundred yards. He took a step forward and dashed deeper into the Sea of Fire, in search of Inferno Rats.

He would summon a new batch of mosquitoes after every thirty breaths to replace the previous batch. This allowed him to sustain his hundred-yard vision.

Such a field of vision, which surpassed his peers nearly a hundred times, allowed Wang Baole to search for Inferno Rats with startling speed. The only flaw was that it took up too much Spirit Qi. After assessing the amount of Spirit Qi he had expended and calculating the maximum duration he could remain in the Sea of Fire, Wang Baole called back a few of his mosquitoes. With three mosquitoes left to support the gray mosquito, the four barely covered the area as he continued his search.

Two hours passed, and Wang Baole had less than an hour before he reached his limits. It was then that his senses stirred. He saw a dark red form in the gray mosquito's vision. It was extremely quick and sped past in a blur. However, Wang Baole still caught a glimpse of its rat-like form.

It was the Inferno Rat!

Found it! Delight shone in Wang Baole's eyes. He didn't hesitate and released all his mosquitoes. They spread out instantly, widening his field of vision. He saw immediately, a short distance away, an Inferno Rat rapidly racing into the distance.

It seemed to have sensed danger. With a sudden burst of speed, the Inferno Rat attempted to make an escape.

Trying to run? Wang Baole's eyes flashed as he dashed forward with a burst of speed. He maneuvered his mosquitoes to stop the monster. The Inferno Rat struggled, but to no avail. Wang Baole had a sufficient field of vision and speed boosted by his Core Formation realm physical body. The Inferno Rat roared as the mosquitoes intercepted it, and before Wang Baole could even draw near, the gray mosquito charged forward and pierced it through its skull. The Inferno Rat shriveled instantly.

Wang Baole finally approached, and his right hand made a grabbing motion. A dark red beast core resembling a crystal flew out from the Inferno Rat's body and landed in Wang Baole's hand.

Got it! Wang Baole was overjoyed. He was about to inspect the beast core when suddenly, at that moment, Little Missy's flustered voice rang in his mind.

"Baole, go deeper down. I can sense the aura of a mask fragment below!"

Chapter 505: Underwater Ruins

A mask fragment? Wang Baole's eyes flashed. As of now, he had only managed to get his hands on one fragment when he had been on Earth. After fusing it with the mask, Little Missy had become livelier.

It was obvious that there was another fragment in the Martian research facility as well. However, he was unable to acquire it with his current rank and status. Wang Baole wasn't worried about that fragment though. He knew that once he reached a certain rank and cultivation level, it would be a piece of cake for him to get that.

This fragment that Little Missy was talking about should be the third fragment that he had ever come across!

Wang Baole sensed the urgency in Little Missy's voice. After he calculated the time he had left, he didn't hesitate to dive straight into the Sea of Fire. As he continued to sink deeper in, he could sense the growing heat around him, and an intense pressure surged inward from all directions.

It was an intense, violent pressure that sent Wang Baole's entire body trembling. His heart pumped frantically, and his muscles twitched. He gritted his teeth and continued to sink deeper down... Wang Baole approached the seabed amidst the increasing heat and pressure.

Through the gray mosquito's vision, he saw a large region of ruins beneath him. Before he could take a closer look, the gray mosquito began to shiver. It seemed unable to withstand the pressure. Wang Baole hurriedly called it back, his vision becoming obscured by lava once more. Regardless, he continued his descent ten yards further down.

These ten yards were Wang Baole's limit. He could feel an intense pressure and a startling heat around him. It was terrifying, despite him having a Heart Core. He had a feeling that if he continued another ten yards down, his body wouldn't be able to withstand it any longer. His body and soul would be destroyed within this Sea of Fire.

"Little Missy, it's not that I don't want to help. It's just that... I can't go any further," Wang Baole said with great resignation in his mind. He took a step and headed for the surface. He had sunk too deep this time. The well of Spirit Qi inside him had almost dried up. Fortunately, Wang Baole's physical form was very sturdy and strong. He finally managed to resurface from the sea before his Spirit Qi was completely depleted. He reappeared in mid-air after erupting from the sea, his breathing quick and uneven. The cultivation inside him began churning, and his devouring seed was activated as well as he began to absorb the Spirit Qi around him hungrily.

Half a moment later, his pale face finally regained some color. The cultivation inside his body also gradually stabilized. He lowered his head and stared at the Sea of Fire. Wang Baole felt regretful as well. He was about to leave when Little Missy's voice rang out inside his head again.

"Baole, I'll give you a recipe for a Dharmic Artifact. You can refine a special kind of fire-resistant boat with it. It's a sixth-grade Dharmic Artifact, so you should be able to refine it with your current proficiency in Dharmic Armaments. With this boat... you'll be able to descend to our desired depth in the Sea of Fire!"

After that was said, a recipe and instructions on how to refine this Dharmic Artifact appeared in Wang Baole's head. Wang Baole blinked. This was the second time Little Missy had given him a recipe for refining a Dharmic Artifact. The first was for the scabbard.

What's the rush? Wang Baole heard the seriousness in Little Missy's voice and sensed her urgency in obtaining the fragment. After some thought, he assessed the difficulty in refining the Dharmic Artifact, then nodded.

"Alright. Since Little Missy asked, I, Wang Baole, won't even frown. Even if I have to cross mountains of knives or oceans of fires, even if there are no chances of survival, I'll..." As Wang Baole went on, he thumped his chest and had a grim, determined expression on his face—as if he was about to face death,

as if Little Missy must accept what he was going to do for her. Before he could be done with his speech though, Little Missy said again, with exasperation in her voice.

“Fine, fine. Stop your act. You’re just exaggerating and trying to gain my favor. You still have a long way to go. Just listen to whatever I tell you to do. Earth aside, as long as I’m here protecting you in this Vast Expanse Dao Palace on the ancient greenish-bronze sword, you can do whatever you want to do without fear!”

Wang Baole’s eyes lit up. This was what he was waiting for. He hurriedly made another round of praises. After all, he was in a foreign environment now, and he felt extremely insecure. He had his own guesses about Little Missy’s background, so he immediately seized the opportunity to build a closer relationship with her.

Little Missy seemed to enjoy the treatment as well, so Wang Baole continued to butter her up as he returned. He didn’t go back to the Green Fire Island but headed for the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island instead, where he completed the Inferno Rat mission and exchanged the battle credits he earned for some materials.

The battle credits he had gotten were too few though, so it was impossible to exchange them for all the materials that he needed to refine his Dharmic Artifact. After some thought, Wang Baole had no choice but to locate the fat cultivator. He pawned a Dharmic Armament and managed to borrow some battle credits. That was how he finally got all the materials he needed.

It was evening when he returned to the Green Fire Island. Wang Baole hurriedly entered his cave abode and immediately began his seclusion so that he could refine the Dharmic Artifact. He was unfamiliar with this Dharmic Artifact, and it was his first time refining it. However, he was extremely proficient with refining Dharmic Artifacts. He had even managed to refine Dharmic Armaments. That was why he started immediately after briefly studying. He took a full day. The next day, at noon, he stared in front of him at a blue-colored boat that was three meters long, his face full of satisfaction.

The boat was the Dharmic Artifact that Little Missy had given him the recipe for. Its name was unknown. Regardless, it was suffused with the energies of a seal both internally and externally. It seemed able to block off external energy flows and create a sealed space within it. In addition, it seemed capable of withstanding intense pressure.

Wang Baole was vaguely aware of the principles governing its properties. Similar to the scabbard, the refinement of this Spirit Boat required Armament Sand. That meant Wang Baole couldn’t fully control the entire refinement process. Based on his experience, however, he could sense that another refinement system governed refinement methods that required Armament Sand.

The Federation’s Dharmic Armaments were clearly formed from an evolution of this refinement system.

Now, let’s go test out whether this boat is really as impressive as Little Missy made it out to be. If it’s really that great, we can give it a name. Wang Baole touched the boat in front of him. He seemed pleased but secretly ached for his loss. He spent almost seven hundred battle credits refining this thing. He had only earned thirty credits, while the rest had been credits he had gotten from pawning off his own stuff.

"I'm pawning off my own stuff for Little Missy's sake!" Wang Baole declared as he glanced at the sky outside. It seemed that it was going to be evening soon, which was a perfect time for them to set off for the Sea of Fire. He didn't hesitate, taking the Spirit Boat and flying off. He arrived at where he had first come to at the Sea of Fire, entered the Spirit Boat, then steered it straight into the ocean.

Wang Baole felt a drastic difference when he entered the Sea of Fire. The Spirit Boat gave off a gentle glow that dispelled the lava in the Sea of Fire, causing the molten lava within a multi-yard radius to move away from him. The sight delighted Wang Baole instantly.

It's really effective! He got excited and immediately sent the boat downward. Wang Baole's boat went faster and faster as time passed. Finally, he reached the depth that he had originally found unbearable. He felt considerably better now with the boat.

"It's right down there!" Just as Wang Baole was about to continue his descent, Little Missy's voice, filled with urgency, rang in his head. Wang Baole nodded and slowly sank deeper downward. He saw a large silhouette beneath him in the Sea of Fire. It was a large-scale ruin.

He saw collapsed pavilions and countless pieces of broken and shattered stone. Amongst them were corpses that had survived being burnt completely into ashes...

Wang Baole reeled back from shock. He could tell that the damaged pavilions had been built in the same architectural style as those on the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island. The mental leap wasn't difficult to make at all. This place... had clearly been a part of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace before the ancient greenish-bronze sword had pierced the sun and the Sea of Fire had flooded this place!

It was as he had guessed, the lands had been flooded by the Sea of Fire. The islands that now existed above the seas had been mountain peaks.

Wang Baole sighed and took in the sight before him as he steered the Spirit Boat into descending further. He entered the ruins and immediately sensed the heat and pressure that had been surging in from all directions vanish. It was as if the ruins, despite their current state, still possessed some remnants of protection that sealed the Sea of Fire outside.

The corpses survived not because they had been extremely powerful prior to their deaths, but because the Sea of Fire was prevented from entering. Hence, they had been preserved.

Wang Baole tested the waters before stepping out from his Spirit Boat. He was surrounded by a deathly silence. He looked around him and then stared at the Sea of Fire above him. After a moment, he inched carefully towards a corpse. Despite having died a long time ago, the corpse had been preserved perfectly. There was even a sliver of Core Formation realm energy that remained on the body, proving that this corpse had belonged to a Core Formation realm cultivator prior to his death.

A Core Formation realm cultivator. That's quite a big deal. He might have something good hidden on him. Wang Baole's eyes flashed with anticipation as he stooped down and started searching. He didn't find any storage bags or tokens of any kind. Wang Baole frowned and muttered.

"Are they so poor... or did someone get here first?"

Wang Baole found it a pity. It was understandable though. After all, there were plenty of cultivators in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace that had higher levels of cultivation compared to him. Naturally, there

would have been some who could have entered the Sea of Fire without the aid of Dharmic Artifacts. They would have searched for and retrieved all items of value.

As soon as he was done muttering, Little Missy's voice appeared in his head again, urging him.

"What are you trying to find on this random servant? Quick, move ahead. I can sense a fragment three thousand feet ahead of you, in the ruins of a hall!"

Chapter 506: Shadows of the Never-Ending Clan!

"A random servant?" Wang Baole froze. He stared at the corpse before him. He could sense the remnants of a Core Formation realm spirit energy exuding from the corpse. He was slightly dazed.

"Yes. Based on the layout of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, this area is the outer area that belonged to the servants. They were mostly only at the Core Formation realm. Even though some of them might have shown some potential, most were lowly servants." Little Missy shared some brief information before urging Wang Baole to continue the search for the fragment.

Wang Baole sucked in a breath. He seemed slightly doubtful. Little Missy appeared to have sensed what Wang Baole was thinking. She became slightly unhappy and snorted.

"What, don't you believe me? I've only made that small accidental mistake with the Dark Artifact. I had a Dark Artifact that looked exactly the same in the past, so I thought it was the same one. Is it a sin to have mistaken it for my own? Is that something completely unforgivable?"

"Humph! And if I say this is the area for lowly servants, then that's what it is. In fact, the so-called main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island on the Sea of Fire is but an outer sect that was built on some distant mountain range in the outer regions.

"I've already done a search when you arrived here. Even though there have been some changes, the place remained largely the same as before. The true Vast Expanse Dao Palace is located in the sword body that's pierced through the sun. That is where the true sect lies. Based on the current situation though, it's highly likely that there's nothing but ruins there now...

"However, as long as the core of the sect survives, the Vast Expanse Dao Palace will not fall. The Vast Expanse Dao Palace's core is found at the tip of the sword. If I'm not wrong, powerful cultivators at the Eternal Star and Planet realms, as well as the Star Domain realm leaders, should still be there in that region. They are likely recovering and in slumber."

Upon hearing what Little Missy said, Wang Baole's eyes widened. Little Missy seemed to have sensed Wang Baole's feelings and noted his surprise. She was pleased. Her appearances recently had been rare because she had felt embarrassed about the Dark Artifact incident. Now that an opportunity had presented itself, she naturally wasn't going to let it slip through her fingers. She coughed, then continued with a voice that spoke of experience, saying casually.

"Surprised? There's nothing to be surprised about. In those days, this area was where ordinary folks and our servants resided. In addition, I've no impression of those people called Mie Liezi or whatnot. Based

on their level of cultivation though, they likely only counted as inner sect disciples before the ancient sword entered the sun. In fact, they're likely disciples who didn't show much potential.

"However, when disaster struck, the elders at the tip of the sword went into a deep slumber, and the main sect of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace was destroyed. More than ninety percent of the sect members died or were wounded grievously. That was why the three of them had to take up the responsibilities of being elders. They had to rebuild the Dao Palace. In fact, they made a great contribution to the Dao Palace. When the elders awake, they would likely break through the Spirit Immortal realm and advance into the Planet realm!"

The news was simply too much. Wang Baole's eyes widened again. He might have been mentally prepared for something like that, but the true identities of Mie Liezi and the rest had still shocked him.

They're only inner sect disciples? Wang Baole gasped. He blinked, then suddenly asked.

"Little Missy, who are you exactly in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace?"

"Me? The Star Domain realm leader of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace has to call me elder when he wakes up and sees me. Who do you think I am?" Little Missy said casually. The expression on her face was mild.

Wang Baole was shocked once again by her words. He stared in a daze into the distance. He himself didn't know what he was looking at. After a long moment, he suddenly slapped his thigh.

"Little Missy, I'm your younger brother. Does that mean that I'm an elder here as well? I didn't even know how important I actually am. It's a pity that I doubt the intentions of Mie Liezi and gang. Else, if I told them the truth, they might just be frightened out of their lives!" In his excitement, Wang Baole took a step forward and raced towards the location where Little Missy pointed him, searching.

He realized that he had to pay more attention to Little Missy. The best thing he could do for her was to find the fragment and make her happy. Wang Baole didn't think he needed to think too much about whether there might be some falsehood in her words. Based on what he had seen, even if Little Missy had been exaggerating, what she had said wouldn't be too far from the truth.

Little Missy must be someone really, really important! Wang Baole was overwhelmed with excitement. He felt that since he had already aligned himself with Little Missy for so long, he should continue. In fact, it would be great if he could do this until he became the president.

Wang Baole became filled with anticipation at that thought. He sped up and steadily approached the location that Little Missy had pointed him towards. As soon as he arrived, shock fell across his face. He saw a giant head before him. It had fallen sideways and was staring unblinkingly at him.

It looked exactly like Little Missy. Wang Baole was caught by surprise and stumbled a few steps backward. At a closer look, he realized that it was a statue and that there were other fragments of the statue in the distance.

"That's just too much!" At that sight, Wang Baole froze, then immediately looked furious.

"Who is it? Who did this to my dearest Little Missy's statue? Don't worry, Little Missy. I'll find that person. I'll let him know the price he has to pay for doing that to my dear sister's statue!" Wang Baole said fiercely. He walked over and stood in front of the head of the statue, seeming pained.

Little Missy was clearly pleased by Wang Baole's constant attempts at gaining her favor. Even though she knew that nothing decent came out of Wang Baole's mouth, she still coughed and indicated that she acknowledged Wang Baole's declaration of his loyalty and devotion to her.

Wang Baole could sense that Little Missy was in quite a good mood. He did a search and finally found a fragment the size of a fingernail under a broken slab of stone. He fused it together with the mask, then said hurriedly.

"Little Missy, do we still have any other valuable treasures in our house? Like pills or something like that? Do you remember where we kept them? We can't let outsiders take them away. Let's go grab them ourselves. The faster I advance my cultivation, the sooner I can avenge you, right?"

"Don't worry. I might not be familiar with the outer regions, but I still know the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace in the sword body quite well. We'll find an opportunity to go there. I'll give you pointers so that you can advance in your cultivation. It won't be any problem." Little Missy was pleased with the fusion of the fragment. Her voice sounded slightly distant and unclear. It seemed that the fusion affected her personally. She needed time to adjust.

Wang Baole grew excited when he heard Little Missy's agreement to help him. He felt that as long as Little Missy had his back while he was on the ancient greenish-bronze sword, everything would run smoothly for him. He could get his hands on dozens of cultivation techniques, get out, and become the Federation President. Everything would be a piece of cake.

With his spirits high, Wang Baole whistled as he continued to search the area. He didn't find anything of value. He calculated the time, then pulled out the Spirit Boat and left.

The Spirit Boat flew off like a rainbow. They dashed out of the ruins and re-entered the Sea of Fire, heading for the surface. At that moment... both Wang Baole and Little Missy in the mask didn't seem to notice... that there was another figure standing in the depths of the ruin that they had searched earlier, but further in, within a collapsed pavilion. He stared coldly as they departed!

It towered thirty meters tall and had three heads and six arms. The head in the middle had a solemn look on its face, the one on the left was crying, and the one on the right was laughing. It looked extremely eerie. Each of the six arms were thick and seemed to contain extreme power.

If Wang Baole were here, he would immediately recognize it as a cultivator from the Never-Ending Clan!

The cultivator's eyes were bright with cold cruelty. He stared as Wang Baole vanished into the distance, not trying to stop Wang Baole. The edge of his lips lifted upwards slightly in an unfathomable smile.

She's... indeed still alive!

That's interesting... residing within a mask, having this Federation cultivator as a host...

It seems that I have to make slight changes to my plans... The mysterious figure of the Never-Ending Clan muttered and narrowed his eyes. With a single step, he vanished into thin air!

Chapter 507: I Want Revenge!

Currently, Wang Baole was steering the Spirit Boat and racing in the Sea of Fire. He didn't leave immediately, instead, searching within the sea and catching two Inferno Rats. Then, he left the Sea of Fire and flew back mid-air.

This Inferno Rat is too difficult to catch. It's like a ghost, appearing and disappearing without rhyme or reason in the Sea of Fire. That must be why it looks like a rat. It runs as quickly as one. Wang Baole seemed regretful. He had spent quite a great deal of effort during the journey back before he managed to catch two of them.

If not for the Sea of Fire, with Wang Baole's cultivation, he could catch as many Inferno Rats as he wanted. He could only sigh now. He exchanged his battle credits and raced back to Green Fire Island.

During his trip back, he repeatedly tried to call for Little Missy. After fusing with the fragment, Little Missy's voice grew fainter and fainter, until she became completely silent. Wang Baole mused and felt that the possibility of Little Missy faking her death seemed slight. There was a great likelihood that she had truly gone into a deep sleep.

I can't always rely on Little Missy. After all, what's most important now are battle credits... At the thought of battle credits, Wang Baole's head began to hurt. He thought about how he was currently in debt at the moment. All his thoughts were filled with how to acquire more battle credits.

As he thought, the distant Green Fire Island grew closer. Just as Wang Baole was about to head straight for his cave abode, a sudden deafening explosion erupted on the beaches at the bottom of the mountain. A howl filled with hate and frustration rang out.

"Wang Baole, I've waited for you for so long. Prepare to die!"

As the roar rang out, the huge bell on the beach, that Wang Baole had flung out, exploded into multiple pieces. Liang Long dashed out in an instant. With a burst of speed, he charged ragingly at Wang Baole.

He had prepared well this round. Black flying swords formed from spells surrounded him. Above his head floated a giant mountain stone, which seemed to contain a magnetic force. When it flew out, it distorted the surrounding space. It looked terrifying. Liang Long's right hand held a pool of water formed from a crimson liquid that was as bright as fresh blood. The pool of water contorted as numerous faces pressed against its surface, gruesome and desperately trying to fight their way out of the liquid. It was a horrifying sight.

Liang Long could have blown the bell apart a day ago, but he had held himself back until he had been fully prepared for his release. Then, he had monitored what had been going on outside and waited for Wang Baole's return.

He was filled with confidence presently. He believed that even if Wang Baole still had another one of those maddening bells, he would be prepared for it. He would be able to avoid or even blow it up. His arrogance was mingled with his desire for vengeance. He hollered and stared at the approaching Wang Baole.

It was then that... Wang Baole frowned. He disliked people who interrupted his thoughts. After all, he was focused on how to earn more battle credits now. This was an important matter. He was annoyed

and couldn't be bothered to spend too much time on Liang Long. He activated his storage bracelet. With a wave of his right hand, he flung out seven to eight crystals the size of his fist.

"What's all that shouting for? You think you're the only one with a loud voice? Go and play with yourself!" Wang Baole said as he threw the crystals at him. With a burst of sudden speed, the crystals dashed towards Liang Long.

"Wang Baole, I'm going to let you know what a cultivator should be like. You lowly garbage will know your place!" Liang Long laughed arrogantly. His hands came together to form a series of hand seals. The mountain stone above his head shook violently, and waves of spirit energy surged towards the crystals.

"Shatter!" Liang Long roared as he charged towards Wang Baole. He had even thought of how he was going to strike after approaching Wang Baole. It was then, at that moment... as the forces released by the magnetic mountain stone collided with Wang Baole's crystals, that the crystals shook violently and exploded!

They didn't turn into dust. Instead, some sort of transformation occurred as they exploded. They formed large, adhesive webs that blanketed Liang Long.

The webs were extremely bizarre. They disregarded the mountain stone's magnetic forces and approached instantaneously. Liang Long, stunned, tried to evade them. He might be able to dodge a couple of them, but he couldn't escape all of them. At the critical moment, Liang Long roared. He unleashed the power of the blood-colored droplet in his hand and his enchanted flying swords around him in an attempt to stop the large webs.

His Dharmic treasures collided with the webs. There were no loud explosions from their collisions. As soon as they came into contact, his spells and Dharmic treasures appeared to have lost their powers, trapped within the webs. They fell with a loud thud and were stuck to the ground!

Even the mountain stone above his head was trapped by two webs, getting stuck to the ground as well. The sight rendered Liang Long speechless with shock.

What are these things! His breathing quickened as he watched, stunned. Then, his pupils contracted suddenly. He watched as Wang Baole went past without a pause in his steps and threw a couple more of those crystals at him.

The crystals dashed towards him in a blink of an eye. Alarmed, Liang Long tried to evade them. However, he couldn't escape from all of them. Finally, the crystals exploded, forming large webs. He was trapped within four webs. With a thud, he fell, stuck firmly to the ground!

Liang Long's face grew red as he howled and struggled. The web's adhesiveness was truly extraordinary. It was also extremely malleable. He couldn't free himself regardless of how much he struggled. Aside from getting to his feet, all he managed to do was create multiple thinner threads of web.

His nightmare didn't end there. It had only just begun. Just as Liang Long struggled to his feet, Wang Baole, with a series of hand seals, summoned the webs around him. They flew over instantly and slapped themselves onto Liang Long like giant pancakes.

"Wang... Bao..." Liang Long's eyes were so red that it looked like blood might drip out of them at any moment. He released a roar that was filled with a level of resentment he had never experienced before.

He wasn't given a chance to end the roar himself. Layers of extremely sticky web slapped themselves over him, silencing him completely...

From afar, Liang Long was hardly recognizable at all. One could only see a creature layered with multiple layers of web, as if enveloped in a seal, stuck to the ground as it wriggled and struggled madly...

Wang Baole had returned to the cave abode at that point, not even sparing Liang Long a single glance. Personally, he felt that teaching Liang Long a lesson was a piece of cake, hardly worthy of any attention. The Foundation Establishment realm cultivators on Green Fire Island, especially Zhou Biao and the others, saw it differently though. They were shocked and alarmed at the sight before them. They pitied Liang Long, though their awe and respect for Wang Baole grew tremendously.

"This guy is just too powerful. He just randomly threw out something, and Liang Long was driven mad but completely powerless to stop him..."

"That's not the most important point. Did you guys realize? This Wang Baole... when he strikes, he always makes his opponents... how should I put it? It doesn't matter if it's the bell from before or whatever he just threw out, he always makes one so frustrated that you just want to die!"

"Let's not offend him. He looks like he's filled with nasty ideas. And he clearly keeps a grudge."

While Zhou Biao and the others trembled in fear at the thought of Wang Baole's incredible evil and nasty character, Wang Baole continued to rack his brains over how to earn large quantities of battle credits after he had returned to his cave abode. He glanced through the mission stone slab. The missions that issued the most battle credits were those demanding identity tokens.

In order to obtain identity tokens, one had to enter the sword body. Wang Baole began gathering information. A few days later, he found himself frowning and sighing. Based on the information he had acquired, the sword body, which was buried deep in the sun, was a treacherous place filled with great danger. Even if one were at the Core Formation realm, one would risk a considerable chance of death if he or she ventured into the sword body. Typically, those from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace would form parties in order to venture into the sword body. Rarely would anyone go alone.

Little Missy was still not awake, so Wang Baole wasn't confident of his chances. He decided that he would delay his search for identity tokens on the sword body. He wouldn't do it unless he had no other choice.

But I can't continue doing what I'm doing now... Wang Baole rubbed his forehead. A fierce light appeared in his eyes as he wondered if he should just consider robbing others... after all, there's a potential victim right at his doorstep now.

But once he did something like that, he either had to silence the other or ensure that he had blackmail material on the other. He had to be constantly cautious of someone reporting him to the sect...

What a headache... Wang Baole shook his head and pulled out the regional Spirit Internet jade slip. He intended to find out how many battle credits the rest had gotten and if there was a better way of acquiring those battle credits.

He saw Li Yi's message as soon as he turned it on.

“My fellow Daoists, you’ll have to work harder. I’ve already earned six hundred battle credits!”

Chapter 508: A Booming Business

The regional Spirit Internet was set up so that multiple people could send voice transmissions simultaneously. It served the function of a chat group. Federation Seedlings could send voice transmissions and messages.

Presently, Federation Seedlings spread across the various islands were chatting happily in the chat group. They had left their homes and were in foreign lands. They were surrounded by strangers. Most could feel the cultivators from the Vast Expanse Dao Place looking down on and ostracizing them. That united them further.

They weren’t only forced to stand together. Despite the ancient greenish-bronze sword being a holy place for cultivation, countless dangers lurked, hidden from their sight. Within the past month, many of them had encountered danger to differing degrees. Some dangers were due to their missions, some came from the cultivators of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

This chat group thus became an important channel where everyone could communicate with and contact one another. They could also call for help when they meet danger. At present, they were all discussing battle credits.

Li Yi’s words surprised many people. The battle credits that she had earned were significant. She had actually gotten six hundred credits. Many found that unbelievable. The missions given by the Vast Expanse Dao Palace were incredibly challenging, and the credits they awarded, pitiful.

Many soon started asking polite questions. Wang Baole simply snorted secretly. He felt sour about it, but he continued listening in to the conversation. He wanted to know how Li Yi had done it as well.

That was indeed the effect Li Yi had intended to achieve. Slightly pleased with herself, she spoke again casually in the chat group.

“Fellow Daoists, you just have to remember this one thing... cultivation plays an important part in earning battle credits, but using one’s brain plays an even more important role. I wonder how many battle credits our fellow Daoist Wang Baole, who has the highest cultivation level amongst us all, has gotten?”

Everyone fell silent as Li Yi began to target Wang Baole. No one wanted to get involved in their conflict. Anyone who knew anything about what had happened on Mars knew the tensions between Li Yi and Wang Baole. It had begun since their fight for mayorship over the new city zone and continued until Li Yi made a grievous mistake and was deported from Mars. Their hostility was deeply rooted and wasn’t going to be resolved anytime soon.

Furthermore, Li Yi’s rank had remained stagnant since she had left Mars. Wang Baole, on the other hand, had been promoted swiftly through the ranks. He had since risen to become a Secondary Rank Two Noble. If they were in the Federation now, no matter how much Li Yi might curse Wang Baole secretly, she wouldn’t have dared to openly speak out against him. The difference between their levels of cultivation and ranks was simply too vast.

In the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, however, whatever achievements one had earned while in the Federation no longer counted. It didn't matter how powerful Wang Baole's cultivation was. Li Yi, through her own means, had gathered a group of people to stand with her against Wang Baole. That was why she dared to openly mock Wang Baole in the chat group.

Wang Baole glared. He had half a mind to say something in the chat group. Then, he saw the battle credits he had earned, remembered the debts he had gotten himself into, and lost interest immediately. He sighed and closed the chat group.

No, I can't allow Li Yi, with her big breasts and lack of brains, to bask in satisfaction! Wang Baole sulked. He began to think. After thinking for some time, he headed for the mission stone slab again. He looked at it carefully. With the impressive memory that he had acquired from memorizing inscriptions, he memorized most of the missions on the stone slab, then began to consolidate and categorize them.

This took a lot of effort. Wang Baole was just going to wing it though. Li Yi's words had triggered him. Two days passed before Wang Baole, his eyes lined with red veins, rubbed his forehead and lifted his head. His breathing quickened slightly.

Most of the missions that awarded the most battle credits can only be completed by Core Formation realm cultivators. In addition, they frequently cannot be completed by a single person... one will have to form mission parties.

However, even though these missions award more battle credits, there are far less of them than missions appropriate for Foundation Establishment realm cultivators... Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. Based on his categorization, he realized that seventy percent of the missions were designed for Foundation Establishment realm cultivators. The battle credits that Foundation Establishment realm cultivators could earn after completing those missions were pitiful.

I should target Foundation Establishment realm cultivators... Since I have limited resources, I should earn battle credits via other channels... After all, there are no rules saying that one can only earn battle credits by completing missions... A strange light shone in Wang Baole's eyes, and a plan began to surface gradually in his head. He assessed it carefully. Soon, a determined look shone in his eyes. He raised his right hand, and the Spirit Boat that had the ability to enter the Sea of Fire appeared before him instantly.

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes as he studied the Spirit Boat. He had refined this Spirit Boat with his own hands, so he knew that a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator would be able to steer and control it. This meant that he could use this boat to enter the Sea of Fire, and also allow others to borrow this boat, enter the Sea of Fire, and reach deeper levels of the sea!

Core Formation realm cultivators could already do that, which was why this Dharmic treasure wouldn't be that useful to them. It was different for a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator. Foundation Establishment realm cultivators couldn't enter the Sea of Fire. That meant that they could only complete missions on land. They had to compete against many other cultivators. When they completed their missions, the battle credits they were awarded were pathetic.

However... if they could enter the Sea of Fire, more missions would be accessible to them. Missions like searching and hunting for Inferno Rats on the seabed... could be done by Foundation Establishment realm cultivators as well. They couldn't do so now because they couldn't submerge into the Sea of Fire.

Up to now, only Core Formation realm cultivators could enter the Sea of Fire. That was why all missions in the Sea of Fire were monopolized by Core Formation realm cultivators. Wang Baole thought about this very hard. He felt that he should be more fair and just. He should create more Spirit Boats, then... rent them out to the Foundation Establishment realm cultivators from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

Wang Baole thought he shouldn't overcharge. He'd simply ask for one battle credit for every two hours. Based on his knowledge of the Sea of Fire and his assessment of a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator's abilities, a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator would only be able to spend a maximum of two hours underwater while controlling the Spirit Boat.

If a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator was willing to use a few Spirit Stones, he might be able to prolong the duration underwater. Regardless, based on Wang Baole's calculations, this was a business that was only going to reap profits for him.

They'll have to sign a contract. They'll have to compensate me accordingly if they damage my Spirit Boat! Wang Baole grew excited at that thought. He knew that he was penniless at the moment, though. He only had one Spirit Boat. In order to earn more rental fees, the more boats he had, the better.

Seems like I have to go pawn off a few more Dharmic Armaments. Wang Baole took a deep breath. Having made up his mind, he contacted the fat cultivator from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace immediately. The latter seemed happy when he heard that Wang Baole wanted to pawn his Dharmic Armaments again. He had been using Wang Baole's Dharmic Armament during this period and found them quite powerful. He agreed to Wang Baole's request immediately. However, he couldn't afford to take on so many Dharmic Armaments himself, so he contacted a few others. Wang Baole pawned two Dharmic Armaments in exchange for a loan. The battle credits were enough to refine two more Spirit Boats.

Wang Baole's efforts paid off. He soon refined the additional Spirit Boats. After which, he made use of his status as a Core Formation realm cultivator to leave his own message on the mission stone slab.

"Holy boat for rent to enter the sea!"

"It doesn't matter what level of cultivation you're at, you'll be able to travel to the depths of the Sea of Fire with this boat. It's not for sale. With just a few battle credits, you'll be able to rent it for two hours. There are limited slots. Please contact me immediately if you require such services!"

After sending out the message, Wang Baole still felt that it wasn't enough promotion. He immediately called for Zhou Biao and the other cultivators on Green Fire Island. They were currently in awe of Wang Baole. After receiving Wang Baole's instructions, regardless of their reluctance, they still left the island with great resignation and headed for the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island. They began promoting Wang Baole's business and advertising about this boat of his that could enter the Sea of Fire.

Everything's prepped. Now, we'll just have to see what the response is like. There are twenty-four hours in a day, and I have three Spirit Boats. Since I can earn a maximum of three credits every two hours, the

most I can earn in a day is thirty-six credits. That's more than a thousand in a month. I'll earn back my capital in three months!

It's a pity that I don't have enough capital. Else, I'd be earning more! Wang Baole did his calculations and was pleased with the figures. He began to wait excitedly and anxiously.

At present, he was unaware that the Vast Expanse Dao Palace rarely saw messages like his being released. That was why as soon as he announced that he had boats for rental, he caught the attention of many people...

Chapter 509: Why Are You Here!?

Those who noticed this message were mostly Foundation Establishment realm cultivators. A few Core Formation realm cultivators also read it. However, almost all of them, after having realized who had issued the message, snorted.

"A gimmick to play to the gallery!"

"A mere lowly human from a lowly civilization who's unable to earn battle credits himself and therefore has resorted to such means. What a joke!"

"We don't even have such a Dharmic Artifacts that could allow a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator to enter the Sea of Fire. This lowly human dares to brag so loudly. Even if he does have a few tricks up his sleeve, there's a high chance that this so-called holy boat will send a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator to death in the Sea of Fire!"

Similar comments accompanied by mocking laughter followed after Wang Baole's announcement. Even Zhou Biao and the others grimaced. They didn't believe that Wang Baole's boats worked. They had been forced to leave Green Fire Island and come here. They wouldn't have minded helping him if he had the support of the majority. They lowered their heads hastily when they heard the mocking laughter around them, casting aside any thoughts of promoting the rental of the boats.

As a result, no one came asking about Wang Baole's announcement. Zhou Biao and gang dared not return to Green Fire Island. Resigned, they remained on the main island, thinking about how they would wait for a while and return when Wang Baole himself had given up on this idea.

Time passed steadily. Wang Baole began his cultivation as he waited, concentrating on the Lightning Immortal Transformation. Since his cultivation had stabilized at the early-stage Core Formation realm, he didn't face any difficulty practicing the first level of the Lightning Immortal Transformation. Everything went smoothly.

After all, out of the three cores he had, one was a Lightning Core. He already possessed the immense power of lightning. His speed at mastering the Lightning Immortal Transformation was extremely quick as well. He soon approached perfecting the first level of the Lightning Immortal Transformation.

When he sat cross-legged in meditation, lightning bolts would travel all over his body. Within his body, tiny lightning bolts would weave amongst his organs. He appeared to be constantly bathed in electricity.

His Lightning Core nourished his physical form and developed the Spirit Qi in his body at the same time. Practicing the Lightning Immortal Transformation allowed Wang Baole to consolidate the cultivation inside his body. It was akin to gathering stray power into a tightly-knit core.

That was why even though his cultivation was at the early-stage Core Formation realm, his actual fighting abilities had surpassed that greatly. Wang Baole didn't ignore his practice of the Dark Art. His practice of the Soul Guiding Hand progressed more slowly due to a change in his environment and a lack of targets for practice. However, his understanding of the Dark Art while in the Dark Dream meant that it was still moving at a significant pace.

Wang Baole grew stronger every day. His mood got better as he saw how he was steadily becoming stronger.

As for Liang Long, the crystal webs finally lost their effect, and he finally managed to free himself. Despite the resentment and frustration simmering inside him, he learned his lesson. He held back his desire of seeking revenge immediately. Wang Baole's various methods made him realize he faced a formidable opponent. He needed to have a proper plan. He settled down in a cave abode on one of the secondary peaks. As he trained, he began plotting his vengeance.

Time passed. He had no direct competitors in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace cultivation climate. As a result, life went on rather peacefully. Conflict was limited to the tensions between Mie Liezi's and Feng Qiuran's factions. During this period, the Federation Seedlings began to familiarize themselves with the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Even though there were still many cultivators around them who looked down on the Federation, the Federation Seedlings, through their own means, managed to form friendships and alliances with cultivators of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Everyone began to acclimate to their environment.

Missions were a top concern for cultivators of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace as well. Countless missions were accepted and completed every day, and this was the same for the Federation Seedlings. After settling in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, they began to focus on missions as well. With Li Yi leading the others, their chat group began to be infused with a competitive atmosphere. It became a place where one bragged about how many battle credits they had earned...

The Federation Seedlings had naturally taken notice of Wang Baole's announcement. They had all hesitated. A Foundation Establishment realm cultivator who entered the Sea of Fire would undoubtedly be killed. If this boat of Wang Baole had any flaw whatsoever, and an accident was to occur while underwater, they wouldn't be able to prevent the eventual disaster from taking place.

As a result, the good mood that Wang Baole had gained from his training didn't last long. As the days went by, and he realized that no one came forward to rent his boat, he began to grow frantic.

However, there was no use fretting over this. Wang Baole did some investigation and found out that he hadn't earned sufficient credibility. That was why no one had come asking for his boats. He was considering whether he should threaten Zhou Biao and gang with violence and coerce them into leading by example. That was when Zhuo Yifan approached him to rent his Spirit Boat.

Zhuo Yifan wasn't alone. He, Kong Dao and Zhao Yameng seemed to have had a discussion. They accepted a mission at the same time and used what little battle credit they had to rent a Spirit Boat.

Wang Baole was extremely touched at their gesture. He didn't take their battle credits and lent them all three Spirit Boats. The trio soon steered the boats, placing their complete faith in Wang Baole, and entered the Sea of Fire!

This was the first time in a very long time that a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator entered the Sea of Fire. No one went around spreading the news. However, it still caught some people's attention. A Core Formation realm cultivator even followed them secretly and monitored their actions closely. To prevent any accidents from happening, Wang Baole ended his seclusion and entered the Sea of Fire to provide protection.

It was their first time entering the Sea of Fire, and they didn't come back with much. However, they didn't give up. They continued to use the Spirit Boat and enter the sea almost every day. Gradually, this caught the attention of more and more people. It even triggered a rousing discussion amongst the cultivators in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

Finally, under the trio's joint efforts, they managed to capture an Inferno Rat. News of this shocked many in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. There was finally one Foundation Establishment realm cultivator from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace who was willing to try out the Spirit Boat.

He had been left with no choice. He needed to acquire a cultivation technique but lacked the battle credits. He decided to bite the bullet and rented Wang Baole's Spirit Boat, entering the Sea of Fire.

With the first transaction going down without any accidents, a second customer and then a third soon appeared... Zhuo Yifan and the others gave up on entering the sea then. Their strategy for acquiring battle credits didn't involve entering the sea. They had done what they had done to lend Wang Baole a helping hand.

They were, after all, cultivators from the Federation. They were outsiders here. They might still be able to guarantee their safety above the sea, but once they went into the sea, there was no guarantee of everything going smoothly for them. They wouldn't be able to avoid conflict with others. Should that happen, with their level of cultivation and their status, they would be faced with great danger.

Besides, with their joint efforts, they had reaped considerable rewards. Each of them had earned thirty to fifty battle credits separately. This was a significant gain for a Federation Seedling.

Their withdrawal didn't affect the rental business. With more cultivators from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace renting the Spirit Boats, the business' reputation and credibility grew. Those who had been tempted finally acted on it. Zhou Biao and gang saw what was happening. After discussion, they gritted their teeth and began to promote the business more seriously.

Wang Baole found the fat cultivator. After promising him a sweet deal, the fat cultivator began promoting Wang Baole's Spirit Boats as well. With multiple parties working together, demands gradually grew, and business boomed. Two weeks later, the number of people waiting for a Spirit Boat outside Wang Baole's Green Fire Island grew. With only three Spirit Boats, supply couldn't meet demand.

Every day, like clockwork, thirty-six battle credits entered his account. Foundation Establishment realm cultivators continued to enter the sea and earn loads of battle credits for completing their missions. The rental business boomed. Many even proposed buying his business. Wang Baole turned them all down after some thought. Because of his booming business, the fat cultivator—whom he had pawned

Dharmic Armaments off to in the past—found Wang Baole and proposed investing two thousand battle credits in his business in exchange for two-tenths of all profits earned.

After some bargaining, he increased his investment to two thousand and five hundred battle credits in exchange for fifteen percent of the profit margin. They reached an agreement. More than two thousand battle credits were credited to Wang Baole's account. Wang Baole excitedly invested what battle credits he had to refine Spirit Boats. He spent everything he had and expanded his fleet to ten Spirit Boats!

That finally allowed him to meet the demands of the market. His revenue increased by four times. He was earning nearly a hundred and twenty battle credits every day!

After giving the fat cultivator his fifteen percent, the remaining battle credits were still enough to make Wang Baole extremely happy. More than a hundred battle credits entered his account every day. He soon built a strong reputation for himself in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

Li Yi stopped talking in the chat group as well. She no longer bragged about her battle credits. Wang Baole's rental business continued for two weeks. Then, one day... as Wang Baole was happily training, someone arrived outside his cave abode!

It was someone who sent Wang Baole reeling back in shock, who made his scalp prick and made him gasp in shock!

"You... why are you here? Are you a human, or a ghost?"

Chapter 510: Xie Haiyang!

The visitor was a short-haired young man of average height. He wore robes that belonged to the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. He looked bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and his small eyes shone with a calculative light.

His short hair was waxed. It reflected the sunlight shining from above and sparkled. From afar, he looked like a lamp. It was not an exaggeration.

He was standing outside Wang Baole's cave abode presently, staring at an incredulous looking Wang Baole with a wide grin on his face. He coughed, touched his hair, then cupped his fists and saluted Wang Baole.

"Senior Brother Baole, we haven't met in a while."

Such a unique hairstyle and such calculating eyes. This person was... someone whom Wang Baole had worked many times with while he had been in the Ethereal Dao College—Xie Haiyang!

Wang Baole's head started buzzing. He almost began to hallucinate that he wasn't in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace but back in the Ethereal Dao College.

He recalled when he had been back in the Ethereal Dao College, Chen Yutong had mentioned Xie Haiyang and said that he had gone missing. Even though Chen Yutong had used his connections in the college to search for the latter, he couldn't find him. Wang Baole didn't expect... that he would meet Xie Haiyang here!

Xie Haiyang's appearance remained unchanged despite the many years that had passed. He still looked like a businessman as he smiled widely at Wang Baole. His eyes sparkled with light, as if he had just located his latest business deal.

After a long while, Wang Baole finally managed to get over his shock. He eyed Xie Haiyang carefully and realized that the latter's cultivation had remained at where it had been previously. He was only at the late-stage Ancient Martial realm. Wang Baole shook his head and smiled wryly. He realized that Xie Haiyang's origins were extremely mysterious. There was a high chance that he had smuggled himself secretly from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace into the Federation.

He had his guesses, but Wang Baole still couldn't help but ask.

"You... why are you here?"

Xie Haiyang coughed. He touched his shiny waxed hair again, then smiled harmlessly.

"Senior Brother Baole, that's a secret... look, I haven't thought about how to explain this to you. Just remember, Senior Brother Baole, I've told you the same thing before... As long as there's a business opportunity, I, Xie Haiyang, will be there! With Senior Brother Baole having such potential of being a big client, I'd naturally keep my eye on you."

Wang Baole rubbed his forehead. Even though he tried to shove down his feelings of shock and surprise, they continued to surface every now and then. He felt that Xie Haiyang seemed to be shrouded in mystery. A bold idea began to surface in his mind...

Was Xie Haiyang from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace like he had guessed?

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes as he remained silent. Xie Haiyang seemed to sense the many thoughts traveling through Wang Baole's head. He sighed, then cupped his fists and saluted Wang Baole again.

"Senior Brother Baole, there's no need for you to overthink this. I, Xie Haiyang, am a businessman. You know what businessmen are like. We've done business so many times. You have to trust me."

"I've come here today to pay you a visit, Senior Brother Baole, and also make a business deal with you." Xie Haiyang smiled lightly. His smiling, squinting eyes didn't hide the calculative light that defined him as a businessman.

"What sort of business deal?" Wang Baole took a deep breath and set aside his other thoughts. He knew how difficult it would be to find an answer to his suspicions. Besides, he had known Xie Haiyang for so many years, and the latter had always acted in a manner befitting a businessman. He stared at Xie Haiyang.

"Senior Brother Baole, I, Xie Haiyang, have my ways in this Vast Expanse Dao Palace. It's like what I told you before. Within the Ethereal Dao College, from the Grand Supreme Elder to the ordinary student, there is nothing that I, Xie Haiyang, am unaware of. There is nothing that I, Xie Haiyang, cannot get done!"

"What I said before applies to the Vast Expanse Dao Palace as well. Even if what you're looking for is Elder Feng Qiuran's underwear, as long as the price is right, I, Xie Haiyang, would be able to get my

hands on it for you!" Xie Haiyang had a look of confidence on his face. As he spoke, he touched his waxed hair again. The expression on his face clearly showed how highly he thought of himself.

Wang Baole's head began to throb when he heard that. He asked secretly what he would do with Feng Qiuran's underwear... then, the image of Feng Qiuran suddenly appeared in his head, without rhyme or reason. It gave Wang Baole a fright. He immediately said solemnly, "Let's talk business!"

Xie Haiyang grinned when he heard Wang Baole. He glanced around, then lowered his head and said to Wang Baole.

"Senior Brother Baole, that boat rental business of yours... based on its current popularity and my understanding of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, it's likely you'll only be able to run your business for another month. Even with that fatty Yun Piaozi vouching for you, you won't survive three months before the sect acquires your business!"

"It will be an acquisition by force. You'll have no choice but to sell it. That's why... you have to earn as much as you can as quickly as you can!" Xie Haiyang whispered. He analyzed Wang Baole's rental business based on the knowledge he possessed.

Save the light that flickered in his eyes, the expression on Wang Baole's face remained unchanged. He had predicted that this was going to happen. He knew that this business of his wouldn't last long. However, he hadn't expected that he would only have mere months left, like what Xie Haiyang had said.

"Continue," Wang Baole said after he thought for a while.

"Senior Brother Baole, that's why you have to earn as many battle credits as possible in the shortest time possible with this business of yours. That's the most profitable way to go about it. That's the way to ensure that you won't make a loss... However, in order to accomplish this, you have to manufacture as many Spirit Boats as quickly as possible!" Xie Haiyang's eyes shone with a strange light. His breathing quickened slightly as he stared at Wang Baole.

"Senior Brother Baole, do you trust me... If you trust me, let me invest in this business. That will speed up your production of Spirit Boats. You'll be able to manufacture a great many more Spirit Boats!"

Wang Baole didn't say anything after listening to Xie Haiyang. That was because Xie Haiyang had only revealed the tip of the iceberg. He hadn't said anything about the division of profit. He narrowed his eyes, a considering look appeared on his face.

Xie Haiyang immediately understood what was going on when he saw that look on Wang Baole's face. He smiled. He concluded secretly that he still enjoyed dealing with smart people the most. Wang Baole wasn't only smart, but he also had great potential to become one of his greatest clients. He lowered his head and leaned in, saying.

"Senior Brother Baole, we've worked together so many times. I won't hide anything from you. I, Xie Haiyang, won't take a single credit of the revenue you earn in the next few months. I'll invest three thousand and three hundred battle credits in the business. You can look for me if you need to buy any materials. I can even give you a discount. You'll save at least thirty percent on your capital. If you do your calculations, you'll be the biggest winner in this deal.

“As for my profit... when the sect acquires your business in a few months’ time, they’ll be giving you compensation for the acquisition. If the compensation falls within ten thousand credits, everything will go to me, but I won’t take a single credit that exceeds ten thousand credits!

“Senior Brother Baole, I, Xie Haiyang, am a businessman. I’m just looking to earn back three times my original investment within a few months. I’m not greedy at all.”

Xie Haiyang smiled again at that juncture. He looked at Wang Baole and waited for the latter’s reply.

Wang Baole didn’t hide the look of consideration and contemplation in his eyes. He did seriously lack battle credits currently. His business model meant that with an additional Spirit Boat, he earned an additional thirty-six battle credits every day.

Building a Spirit Boat cost hundreds of battle credits. If what Xie Haiyang said was true, he would be saving quite a considerable sum with a thirty percent discount. He could quickly expand his current fleet to twenty boats. His revenue would increase to more than two hundred credits every day. That meant six thousand credits in a month!

Wang Baole weighed against the option of putting his revenue back into the business continuously. Such a gamble might bring him more revenue. After all, this business relied on the snowball effect. As long as he had enough time, his gains would increase exponentially as time passed. Earning more than a thousand battle credits a day wasn’t an impossibility. If he increased his investment, Yun Piaozi would have to do the same as well to maintain the current investment ratio. Else, his returns would be diluted... he could use this to his advantage and strengthen their friendship.

Another thing was how Xie Haiyang wasn’t demanding any profit-sharing while the business was running. What he wanted was the returns from the acquisition by the sect. This meant that the sect’s acquisition of his business was inevitable. It meant that his business wouldn’t survive in the long run. That was why Wang Baole desperately needed all forms of external investments at the moment.

After some thought, a look of determination flashed across Wang Baole’s eyes.

“Xie Haiyang, I’m not going to ask that you throw in more capital. I agree to all of your terms. But I have terms of my own as well. Firstly, you must guarantee that discount. Secondly... you have to use your connections to delay the acquisition!

“Another condition is that I’ll only sell the recipe to the sect, not the final product, the Spirit Boat!

“We’ve worked together many times. I trust you. Besides, I enjoy straightforward deals. If you agree to my terms, this deal is set!”